Dear Parents and Caregivers

Heard of the ‘summer slide’?

I am picky with what I choose to promote through newsletters, but reading is very dear to my heart, critical to success in school and, I like to think, life in general. We need to read for information, but reading for pleasure is just that: pleasure, whether it is a serious novel, the latest ‘page-turner’, comic or magazine. I would strongly encourage you to find out what your children are interested in and would therefore potentially like to read about and FEED THAT APPETITE so it grows and becomes all encompassing! Visit libraries, book shops and op shops – give a book/comic/magazine as a gift this Christmas – there are lots of ways to access reading with your child so it is interactive and fun.

Reading for pleasure? Why would you deny your child the ultimate gift? And one that goes on giving!

In their latest brochure, Ashton Scholastic talk about helping students avoid the ‘summer slide’, the potential loss of reading and writing skills over the school holiday break. They have launched a Book Beast Reading Feast across Australia with a goal of five million reading minutes to be achieved over the summer break. Last year students achieved 3,400,000 in the same time period.

Research tells us that students who read for at least 10 minutes a day over the summer holidays have a better start to the new school year than students who spend little or no time reading. Reading over the holidays helps students maintain or improve the reading level that they developed through the school year. Students who don’t read over the summer holidays can lose core reading skills and slide backwards, potentially falling behind when they return to school.

You can help stop the Summer Slide by encouraging your child to read every day during the school holidays. Lodge their Reading Minutes in the ultimate Summer Reading Challenge—Australia versus New Zealand. Visit scholastic.com.au/summer to register. While you’re there, check out the Scary Story competition for students as well.

On Monday we spent the afternoon together as a staff, reflecting on the year and looking forward into 2016, identifying a few directions and things we felt needed to be retained as part of what we do here at Manoora Primary School. Part of the afternoon was also spent with Amanda Phillips, our partnership’s Australian Curriculum facilitator, looking at how we go about writing reports and a particular writing program, ‘Seven Steps Writing’, to think about its potential use here. We managed to cover a few organisational matters as well, such as finalising the school Presentation Night program, and site audits for Workplace Health and Safety. It was a busy afternoon!
At the moment, while I do not have all of my staffing finalised for 2016, I can announce – which I did at Governing Council last week – that Mrs Heather Merritt will be the Year 4 – 7 class teacher next year. Heather will be teaching full time and has over 30 years’ teaching experience in places as diverse as Marree, Andamooka and Roxby Downs. Heather is currently working at Kapunda Primary School, where she has a Year 6/7 class this year. During her ten years at Kapunda she has taught Years 3 through to Year 7. Heather also taught for a year at Saddleworth Primary School after leaving Roxby Downs Area School.

There will be a handover process between the teachers before the end of this term to ensure pertinent information about individual student’s learning is passed on. Heather was able to come to part of our meeting on Monday and we will be arranging a further time for her to come and meet the class as well. I am pleased that I have been able to appoint a teacher of Heather’s quality, one that is able to continue with the excellent work that Laura and Belinda have initiated and progressed with the class. Heather herself is very excited about the opportunity that working at Manoora Primary School presents and is looking forward to meeting and working with parents and students alike.

In the next week or so you will see an advert in three of the local newspapers announcing that Manoora Primary School is now accepting enrolments for 2016. It is part of an initiative to promote the school, to let people know we are here as ‘the small school with opportunities for every child’. The other part of the initiative is you. How do you talk about this school and your child’s experiences here to others? What would their impressions of the school be?

Principal talk about their schools in positive terms to anyone who will listen, especially to parents of prospective enrolments. And while those parents listen politely (and hopefully take it all in), the people they really want to talk to are other parents. Your experience with your child at this school can be the experience they want for their child too. That makes you our best advocates!

This issue came up at Governing Council in relation to staffing and enrolments for next year and beyond. Just to clarify, there will be two classes in 2016 with 13 students in each for a total of 26 enrolments. At the end of 2016 our Year 7 students graduate to Year 8 and in 2017, with two Reception enrolments currently on the books, we expect to have 21 students enrolled. It is at this point that alternatives to the current class structure of two fulltime classes will need to have been explored, as our current level of funding will be significantly reduced by around $70,000 or the equivalent of half a teacher’s salary at the start of 2017. Therefore our planning for 2017 needs to occur during 2016 so that we can move forward with confidence.

At the moment I have no further information about the R – 3 teaching position and do not expect to hear about this until later in the term. I will certainly pass on information once things become known.

**Tracy Griffin**
Canberra Trip 2015

Electoral Education Centre
Laura Hadley
To begin our Canberra experience we visited the Electoral Education Centre at Old Parliament House. Here we were able to experience what it is like to vote in Australia. We learnt about our democratic system and took part in a mock vote using the ‘preferential voting’ system. Students needed to go to the ‘polling booth’ and vote for their favourite fruit. The peach won!! It was great to see how elections work and to know that we are able to have a vote when it comes to important decisions in Australia.

