Learning, Caring, Sharing: the Future is in Our Hands

Moonta Area R-12 School

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MAS MEDIA

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Bernice in World Transplant Games
School Improvement
Our aim as a DECS school is to engage every child and student so that they achieve at the highest level of their learning and wellbeing through quality care and teaching. To do this we need to continually improve and become more effective in what we do.

The Site Improvement Committee recently met to look at our progress so far this year in achieving our main 2 improvement priorities:

- Whole School Literacy Agreements
- Targeted Intervention & Support

The Committee also directed us to look at our next plan for 2010. Whilst much of the plan would be a continuation of our current priorities, there may also be other areas that parents, students, community members, and teachers believe we need to we need to start looking at. To help us do this we will be conducting a quick SWOT analysis. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). Your time to discuss this with your children and return it would be greatly appreciated.

Parent opinion survey
Seeking parents’ opinions and views on a range of issues is extremely important, and here at MAS we do this in a variety of ways throughout the year. This week we are sending out to 100 of our families (randomly selected) a parent opinion survey. This survey can be completed online, although there is a paper based survey for parents without internet access or you are welcome to come into the school and complete it.

I urge all parents who receive the survey to spend a little time providing us with very valuable feedback and thank you for your time in doing so.

Innovative Community Action Networks (ICAN) initiative.
Yesterday, our Minister for Education, Jane Lomax-Smith, South Australia’s Commissioner for Social Inclusion, Monsignor Cappo and Federal Minister for Youth, Kate Ellis, jointly announced a commitment of $30 million dollars to begin a State wide ICAN expansion.

Yorke Peninsula is one of the areas to receive ICAN funding. What this means for MAS is that we will have further options for our students, in particular those most at risk from disengaging or dropping out.

ICAN uses local ingenuity to find whatever it takes to overcome the individual circumstances that prevent each student from being at school.

Those circumstances might be a mental illness, caring duties at home, an unsupportive family, juvenile justice issues, homelessness, ill health or simply difficulty sitting in a classroom. As a school, we cannot afford to have our young people skipping school and doing nothing. It is simply not an option. ICAN will support the work our middle & senior school teams, Alternative Learning Options (ALO) in ensuring we try to get successful outcomes for every one of our students.

Congratulations Bernice
It is truly a remarkable achievement when one of your students gets to represent their country. Bernice Allan has been selected to represent Australia in the 17th World Transplant Games from the 22nd August to 30th August at the Gold Coast. During this time she will be competing in tenpin bowling, freestyle, back stroke, table tennis and ball throw. This will be Bernice’s’ first World Games but she has previously represented South Australia in 3 Transplant Games.

Well done Bernice and we wish you all the best at the World Games.

Student Leadership
Our student leaders at MAS are continuing to show willingness to also “continuously improve”. Michael Carson, Taylah Andrews and Chris Lane have all been recently involved in student leadership conferences that will further develop their understanding and knowledge of leadership. The most impressive thing about this involvement is that it was all student directed and led. These students are to be congratulated for their willingness to do that little bit more for themselves and the students at Moonta Area School.

SAPSASA Recognition Awards: Carolyn & Mark Hutchins
Carolyn and Mark Hutchins were nominated by the Northern Yorke Peninsula district to receive a SAPSASA recognition Award for their contributions to SAPSASA swimming and hockey over the years. Both Carolyn and Mark have devoted time and energy into the success of SAPSASA swimming and hockey teams in the district. The students of Northern Yorke Peninsula have benefited enormously from the commitment and energy Carolyn and Mark have given to SAPSASA. MAS also thank and congratulates both Carolyn and Mark for their tremendous efforts over many years.
Signing out of school – through front office
I remind all school community members that it is extremely important that any student who leaves the school during the day signs out via the front office. We have had some cases of parents picking up students and taking students home without our knowledge or not signing out. We need to know at all times each individual student’s whereabouts. Your support in this matter would be appreciated.

Morning supervision
I would like to remind parents that students R-10 should not be dropped at school before 8.30 a.m. The school does not provide supervision in the yard before this time, and while it is important to be on time for school, it is even more important that our children are safe in the yard!

