



Mr Welfare our Middle Primary teacher
and his wife Lisa welcomed a not so little
boy into the world on 10th March 2020.

Congratulations Tory & Lisa
on the birth of Jasper!

Welcome to the South Community, Jasper.



Term 1, Week 9

27 March 2020

Thank you...

We would like to take an opportunity in this newsletter to offer gratitude to our entire school community. We believe that it is especially important in times like these that we act with kindness and compassion.

As the end of term 1 nears and we look back on the past 9 weeks, it has been a disruptive and at times, challenging start to a school year. As you would be well aware, we have all been impacted by the Government's enforced rules for risk minimisation relating to COVID-19.

We would like to thank our teachers and SSOs for their commitment to teaching and learning by continuing to plan, teach and assess for their current classes but who have also been planning for any potential school closures. They have supported the varied emotions of students and families, followed the social distancing guidelines in their classes and maintained a positive and calm learning environment while all events are cancelled.

Thank you to our students who have graciously continued their learning despite missing out on sporting and music events, the sharing of learning success at assemblies and after school activities. Students have continued to attend school demonstrating an eagerness to continue with their learning, despite being asked to wash their hands a lot!

Finally a huge thank you to our families, especially our Governing Council members who have supported the school's management of risk minimisation strategies. Thank you for keeping your children at home if they have shown signs of illness. Thank you for supporting the decisions we have made in the best interest for all students and thank you for kindly seeking clarification as you require it.

With this in mind, despite its challenges, this term is one to celebrate! Please enjoy the following student comments reflecting upon their learning in term 1.

TERM 1 STUDENT LEARNING REFLECTIONS

Lillymay, Lower Primary 1 - "I got up to 20 on my cards in my Quick Maths in 1 minute."

Bianca, Lower Primary 1 - "I finished my Tiddalick the Frog story in HASS and he was really greedy and he learned his lesson."

Demi, Lower Primary 1 - "I am now putting my S's the right way around because I am starting to get used to it now, this was my literacy goal."

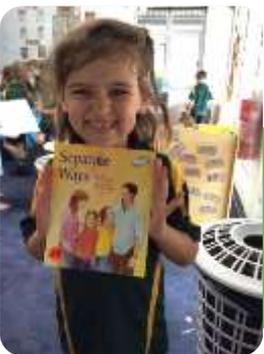
Charlotte, Lower Primary 1 - "I can use the greater than & less than symbols in Maths and I am getting really good at it now."

Jett, Lower Primary 1 - "I'm very good at expanding numbers because I can expand 1s, 10s, 100s, 1000s, 10000s, 100000s, millions and even billions."



Yskaria, Early Years 3 - I have achieved my level of quick maths. Now I am working on 30s.

Levi, Early Years 3 - I can use full stops in my writing. I wrote 3 sentences about The Strikers with full stops.



Abbie, Early Years 3 - I am proud of being a level 23 reader.

Hunter, Early Years 3 - I am proud of learning about rugby with Mr Todd at lunch.

Bailey, Primary 1 - I have enjoyed being in Mrs Mardell's class as I have learnt how to challenge myself and have made lots of new friends.

Dayne, Primary 1 - I have liked MFL. I have gone up 2 levels in quick maths this term.

Chloe, Senior Learning 2 - I love graphing my results after our post-test in Maths. It shows me the growth I have made and where I still need to improve.

Tayte, Senior Learning 2 - Narrative has been fun to learn and I like having the two different shared reading groups. I have learnt a lot more.

Vanessa, Middle Primary 1 has shared..."I have enjoyed spelling with Mrs Mardell because she has helped us with our handwriting and spelling different sounds (phonemes) with different spelling choices (graphemes) for example the letter x can make the sounds k-s in certain words and the letters ch making a k sound.'

Cody, Middle Primary 1 has shared..."Mr Whitford taught us some new games that would be good for us to challenge us. One of the games was "Human soccer ball" which was quite fun. It started out challenging to defend because the wind was blowing in our direction and we had push through the wind. One of the strategies we learned to overcome this was to kick the ball to the other team so we could run faster to then attach to get the ball back."

Omkar, Lower Primary 2 - I achieved my goal of getting up to +6 in quick maths which I was really happy about and it was fun to do.

Pritha, Lower Primary 2 - In MFL I have been learning how to find the value of x and a (for algebra) and have been really enjoying it.



