



DIARY DATES

Friday	20	May	Cross Country in Naracoorte
Wednesday	25	May	Assembly
Thursday	26	May	Sean Choolburra Performance
Friday	27	May	STEM Summit 2016 (all local schools closed for training)
Tuesday	31	May	ICAS Science Competition
Monday	13	June	Queens Birthday holiday
Wednesday	15	June	ICAS Spelling Competition

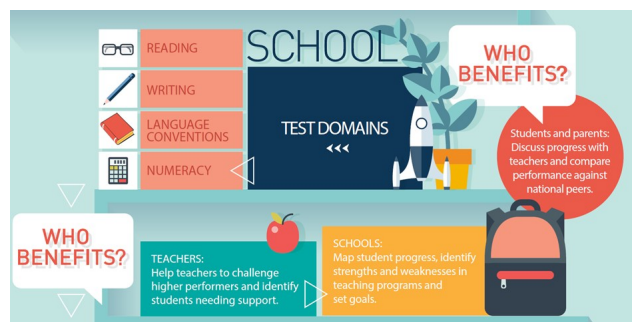
Dear Parents/Caregivers

Term 2, Week 3, 20th May, 2016

NAPLAN reflections

Last week approximately 200 of our students sat the NAPLAN tests, nationally run assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. I think we all have experiences from our own schooling of testing and some of us loved them and others talk of 'freezing' and not being able to recall anything come test day.

The infographic below shows the usefulness of the data we gain from NAPLAN testing.



We expect results to come between mid August and mid-September. At this time you will receive a detailed report showing your child's performance.

Assemblies

Assemblies are a fabulous vehicle for our students to have a real audience for their learning. Last week we learnt about the Australian History and the growth of our population from a Year 6/7 class, heard about the origins of Carnevale from all students through their Italian lessons, celebrated the school leaders in Athletics.....the list goes on and on.

Two parts of assembly I must admit to being favourites of mine, the Values in Action Awards and the Values vouchers. Our school has a huge investment in our core values, Care, Respect and Courage and hearing of students who consistently strive to uphold these values is truly heartening.

Principal position

Our Governing Council and staff have now met with our Education Director, Adam Box, to establish the processes and timelines for filling the position of Principal long term. This position has now been advertised and we are hopeful to have someone commence with us for the start of Term 3 2016. On the selection panel will be a representative from Governing Council and one from our staff. The staff and students continue to work just as hard and purposefully this term especially in our key learning areas of Literacy, Numeracy and ICT.

Anxiety in children

More often our children are showing signs of anxiety, both at home and at school. This may stop one child from sleeping while for another it may show up when they need to leave you at the gate at school. We often never find answers to 'why?' they are anxious but certainly the world they are being brought up in is far more complex and out of their control than it was in our own childhoods.

There are no magic cures for anxiety but I hope the article I have included may give some parents support for their child.

Easing children's anxiety

By Michael Grose

Anxiety is normal and part of everyday life. There's no better time than childhood for learning how to cope with anxiety.

For those with no personal experience of anxiety it can be hard to understand how debilitating it can be. "Come on, get on with it," seems so obvious. Of course, this response is nowhere near adequate.

Most kids experience some anxious moments or have fearful thoughts and feelings from time to time about certain events. These thoughts and feelings prompt them to proceed with caution.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

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Staying calm

Anxiety is a normal part of life and can be managed, but it takes time. It's also contagious so it's the job of parents to stay calm, think clearly and role model confidence when kids get anxious.

Calm is created through your words, voice and facial expression. When children become anxious, help them recognise what's happening. Some kids get angry, some become upset and others withdraw. Work out the pattern for your child and help them recognise when they are anxious.

Accept your child's anxious feelings. Your child needs to trust that you are with them, and then they will be more willing to let you help them cope. It's hard sometimes to differentiate between what may be a bad case of negative thinking and true anxiety.

Is a child being negative when they don't want to join a new club because they think no one will like them, or is there something more going on? Try to confirm whether there is any validity in their fears. If not, point out diplomatically, that they may be catastrophising. If you feel there is reason for concern, help them to overcome their anxiety.

Challenge the validity of your child's fears and anxiety, using logic and rational thinking. Don't allow kids to wallow in self-pity. Move their thoughts towards the future rather than allow them to mope around.

Making a plan

Encourage your child to overcome their anxiety through action. Vanessa came up with a creative solution to help Ruth, her seven-year-old daughter, overcome her reluctance to attend birthday parties without her.

Initially Vanessa attended parties with her daughter so she wouldn't miss out, but Ruth was becoming too reliant on her, so it was time to make a change.

The next time Ruth was invited to a party, Vanessa put a plan into action. First, she set up a little birthday party scenario at home using dolls and teddies as friends, so her daughter would know what to expect. Vanessa explained that she would leave her at the party for a short time. Vanessa let her daughter know that she had no doubt that she'd cope.