Parent club meeting
The parent club next meeting will be held on 11th August 7.30 pm in the conference room. Please feel free to come along.

Skateboard Users
Complaints have been made to the Police regarding unsafe skateboarding around the Moonta township. Please note the following:
- Skateboarders must wear a helmet
- Take care on footpaths going around corners
- 12 years and over must ride on the road, not on the footpath
Thanks for your cooperation.

This week’s picture of Mr Angus was drawn by Cody Gaston
Mrs Strauss-Scott’s class.

Senior School

The Yr 12’s are currently writing narratives and so attended The Advertiser Big Book Club event at The Seagate last Friday morning to hear author Nick Earls speak about the art of writing and his novels. Prior to attending the event the students had learnt about the structure of a narrative and the planning required before writing can commence. They also visited the library to read some of Nick’s work, as well as that of other authors, to promote thought about characters, plots, opening sentences, complications, resolutions and style of writing.

Subject Counselling for 2010
Counselling of current Yr 10 students into Yr 11 for next year and current Yr 11’s into Yr 12 will take place later this term after parents and students have attended an information evening on Tuesday of Week 8. Information about the process and the evening will be sent home in coming weeks. Next year’s Yr 12’s will be doing the ‘old’ SACE but the Yr 11’s will be beginning the new SACE.
Welcome to Mary Legoe – Year 3
Teacher filling in for Mrs Jarman on Thursday and Fridays.

Teaching Practicum
Brenton Meier is here with us for the first four weeks of this term, teaching Yr 10 & 11 PE with Grant Keleher and Kris Daddow, and Yr 10 History with Wendy Brusnahan. Below are some of his thoughts about his experience in our school.

A student teacher’s perspective.

Entering a new working environment is always a challenge and it is natural to feel a degree of cautiousness and apprehension. However, not more than 30 minutes into my first day at Moonta Area School I realised I had not only come to a professional and cohesive school defined by the integrity of the staff, but I had also come to a place with a welcoming and friendly atmosphere where I was made to feel comfortable and accepted.

As a university student, one hears in lectures the stories of student teachers who are treated as inexperienced guinea pigs who need to be shown their place at the bottom of the education tree. Not so at Moonta Area School. The openness and quality of advice on everything from pedagogy to resources has made my experience as a fledgling teacher a joy and a source of inspiration to become the best teacher I can. With staff such as this, it is easy to see why the students at MAS are eager to learn. The passion my students have shown in their PE and History classes has encouraged me greatly as I begin my journey as a teacher. I look forward to the rest of my time here and hope I can use this experience for the benefit of future students.

Brenton Meier
Student Teacher - Flinders University

Volunteers Procedures

We are now required by DECS to have procedures in place to manage volunteers. All volunteers who work at our school now need to have a criminal history check. To gain this clearance volunteers need to fill out an application which is available from me at school. Once this is filled in and accompanied by identification such as vehicle licence and birth certificate we will send it off for the check. The school will pay for this. In addition all volunteers will be given some induction into our school depending on where they will be working.

We value very highly the people who volunteer and are constantly seeking new volunteers so if you have some spare time please come in and see us.

Bruce Schmidt
Proposal Eight: Year 3/4 Post Office Visit
Proposal: Visit to Post Office to find out how letters are sorted and sent, after writing a variety of letters and postcards. Literacy & SOSE lessons
Date: Wednesday 26th August
Proposer: S Perkins / D Jarman

Proposal Nine: Defence Force Visit
Proposal: Annual visit of defence force. All year 10’s as part of the PLP / career awareness plus interested year 11 & 12 students.
Date: Wednesday 26th August (Lesson 6)
Proposer: V Ivens

Proposal Ten: Yr 12 English class view the play “The Hypochondriac”
Proposal: that the year 12 English class travel to Festival Theatre to view the play “The Hypochondriac”
Benefits: To satisfy an assessment task for the “Text Response” section of the year 12 English Course. The students need to perform an oral to the rest of the class
Requirements from home: Recess, lunch (lunch money)
Cost: $20
Date: Thursday 13th August
Proposer: M Westbrook

Proposal Eleven: 8/9 Boys Super 8 Cricket
Requirements from home: Cost of bus
Location: Balaklava
Date: Tuesday 13th October
Proposer: R Stutley

