FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to a new school year! How lucky am I to be principal of this amazing school; great kids, committed staff, supportive community and beautiful surrounds. With all this going for it, Mannum Community College can only go on to achieve bigger and better learning outcomes for its students. Exciting times ahead!

Before I go any further, I’d like to tell you a bit about me. My name is Sue Record. I have two children; a 28 year old daughter and a 26 year old son. I’m about to be a grandma for the first time. The baby is due early April and I can’t wait to meet her (yes, it’s a girl).

For the past five years, I’ve worked on the APY Lands. Three years as principal of Ernabella Anangu School and for the two years prior to that in all schools across the APY Lands as Literacy Project Officer. In this role I worked in classes with teachers supporting them in the teaching of English.

I love to learn and am usually studying something. In the past several years I’ve completed a Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience, a Masters in Cognitive Psychology and Educational Practice (Learning) and an Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Management. I’m particularly interested in how the brain learns and the implications for classroom practice. Most recently I completed training to become a Classroom Profiler – more about that next newsletter.

It has been a very busy start to the year for me, the staff and the students as we settle in and get to know each other. I’ve been really impressed as I’ve visited classes to see students on task and engaged with their learning. The focus in classes over the next few weeks will be on students learning and practising the rules and routines of the class. This is critical as it sets students up for success in their learning. Please watch out for the class newsletter that will be sent home to give you general information as well as to inform you of the learning and topics students will engage with this term.

It was great to see so many parents supporting Splash Dash last Friday. Well done to all the teams on a great effort and congratulations to Arnold for their win. The house captains and vice captains must also be congratulated on the excellent job they did of organising their teams. These young leaders were fabulous! Days such as Splash Day don’t just happen, they take lots of organising. A BIG thank you must go to Mr Bryan Wilsdon for all his efforts in planning and organising the day. There were many other people (staff, students and families) who made this day a success by their contributions, from scoring, marshalling, setting up and packing away to delivering lunches. I’m not going to list all the helpers but please know that your support and efforts have been noted and are much appreciated.

I’m really keen to get to know all the Mannum Community College families. I met quite a few people on Splash Dash Day and have had some interesting chats with parents and caregivers before and after school. Another opportunity for us to get to know each other is Acquaintance Night which will be on Tuesday of Week 3. This is also an opportunity for you to visit your child’s class and meet the teacher(s), if you haven’t already done so. Watch out for the flyer about this.

Cheers

Sue Record

IMPORTANT DATES:

TERM 1

WEEK 3:
Monday 9th February:
Finance Meeting @ 5:00pm
Governing Council Meeting @ 6:30pm
Tuesday 10th February:
OPEN NIGHT from 5:00pm - 6:30pm

WEEK 6:
Friday 6th March:
SPORTS DAY

*All dates and times were correct at the time of printing.
**LITTLE THINGS MATTER**

Welcome to the 2015 year of learning at Mannum Junior School. I would especially like to welcome the new families who have chosen Mannum to continue the important educating of their children. We not only welcome you to the school but to the community.

The year has begun with a wonderful, calm atmosphere. Children seem relaxed and eager to be here. I am in the yard before and at the end of the school day so please let me know how it is going. Almost all responses thus far have been very positive and we try to sort any small issues as quickly as possible.

It is great to see so many parents in the yard and I thank you for continuing to monitor your language and noise levels whilst waiting for the bell. The little ones in particular are easily distracted if they hear you outside. We are very pleased with the way children speak to each other and remind you to model positive language and relationships within the school grounds.

If you have a concern to discuss with the teacher please arrange a time to speak with them after school - mornings are always very busy and the teachers need to have their whole attention on their class. You are welcome to come and see me if it is something that needs to be addressed immediately. If you are upset about an issue come straight to me. Do not go to the classroom where conversations can be overheard and witnessed.

Acquaintance night is on Tuesday 10th February so please take this opportunity to come along and meet your child’s teacher and catch up with other parents.

This year we have 3 classes with new reception children so if you have solid, good quality toys your children have out grown they would be gratefully accepted.

Another area to be proud of is our students wearing the uniform. This is something that is repeatedly commented on by visitors. Please check that your child is wearing black pants and school top as they leave in the morning. It may seem a small thing but the sense of belonging to a group has a very powerful impact. It is a good time to check that their jumper still fits them as some of the mornings are cool and they will need the school windcheater soon.

Please listen to your child read **every** night - there is nothing that can replace **practise, practise, practise**. Even children who are able to read independently need to be listened to and asked questions to check they can understand what they have read. The purpose of reading is to understand - so by simply asking a few questions we can encourage children to read for meaning rather than just sounding out words. Older students still need to be listened to for this reason.

Remember - be involved with your children - they grow up all too fast.

*Michele Holloway*
Junior School Senior Leader

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**MANNUM SHOOTING STARS**

**SOCCER CLUB**

Come play for the Green and Gold.
Another year of Soccer is coming full steam ahead.

