Hello to Everyone,

Hello and welcome to everyone,

It is hard to comprehend that we are at the end of week 6, half way through Term 1. It has been a very difficult start to the year with the closure of D Block and the associated moves, but also some very concerning behaviours across the school.

These have included gang like behaviours from groups of students harassing other students, but more concerning is parents and adults approaching students and acting inappropriately. Any such matters are directed to the police and that Department have different alternatives which they can proceed with, including warning letters to prohibition orders. It is never appropriate to approach another child, and any issues need to be addressed in the correct manner. This could start with conversations with the classroom teachers to making an appointment with Leadership.

Leadership are not always available first thing in the morning. We generally start our day at 7am to work through emails, phone calls and administration requirements. Parents and carers are asked to ring to make time with Leadership to discuss matters, as the mornings are generally booked with scheduled appointments from people that have followed the correct procedures.

OSHC

This is just a reminder that OSHC does not open until 7am. Staff may be onsite earlier to set up and get organised and to do administration tasks, but the doors will not be open until 7am. The use of the OSHC is a privilege for users and any inappropriate behaviour by families and/or students, can limit their access to the facility.

The Governing Council and school are in the process of outsourcing the service. There are three tenders that have indicated that they can take over the service. If the bids are successful and the service is outsourced, there will be a transition process for the hand over. We will keep everyone informed as we know more.

Car park

The school has previously indicated that it is not safe or appropriate to use the car park access as a walk through. This is an accident waiting to happen. We were going to close the gates, but the school is in the process of looking at a sliding gate, which will close the driveway off.

A number of staff have indicated that they cannot get through the drive way to get into school as people are walking through the car park; generally with the students.

Canteen - Special Lunch Pack

An order form for a special lunch pack has been sent home. This pack is for recess time only.
Jolly Phonics

Staff and students have really taken to learning Jolly Phonics across the school. The sounds are in seven groups. In synthetic phonics some sounds are written with two letters, such as ee and or. These are called digraphs. Note that oo and th can make to different sounds, as in book and moon, that and three.

To distinguish between the two sounds, these digraphs are represented in two forms.

Each sound has an action which helps children remember the letter(s) that represent it. As a child progresses you can point to the letters and see how quickly they can do the action and say the sound. One letter sound can be taught every day. As a child becomes more confident, the actions are no longer necessary.

It is important that children learn their letters by their name and the common sounds they make. They need this knowledge for them to be able to segment words into their sounds and blend those sounds back together in order to read and spell.

The letters have not been introduced in alphabetical order. The first group (s, a, t, l, p, n) has been chosen because they make more simple three-letter words than any other six letters. The letters b and d are introduced in different groups to avoid confusion.

Sounds that have more than one way of being written are initially taught in one form only. For example, the sound ai (train) is taught first, and then the alternative ae (gate) and ay (day) follow later.

Natural Maths

**COUNTING ON 1, 2 OR 3**

Counting on is a really important step in the introduction of addition. Initially children need to be really speedy with simple questions such as the following: **What is the number after 6?**  **Which number is one more than 3?**

To count on children need to know that the counting sequence can be broken into and picked up at any starting number (known as *breaking the counting sequence*). For example, suppose the 5 stars in the group below have been counted or subitised and that the three smileys are added. To find out how many objects altogether, it is not necessary to recount the stars. We know that there are 5 so we can continue the count, 6 7 8.

**How many objects in this group?**

![Counting on example](image)

When used in conjunction with subitising, counting on not only speeds up the counting process, it also makes a bridge to adding rather than counting.

We suggest that finger counting needs to be approached carefully to avoid over dependence on fingers and the use of inefficient strategies. For instance for 4 + 3 some children can be seen laboriously counting 4 fingers on one hand and then counting as they put up 3 fingers on the other hand. They then count them all one by one. This is a slow process as it involves counting three times. Indeed, it is not *adding* but *counting all*, the least efficient strategy.

**COUNTING BACK 1, 2 OR 3**

When counting back with your child also take opportunities to count back. Just as counting on is an early addition strategy, so counting back is an introductory step toward subtraction. As with counting on, children need to be really speedy with simple questions such as: **What is the number before 6?**  **What is the number 1 less than 9?**

Automatic responses to questions such as these mean that the questions can be extended to 2 and 3 less than.