Proposal Twelve: SACA Cricket Clinic
Proposal: Free Cricket clinic for Reception – Year 2 students
Date: Wednesday 9th September
Proposer: Raelene Stutley

Proposal Thirteen: Year 7 Quiz Night
Proposal: To run a quiz night at the Middle School rooms, to raise money for Melbourne camp. Students to plan, organise, advertise and cater
Date: Wednesday 2nd September (week 7)
Proposer: S Hackett / M Hancock

Proposal Fourteen: Migration Museum – Year 10 History
Proposal: Students are studying the waves of immigrants who came to Australia since Aboriginal migration. Museum will present 1 hr session and students to view & have interaction with information and hands on activities.
Proposer: W Brusnahan

Proposal Fifteen: Tourism visit to Innes National Park (Principal approved)
Proposal: To observe cultural and sustainable tourism, to enable students to complete their assessment tasks.
Requirements from home: Packed Lunch
Date: Friday 7th August
Proposer: F Anderson

Proposal Sixteen: Music/Drama Performance
Proposal: Perform our Musical Drama “Joseph” as a culmination of 2 terms work to audiences
Date: Thursday 13th August Lesson 6/7 and at 3.30 to finish at 5pm
Proposer: F Camporeale
Reading is Fun

Year 10 English students work with a primary class one lesson a week on reading and writing tasks followed by a bit of sport. Last term we wrote our own picture books for individual kids on topics they liked. It was a surprise for them when we brought our books to the class in Week 1 and read them. Amy “I wrote a book about Dora the Explorer for Sabrina and made a character called Princess Sabrina” Chris wrote a book for AJ about WWE wrestling where AJ won tickets to the wrestling from the radio. Connor listened to Chris read the book and “liked the bit when the Dad called out the 5 wrestlers names”. Elle wrote a book for Stephanie about rabbits because she knew she likes them. Steph said “I liked the story because I like bunnies and the bunny looked cool”. The primary students got to keep the books in their classroom or take them home.

SAFER LUNCH PREPARATION

A few tips:

- If you prepare your child’s lunch the night before your child goes to kindy, make sure you store it in the fridge until you’re ready to leave.
- Keep lunch cool on the way to kindy.
- Make sure your child’s lunchbox is cleaned every day with hot soapy water. Even if the box looks clean there can still be bacteria on it.
- Wash your hands before handling any food and make sure the bench and chopping board are clean.
- Include yoghurt, cheese, milk and meat in children’s lunch but make sure they’re stored in the fridge as soon as possible after arriving at kindy.
- If food is brought home from kindy it’s best to throw it out or put it on the compost heap if you have one. Don’t keep these leftover foods for the next day’s lunch.

Reference: Queensland Health, What is better food? 2002

STUCK FOR EASY FRUIT AND VEGIE LUNCHBOX FILLERS?

Here are some vegie and fruit-friendly lunchbox ideas:

- Corn on the cob or little tub of corn kernels
- Cold jacket potato.
- Cut up vegies with a little tub of cream cheese, salsa or reduced fat yoghurt dips.
- Mini muffins, scones or pikelets made with added fruit or vegies.
- Fruit kebabs (chunks of fruit on paddle-pop sticks)
- Fruit crumbles.
- Mini tins or containers of fruit in natural juice.
- Chopped fruit salad.

Shoe Box Appeal

Article Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

Dear Parents, the fundraising Committee at MAS have decided to run the Samaritans Purse Christmas shoe box appeal again this year. It was awesome. Last year to see over 114 shoe boxes presented at our assembly. There was a great sense of pride as we handed over the boxes to Ross Beech (director of Samaritans Purse for our region). If you would like your child to participate this year we will provide the official box needed.

You can put anything in the boxes except liquid items, food or things like toy guns. We greatly appreciate your efforts and can only imagine the joy you will bring to the children in third world situations at Christmas. Its often the only free gift they will ever get as children. So once again thankyou on behalf of the Fundraising Committee.

