Japanese Visitors
Last Thursday morning, we welcomed our Japanese students to Moonta Area School at a special assembly. The twelve students from Meidai High School in Japan were introduced to the school and presented with gifts by their host buddies. Many thanks to Dana Bartlett who translated the welcome for us. While here, the students are undertaking an intensive English Language course delivered by Mrs Stringer, and they will also have the opportunity to visit other classes, and places of local and state interest. The students are Yu Usuki, Mei Komori, Mana Enomoto, Aya Terajima, Kana Vematsu, Mizuki Morota, Yoshiki Kaneko, Yuta Mayuzumi, Takahiro Suzuki, Nao Takahashi, Mitsuki Nakamura, and Orine Koda.

I would like to acknowledge the families, who have welcomed the students into their homes until Monday next week, when they will return to Japan. Thank you to the Adams, Barrett, Bartlett, Cooper, Drogemuller, Dunn, Ellard, Love, McMahon, Moss, Shields and Whale families.

I spoke to the students about the differences between our cultures and that we at Moonta Area School welcome these differences, for they give us an opportunity to learn. They give us an opportunity to be more understanding of others, to improve our knowledge of another country and its culture, to improve our understanding of the Japanese language and the Japanese way of life. I encouraged all Moonta Area School students to take this wonderful opportunity to meet our guests and learn from them, to care for them, to share our culture, our town, our school, our way of life.
Site Improvement – parent opinion
The 2010 Moonta Area School, Site Improvement Plan is focused on Literacy, (especially reading), Targeted Intervention and Support, and Attendance and Lateness. The School Improvement Committee met on Monday the 26th and were presented with a summary report as to the progress we are making in achieving identified targets. This is part of an important process as we start to think about our improvement areas in 2011 and beyond. The committee then spent some time on discussion as to how we get parent input into setting any new directions for the school. We do have Governing Council representatives on the committee, but we would like to get a broader parent view. We have asked that this question go to the Governing Council meeting this week, to see what would be the best way of gathering parent opinion.

Literacy Evaluation
As part of our preparation for next year we are undertaking an evaluation of our Literacy teaching and learning processes as well our intervention and support strategies. This representative group’s primary purpose is to find out about changes in the teaching and learning experiences in which children are engaging and their effects. They will also ascertain if there are any changes being seen in children’s achievement in literacy due to our changes implemented throughout the year. As part of this process we will be surveying parents to see if they have noticed any changes, either positive or negative in their child’s reading behaviour.

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!

School Sign
I hope most of the school community has noticed our new school sign that has been erected on the corner of Blanche Tce and Verran Tce. This will give us the opportunity to advertise school events, special days, and acknowledge student success on an ongoing basis.

We also have three ICAN/FLO students, Bobby Wilson, Joel Holness, Taylor Paulsen working with our SSO Kevin Dyson building a traditional stone wall on that corner to improve that aspect of the school grounds and compliment the sign. This is a chance for some of these boys to build something for the school that will be around for a long time, a permanent feature that they can be proud of every time they go past it. They have made a very promising start.

IT Support
I received a letter for the Education Minister informing us that we would be allocated funding to employ an Information Technology Technician. This was generated as part of the recent arbitration decision. We have not been told the full detail of this allocation but it will certainly help support a huge and growing requirement at our school. We currently employ the equal of a full time IT support person but pay for it out of our school resource entitlement.

Student Sporting Success
Congratulations to Ellie Turner on her selection in the SAPSASA State U/13 netball team that will compete in Canberra from October 9-15th. We wish her all the best and acknowledge the hard work of Ellie and her parents in supporting her to attend all the necessary trials to be to be selected.

Education Tax Refund
Its tax time again and for South Australia’s public school parents, the Education Tax Refund (ETR) is an opportunity to increase the size of that refund. The ETR began last year and entitles eligible parents to claim up to 50% of their children’s education cost as tax deductions.

Eligible expenses include: laptops & home computers, USB flash drives, home internet connections, computer hardware, computer software, computer repairs, school textbooks, tools of trade.