Australian Institute of Sport
By Sam Nicholls
On day 2 of our Canberra trip we visited the AIS which is where some Olympians train. Our tour was hosted by a soccer player. We saw the volleyball court where the net is 9ft high. We learned that the ‘small ballers’ at the front jump up and defend the ball from going over the net. Then we went to the gymnasium arena and saw some men completing their warm-ups. They were very strong and did some acrobatics tricks that were really cool.
Finally we saw people swimming in the 27°C pool. Some people did the dolphin, freestyle and backstroke. The AIS is significant for the best athletes in Australia training there and getting fit for the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games. Thousands of athletes from 1981 to 2015 competed for bronze, silver and the best of all GOLD, in the both Games.
At the end of our tour we got to play in the games room where you can test how long you can hang on a bar, how high you can jump and a lot more. Sam reached the top all by himself (with a little bit of help from Seth and Haydn). Everyone enjoyed it and after we bought some cool stuff from the souvenir store. It was a great experience that hopefully no one ever forgets!

National Portrait Gallery
Tyla Quick
On Tuesday the 27th of October we went to the National Portrait Gallery. The first portrait we studied was ‘Dr Brown and Green Old Time Waltz’. It was about the Franklin River in Tasmania. The Government wanted to turn it into a dam.

Our second portrait was a Ned Kelly death mask made in 1880 at the time of his death. After he had been hung they shaved his head and beard off to make a cast of his head.

We saw a group of self-portraits and then we had to draw one of ourselves. It was really hard! We saw a portrait of Geoffrey Gurmul Yunupingu it was painted in 2009. He was born blind in 1917. He was a famous singer. We drew a portrait of him while listing to some of his music.

After this we looked at the most expensive portrait in the whole gallery. It an original painting of Captain James Cook from 1718.

Royal Australian Mint
Ross Palmer
On day two we went to the Royal Australian Mint. We all really liked it and there was a lot of money. We want to rob it and take it all!

We got to see most of the old coins used in Australia and heard about what has happened in history with the money. We learnt that the 50c coin used to be round but they had to change it because blind people were unable to tell the difference between the 50c piece and the 20c piece.
We saw all of the scientific machines that make all of the coins we use in Australia. Titan is a robot used to lift the 40 gallon drums full of blank coins.

After our tour we were able to mint our own $1 coin that was a special ANZAC commemorating coin for 2015.

Australian National Museum

Caleb Schwartz

On the second day of our Canberra trip we visited the National Museum of Australia which was positioned right on the edge of a lake giving it great views. It was huge and full of all sorts of historical things from places all over Australia. It even had Phar Lap’s heart, which was bigger than the average horse’s heart.

While we were there we discovered all sorts of interesting things about our country. We saw really cool models of all sorts of things from Australia’s history. I really enjoyed the experience of visiting a popular landmark of Australia. It’s good to be able to say I’ve been to Canberra and the Australian National Museum.

After our trip we went and visited the gift shop to get some memorabilia as a token that we’ve been to the National Museum. The National Museum is very good looking from the outside and is good photo material. I would really like to go back and to look at the things we didn’t get to see, and also as a reminder of Canberra trip 2015.

High Court of Australia

Hannah Schwartz

On Wednesday the 28th of October we went to the High Court of Australia. The High Court deals with cases that come to it on appeal or if it begins in the High Court. There were three different rooms, court 1, 2 and 3. Each has their own purpose but The High Court itself covers Criminal law, Contract law, personal injuries, Tax issues, Bankruptcy and Property law. The things that start in the High Court are disputes between states, commonwealth or one or more states or territory. The High Court chief justice is The Hon Robert French AC.

Parliament House

Hannah Schwartz

On Wednesday we also went to Parliament House. We had a tour around and the things we saw included the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Parliament House has four main functions they are legislation that makes the laws, representation that acts on behalf of voters and citizens, scrutiny which examines the government, and formation of government.

Being at Parliament house felt very special. It was inspirational to be in such an important place. The marble inside was spectacular and it was like stepping inside luxury.

Questacon

Sasha Willmott

On the last day of the Canberra trip we visited Questacon. We physically approached each station which had lots of awesome activities, games+ illusions, like the free fall.

The free fall is when you hang on a bar and you hold yourself up the man says 3, 2, 1 you let go and fall 3-4 metres down the steep slide.

Earthquake zone etc

Then we watched an illusionist show and participated in the show. The illusions worked very well on all of us! We played with the robot and asked him questions like what is your name. He replied with robo q. It was personally my fave.

Australian War Memorial

Georgina Eckermann

Thursday 29th of October

The War Memorial was the last thing we did. When we entered we watched an educational movie about how and why the War Memorial was created, it was very...
interesting. After the movie we split into two groups and went on a tour of the Museum.