In situations such as the following count back can be used as the mental strategy.

**There were 6 rain clouds in the sky. 2 of them were blown away by strong winds. How many are left?**

![Counting back example](image)

In this instance counting back 2 from 6: 6 5 4 will finish on the answer 4, and actions such as covering the two clouds on the right can accompany the counting.
Student Leaders

Mr Castenetto will be working with a group of student leaders who will be helping across the school in various activities. They will be wearing yellow vests. These students will be selected from students demonstrating exceptional leadership skills and follow the school’s values of Respect, Responsibility and Success with commitment and dedication.

Choir

Choir students attended Wynn Vale PS for the cluster meeting. They worked alongside other schools and with the conductor from the Festival of Music, to learn some of the trickier aspects of some of the songs. The choir meet on Thursdays 9:30-10:30 with Carol Lee. There are some truly beautiful songs that they are learning and will perform at various times at assemblies. They will have an assessment either later this term or early next term. Students will need to purchase their books and CD’s so they can learn the songs and practice at home. They have a contract to sign to show that they have made the commitment to choir and I have a Triple A rating. Attendance, students must attend sessions on Thursday. Academic, they must try their best. Attitude, students need to demonstrate effort and passion when participating in choir events.

Term 2 is generally lots of rehearsals, with Term 3 sessions at Magic Millions and the festival Theatre, before their final performance. All schools receive an allocation of the number of students that can be onstage at the Festival Theatre. Munno Para PS has an allocation of 17. We had 29 students return their forms and 36 students attending on Thursdays. The Triple A rating will be used to choose the 17 students that will represent MPPS at the Festival Theatre.

Sports Day

The mini Sports Day for students that have been selected in PE lessons, for long jump, high jump and long run, will be on Wednesday 6th April. This day is only for those students. Friday 8th April is the whole school Sports Day, which starts off with whole school participation activities and finishes off with sprints and team relays. It is a great day for all. Students are able to dress in their team colours and parents, families and friends are welcome to come along and support them. All schools abide by the Junior Sports Policy in regards to Code of Conduct for spectators. Please remember this when encouraging and supporting all students.

Canteen News

The canteen operates Tuesday to Fridays for lunch times only. Student’s names and classes need to be written clearly in all order forms. If late orders come in to the canteen (after 9:30am) a restricted menu will only be available, as time and preparation is required for all lunches to go out on time.

On Sports Day, there will be an opportunity to pre-order lunches. Limited items will be available on the day. More information will go out closer to the event.

School Photos

School Photos will be on Friday April 1st. Packages have been sent out this week for families to have a look at. Any questions in regards to the photos, we suggest you contact the company directly. We will look at booking photos in 2017 in Term 2.

Swimming

R-5 swimming will be at Starplex in week 11. This has unfortunately made a crazy last few weeks of term as Easter is earlier this year. Teachers will send out notes about what students need to bring for swimming. This includes their best behaviour and manners. Unsafe and high risk behaviours will result in students being sent home and not participating. Water safety is a high risk as it is, without inappropriate behaviours and non-compliance.

6/7 Aquatics

Year 6/7 students will participate in a variety of water sport activities at West Lakes on Tuesday 22nd March. This is a long and exhausting day for the students as they do canoeing, paddling, wind surfing and other activities. This again, is an activity in water that requires all students to be following instructions and acting in a safe manner. There will be zero tolerance to any inappropriate behaviours, and students deemed high risk prior to the day will not be allowed to attend. They will work at school. These activities are extra curriculum activities and not core curriculum and therefore are a privilege and not a right. Parents and carers need to realise that we have a responsibility for ALL students participating and for staff safety.
Before School

A note has been sent home earlier in regards to unsupervised students in the morning. The school is not supervised until 8:45am and no-one should be onsite until that time. Students, particularly those with no adult supervision, should be waiting near the front office until the music has indicated the school is open. A number of incidents have occurred prior to school beginning as students are congregating and groups and wandering around unsupervised. In the mornings, staff are preparing for the day with planning and organisation. It is not their responsibility to be supervising students who are unaccompanied and should not be on school grounds.