Rob Martin.
From 23rd to 26th July, Michael Carson and Taylah Andrews attended the seventh annual Rising Generations National Leadership Camp in Collaroy Beach, Sydney. 188 students from across the country attended the camp, along with about 50 volunteers. The camp had five themes: Passion, Vision, Values, Resilience and Service.

Michael writes: My experience at NLC is something I will remember for the rest of my life. I learnt new life skills, met loads of new friends and overall I had an awesome time. Over the four days of camp we participated in activities such as our tribal hakas, the camp Olympics, tribe idol and my personal favourite "BOOT CAMP". For Boot camp we were woken up at 5:30 in the morning and ran 4 km's along the beach, we then had to run down to the water and let the waves crash over us, directly after this we had to carry a team member ¾ of a kilometre up a hill back to the camp site. Boot camp was run by Brett Murray, an inspirational speaker and Kokoda Trail trainer for teenagers.

During the camp I only saw Taylah on about five occasions and the rest of the time we were in our tribes. When I was first put into my tribe, I did not know a single person, by the end of the camp we knew each other so well that it felt like a second family. In our tribes we played team building games as well as talking about our life experiences. When we were not in our tribes we were listening to speakers who talked about the five camp themes. The speakers ranged from one of the camp leaders to Robyn Moore (the voice of Blinky Bill) or even David Koch from Sunrise. I thoroughly enjoyed the camp and would highly recommend it to anybody who wants to try out for it next year.

Taylah writes: My experience at NLC is something I will take with me for the rest of my life. I have made some strong new friendships, which some people are never lucky enough to have. The time I spent at NLC has truly changed me. I heard from some amazing speakers such as David Bassau, an entrepreneur and aid worker in third world countries. Rob Stokes, MP, who among many things spoke about the stereotypes we are burdened with. David “Kochie” Koch, the co-host of the breakfast program Sunrise spoke about his passion for finance and the on-going need for organ donors. Shelley Oates-Wilding, an Olympic rower, spoke about her struggle and passion to make it to an Olympic games. My personal favourite was professional voice artist Robyn Moore.

Most of you would not have heard her name but I am sure you would be familiar with her alias, Blinky Bill. At the beginning of the camp, we were all divided up into “tribes”. My tribe was the Amazons and by the end of camp my tribe members had become like a second family to me. Among the many things this camp taught me, the most important thing I will take with me, is every single person on this earth can make a difference. It takes only one person to change the world. If any student was given the chance to attend this camp in the future, I would strongly recommend they go as an opportunity like this does not come around often.

We thank all of the people who sponsored us, so we could attend the 2009 Rising Generations National Leadership Camp.
Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable and mysterious disease of the central nervous system. It affects an estimated 2,500,000 people around the world. Some of the symptoms of MS may include extreme tiredness, impaired vision, loss of balance and muscle coordination, slurred speech, tremors, stiffness, difficulty walking, short-term memory loss, and in severe cases, partial or complete paralysis (MS Australia).

During Term One the Year 5/6 class looked at different disabilities and each student produced a project based on the disability they chose. One of our students chose multiple sclerosis and read about the MS Readathon being held in June. He was very keen on the idea and as a class we decided this would be a great challenge. The MS Readathon is a reading-based fundraiser that encourages children to read books while raising funds to help people living with MS.

To begin with the class decided to have a goal of reaching $350 dollars. Students were encouraged to read for homework and also given some time during class. Many of the students spent their own time finding sponsors and collecting money. From the 1st of June till the 30th of June students were reading non-stop and continuing to find sponsors. By the end of term 2 the money and sponsor lists had all been handed in. This challenge was an amazing effort by all the students involved. Whatever the total amount raised, the students had put in a fantastic effort and it was and will always be a high point in my teaching career. All the year 5/6’s should be proud of the efforts they made and know that the money they raised will be helping people all over Australia who live with multiple sclerosis. The total raised exceeded our original goal of $350 with a total $900 dollars with Jaidyn Pack raising the highest amount of $150 dollars. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the year 5/6 class.

Miss Balnaves

Competitions

**Australian Mathematics Competition**
This competition will be held on Thursday 6th August in the Middle School, commencing at 11.30 am. The competition is of 75 minutes duration. Students participating in this competition are: Jake Cunningham, Josh Ritter, Damien Silvestri.