SAPSASA CRICKET

During week 7 Connor went to SAPSASA cricket from Monday to Thursday.

On day one we played Mid North and our team were bowled out for 97. We then bowled and I opened the over. I bowled 4 overs 1 for 5.

Day two, we batted first and were 7 for 144, I made 12 not out. They bowled and I took 0 for 7 off 4 overs.

Day three, we batted first again and were all out for 113 and I made 12. Then we bowled them out for 107 and I took 0 for 5 off 4 overs.

Last day, we bowled first and they made 176. I bowled and took 1 for 5 off 4 overs and then we batted and made 171, I made 13 not out.

Overall, we had a great time and bowled 16 overs 2 for 22. I made 37 runs and took 3 catches.

By Connor, SLC.

GAMING ADVICE FOR FAMILIES

With the World Health Organisation recently making 'gaming addiction' official, Mr Todd started thinking in regards screen time and learning for our students.

Screen time can be part of a healthy lifestyle for children when it's balanced with other activities that are good for child's development, like physical play, reading and socializing. Getting the right balance also includes making sure screen time doesn't interfere with sleep.

Below Mr Todd has highlighted strategies and ideas he feels to be of great importance to children's wellbeing and can assist in maintaining a positive balance of screen time.

Avoid screen time before bed

School-age children need 10-11 hours sleep a night. Using screens before bed can affect how quickly children fall asleep. If your child avoids mobile phones, tablets, computer screens or TV in the hour before bed, they are more likely to get to sleep more quickly and have a higher quality of rest.

If you keep mobile phones and other devices out of your children's bedrooms at night, they are less likely to stay up late playing games or messaging friends. This can also stop your child being disturbed in the night by messages or notifications.

How much time?

Getting up and moving around is important for your child's energy levels, development, sleep, and overall health and wellbeing. If your child is having screen time, it's a good idea to take a break every 30 minutes and use screens in short bursts.

Face to face time

When children play face to face with others rather than by themselves on a screen, they develop important life skills. These include how to along with other people, being independent and learning how to work through conflicts and problems. Facilitating activities where children socialize together is extremely important for their wellbeing

For further information and strategies on this subject or other information for healthy children, please refer to the link below.

<https://beyou.edu.au/>

PUPIL FREE DAYS & SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY FOR 2020

Students do not attend school on these days.



Last day of Term 1 is Friday 3rd April, 3.20pm.

Term 1, Week 11 – Pupil Free Days due to COVID-19

Monday 6th April

Tuesday 7th April

Wednesday 8th April

Thursday 9th April

(Friday 10th April – Good Friday)

Term 2

Week 3 – Monday 11th May – Pupil Free Day

Term 3

Week 2 – Friday 31st July - Pupil Free Day

Week 7 – Friday 4th September – School closure day (show day)

Term 4

Week 6 – Friday 20th November - Pupil Free Day

COVID-19 UPDATE – 26TH MARCH, 2020

Firstly, I appreciate your flexibility and support as we endeavour to synthesise the daily changes given by the Government and Department for Education in relation to teaching and learning in primary schools. The wellbeing and safety of our students, families and staff continue to be our priority.

In my personal opinion, and yours may differ, we are receiving a lot of conflicting messages pertaining to learning in school at this difficult time; much of which is putting unnecessary pressure on students, families and staff.

This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting the whole world – there are enough people feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure. I want to take a moment to acknowledge this and give you each permission to make decisions that are contextual to you and your family.

You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home, then that is your choice. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about. We understand the challenge of facilitating distance learning with primary aged children and continuing to undertake your own work from home.

Staff at Mount Barker South are doing their best to navigate this situation of how to respond in order to support our students and families. We haven't always had direct instruction from the Department or Government on what to do. We haven't had preparation time to continue to plan lessons for students attending school and send work to students who are self-isolating at home, but we are doing our best!

What students need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be OK and that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule; play outside and go on walks, bake biscuits and paint pictures, play board games and watch movies, do a science experiment together or find virtual trips of the zoo, start a book and read together as a family or snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single student is in this boat and they all will be OK. When we are back in the classroom, we will all course correct and meet them where they are. Teachers are experts at this!

At this time of uncertainty, I appreciate those acting with kindness as this makes each of us stronger. The following decisions have been made with well intentions:

Learning for students of families who are self-isolating:

'Our Learning SA' is an online collection of educational resources. This is one way The Department for Education is supporting the continued learning between school and home.

