



Munno Para

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Respect, Responsibility, Success

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2
Term 1, Week 6 2019

"Logic will take you from A to B.
Imagination will take you everywhere."
- Albert Einstein

Principal's Message

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that we are nearly half way through Term 1. It certainly has been a busy and interesting start to the year.

We had our **AGM** on February 13th with a small number of parents attending. Our first **Governing Council** meeting for 2019 was the following week. Munno Para Governing Council Chairperson for 2019 is Sandra Watherston, Secretary is Judith Page and Treasurer is Kerry Gore. Governing Council is an opportunity for parents and families to be active participants in their child's education. It is a forum to understand the processes and procedures involved in the functioning of the school and to make decisions which impact on not only your child, but the whole school. All Governing Council members require a relevant DCSI clearance. These forms are available from the Front Office. Later in the term we will hold a 2 hour Volunteer Information session. This session gives volunteers information in regards to their roles and responsibilities especially as mandated reporters. Volunteers only have to do the session every three years.



A message from your Governing Council

The Governing Council is always looking for new members. Come and join us and help to plan the future directions of Munno Para Primary School. If you are interested, nomination forms can be collected from the Front Office.



I would like to thank everyone for their time and effort with our **Acquaintance Night** on Wednesday 13th February. It was great to see so many students showing their families around the school as they collected their stamps on their passports. It was also an opportunity to talk to families and to get their perspective on issues at the school. Numbers have dropped over the years so we will try a different approach to encourage families and visitors to attend Acquaintance Night next year.

Summer has hopefully had its final burst last week with some very hot days. We implement our Extreme Weather Policy and keep students inside for lunch and/or recess when we consider the weather to be unsuitable for outside play. We have excellent air conditioning in all of our buildings at school so staying inside is a more comfortable option.

On the 25th February I attended a **Leader's Day** at the Convention Centre which had all Principal's and Pre-School Directors attend to listen to the direction and vision of the leaders of the Department for Education. The main focus was having South Australia established as a world-class education system. The measure for this is the state's progress against the Standards of Educational Achievement with the aim of more students achieving in the higher bands in NAPLAN for Literacy and Numeracy in all year levels as well as higher SACE retention in high schools. Using best evidence, we will build capacity in the areas that have created impact in successful education systems around the world. All schools have a very specific Site Improvement Plan with 3 main goals. At MPPS we have a goal in Reading to improve student understanding of inferences, a Writing goal to improve vocabulary and a Maths goal to improve place value. All classes across the school will be working on these priority areas.

Diary Dates

Every day

- Breakfast Club 8:15-8:45am 
- Art room

Every Monday

- School Banking 

Every Tuesday

- Boyz Biz 3pm-4pm 

Week 6

- Friday 8/3 - PUPIL FREE DAY

Week 7

- Monday 11/3 - PUBLIC HOLIDAY (Adelaide Cup Day)
- Friday 15/3 - Assembly 9am, Gym

Week 9

- Friday 29/3 - Assembly 9am, Gym

Week 10

- Monday 1/4 - Friday 5/4 - Years 5 -7 Swimming, Starplex Swimming Centre
- Wednesday 3/4 - School disco

Week 11

- Monday 8/4 - Mini Sports Day
- Tuesday 9/4 - Easter raffle books due back
- Thursday 11/4 - Sports Day
- Friday 12/4 - Last day of term, 2pm early dismissal

2019 Term Dates

- Term 1 29th January – 12th April
- Term 2 30th April – 5th July 
- Term 3 23rd July – 27th September
- Term 4 15th October – 13th Dec.

Bell Times

- 8:45am Teacher on duty in the yard
- 8:50am School day begins
- 11am Lunch – eating in class
- 11:10am Lunch play
- 11:40am Lunch finishes
- 1:10pm Recess play
- 1:30pm End recess play
- 3pm Home time 



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Maltarra Road, Munno Para SA 5115
Ph: 8254 8322 Fax: 8254 9231
Email: dl.1482_info@schools.sa.edu.au
www.munnoparaps.sa.edu.au

Principal's Message (continued)

Friday 8th March is a Pupil Free Day where all teaching staff will be involved in Partnership training. Professional development for staff is imperative so that all of our staff are constantly upskilled and extending their knowledge and teaching skills to enable them to provide the very best for our students. The focus for this day will be Learning Design and Moderation unit of providing feedback to move students forward. OSHC will be open but do require you to book in.



At MPPS, we value the continuing learning of all of our staff which includes the exceptional group of school support personnel who provide support for the programs that teachers implement to meet all students' needs. Without them we would not be able to achieve what we do with our students. Last newsletter I had not mentioned Julie who works in the Language and Communication class. Terri and Rhonda provide wonderful support in the Front Office with Clare, our Business Manager.