The amounts you can claim have increased since last year. For the 2009/10 income year you can now claim up to:
- $780 for each primary school student, – a refund of up to $390
- $1558 for each secondary student – a refund of up to $779

Just announced, next year parents will be able to add the cost of their children’s school uniform to the ETR claim. (50% of the cost after July 2011).
Our school welcomed twelve students from Meidai High School at a special assembly last week. The students are from Tokyo, Japan. They are spending ten days with us as part of their summer holiday program to improve their English and learn about Australian culture. During the day the students have English lessons and school experience and then spend their after school and weekends with their host families.

Besides their formal English lessons with Mrs Stringer they have also participated in netball and football games with Ms Spaans’ middle school PE class, attended a reception with the Mayor in Kadina, toured the school and the main street, visited the museum and made pasties with Mrs Anderson’s Yr 8 Home Ec class. There are many more activities planned and the host families are also enjoying giving the students an experience of Australian family life. Our school is most grateful to those twelve families who have welcomed the students into their homes. We will all be sad to say goodbye next Tuesday.

The Student Voice decided that this was worthy of support for this year. Pens, key rings and badges are for sale in our Library. See the information below for details of how the money will be used.

$235 – Sell all your items in a Jeans for Genes pre-pack box and you’ll be helping our scientists to grow cancer cells in the lab for one week. By studying the cells as they grow we can learn a lot about what makes them cancerous. This could lead to new ways to treat or prevent cancer.

Buy a $10 Helix Jean Jewel and you’ll be helping our researchers buy 200 mini test tubes to study the changes to genes and proteins caused by the gene defect responsible for Rett syndrome, a rare genetic condition that affects 1 in 10,000 girls from 12-18 months old.

Buy a $5 Double Helix Badge and you’ll be helping our scientists speed up the pace of research into improved treatments for epilepsy. Your donation will help buy a plastic 96-in-one ‘test-tube’ that will allow them to carry out 96 tests on potential epilepsy drugs at once, instead of individually.

Please give a gold coin donation and/or purchase an item.
Children are being encouraged to consider taking up a club sport as part of a national campaign themed Play for life... join a sporting club.

Nationwide, around 150 gala days or try sport events will be held between July and September to introduce children and parents to the range of club sports available in their area. The campaign reflects the importance of physical activity for the healthy growth and development of our children. Research shows that it helps children cope with stress, reduces anxiety and depression, strengthens self-esteem, and boosts mental alertness.

Playing a club sport adds another dimension – it helps children develop valuable life skills such as cooperation, discipline, respect and tolerance.

Renowned child and adolescent psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Gregg says that after 20 years of working in his field, he is absolutely convinced of the benefits of club sport for children.

"Apart from the obvious physical benefits, participation in sports clubs enables young people to take healthy risks, spend structured time with age-appropriate peers, and win, lose or draw, they discover more about themselves," he said.

Johanna Griggs has supported the initiative by becoming the campaign’s ambassador.

"I’m proud to be an ambassador for Play for life...join a sporting club”. It reflects my own journey with sport – a journey that has helped me get to where I am today.

“But more importantly, it reflects the positive role that sport plays in my boys’ lives ... for life”.

For more information, or to find sporting clubs near you, visit ausport.gov.au/findaclub

While the effects of irregular attendance adversely impacts directly on a student’s current progress and understanding, the long term scars to his/her learning are devastating. Just as research has proven that exposure to the sun as a youngster can cause irreparable damage to his/her skin that will emerge later in life, poor attendance mirrors this.

The gaps in knowledge and understanding accumulated in Years 7 to 10 become a glaring problem in Years 11 and 12. Subject development is a sequential building process that relies heavily on a firm grasp of each section of material. When part is missing the student finds immense difficulty in learning the work and real frustration sets in; this effectively makes school life a genuine chore.

In many senior classes across all subjects, teachers spend much valuable class time trying to fill in the gaps in students’ knowledge caused through condoned parent absences. Time is lost on teaching the Years 11 and 12 subject material; a real disadvantage to our students.

This situation can be substantially reduced if not eliminated by saying NO to any student absences other than genuine illness or serious family issues. Should you require assistance in saying NO to your son/daughter with regard to any matter, including unacceptable absence, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Let’s work together to make a difference to your child’s future.

Be on Time, Be at School, That’s the Rule!

