Hello families and friends

STUDENT FREE DAY
Governing Council has approved a Student Free Day on Tuesday 15th March (after the Adelaide Cup Long Weekend). Staff will be attending professional development on Language and Literacy Levels which is a tool to assess writing. The Language and Literacy tool consists of 14 levels that are a continuum of language learning. Teachers will be using the levels to assess student’s writing and next steps for teaching. This whole school initiative will contribute to the improvement in student achievement.

ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT
Acquaintance Night was well attended. My apologies to you all that I was unable to be there. I missed meeting and chatting with our families and friends. Thank you to Ms Bamford for organising the BBQ and all the staff who helped out with cooking, serving and cleaning up. Thank you to the staff who welcomed families into classrooms to show the work that has been done over the first two weeks of school. It has been a great start to the year!

MEDICATION
All students requiring medication whilst at school require a written Medication Authority or letter from the doctor that includes student name, medication name, dosage and frequency. All medication is administered by front office staff, not classroom teachers. It is kept in a locked cupboard in the front office and a record is kept of each dose that is administered. A Medication Authority form is available from the DECD website or alternatively we can provide one at the front office. Please note that verbal permissions to administer medication cannot be accepted. Thank you for your cooperation with this. It is imperative that we follow DECD guidelines to ensure the safety of our students.

SACE RESULTS
18 of a potential 22 students achieved the SACE (82%). This is slightly below 2014 when 7 of a potential 8 students achieved the SACE (87.5%). Attendance is critical for students in all years of schooling but particularly in the final two years of school. Data shows that attendance impacts on student achievement. We will continue to reinforce the importance of attendance and trust you will support and encourage your child to be at school every day so they have every opportunity to achieve their best.

The number of grades that were C or above for attempted SACE subjects was 90% which is an improvement of 12% on 2014 (78%). This is great to see. Well done to students and staff on this achievement. The closer tracking and monitoring of student achievement through the traffic light system is getting results.

Last week I attended the Leading SACE Improvement Conference and came away with lots of great ideas for further supporting student achievement. I am yet to present these to the Leadership team and staff for consideration. We’ll keep you informed of any strategies we think are worth adopting.

GOVERNING COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of the Governing Council will be coming up later this term. Members of Governing Councils report that it is a valuable experience as it gives them input and insight into the running of a school. If you are interested in being on Governing Council but would like to know more I or Cheryl Neville, Governing Council Chairperson, would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. Please express your interest to the front office staff and they will organise for us to contact you.

Warmest regards

Sue Record
LITTLE THINGS MATTER

Goodness Week 4 already!
The classes have continued to settle and there is a busy learning buzz around the school.
The placement of nearly all students seems to be positive which is great.

Road Safety:
All classes are practising road safety and in particular crossing the road in our ‘street smart program.’ The children were quite shocked at how many people drove past the school well above 25 km per hour and didn’t seem to notice 20 children standing on the footpath waiting to cross. Can you remind as many of your relatives and friends as possible to be aware of the school zone and slow down. Many people waved but didn’t slow down!

Respectful relationships: I love seeing so many parents coming into school – please remember to model respectful relationships and language in front of your children. You are the most important and influential person in their lives and they will try to be like you.

Reading:
Don’t be worried if your child is not yet bringing home a “reader”. Children are learning letters and sounds and until they know some of these it is better if you continue to read to them. Many of the Junior Primary classes are now sending home 5 books at the start of the week.

Instead of only reading 5 times in a week they are reading 15 times! This is a great way for children to develop word knowledge, fluency and confidence and as we all know - we learn to read by reading. It does not matter if they know the first few books almost by heart - ask them questions - what sound is this, what is this word, find me this word somewhere else in the book.

You will find that some books will be easy and others a little harder – this is good. Books that come home are for practising - they do instructional reading at school.