THANK YOU!



I would like to make a special commendation to the staff at Munno Para Primary School. The extra time, commitment and passion of our staff is amazing. The media will always focus on the negatives as it sells papers. Schools do a terrific job with the resources that they have and the many complex issues that they deal with on a daily basis. There are a number of staff that go beyond what is asked of them, to give our students the opportunities and experiences that they would not otherwise have. These things are not advertised in the papers, so I am advertising them in our newsletter.

Our staff have spent many extra nights planning and organising excursions and extra curricula activities. They have given up their weekends and time with their families, to spend time with the students at Munno Para PS. They do this because they care about their students. They want the very best for them.

Monday 11th March is Adelaide Cup and a Public Holiday, therefore the school will be closed. School will resume back on Tuesday 12th March.

Belinda Kopania, Principal

NAPLAN Online Trial Test

Last year we were informed that Munno Para Primary School had been randomly selected to participate in the trial 2019 NAPLAN Tests. Of course, being randomly selected means that it is compulsory and we cannot 'opt out.' This means that our Year 3, 5 & 7 students will effectively have completed elements of NAPLAN twice in one year. This year, all NAPLAN, except the Year 3 Writing, will be completed online. The test has been adapted to cater for students' learning and progress. The test will go in different directions depending on student answers. An information brochure will be sent out to all parents of Year 3, 5 and 7 students.



NAPLAN Online will be between May 14th-24th for all Year 3, 5 and 7 students. Students with a disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated. NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation. The Numeracy test includes number: space, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data. More information, including sample questions and sample writing task are available on the NAP website www.nap.edu.au. The school supports parent right's to make the choice to withdraw their child/ren and have the necessary forms available in the Front Office.

Early Drop Off

Students should not be onsite prior to 8.45am as staff are not on yard duty until then. If students arrive early to school, they need to wait behind the white line by the Front Office. Again, it is the families' responsibility and their children prior to 8:45am.

The playgrounds are out of bounds before school as there are no staff on yard duty. Please do not have students or siblings on the playgrounds at this time. There have been some injuries during this time.

Gate Times

For SAFETY reasons the school gates will be locked at 9:15am (except the front gate which will lock at 9:30am). If you arrive after this time you will need to enter via the front gate on Maltarra Road.

After 9am students will need to be signed in late at the Front Office before going to class.



Please don't ring late!

Sometime parents call the Front Office to arrange early dismissal of students. Please understand that it gets very busy in the office and sometimes messages don't get through to classrooms on time. If you need to collect your child early, YOU will need to come to the Front Office to sign them out and collect them from their teacher.

School fees

Reminder fees are to be paid by **28th April**. Thank you to the families who have returned their School Card application forms. If you have not yet returned your forms and you think you are eligible please return your form ASAP.

REMINDER!

Mini Sports Day & Sports Day

Mini Sports Day will be on Wednesday 10th April. Students will be selected from PE lessons during the term to participate.

Our **whole school Sports Day will be on Thursday 11th April.** This year we are trialling Tri-Skills for the morning session. Students have all been placed in the teams - **Euroka (yellow)**, **Banarar (blue)**, **Koonaka (red)** and **Waraba (green)**. Additional points can be given by Leadership during the day for students that are demonstrating the school's values of **Respect, Responsibility** and **Success**.

The canteen will operate as normal on Mini Sports Day for all students.

The canteen will be open for snacks, drinks and ice-blocks on Sports Day, 11th April. All lunches are to be pre-ordered. A sausage sizzle will be available for visitors on the day as well as the snacks etc. Limited hot food will be available on the day. If anyone wishes to volunteer on the day, and/or during the year, please see Sandra in the canteen. All help is greatly appreciated.



Swimming

Swimming will be in Week 10 of this term. If your child has a medical condition, they will require a Health Care Plan and medication while at swimming or they will not be allowed to participate. A note has been sent home with all of the requirements for swimming which includes medication, towels and a bag with a change of clothes. Water safety is a vital part of Australian life with a significant number of child deaths by drowning every year. As such, the school has subsidised this excursion to encourage students to attend.

All excursions require teachers to do a risk assessment and safety plans to determine the likelihood and impact of behaviours. If students demonstrate behaviours such as not following instructions, leaving classrooms without permission or aggressive outbursts they can be excluded from attending. Teachers have ratios and a responsibility to all students. Water safety requires additional safety measures and very strict guidelines. Swimming centres have very clear instructions that are sent out to all schools. This includes having no parents or adults in the change rooms at the swim centre. We provide additional staff, especially with the younger children, to assist with clothes changing.



Last day of term reminder

This is a reminder that the last day of Term 2 is Friday 12th April.
School finishes at 2pm.

2PM DISMISSAL!