**ALL PLAYERS REGISTRATION**

is 10th February from 3.05-4.30pm, School Oval at soccer shed.

We have come and tries - games only:

- Modified 5-9 year olds - Tuesday 10th Feb, 17th Feb and 24th Feb 3.05-4.30
- Under 12’s Competitive 10-12 year olds - Thurs 12th Feb and Thurs 19th Feb 3.05-4.30
- Under 12 full training begins 26th Feb.

This year we are looking at doing a 4-5 year old in house development squad if there is enough interest.

Fee structure to be announced.

Our Club would also like to congratulate our head coach Mark Strauss on his selection for the Under 13 girls Representative coach position for the AHJSA, it is an amazing honour for him and well deserved, while this is a big commitment it will not interfere with his commitment to coaching the kids of the Mannum Soccer Club which is and has always been his first priority.

Any enquiries please contact Zoe Paech on: zooleah.84@gmail.com

or Kym Strauss on: kstrauss36.ks@gmail.com

We look forward to another exciting year of soccer.
INFORMATION FOR YOU

MANNUM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLAYGROUP

When: 9:30 - 11:00am Thursday mornings
Where: Performing Arts Room, Mannum Community College
Cost: $2.00 per family

Please bring a healthy snack to share at snack time.

Contact Bindi Barker on 85691503 for more information.

The weekly session will enable the school and families to develop partnerships around learning prior to children beginning their education (kindergarten and school) and support families’ engagement.

Murray Bridge Basketball Association

BRIDGE HOOPS

Term 1 Bridge Hoops will commence on
WEDNESDAY 18th February - 25th March, 2015
5.00 PM – 6.00 PM
COST : $30 for 6 weeks

Emphasis will be on development of individual and team skills for all participants (aged 5 - 8 years old)
Please bring a size 5 basketball if you have one and a named water bottle.
Registration forms are available from the Front Office of the school. For further information email: admin@mbba.com.au

CALL FOR COACHES

Any Senior players or older Junior players are encouraged to help coach at Hoops. No previous experience necessary as on-court instruction is included. Please see Petrina if you are able to help coach.

ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS!

The school and the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) regularly monitor absenteeism. Prolonged absenteeism may be referred to the Student Attendance Counsellor in the Regional Office.

As with all absences, if your child is away sick it is important to notify the school. For a prolonged absence of three or more consecutive days it is advisable to obtain a doctors certificate to be sent to the school for our records.

Health Care Plans may need to be developed in consultation with your doctor to enable the school to provide safe, appropriate health support.

JOINING THE DOTS.......

Information sessions by experienced child focussed Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist
Mannum Hub - Walker St Mannum
Wednesdays 9.30am – 11.30am

4th Feb: Child Development – how babies develop their walking, talking + playing
11th Feb: Fussy Eating – how to avoid mealtime battles
18th Feb: Communication – learning how your baby communicates and how to promote good communication
25th Feb: Toileting – how the skill of toilet training is mastered, and what age may your child show signs of readiness

4th March: Play – the power of play in developing all the skills needed for learning
11th March: Child Development – repeat of above session
18th March: Behaviour through a Sensory lens – How differing ways of processing sensory information can influence your child’s behaviour
25th March: Communication – repeat of above session

Who should attend?… parents, carers, grandparents, child focussed workers or any interested community members.
Residents of Mannum and all surrounding regions welcome

Bookings preferred by ringing Melanie or Cathy on 0418851626 or by email to aspirecdw@internode.on.net

The University of Adelaide

is offering a free 5 week online introductory course:
Essential Human Biology: Cells and Tissues
February 18th – March 24th 2015
Features over 40 videos, 10 interactives & 20 quizzes

No previous biology knowledge required. If you are interested, go to their website for more information and to register. https://www.edx.org/school/adelaidex
**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Borrowing times**

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**Borrowing limits**

Rec – Yr 5: 3 books  
Year 6 – 10: 5 books  
Year 11 & 12: 10 books

Books are due back after one month. Overdue notices are sent home on Thursdays. Students may not borrow while having overdue books.

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

Students will receive their Premier’s Reading Challenge forms in Week 2. Students are encouraged to read 12 books from the PRC booklist to earn certificates and medals.

Happy reading!

Jo Dunn  
Teacher Librarian

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**FROM THE CANTEEN**

Welcome back!! Hope everyone had a restful holiday break. Thank you to all our volunteers on our roster, I look forward to meeting our new members of our team.

We are continuing on with the same canteen menu for Term 1, just a milk drink increase. Spare copies of our menu are available from the canteen if needed.

Carol Mobbs,  
Canteen Manageress

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**JOY'S CORNER**

Welcome back for a new year, I’m looking forward to all the ‘todays’ in the year ahead.

Joy Marks  
Pastoral Care Worker

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**MCC CALENDAR**

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