On the first night they read one book
Night 2 = the first book and one new one
Night 3 = they read books 1 and 2 and a new one
Night 4 = they read books 1,2,3 and a new one
Night 5 = they read books 1,2,3,4 and the last one.

With this many books going home each night we need them back at the beginning of the week so they can be swapped over - we won’t have enough books if they are not returned regularly.

If you child is in years 3 - 5 they Must still read every night to an adult. They also need to practise their spelling and tables.

Don’t forget to dust off the warmer fleecy tops ready for the cold weather.

When your children come home and tells you things that happen at school - be an audience, be interested - they usually just want to share and may be leaving out some parts or making it more exciting than it really was. They can become worried about sharing things with you if you become angry and upset In front of them. This is a concern because they may then not tell you something really important eg bullying. If they tell you anything which concerns you, listen calmly but contact us as soon as possible to follow it up.

Last year we asked for left over building materials - PVC pipes and fittings, rope, wood etc. If you have anything which you feel the children may like to build with please let us know.

Michele Holloway
Junior School Leader

INFORMATION FOR YOU

KIDS CLUB AT THE HUB
Every Monday from 3.15 till 5.15pm
Fun Free Activities for ages 5-9 yrs. Booking is essential

- 8th Feb: Board Games
- 15th Feb: Chinese New Year Craft
- 22nd Feb: Worm Farm
- 29th Feb: Vegetable Garden Activities
- 7th March: Easter Craft
- 14th March: WomAdele Excursion
- 21st March: Easter Cooking
- 28th March: Public Holiday
- 4th April: Autumn Craft

TRASH & TREASURE
EASTER SATURDAY March 26th
8:00am start
Egg & Bacon Breakfast, Sausage Sizzle Lunch
Licensed Bar
For more information, contact Adam: 0407395942

PURNONG DISTRICT HALL
LICENSED BAR

Easter Saturday March 26th
8:00am start
Egg & Bacon Breakfast, Sausage Sizzle Lunch
Licensed Bar
For more information, contact Adam: 0407395942

JUNIOR SCHOOL SENIOR LEADER

TIMETABLE

Feb:
- 15th Feb: Chinese New Year Craft
- 22nd Feb: Worm Farm
- 29th Feb: Vegetable Garden Activities
- 7th March: Easter Craft

March:
- 14th March: WomAdele Excursion
- 21st March: Easter Cooking
- 28th March: Public Holiday
- 4th April: Autumn Craft
INTERESTED IN HELPING YOUR CHILDREN WITH THEIR LEARNING?

There is a free App called Learning Potential, developed by the Federal Government with more than 160 hints and ideas for parents to help their children with their learning. It’s very popular, with over 110,000 downloads since its launch in August 2015. Additional content and functional improvements will continue this year.

It is available for both Android and Apple devices. For more information visit www.learningpotential.gov.au

MANNUM SOCCER CLUB

Registration Day for 2016 Soccer Season
Meet your coach too.
Friday 12/2/2016 - 3pm - 5pm,
Mannum Community College Oval.
Ages 5 +

Come and try:
Tuesday 23/2/2016 - 3pm - 4.30
Tuesday 1/3/2016 - 3pm - 4.30

Training for season begins:
Tuesday 8/3/2016 - 3pm - 4.30

More information at registration.
Any enquiries please contact Kym Strauss kstrauss36.ks@gmail.com.

BRIDGE HOOPS

Term 1 Bridge Hoops will commence on
WEDNESDAY 2nd March – 4th April 2016
AT 5.00 PM – 6.00 PM
COST : $30 for 6 weeks
Emphasis will be on development of individual and team skills for all participants.
Please bring a size 5 basketball if you have one and a named water bottle.
Registration forms available on the MBBA website or at the stadium.