'Our Learning SA' provides students, families and teachers with high-quality curriculum resources along with advice to support learning at home.

Developed by department curriculum managers and expert teachers, the site provides learning materials and activities across all learning areas in the Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian Curriculum. The Department for Education intend to build upon this collection of resources.

You can access this learning resource from <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/our-learning-sa>

Learning for students in the event of a school closure (more than 24 hours):

- A full 2-week schedule of learning will be sent home to each family via SeeSaw or can be sent home in hard copy (please let the front office know if you are unable to access Seesaw).
- This will include daily English and Maths tasks and weekly P.E./Health, STE(A)M, Arts and History/geography tasks.
- You can use the 'Our Learning SA' if you have access to the internet.

Student drop off and pick up

Given the continuing evolving situation regarding COVID-19, I would like to advise that from Thursday 26th March, we ask that parents/carers do not enter the class rooms at the beginning and end of the day. This is primarily to support current social distancing expectations and assisting us to minimise risk to staff and students, but also to support the social distancing of parents as we ask you to observe the 4m2 social distancing rule amongst each other.

Please drop your child off at the beginning of the day (outside of classrooms) and meet them outside the classrooms to pick up at the end of the day.

In making this request, we keep in mind that we don't want to cause any undue stress or worry to the students or parents; therefore, if you need to accompany your child into classrooms, please communicate with your child's teacher to arrange a plan that meets the social distancing rules. If you do need to make contact with staff at any time, we certainly encourage you do so and communication via SeeSaw is preferred.

We also ask that families do not use the front office as a thoroughfare until further notice. If you do require assistance, please adhere to the social distancing rules. Feel free to email the school dl.1539.info@schools.sa.edu.au or phone 8391 1197 at any time for assistance if required.

Excursions/School Photos

These were originally planned for term 2 but will be postponed for either term 3 or 4. We will communicate this with you as we know more. If you have already paid, we will hold your payment for when the excursion has been rebooked.

We have postponed school photos but have not received a new date yet. We will keep you updated on this.

Hygiene supplies

There has been much talk in the media discussing the lack of hygiene supplies within schools. I can reassure you that we have liquid soap available in every bathroom and hand sanitiser in every space across the school. Schools have been given a WHS hotline number to call if stocks become low.

Water bottles

Please send students to school with a full water bottle every day as water fountains are to be turned off.

Protecting our Staff

We have a number of staff members who are deemed at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19. We care deeply about our staff and have encouraged them to enact their leave entitlements, if they choose to. We will continue to provide safety of children as we work on a skeleton staff by adhering to the social distancing rules.

If you have any further questions regarding the school's management of COVID-19, please contact the school directly.

Kind regards,



Cassie Manton
Principal



Emma Castleton
Senior Leader of Inclusion



Todd Manton
Wellbeing Coordinator

Staying Connected With Our Children

Now is the time to stay close to our children.

They need to feel us beside them so they don't feel as worried as they are. We need to be honest with them and let them know that good people from around the world are working very hard to keep them safe and healthy. Our children will believe us, we love them deeply.

Be Honest

"COVID 19 is a sickness like a cold. Some people will get it. Maybe someone in our family might get sick. We are all a little bit scared. Being scared is a sign that we are concentrating on being safe. There are really good people like doctors who know what to do. They are helping to figure it out."

Validate Their Feelings

"I know I might look worried sometimes. Mums or dads get worried too, just like children. I know it can make you feel scared. But I am ok."
"It is ok to be feeling scared, or worried, or whatever you are feeling right now. You can share that with me whenever you need to."

Acknowledge Day to Day Disruptions

"Even if school and your after school activities stop for a while, they will start up again. How about we think about some ways of doing versions of these things together at home if we need to?"

Remind Them

"I love you, and that is one thing that will never change."

Here are some ways that parents and carers can share connection, comfort and care with their children right now.

Look to History

"There have been sicknesses like this before. And they have stopped. Clever people from around the world have worked them out together. The scientists are doing this right now with this one."

Remain Available

"You can talk with me whenever you need to. I will answer any questions you have. If I don't know the answers, I will find out and then I will tell you."

Have fun

Share some time with your children that is just for them, and let them lead the play.

"Let's do some things that you like to do."

Create some quiet time

Find a regular time where you can just be still with children. Stroke their hair. Watch a favourite show on TV. Listen to music together. Let them decide if they want to talk. Be present with them. Enjoy it.