**English Competition**
This competition will be held on Wednesday 5th August in the Middle School, commencing at 10.45 am. The competition is 50 minutes for Year 6 and 60 minutes for Year 10. Students participating in this competition are: Adele Andrew, Damien Silvestri.

**Australian Computer Skills Competition**
Earlier this year, students competed in the Australian Computer Skills Competition. Some excellent results were achieved and congratulations go to those students. Certificates will be presented at the next school assembly, Tuesday 18th August (week 5).

**Credit:** Georgia Skinner

**Participation:** Adele Andrew, Brody Nitschke, Damien Silvestri

**Mathematics Competition**
This competition will be held on Wednesday 19th August in the Middle School, commencing at 10.45 am. The competition is 45 minutes for Year 3 and 60 minutes for Years 6-10. Students participating are Josh Moss, Brodie Cunningham, Brody Nitschke, Jake Cunningham, Adam Silvestri, Josh Ritter, Damien Silvestri. Pencils are provided.

A mother’s feedback re her daughter’s very first day at school.....

My daughter Samara asked Olivia after her first day of school:

“Was your teacher Barb nice today?”

Olivia’s reply to Samara:

“Yep, but I was nicer!!”

Typical Olivia
Only 4 weeks to go! All PRC sheets are due in the library by Friday 4th September. This year we have many students completing the Challenge for the sixth year so they will be receiving the first of the Legend medals. The Legend medal hangs on a red lanyard and is red with a gold book on it. Don’t miss out on your medal or certificate just because you haven’t filled in a couple of books. There’s still time.

Lost your sheet? You can look back over your borrowing history on the library catalogue on any computer in the school and fill out a new sheet. Didn’t complete the Challenge last year? Don’t worry. If you do it this year you get the next medal on the list from when you last completed the Challenge.

Since our last update the following students have completed the Challenge. It’s great to see some of the older year levels handing in their sheets. A great effort from -

LH – Natasha Haynes
SH – Michaela Woodward
VG – Braden Aldridge
KS – Teneika Nitschke, Damon Perks,
CB – Carron Daveson, Jake Turner, Kyle Scenini
AK – Gemma Tripodi, Ellie Turner, Adele Andrew, Zac Butler

Keep reading from Mrs Stringer and Mr Steele.

Visiting Author
Last Friday we hosted a visit by Nick Earls, Australian author of several novels for older teenagers and adults. Nearly sixty people enjoyed a delicious morning tea at the Seagate Bistro while Nick entertained us with stories of his writing life. It was a wonderful opportunity and available free, courtesy of the Advertiser Big Book Club.

Book Week
Plans are underway to celebrate Children’s Book Week along with Literacy and Numeracy Week from 31st August to 4th September. The theme this year is Book Safari so watch out for changes in the library and many classrooms as Week 7 approaches. The best of Australian children’s books for 2009 have been short listed by Children’s Book Council judges and are available in the library.

Radi8 Youth
A Youth Program that Surfs, Camps and does stuff that rocks!
We do awesome activities including sport, group games, treasure hunts, water sports, laser skirmish and much much more.

Radi8 Youth runs every second Friday 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Moonta Town Hall or Moonta Dart Club (see Roster for more info) for Ages 8 and up. Gold coin donation. Drinks and light food provided, Canteen available.


For Further information phone Rob Martin on 0411120892.
Literacy Tips - 5

THE POWER OF STORIES

All Readers

Many stories help children connect to experiences beyond their immediate world.

1. **Preview books carefully.** Consider your child’s interest, age and attention span. Select books about familiar experiences, such as the main character being a similar age to your child. Look for books with underlying themes or values you want to share.

2. **Set a purpose for reading.** Rather than expecting your child to listen to a story and appreciate the message, guide them in what to listen for.

3. **Draw attention to the point of the story.** Think about ‘learning between the lines’. Rather than interrupting a story’s flow by quizzing your child, use the moment it takes to turn the page to wonder out loud about the meaning. Don’t forget to look closely at the illustrations of a picture book. They may tell a different story to the words!

4. **Encourage your child to think critically.** Stories are a safe way for your child to explore emotions and behaviours and how they feel about what they read.