RAN TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Responding to Abuse and Neglect

As you are aware, it is a requirement of DECD that volunteers have their DCSI clearance.
We also need to ensure that all volunteers have their Volunteers Responding to Abuse and Neglect (RAN) certificate. To make this more achievable, DECD have a modified RAN training for volunteers that the school can provide.
We are holding our next RAN training on Monday 29th February from 11.30am to 12:30pm in the Staff room, please let us know if you can make it.
Please RSVP to the front office on 8569 1503 by Thursday 25th February.

AROONA SCOUT GROUP

HELP KEEP SCOUTS ALIVE IN OUR DISTRICT

Please feel free to come, have a look and join in one of our sessions - first 4 sessions are FREE!

Joeys (6-7years) Tuesday night 5 to 6pm
Cubs (8-10years) Tuesday night 6:15 to 7:45pm
Scouts (11-14years) Monday night 6-8pm
Venturers (15-18years) Friday night 6:30-9pm at the old CFS Shed in Palmer.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE
MANNUM SCOUT HALL
5 GREENING ST MANNUM

For further information please phone Ingrid on 0448113175

DROP OFF / PICK UP PARKING

Reminder for parents: please do not park on the footpaths.
Parents and caregivers need to use the roadside car parking or “Horward Bagshaw” car park for pick up/drop off time.
This is a safety concern for our students and families, and a breach of Australian road rules. The Mid Murray Council have been notified and will be patrolling the area.

NO PARKING
LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY BORROWING

MONDAY: 6/7 Love 6/7 Lombardi
TUESDAY: 4/5 Grieger 4/5 Barnes 1/2 O’Hara R/1 Clark
WEDNESDAY: R/1 Laredo 1/2 Bennett 2/3 Waters
THURSDAY: 2/3 Zrim Yr 10 Falkland
FRIDAY: 4/5 Rowley Yr 8 Groves Yr 9 Groves

Rec-Yr 5: 3 books
Year 6-10: 5 books
Year 11-12: 10 books
Students in Rec-Year 2 must use a library bag.

Jo Dunn
Teacher Librarian

JOY’S CORNER

Joy Marks Pastoral Care Worker

FROM THE CANTEEN

Over the next few weeks I will be starting to plan our Term 2 and 3 Winter menu. If you have any suggestions please feel free to let Canteen know - either a phone message, a note in the lunch basket or pop in for a chat.

Carol Mobbs
Canteen Manageress
(85692971)

VOLUNTEER ROSTER

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CONNECTING SPIRITS 2017

Connecting Spirits is a project that has been running at Meningie Area School since 2006. Since then students from Birdwood High School, Coomandook Area School, Mannum Community College, Lameroo Regional Community School and more recently Findon High School have joined us. The next trip is planned for April 2017. Students who are in Years 9 – 11 this year are able to participate in this potentially life changing experience. They will travel to Singapore, the Somme in France, and Ieper in Belgium visiting battlefields that Australians fought on during both World Wars, and pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice at their gravesides and memorials. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the history of these conflicts and the role that Australian soldiers played in them. They will also develop an empathy for the hardship and suffering that men and women on all sides of the conflict underwent as they lived and died in the trenches of the Western Front during the First World War. We will then travel to England where we will spend Anzac Day in the tiny village of Sutton Veny, joining with the students from the local school as they pay tribute to the 143 Australian soldiers and nurses buried in the churchyard next door. The students will also have the opportunity to act as tourists, seeing the sights and discovering the cultures of places such as Singapore, Paris, Amiens, Ieper, Brugge and London.

This is a great way for your child to experience overseas travel in a safe and supported way with staff who have experience leading over 15 such trips between them. The anticipated cost for the 3 week tour including flights, transport, accommodation and most meals is about $7500. If you are interested in exploring this opportunity further, please contact Mal Jurgs at Meningie Area School, (0427201205) or (Mal.Jurgs10@schools.sa.edu.au) for an expression of interest form and details on payment plans etc. There will be an information evening planned later this term for further details and information.

To find out more about the project visit the website at www.connectingspirits.com.au