Bullying

Parents will quite often come in after their child has had an issue and say that they have been bullied. Some conflicts between children are a normal part of growing up and are to be expected. Single incidents and conflicts or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not considered bullying, even though they may be upsetting and need to be resolved. Behaviours that are repeated and targeted is considered bullying, not one off incidents. It is important therefore that all incidents are reported to classroom teachers. Often students will say that they have told the teacher, and when it has been followed up, the teacher had been told once and sometimes not for some period of time. If the teacher has not heard anything again, they can make the judgement that there are no more issues. This is why we say 'report all issues.' It is the only way that we can establish a pattern.

Bullying is defined as: *Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious or hidden.*

Not all distressing or hurtful behaviour is bullying. Bullying is not:

a) **a single incident of malicious or aggressive behaviour**

Bullying and harassment are repeated actions. A single incident may still be responded to as part of the school's behaviour management processes as unacceptable behaviour.

b) **dislike**

Although social rejection can be hurtful, it is not bullying unless accompanied by repeated and deliberate attempts to distress or hurt.

c) **conflict**

Arguments can be distressing but it is not bullying when two people are both upset and neither one is misusing power over the other. Conflict may still give rise to unacceptable behaviour which will be responded to as part of the school's behaviour management processes.



Personal Issues



It is easy to stand outside of the school's gates or offload on social media if there are perceived issues happening. This does not give the school the opportunity to defend itself or to explain their point of view. There are many times that the school is quite defenceless as it is not in a position to publicly voice the reasons for decisions and actions. We are not in a position to offload or voice our opinions or reasoning for decisions. The best way to get clarity is to actually come and speak to someone in Leadership. Although staff cannot and will not comment about other people's children, they can explain their decisions without it coming third hand and without someone else's interpretation. We value all of our families and their contributions. Working together is always going to produce the best outcomes for all students. If people are not happy they can always contact the Parent Complaint Line on 1800 677 435.

Everyone at school, including staff, have the right to feel safe. If there is an issue with your child, and there undoubtedly will be as we are a school full of personalities, please ensure to approach staff with respect. It may come as a surprise to some people, but sometimes students tell fibs. They do this to get out of the problem or to downplay their part in an issue. It is important to always approach staff with an open mind. Incidents that are reported are followed up. Another surprise to some may be the facts that although your child says they reported an incident, this does not always occur. Please remember to keep this in mind. In the mornings staff have a duty of care to all of the students in their class. If you wish to discuss an issue with them, it is important to not take up too much of their time. A meeting time may need to be made so issues can be fully discussed and gone through.

Class teachers will often deal with issues in the classroom. Leadership will only be involved if these issues are extreme, violent and/or repetitive. The classroom teacher should always be your first port of call.

Medications in Schools

Medication will not be accepted by staff without a **Medication Authority**. The instructions must match those on the pharmacy label of the container. Students with medical needs must provide the school with an **appropriate Care Plan (ie Asthma Care Plan) Medication Authority Medication in the box it was dispensed in with the pharmacy label attached**. There are **NO exceptions**.

Care plans and medication authorities are valid for **12 months only**. It is the parent's responsibility to provide the above to the school. Forms are available from the Front Office. Please ensure your doctor issues a **Health Care Plan** and **Medication Authority** to be compliant.

MEDICATION CANNOT BE GIVEN NOR KEPT IN THE CLASSROOM, STUDENTS POCKETS OR BAGS.



German News

Guten Tag, (Good Day/Afternoon)

I would like to say a big Herzlich willkommen (Welcome) to all the parents who have joined our German Dojo classes and a special welcome to all our new families.

It is going to be an exciting year in German and we have some special events planned, which I will let you know about in the near future. This term, in German, we will be focussing on our introductions and greetings. Throughout the term, students will also use basic sentences to describe themselves, their likes/dislikes and hobbies.

I look forward to a fun year of German and helping your children learn as much about the German language and culture as possible!

Tschüss (Informal 'Bye')

Frau Kelly



News in brief:

- The school has been in touch with Camco who are doing the **drains** across the road from the school. They have said that there has been a delay from the supplier in regards to the culverts and they hope to be finished by Easter 18/4/2019.
- **School disco** will be in Week 10 on **Wednesday 3rd April**. More information to come out soon.
- Raffle tickets for the **Easter raffle** will go out this week. All books to be returned by the 9th April. Donations will be kindly accepted in the Front Office.
- Our Coles fundraiser raised \$910 which is a wonderful effort. Thank you so much to everyone who gave their support. The winners were: **1 - Vicki 2 - Kayla 3 - Jacob**.
- Huge congratulations to Alex and Ruby Borghart who represented the school in the **SAPSASA Swimming Competition**. They did very well with placing in a number of events. A fantastic effort!