The little plan worked a treat. Vanessa arrived at the party an hour after the start to find Ruth involved in a game. She acknowledged her mum, but she didn't leave the game. Later, at home Vanessa made a fuss over her daughter for being brave. Ruth agreed that next time she was invited to a party she would go for the whole time without her mum.

Anxiety is normal, and part of everyday life. However, it can be debilitating unless it's managed. Anxiety management takes time for kids to learn, but it's one of those valuable life skills that parents can teach their kids.

Communication between home and school

The advent of SMS and other social media apps and web tools (including DOJO) allows our teachers and parents to be in contact quite easily and regularly. I hear teachers often talking about how they, let them know on DOJO' and realise just how fortunate we all are to have this availability.

The downside of this can be, however, when we forget that teachers have their own lives outside of school. I would ask that parents do a quick mental check before texting or DOJOing, ensuring what you are asking is appropriate or would be better to be shared face to face, and check what time it is. A message beeping **me** any time after 9pm is in my mind, not ok. I would also ask that when using these methods of communication to be understanding of how quickly you expect a response. Our children and their learning is our core business. Checking for messages is not a priority and cannot be guaranteed in a short time frame.

So, if the matter is urgent, make a mutually convenient time with the class teacher to talk face to face where at all possible. (Generally, unless arranged prior, before school is not a good time as teachers' relationships with children hinge on them being available to your children to welcome and settle them in the mornings.)

Damaged Vehicle

On Monday the car of one of our school community was parked on Goss Street and sustained damage from what appears to be someone backing into it. The car hit was a blue Holden ute. We are keen to hear from anyone who may have seen this happen. Please contact the school on 87253381 if you can help.

Lesley Okholm
Acting Principal

Jennie Elliott
Acting Deputy Principal

Mathletics

Congratulations to the following students who have earned a Mathletics Silver Certificate!

This means they have achieved 1000 points for 5 weeks. To earn a Gold Certificate students need to earn 1000 points for 20 weeks.

Teangi S (Room 2), Aaron D (Room 4), Oliver G (Room 6), William V (Room 8), Alex J (Room 10), Georgia O (Room 11), Miao G, Tyler H, Makenzie K, Tully Mc, Jame B, Zoe B, Matthew C, Isaak H, Will H, Brydie K, Laura M, Edward S, Harrison W and Tyson W (Room 13), and Sienna Dr (Room 22).

Mathletics is a great activity to do at home 2-3 times a week. If your child has any difficulties logging on at home please contact their classroom teacher or Daniel Castle – daniel.castle424@schools.sa.edu.au



Australian War Memorial World War 1 Soundscape Project

Our Year 6/7 students visit this Memorial during their camp biannually. The wall which lists the names of 62 000 Australians who lost their lives between 1914 and 1918 are there and Mrs Mannion's current Year 4/5 class have been able to help shape the 'soundscape' which plays at this memorial. The students visited the ABC studios this week to record some of the names of those soldiers and their ages at the time of their death after researching them at school. This will be exciting to hear next year when we again travel to the nation's capital for our camp!

Well done Room 7.



Carnevale

In Italian we have been learning about Carnevale. Carnevale is one of the most colourful celebrations in the world. Venice hosts the most famous Carnevale celebration in all of Italy. Carnevale is celebrated with elaborate masks, costumes, enormous feasts, parades, music and masquerade balls.

As part of our Italian cultural topic the whole school designed and decorated our own Carnevale masks and presented them at assembly. Having this many people in the gym hall all in one place wearing masks, is what it would look like at a masquerade ball in Venice.



Room 24 Students Ava O, Seth J and Lara G



Room 4 Students Imogen D, Anika A and Lillie L



Room 15 wearing their Carnevale masks



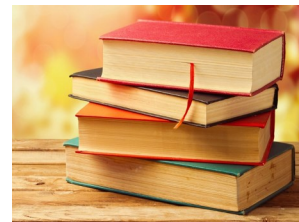
Reidy Park Primary School has a Facebook page. Here you will find posts about what's happening in our school, up and coming events and so much more.

<https://www.facebook.com/reidyparkprimaryschool>

WE WANT YOUR BOOKS

Book Sale

During week 6 the SRC are holding a book sale to raise money for the junior primary playground. We encourage you to donate books that are in good condition, that you would think people would like, that you are not needing or using, that you are happy to give up. Please take any donations you have to the library before Friday 3rd June. Any unsold books will be donated to the library or to charity.