After School

Munno Para PS finishes at 3pm. Students should be picked up promptly at that time. Staff have meetings, phone calls, planning and preparation, marking and training after school. They should not be supervising students after 3:15pm. There are times when unexpected events occur but there are a core group of students that are repeatedly not collected at a reasonable time. The school will continue to put in mandatory reports to Families SA as this is a lack of duty of care and neglect.

Late arrivals and early pickups

Most students do this very well, but just a reminder that late arrivals and early pickups, requires students to sign in at the front office. It can be distressing when a text message goes home to say your child is away and you know that you have dropped them off. Please remind students when they come in late.

Attendance

Attendance notes have gone home to students that have had 20% or more time off of school. A number of families have, ad do, contact the school with absences. This letter is just a visual clue as sometimes families are not always aware of the total of days as 1 day here and there may not seem a lot, but they add up. For some families, the school receives no notification. These letters provide information in regards to their legal requirements for attendance if their child/ren. Attendance is extremely important as there is a strong correlation between academic achievement and attendance.

D Block

The extent of what work will be involved in getting D Block ready and the costs involved, is beginning to take shape. Work has begun in removal the side walk wall and a balustrade will be put there. It will be similar to the one out the front of the office. Work is beginning on the pavers around the building and hopefully we will have some progress on the interior of the building. There has been extensive white ant damage so the work will have to be done in stages.

Easter Disco

The Easter Disco will be on Wednesday 23rd March 6-7:30pm. Notes have been sent home. Students are reminded that discos are for dancing and socialising and not running around playing chasey. It is lots of fun and everyone has a great time. School discos are for current students of Munno Para PS only. All students need to be signed in and out by a responsible adult. Students that have walked themselves to school, will not be allowed in the disco.

Mini Lit

Mrs Smith and Mrs Huckstepp have started 2 Mini Lit groups with targeted students. It is an extensive and comprehensive program that is research based and has a great track record. It is important that students attend all of the sessions and follow all instructions whilst participating. Regular non-attendance and inappropriate behaviours will result in withdrawal from the program and other students included. It is easy to see why we are so exhausted at the moment with so much going on across the school.

This Monday 14th March is a public holiday with the Adelaide Cup. The week after is the Easter Weekend. Therefore Friday 25th March and Monday 28th March are both public holidays and therefore the school will not be open. OSHC is closed on public holidays.
2016 WINTER SEASON

Commencing 30th April 2016
Saturday’s
Junior and Senior Grades

Hallam Drive, Gawler
0438 801 557
secretary@gawlernetball.com.au
http://gdna.sa.netball.com.au
GAWLER & DISTRICTS NETBALL ASSOCIATION
Player Registration

Register now!!
Females of all ages welcome

The Gawler and District Netball Association offers a safe, family oriented netball environment, for arguably one of the most popular female sports in Australia.

The Association offers Winter and Summer rosters
Games are played at central location with central timing
Variety of Grades (ranging from Modified, Juniors and Seniors)
Accessible venue with parking
Low Gate Entry Fees
Canteen Facilities
Representative Netball Opportunities

Please indicate which affiliated club, you would like to receive information from:
☐ Gumnuts    ☐ Lutheran    ☐ St Georges
☐ United     ☐ Virginia    ☐ Xavier Saints
☐ Unsure, please provide assistance
* School exclusive criteria applies ☐ Trinity College

PLAYER DETAILS:
SURNAME: ___________________________ GIVEN NAMES: ___________________________
ADDRESS: ______________________________________________________________________
SUBURB: ___________________________ POST CODE: ___________________________
DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/________

PARENT/GUARDIAN DETAILS:
SURNAME: ___________________________ GIVEN NAMES: ___________________________
CONTACT NUMBERS: Home: _______________ Mobile: ___________________________
EMAIL: ___________________________ @ ___________________________

I, ________________________________, give my permission for the above information to be used by the Gawler and District Netball Association, to provide my details to affiliated clubs for the upcoming netball season.

Individual (Parent/Guardian if under 18 years) signature: ___________________________
Date: ____/____/________

Please return Registration Form to:
Gawler & District Netball Association
PO Box 710, Gawler SA 5118
Phone 0438 801 557
secretary@gawlernetball.com.au