5. **Discuss the book and what it means to your child.** Lead your child to think out loud about what they learnt from the story and what applies to them in their world.

GREAT READS

*Too Loud Lily*, by Sophie Laguna and Kerry Argent. Lily is always being told she is ‘too loud’ both at home and at school. But can being ‘loud’ help Lily fit in to school as star of the school play? Suggested for readers aged 5+.

*My Australian Story: Atomic Testing*, by Alan Tucker. Anthony’s father is transferred to a top secret atomic testing project at Woomera and Anthony writes in his diary of the freedom and excitement in the outback. But is it safe? Suggested for readers aged 10+.

Tree Planting

Last Friday 31st July some of the year 7 – 9 maths group with Margie Hancock and Sonia Perkin’s class of year 3 – 4 went to help with some tree planting. This was part of Planet Ark National Tree Planting program. Thank you to these great helpers who did a fantastic job of planting over 100 trees. If you are driving along the Kadina road have a look at their great efforts. Thanks go to the council for inviting us along to participate in this worthwhile project.

Estelle and Jasmine with some of the newly planted trees.

Cool (and Hot) Drinks for Kids

- Water – it’s the best!
- Low fat milk – for healthy bones and teeth!
- Low fat milkshakes – nutritious!
- Fruit Smoothies – fruit and low fat milk!
- 100% fruit juices with no added sugar or self-squeezed orange juice – dilute it and drink only once a day (at the most)
- Self-squeezed orange juice – yum!
- Warm low fat milk with Milo – mmmmmm!

Reference: Queensland Health, What is better food?, 2002 adapted from Pademelon Press, There’s more to food than eating, Food foundations for children birth to eight years, 1999
Student Profiles

**Oliver**

Year/Class: R/1 LH
How long have you attended MAS: 1 ½ years
What is the best thing about MAS: Library, Mr Angus, Playground
Best memory at school: Market Day
When I grow up I want to be: Singer
In my spare time I like to: Trampoline, scooter, beach, movies

**Sarah Jolly**

Year/Class: 5KSS
How long have you attended MAS: 1 ½ years
What is the best thing about MAS: The animals
Best memory at school: The Music Concert
When I grow up I want to be: A Computer Programmer
In my spare time I like to: Go on the computer

**Karl**

Year/Class: 1VG
How long have you attended MAS: 2 years
What is the best thing about MAS: Learning
Best memory at school: Beach Week
When I grow up I want to be: A Teacher
In my spare time I like to: Dance and play Singstar with Mum

**Bryan O'Toole**

Year/Class: 5KSS
How long have you attended MAS: 6 years
What is the best thing about MAS: Computing Room
Best memory at school: Camping at Glen Haven
When I grow up I want to be: Don't know yet!
In my spare time I like to: Play video games
Calendar

Week 3

Wednesday 5th August
Governing Council Meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 6th August
Maths Competition

Friday 7th August
Tourism Exc – Innes National Park
5-a-side Girls Soccer Yr 8/9

Monday 10th August
DMC Meeting 5pm

Tuesday 11th August
Parent Club 7.30pm

Thursday 13th August
Finance Committee 3.15pm

Week 4

Monday 17th August
RSPCA Fundraiser – Cup Cake Day

Tuesday 18th August
R-12 Assembly

Wednesday 19th August
Mathematics Comp (Uni of NSW)
Choir Rehearsal – Magic Millions

Wednesday 19th – Friday 21st August
Mt Remarkable Bushwalk

Thursday 20th August
The Emperors New Beatbox

Thursday 20th & Friday 21st August
Leaders Day

Week 5

Monday 31st August – Friday 4th Sept
R-6 Tennis Coaching

Week 6 & 7

Monday 31st August
Book Week / Literacy & Numeracy Wk

Monday 31st August – Thursday 3rd Sept
Year 11 Self Reliant OED Camp

Week 8

Monday 7th – Thursday 10th September
Parent/Teacher Interviews (R-6)

Wednesday 8th September
District Athletics Day

Thursday 10th September
Choir Performance – Festival Theatre

Friday 11th September
School Closure Day

Week 9

Monday 14th September
“All About Me” Day (Yr 5-7)