In the last week of Term 2 the Year 12’s, along with Mrs Anderson and Mrs Westbrook, headed north to the Flinders Ranges to undertake some Hospitality and Tourism tasks, a bit of team bonding and some R & R. We stayed at Gunyah Homestead on a farm between Wilmington and Quorn. Highlights included camel rides, a sound studio tour, watching “Toy Story 3”, a games night, walking through Alligator Gorge and the boys’ camp oven cooking. Unfortunately our 4WD tour was cancelled due to rain. Student behaviour was excellent and a good time was had by all.

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Be on Time, Be at School, That’s the Rule!
The following proposals will be discussed at the meeting held Monday 9th September:

**Proposal One: Change of date – Cultural lesson presentation and afternoon tea**
*Date:* Friday 13th August, Week 4.
*Proposer:* S Rankine / D Daulby

**Proposal Two: Science Week – Waterloo Wind Farm day trip**
*Proposal:* DJ / KS-S classes visit the Auburn Wind farm to view wind generators, a large propeller and listen to a talk, as part of the technology study 'Wind Power'.
*Requirements from home:* Packed recess / lunch.
*Cost:* $5 approx.
*Date:* Thursday 19th August, Week 5.
*Proposer:* K Crosby / M Pope

**Proposal Three: End of Year Assembly and Family Night**
*Proposal:* That we hold our End of Year Assembly at 9 a.m., to acknowledge student success. Family Night from 5 – 8 p.m. – early evening family night to wind up the year.
*Date:* Wednesday 8th December, Term 4, Week 9.
*Proposer:* B Schmidt / D Daulby

**Proposal Four: Book Week / Literacy and Numeracy Week / Science Week**
*Proposal/Dates:

- Book Fair in the Library.
- Dress Up Day / Assembly R-6 – Friday 3rd September, Week 7.
- Open Morning R-12 – Wednesday 1st September, Week 7. 8:45 – 10:35 a.m. followed by a Morning Tea for visitors.
*Date:* Monday 30th August – Friday 3rd September, Week 7.
*Proposer:* D Daulby / T Stringer

**Proposal Five: Fundraise for Year 7 Camp - Photos**
*Proposal:* As part of IT, students will photograph classes, friendship groups etc and sell photos back to students.
*Benefits:* Raise money for Year 7 camp, practise IT skills learned in Term 2, and Budgeting/Marketing skills.
*Date:* Throughout Term 3.
*Proposer:* S Hackett / M Hancock / D Richardson

**Proposal Six: Fundraise for Year 7 school camp**
*Proposal/Dates:

- Run a car wash every Friday in Lesson 5 – students rostered to wash etc – Term 3.
- Run a Saturday BBQ outside Foodland (date to be confirmed).
- Run a raffle, goods donated. Students to sell up to $20 work of tickets (drawn by the end of Term 3).
*Proposer:* S Hackett / M Hancock / D Richardson

The following proposals were approved at the meeting held Monday 26th July:

1. **Teddy Bear’s Picnic** – Hold a ‘Teddy Bear’s Picnic’ at the school or Queen’s Square, as part of their ongoing unit about Bears and to link in with the ‘International Teddy Bear Day’. *Requirements from home:* Hat, plate of food to share, teddy bear. *Date:* Thursday 9th September, Week 8.

2. **Nursing Home Visit** – Students present art work (music, drama, dance, art) to residents. *Requirements from home:* Hat, water bottle. *Date:* Wednesday 28th July, Week 2 and Wednesday 15th September, Week 9.

3. **Visit the Moonta Post Office for a Tour** – Students will have written a letter to post home to their parents and they will learn how the post office works. Date to be confirmed.


5. **R-2 SACA Cricket Clinic** – *Date:* Thursday 9th September, Week 8.

6. **Stage 2 OED Self Reliant Camp to Moolooloo Station** – *Date:* Tuesday 31st August – Friday 3rd September, Week 7.

The following proposal has been given to the Governing Council:

7. **Anti-Bullying R-6 Policy.**

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Thank you

Deb and Grant Platten would sincerely like to thank all the parents of students who have been in the same class as Harrison over the last few years. He has recently been tested and been given the all clear with regards to his nut allergy. He is no longer allergic to nuts. They have really appreciated the support of parents by avoiding sending food containing nuts to school.

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Anxiety Support Group

For parents, carers and family member of children with anxious behaviours.