Community Announcements

#STEMfun16

FREE FAMILY FUN EVENTS
OVER 2 DAYS AND 3 SITES

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING MATHS

SATURDAY 28.05

MAIN CORNER COMPLEX 10am-3pm

Video Blogging Workshop with Marcus Jones
City Hall 10am - FREE - Bring mobile device

Ruben Meerman - Surfing Scientist
Dress Circle 11am - FREE

Kalya Micenko & Bob Daly
Artists in the community
Dress Circle - 12noon - FREE

LEGO Australia - 10am-3pm - King's Floor

Robotics & Coding Workshops
11.30am & 1.30pm - FREE - City Hall

Plus GEAR VR demonstrations
(BYO Samsung Phone)

SATURDAY 28.05

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY 10am - 3pm

Escape from the Puzzle room
First session 10.20am - FREE
Your team has 15 minutes to solve a series of challenges to escape the puzzle room

Star Dome - FREE
10am, 11am, 12noon
1.10pm & 2.10pm*

*Numbers are limited
Book at the Library on
87212540

SUNDAY 29.05

THE RAILWAY LANDS 1pm - 5.30pm

Food and drink available for purchase on the day

Nature & Creek Play

Mud & Clay Play Stations

Play on Wheels play trailer

Double Helix Science Club

Teepee Build & Decoration

Billy Cart build & Speed Trials

HPV Pedal Prix Carts on display

Mil Lei Steam Engines & Machinery

"5 Senses in Nature" activities by DEWNR

Community Artists creating Art Work on site

Activities by City of Mount Gambier Sustainability team

Artwork and Vlogging Projections at approx 5pm

Lantern Creation & Lantern Parade at approx 5.30pm

City of Mount Gambier

Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

Community Announcements



**SOUTHERN CROSS
CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Broaden your horizons.
Expand your mind.
Make friends for life.

Come on Aussies... Come on!

Help a child from overseas fulfil their dreams.

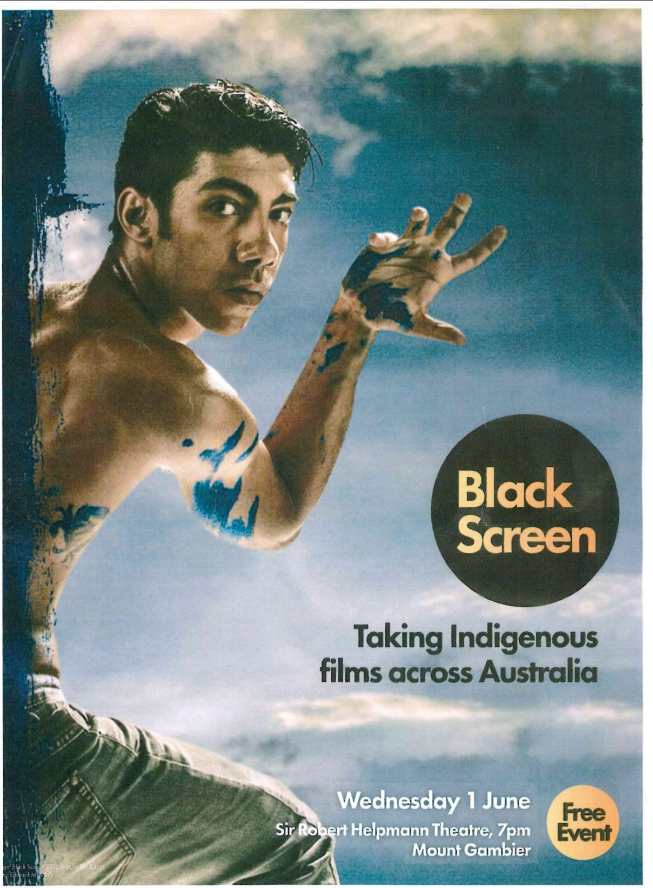



Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is looking for volunteer families to host the large numbers of European exchange students arriving in July. Please open your hearts and your homes for a culturally enriching experience and gain your very own special window to the world!

For more information please call or email Jenny
PH (08) 8323 0973 or email jeh1313@bigpond.net.au









Black Screen

**Taking Indigenous
films across Australia**

Wednesday 1 June
Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre, 7pm
Mount Gambier

**Free
Event**

Bookings recommended 8723 8741
MORE INFORMATION COUNTRYARTS.ORG.AU

foster care




play your part, enrich a life



**We need all kinds of people
to become foster carers.**

**Phone 1300 2 FOSTER (1300 2 367 837)
or visit www.fostercare.sa.gov.au**

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**GIRL GUIDES
AUSTRALIA**

MOUNT GAMBIER GIRL GUIDES

If you are aged between 7 and 17 years old and would like some fun and adventure, then come and join the Mount Gambier Girl Guides!!!!

IMAGINATION

Craft



FRIENDSHIP

Cooking

Outdoors

CONFIDENCE

WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY 5:30-7:30PM AT THE GUIDE HALL ON O'HALLORAN TCE, MOUNT GAMBIER.....

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE THEN PLEASE PAY US A VISIT AND SPEAK WITH US OR CONTACT THE MOUNT GAMBIER GIRL GUIDE LEADER:

MICHELLE YATES ON 0422 941543.