In one room we saw all the aircrafts they used in wars. Some of them had where they had been shot by a bullet. In another section was a 3D model of a plane in the mud and people doing something with oil. We saw the medals that one person was given and we also saw the gun that he used to purposely shoot himself in the foot. Another thing we saw were mini life-like models that made you feel like you were there, they looked so real. For most of it we mainly saw outfits, guns, aeroplanes, trucks, diaries and medals.

We also saw a few films. Two films about what is was like flying a bomber plane and what it felt like being shot down. Another film was what it was like in the Vietnam War flying and also when you were on the ground. While we were watching, fans started to blow really hard for me and it was as if you were there.

Once we had covered most of the inside we headed out to the Role of Honour where we looked for relatives.

Soon we went into the dome of the war memorial where the Unknown Soldier was buried. The Unknown Soldier is a soldier that when they found his body they couldn't identify him in any way and that is why he is the Unknown Soldier. I believe his grave is the most important thing to see while you're at the War Memorial.

Later we went into the souvenir shop where we all bought at least one thing to remind us of this amazing historical place where we can also reflect of those who fought for us.

We had a great trip and will never forget all of the amazing things we were able to experience. A big thank you to everyone who helped 'make it happen'. Our parents, teachers and especially the community that supported our fundraising efforts, in particular the Gilbert Valley Lions Club. Thank you!
On Wednesday 11th November the Manoora Primary School Students and Staff joined the community at the Remembrance Day Ceremony held at the Manoora Soldiers Memorial Hall. The Upper Primary Class spent time learning about the soldiers that fought in the First World War that did not return. These 12 soldiers all had a connection with Manoora either through family, work or sport. It was interesting to see how the students were able to connect with these men and realise the great sacrifice they made.

The students then read out the names of these soldiers during the service and gave an insight into their lives. This was all part of the very special unveiling of the WWI plaque that is now placed at the hall commemorating these soldiers.

The school was also presented with 2 books for the school. The first was written and presented by Tony Griffin and the second was presented by Mr Larkin.
Keep your kids smiling

Dental care is FREE for ALL preschool and most school-aged children at School Dental Service clinics.

Your local clinic is located at:
Clare Dental Clinic
Powell Place
CLARE SA 5453

All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome.

First dental check-ups are recommended from 12-18 months.

Please call 8842 4196 to make an appointment.

SA Dental Service participates in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Enrolments are now being taken by Pauline Garrard for piano, keyboard or singing lessons in 2016.

Phone (08) 88430038 Or 0417 867 142

as soon as possible (preferably before the end of the term) to ensure your place.

Parenting SA recently held a free seminar for parents and carers of toddlers at The Adelaide Convention Centre.

A recording of the ‘The wonderful world of toddlers’ is now available to watch online until November 25 via this link:
http://webcast.cl/adelaidecc/parentingsa/4Nov15

COME & TRY NIGHT!

Monday 16th November 2015, 4:15pm to 5:45pm
THE VALLEYS LIFESTYLE CENTRE, CLARE OVAL
BOYS AND GIRLS ALL WELCOME
Ages 7 – 11

Bring your Friends!!!

For more information: Contact Ben Brown
bbrown@laco.com.au OR Sonia Goss 88422999

Lets SMASH into it Kids!
Road to Bethlehem
Walk the journey of the Christmas story

Prescott College Southern, Morphett Vale
Tuesday 8th December to Thursday 10th December
Bring your family, friends, and neighbours for an outdoor, handcrafted presentation that brings to life the biblical story and true meaning of Christmas.
Free activities for children including face painting, a jumping castle, petting zoo and more.
Refreshments are available for purchase from 4pm.

Book online at www.roadtobethlehems.org
or by phone 0475115274
Free Admission

Roll Up Your Sleeves and Give Blood
The Blood Service Mobile Blood Donor Centre will be visiting:

Clare
Clare Sports Club, Mein North Road
Wednesday 9 December 12.30 pm – 8.30 pm
Thursday 10 December 7.30 am – 2.00 pm

Make an appointment today.

Call 13 14 95 or visit donatesblood.com.au

Strawberry Fete
Saturday 21st November
Robertstown Peace Hall

Doors Open 6.15pm
Tune Up
Admission $5.00, Nursery $1.00

Tea Starts 6.30pm
Tea Prices
Adolescent $12.90, Nursery $10.00, Preschool Free

Chocolate Wheel
Cake & Produce Stall
Lucky Dips
Bottle Stall
LIVE BAND

Enjoyable Family Night

Dads & Kids Pop-Up Christmas Show!
with the Amazing Drumming Monkeys
Saturday 12th December
9.30am to 11.30am

WHERE?
APEX PARK PLAYGROUND
JULIAN TERRACE

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE BBQ
SHOW STARTS @ 10.00am
PLUS
A SURPRISE VISIT BY SANTA TOO!

For more information please call 8507 3828 or 8398 6293