The group meets on the last Wednesday of each month for ongoing support.

**First meeting:** Wednesday 25th August from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Kadina Library (Function Room), Doswell Tce, Kadina.

**Guest Speaker:** Kim Whitehead, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service Clinician.

Gold coin donation for tea and coffee.

For more information contact Janine Mercer 0418 814 086.
Oysters from Coffin Bay
Are you interested in purchasing oysters? The Year 7s are selling them as part of their fundraising for their camp. $8 per dozen. You can order via a Year 7 student or come into the front office, fill in the form and pay prior to the 31st August. All money must be paid by the 31st August. Delivery/Collection will be on Friday 3rd September. Any queries please see Sally Hackett.

!!Urgent!! Clothing Pool
Please have a look and bring in any school clothing that your kids have outgrown. The Clothing Pool is desperate for good, clean, jumpers, T-shirts and plain blue track pants. Please note that we do not take clothing on consignment – donations only, with all proceeds going to fundraising and helping students in all sorts of areas.

Thank you ~ Jane Sutton

Lower North Youth Network is pleased to present:
Melinda Tankard Reist
Toxic: The impact of popular culture on girls and young women
A must see event for parents and service providers working with young people
Taking us on a confronting visual ‘tour’ of the images from the media and popular culture which girls are bombarded with, Melinda will help us explore how we can help girls resist negative messages and come to recognise their true value and worth. Melinda is author of Getting Real: Challenging the sexualisation of girls.
Wednesday 18 August 2010
RSL Hall Burton Street, Clare
7.30pm-9.30pm
Cost: Gold coin donation
Please RSVP to katherine.white@health.sa.gov.au
08 8841 3500

Technology Careers Night
Wednesday 18th August. 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Cost: Free (bookings essential). Wayville Showgrounds, Ridley Centre. Visit www.tia.asn.au or phone 08 8272 5222.

Featuring:
Pre-requisites you need to get into your technology-related degree, diploma or certificate. Make the right decisions on your future career pathways into university and TAFE in these areas. Listen to professionals talk about their careers and the projects that they work on! Many local and international technology firms – see what they do, ask them about the industry!

Public Notices
Do you need child care? Approved Family Day Care. Approval Number 6 809/68. Please contact Kristen Woodward 88 251 300 / 0407 256 229. Positions available: Wednesday full day. After school care available. Starting as of now. A waitlist is available for other days.

Moonta Football Club Quiz Night – Saturday 14th August. 7:30 for 8 p.m. start at the club. Minute to win it games between rounds. Plus Sporting Memorabilia Auctions (including Signed Thunderbirds netball, signed Redbacks cricket bat, Crows bags and more!! For booking call 88 252 098 or e-mail moontafootballclub@live.com or see Sharron Pedler or Tracy Andrews at the club.

Have you registered your team for Relay for Life? Relay for Life is a team fundraising event that brings local communities together in the fight against cancer. The upper Yorke Peninsula will be hosting the event in Kadina on 23rd & 24th October 2010. For further information about Relay for Life and to find out how you can be involved, visit www.relayforlife.com.au

Kadina Show – 140th Anniversary.
Section L – Literature – Adult, High School and Primary. Entries close Friday 13th August.
Open Section – Adult: Entry Fee: $5. 1st Prize $100, 2nd Prize $50 in each classes 1 & 2, 3rd Prize Merit Certificate. Classes 1 – Short Story up to 1000 words, 2 – Poem up to 500 words.
High School Section: Entry Fee: $2. 1st Prize $15 from DJ Music Store, 2nd Prize $15 from DJ Music Store in each classes 3 & 4, 3rd Prize Merit Certificate. Classes 3 – Short Story up to 500 words, 4 – Poem up to 300 words.
Primary School Section: Entry Fee: Free. 1st Prize $2, 2nd Prize $1, 3rd Prize Card only. Classes 5 – Short Story up to 300 words, 6 – Poem up to 150 words.

Kadina Show – Saturday 21st August 3– 5 p.m. featuring Local Punk Rock Band – Delirium.
“Tutworkers & Tributers” 150 years of Copper – Painting and Etchings by Deirdre Edwards. Moonta Gallery of the Arts – Town Hall, George St, Moonta. Official Opening 2 p.m. Sunday 8th August by Councillor Graham Hancock.
To accomplish any task you need to be able to concentrate your attention for a time. It is a requirement for learning. Kids not only need to be able to focus on tasks but to stay in the one place long enough so they can listen to and follow instructions.

