Dear Parents/Caregivers
Staff from Mulga Street and Reidy Park PS enjoyed a great day of learning last Friday with Chris Killey from Melbourne.
The focus was on further developing our knowledge and understanding of effective strategies to support students' mastery in Word Study.
This new learning for us will result in changes as to how ‘Spelling’ has previously been taught, as we work towards a consistent, whole school approach.

The Literacy Professional Learning Group - PLC - consisting of myself, Tamarin Condon, Hannah Proud, Leesa Little, Kendall Proud and Amanda Wright will continue to facilitate our journey in this area throughout the rest of the year.

Congratulations to Tamarin Condon who has been successful in winning the 12 month Coordinator position in Writing and the use of digital technologies to improve student learning outcomes.

Janiene Milsop
Principal
Mardi McClintock
Deputy Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>23rd Feb</td>
<td>Acquaintence Night/Governing Council AGM</td>
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<td>21st Feb – 4th March</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>14th March</td>
<td>Adelaide Cup Holiday</td>
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<td>23rd March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>24th March</td>
<td>Early Dismissal Easter 2.15pm</td>
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<td>28th March</td>
<td>Good Friday Holiday</td>
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<td>28th March</td>
<td>Easter Monday Holiday</td>
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<td>29th March</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
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<td>5th – 8th April</td>
<td>Year 7 Acquatics Camp</td>
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<td>15th April</td>
<td>Term 1 Ends Early Dismissal 2.15pm</td>
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This year each family will receive a School Family Passport for the evening. The passport will contain 8 areas in the school to visit during the evening and collect a stamp. Once completed, the passports can be placed in a box in the library. 4 passports will be drawn out at the AGM to win a variety of prizes, kindly donated by the following businesses:
Collins Court Butchers, Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre, She’s Apples, Mulga Street School Governing Council

We look forward to seeing families on the night and good luck!

Class Learning Plans will be available for all families at Acquaintance Night. These plans reflect much of the learning that has occurred during the weeks of Quality Start. The plans will be a valuable resource for finding out about your child’s class expectations and how the class will run during the year.

There will also be a presentation by Simon Hutchison, Nature Play and loose parts Specialist at 6 pm in the hall on this evening. All parents are invited to listen to Simon speak, particularly Governing Council members.

Please make an effort to come and meet your child /children’s teachers. We view this as the first stage of providing information to assist student learning and well being in 2016. Please come along and see the work your children have been involved in from the beginning of the year.

A sausage sizzle will be operating at a cost of $1.00 a sausage.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016
Tuesday, February 23rd 7:15PM
To be held in the hall

An invitation is extended to parents to join the Governing Council for the Annual General Meeting which will be held in the hall.
Brief reports will be followed by the election of Council members for 2016. The Governing Council plays a vital role in the future directions and decision making within the school.
I urge all parents to consider becoming part of this body by nominating for one of the vacancies that exist. Nomination reply slips are included in this newsletter, please return them to school by Monday Feb. 22nd
We thank the following members who have completed their tenure, or whose children
have left the school or who have resigned, for their contributions throughout the last two years and encourage them to also consider renominating:

1 Year remaining
Charlie Simpson
Andrew Hughes
Steven Reid
Simone Badenoch
Angela Barnes

Completed term
Mario Persello
Phil Lowe
Cassandra Hemming
Tim Hann
Eion Williamson
Linda Watson
Vicky Garrison
Darrin Brown

7. Try to avoid “going over people’s heads” with a complaint. Once you have done this, it is very hard to re-establish a trusting relationship.
8. If, after a little time, it appears everything has been sorted out, you might write a note of appreciation to the teacher or principal and offer continuing support. This strengthens the partnership between home and school.

(from “Parents Teachers Partners” by Barry Dwyer)

All students in the school are taught a grievance procedure for any personal concerns or issues that they may wish to raise.

Students can raise general school matters at their regular class meetings or through their Student Councils.

All personal matters should be raised directly with the school through the class teacher or Principal in a confidential manner.

Social Media is not the forum to raise concerns or express grievances.

This can give a very one sided view, without all the information and is not respectful towards all parties nor does it provide the opportunity to resolve matters in an open-minded manner.

Not Sure Who to Ask?
There are times when things can go wrong in any school. Teachers are human beings and suffer the same frustrations, and difficulties as other members of our species.

A parent may be aware of what seems to be an act of significant insensitivity or even injustice, an inappropriate consequence or inadequate learning opportunities – and feel that he or she must do something about it. Here are some ideas that may be worth considering when about to approach the school or a teacher with a problem of some kind.

1. Keep an open mind. You may not have all the facts. The first task is to seek clarification.
2. Don’t begin your search for a solution by sending an angry letter to the teacher or principal. The normal human response is to be defensive.
3. Make an appointment, or at least think carefully about the best time to make contact. For example, it would be most inappropriate to interrupt a class or to catch the teacher while he or she is busy teaching or organising learning tasks in the morning.
4. Approach the teacher or principal in a friendly manner. Adopt the attitude that there is a misunderstanding we need to clear up or a problem we need to solve together.
5. Begin by expressing an overall appreciation of the work being done, or at least, an understanding of the difficulties.
6. Remember the challenge is for two people, with shared hopes for this particular student, to solve a problem in a way which benefits everyone.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPLY SLIP

I wish to nominate for Governing Council in 2015.

Name:

Phone contact:

Please complete the nomination slip and return to the Front Office by Monday 22nd February if you would like to become a member of the school Governing Council.

MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGE

A reminder that the Materials & Services Charge (school fees) is now due.

If you have not applied for School Card and believe you may be eligible, please collect a School Card form from the Front Office. School Card must be applied for every year.

Thank you to those families who have made arrangements with the school to pay the fees by instalment.

If you wish to pay by instalment please speak to Sue Shaw (Finance Officer) ASAP. Please do not hesitate to contact Sue if you have any issues in regard to the payment of school fees.

NEW BANK DETAILS

PLEASE NOTE THAT AS OF MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2015 THE SCHOOL’S NEW BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS WILL BE:

Account Name: Mulga Street Primary School Council Inc
Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
BSB: 065-504
Account Number: 10362131

MSPS TRACK PANTS

For anyone wanting to order Mulga Street Primary School tracksuit pants for winter, we will be taking orders up until FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26th (END OF WEEK 4)
They are $35.00 a pair. Please contact front office staff.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

If you have any issues in regard to the payment of school fees.
**Keep your kids smiling**

**SA Dental Service**

Have you received a letter from Medicare about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule? The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider.

**Dental care is FREE for ALL babies, pre-schoolers and most children under 18 at the School Dental Service.**

Please call now for an appointment. Mount Gambier Dental Clinic Phone: 8721 1633
We have been learning all about long and short vowel sounds. We have joined in with songs and are able to support each other.

We are now starting to recognise them in reading and use them in our writing.