



Mini-Newsletter

Wednesday, 1st July 2020 (Term 2, Week 10)

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

What a term it has been! First and foremost, I would like to thank the entire school community for your compassion, patience, understanding and support throughout what started as a very different Term 2. It seems like only yesterday that we were preparing for an unknown length of time for online learning from home. Most staff worked throughout the last school holidays to prepare for this.

While our students returned quickly to school, many of the regular events, activities and routines of Term 2 had to be reimagined, cancelled or postponed and we could not help but have constantly in the back of our minds the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our school's response to the current and emerging challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic has very much been a team effort and I would like to thank every single member of our school community for your efforts to maintain a sense of calm positivity and consistency for our students. I believe we have used this as an opportunity to teach our children a lot about commitment, resilience, flexibility and persistence.

It needs to be acknowledged that for everyone, this has been a potentially stressful time. This stress has been eased somewhat by good communication and knowing the appreciation and support from families has been there. We are very grateful for our parent community.

THANK YOU to all of you!

I hope that all enjoy the holiday break as an opportunity to relax, have a break from routine, enjoy being at home or going away.

Rest, relax, recharge ready for Term 3.

Have a happy and safe holiday!



7-9 DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

YOU ARE INVITED:

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS ON OUR
7-9 MIDDLE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Information sessions will be offered on:

Thursday, 2nd July, 2-3pm – in the Hall and a repeat session 6.30-7.30pm – in the MPLA.

All Welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS AMIE!

Amie Price has worked at SMMS for 15 months in an ESO role, supporting students and staff in teaching, learning and wellbeing. Amie recently completed her teaching studies as well and is all set to begin her teaching career. We congratulate Amie on her first teaching appointment which will be at Moonta Area School for the remainder of this year. Congratulations and well done Amie; we are happy for you and wish you all the very best. We do also have some mixed feelings as we also know that we will miss Amie very much. Amie has brought a calm, positive, cheerful presence to whatever it is that she is doing; she is a highly skilled practitioner and will be a committed, generous and dedicated teacher.

CONGRATULATIONS LILLY!

Lilly Cockshell has been appointed as Woods Team Captain. A vacancy arose for this position and it was a pleasure to be able to offer this leadership opportunity to Lilly. Lilly already displays our school values and qualities of a good leader: respectful relationships, courageous, celebrating the success of others, collaborative and committed.

Lilly was presented with her Captain badge at a Woods Team meeting recently and joins Luke as Woods Team Captain.



MINI MACS PLAYGROUP

Thank you to Felicity Schulz for her preparations towards coordinating the return of our Mini Macs Playgroup yesterday morning. Felicity put a lot of thought and planning into making sure that the activities and the way they were set up and procedures in place provided a safe environment for the return of these little people and their families. We will have a holiday break and then be back again in Term 3: Tuesday mornings, 9.00-10.30am.

CELEBRATING TERM 2

The Year 5/6 class attended Mass in Kadina this morning, followed by a rather special lunch invitation from Fr Matthew. Thank you to Fr Matthew, 5/6 students, Hannah and Bernie for the preparations and celebrations.

This Friday, students are invited to wear casual clothes on the last day of school. A reminder that casual clothes need to still be suitable for school: closed in shoes, hair tied back, warm and practical. Students will still be involved in PE lessons, dance lessons and recess/lunch time games. And need to be able to participate well in these activities.

The Team Captains have been displaying leadership in planning some fun activities for students to enjoy at break times this Friday. They will provide some games and activities for the R-3 students at recess time at the playground and for the 3-7 students on the oval at lunch time. Thank you to Lisa Caffyn for her guidance of Captains Lilly, Luke, Hunter, Harrison, Shann and Ella.

Students will be dismissed at the usual time of 3pm this Friday.

TERM 3

We look forward to sharing more with you about the events and activities that will go ahead next term, however a few with advance notice are:

Term 3 will commence for students on Tuesday, 21st July. Staff will be off site on Monday, 20th July for a staff formation day.

Week 4 (beginning Monday, 10th August) will be Catholic Schools Open Week. We will have school tours and an opportunity to visit and enjoy what is happening in our school – on Tuesday, 11th August. Please pass this on to any prospective families that they will be welcome.

One of the annual events on the Term 3 calendar is Book Week and we will be going ahead with celebrating Book Week in Week 5 (starting Monday, 17th August). Our dress-up day will be Wednesday, 19th August. The theme for the week and our dress-up day will be 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'. So get your imagination and creativity flowing and see what you can come up with. I am sure the students will have plenty of ideas.

COVID-19 UPDATE – KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

As we return for Term 3 we will see further relaxation of procedures that have been in place, however all adults must continue to follow the density and physical distancing requirements outlined by SA Health:

- No more than 1 person per 2-square metres in an enclosed space
- Maintain a minimum physical distance of 1.5 metres

Parents and carers who wish to come into the school may do so while observing these guidelines. The end of day crossing duty will be maintained to enable parents and carers to meet their children outside at the end of the day. Consider if you really do need to come into the MPLA every morning and every afternoon, or once or twice a week may suffice.

As I have mentioned in a previous Newsletter, a positive from this time has been that we have seen a fantastic development in the independence of the students that is very important to maintain. Students carrying their own bags; unpacking and packing their own bags, walking to meet you outside or to the car on their own, are all positive steps forward. Let's work together and ensure we maintain this level of development and don't go backwards. We have also noticed a calm environment in the MPLA and less separation issues in the mornings which has to be good for both parents and children to start the day in this way.

When you do come into the MPLA, classrooms, learning spaces, offices next term, your support with the following will be much appreciated:

- Toddlers to be waiting with parents and carers, please not running around in the MPLA; running around outside is the best place for everyone
- Parents and carers please wait quietly in the MPLA, enabling full teaching, learning, packing up, end of day routines to take place in classrooms; this should be able to occur right up until 2.55pm
- Limit the number of distractions for students who need to be focusing on ending the day well
- In the mornings, teachers are preparing for the day to provide the best possible learning for your children. If more than a quick "hi" and check in with the teacher is required, please make a mutually agreeable time with the teacher to meet when they can speak with you properly with less distractions

Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Blessings for the holidays,

Michelle Miller

Principal

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