Most kids, from time to time, will experience some concentration or focusing difficulties. This is particularly true when they are over-tired, over-stimulated or over-loaded. However some children due to either their physiology or psychology have greater difficulty focusing on tasks and on people than others. Either they find settling into or starting a task a problem or they lose focus easily and leave tasks half done.

There are many things you can do at home to impact on children’ concentration levels. Like any skill, concentration can be enhanced and made automatic. The trick to effective concentration is to know what to concentrate on and what to filter out.

Here are five ideas you can use to help kids to concentrate better:

1. **Attend to their physiological needs:**
   - Most children and teenagers concentrate best after nine hours sleep so make sure they get sufficient sleep. Reduce sugar intake and increase protein levels with lean meat, almonds and eggs. This stimulates their dopamine levels which make concentration easier, particularly for lethargic kids. Frequent breaks for exercise have a similar effect.

2. **Remove distractions at home:**
   - List the distractions at home that may prevent your child from concentrating. These include; noise, people, lighting, fighting, fatigue and hunger. List ways to eliminate or reduce, and work at them systematically.

3. **Create the mood for concentration:**
   - Calming background music, placing a fish tank (with fish) in a place of work and removal of fluorescent lights are some simple ways to make the environment more amenable for concentration. These strategies have been used successfully in overcoming concentration problems in many ‘boy-friendly’ schools.

4. **Introduce sequencing and organisation activities:**
   - The link between sequencing and concentration is a strong one. Following recipes, setting the table and putting things in alphabetical order are great activities for kids who have concentration difficulties. Board and card games promote children’s ability to focus on tasks as well.

5. **Figure out what activities your child focuses on best:**
   - Some kids concentrate better when they are involved in hands-on activities, while others focus better when there are plenty of visual cues to help them. That’s why teachers use hand signals such as ‘hands on heads’, and ‘fingers on lips’ to indicate quiet. Look for activities that your child gets ‘lost’ in; and those activities they can literally spend hours in. These activities enhance children’s concentration levels.

Like any skill, concentration can be improved and made automatic. Anyone who has learnt to drive a car will have had the experience of thinking, “How will I concentrate on all these things?” Extensive practice allows for the pathways of concentration.

It helps before you begin to assist kids to concentrate better if you pay close attention to their pattern of concentration and see if there are links between diet, their energy pattern, sleep and your own behaviour.
National Tree Day was held on Sunday 1st August 2010, with National Schools Tree Day taking place earlier on Friday 30th July. Last year over 312,000 people at 3500 sites dug deep to improve their natural surroundings. Tree Day aims to show children how easy and fun it is to help our environment.

This year students from Miss Balnaves’ year 5/6 class and from Mr Hall’s year 6 class participated in National Tree Day for schools. Students assisted the district council in the planting of approximately 200 trees in the area opposite the railway cottages just out past the Mobil service station.

Students achieved this feat in 20 minutes whilst demonstrating great enthusiasm and a willingness to follow instructions carefully to ensure trees were planted correctly. Well done to the students and a big thank you to the district council for their support on the day. Overall the day gets two “green” thumbs up.

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### Week 3
**Friday 6th August**
Jeans for Genes Day

### Week 4
**Monday 9th August**
4 p.m. DMC
5:30 p.m. Japanese Homestay Students Farewell BBQ Tea

**Tuesday 10th August**
Japanese Homestay students leave

### Week 5
**Wednesday 16th – Thursday 19th August**
Vibe Alive

**Wednesday 16th – Friday 20th August**
Year 12 PE – Bushwalk Camp at Deep Creek

### Calendar

**Wednesday 18th August**
9 a.m. R-12 Assembly
Festival Theatre performance – Choir

**Week 6**
**Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th August**
FR / CB / RH Camp

**Monday 23rd August**
5 p.m. DMC

**Friday 27th August**
11 a.m. Jump Rope for Heart (R-9) demonstration

**Week 7**
**Monday 30th August – Friday 3rd September**
Book Week / Literacy and Numeracy Week / Science Week