Dear Parents/Caregivers

It was wonderful to have so many families support Acquaintance Night through their attendance on Tuesday evening. Teachers put great effort into preparing for the evening to provide families with a comprehensive overview of class expectations and routines, which are developed by the students during the Quality Start program, as well as outlining the curriculum for the term. The aim is to ensure families are fully informed so school and home can work in partnership to support students reach their full potential in all areas – socially, emotionally and academically – to become globally responsible 21st century learners. We look forward to working with all families throughout the year as we work towards achieving our learning targets in our site improvement plan.

A huge thank you to Parent Club members for providing the barbecue and drinks on the night. We are very fortunate to have such a committed group of parents who continuously volunteer their time to support school events. The school Annual General Meeting was held after the Acquaintance Night, followed by the election of Governing Council for 2016. I congratulate the following members of Governing Council:

Chairperson: Mario Persello
Vice Chairperson: Craig Richards
Treasurer: Eion Williamson
Secretary: Andrew Hughes
Council members: Charlie Simpson, Angela Barnes, Simone Badenoch, Steven Reid, Russell Scott, Tim Hann, Chris Schebella, Mardi McClintock and myself.

The Family Passport was drawn on the night and congratulations to the following winners:

1st Prize- Family Aquatics pass – Braida and Brooklyn Gunn
2nd Prize: She’s Apples Fruit & Veg Basket – Kayla Branstone
3rd Prize: Collins Court Butcher Family Meat Tray – Zoe Phelan
4th Prize School Pack – Mitchell, Callum & Jake Harvey

We particularly thank the Mount Gambier Aquatic Centre, She’s Apples and Collins Court Butchers for their support with their kind donations of prizes.

It has been a busy two weeks with swimming, with the students making the most of the warm weather. There have been some very tired little people by the end of the day! Thank you to parents for assisting with changing and supporting your child/ren by watching their lessons whenever possible. They certainly enjoy showing you what they have learnt during the lessons.

Janine Milosop
Principal
Mardi McClintock
Deputy Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21st Feb</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>Adelaide Cup Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Early Dismissal Easter 2.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>Good Friday Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th March</td>
<td>Easter Monday Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th March</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>Year 7 Aquatics Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th April</td>
<td>Term 1 Ends Early Dismissal 2.15pm</td>
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Please note that Governing Council has approved an early dismissal (2:15 pm) on the Thursday before Good Friday and a Pupil Free day on the Tuesday, March 29th, after Easter Monday.

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

STUDENT GALLERY

Mrs Schebella’s class science topic this term is staying alive, their buddy class, Miss Beames class helped fill their bodies with healthy foods.

STUDENT LEADERS 2016

The election of our student leaders and class representatives for the Student Council has occurred and it is with great pleasure that we acknowledge these students to the wider community. The senior classes were required to write an application, as they would for a job in the real world, outlining their skills and abilities against a set of criteria whilst also siting evidence to support their statements. They were then asked to attend an interview and answer 4 questions relating to the role. Class representatives were elected by their peers based on a short speech they gave to their class about why they should be elected. Classes are asked to consider the best person for the job as opposed to voting for their friend. Congratulations to the following students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LH1A</th>
<th>Yr 2/3</th>
<th>Shae White/ Blake Sawyer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LH2B</td>
<td>Yr 2/3</td>
<td>Charlie Attiwill / Mia Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LH2C</td>
<td>Yr 2/3</td>
<td>Haydn Lowe/ Belle Gregory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LH1B</td>
<td>Yr 3</td>
<td>Charlie Lockwood/Katelyn Antonio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC11</td>
<td>Yr 4/5</td>
<td>Hayley Barnes/Alysha Coon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC22</td>
<td>Yr 4/5</td>
<td>Deegan Habner/Mikayla Govan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC22</td>
<td>Yr 4/5</td>
<td>Abby Thomson/Xyen Dakin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC19</td>
<td>Yr 5/6</td>
<td>Luke King/Joel Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC15</td>
<td>Yr 6/7</td>
<td>Chelsea Dunn/Troy Moreland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC14</td>
<td>Yr 6/7</td>
<td>Bonnie Camm/Petah Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC20</td>
<td>Yr 6/7</td>
<td>Laine Kuhl/Emily Tully</td>
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INTERVENTION AT MULGA STREET

Quicksmart is a research based maths intervention program created by The National Centre for Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics in Rural and Regional Australia (SIMERR)
The program aims to:

- Increase fluency in mathematics
- Develop automaticity (to be quick)
- Improve retrieval times
- To form new neural pathways
- Improve accuracy and understanding
- Instucts in efficient mental strategy use
- Frees working memory capacity from an excessive focus on routine tasks
- Fosters automaticity in performing basic tasks
- Close the gap between under-achieving and average-achieving students

Outcomes

- It assists students to undertake higher order mental processing by improving their information retrieval times.
- It allows students to become active and confident learners in the classroom and offers a second (often last) chance to learn basic skills in a fast and accurate manner.
- It works on the speed, accuracy and understanding of basic maths and/or literacy on maths (reading, vocabulary and comprehension) quickly and fluently.
- It provides a sound foundation for further classroom instruction.
- It enables students to perform at levels compared with their peers
- It works on developing fluency in Numeracy and aiming to reduce the level of the working memory.

In 2015, 16 students started Quicksmart and our most recent results have indicated a growth of up to 3 years in speed and accuracy of recall in addition and subtraction number facts. Teachers are commenting on the renewed confidence they have in class and their willingness to actively engage in maths learning. It is also very pleasing to note that these children are part of our highest year level group achieving the Standard of Education Achievement in mathematics.

COUNSELLOR’S CORNER

Arrival Times

A reminder to parents and caregivers that the drop off time for school in the mornings is 8:35am. Teachers are not on duty until 8:35am.
Parents and students are reminded that the playgrounds are out of bounds before and after school, students are to leave for home when the 3.15pm siren sounds and not linger in the school grounds.

Please do not drop your child at their classroom, or wait in corridors outside classrooms before 8:35 am as this is very important organisation time for teachers as they prepare for the day.

There are also times when your child’s teacher may be involved in a meeting before the start of the school day and are unavailable to meet with. If you wish to meet or have an extended conversation with your child’s teacher, please arrange an alternative time which suits all parties.

All visitors to the school and students arriving late are required to sign in at the Front Office so we can update data on to our computer to keep track of comings and goings within the school.

Talking With Kids

The links between school achievement and parents’ ability and propensity to talk with kids from a young age is indisputable.

If you were to focus on one thing to give your child an advantage then do what should come naturally – talk with them.

The links between school achievement and parents’ ability and propensity to engage in conversation with kids from a young age is indisputable.

The language stimulation they receive when they talk with parents is one factor. The language of first borns is generally more extensive and richer than their siblings who spend less time in one-on-one situations with a parent.

But engagement in conversation with parents benefits kids in a far broader sense. It is trite to say that kids learn a great deal from their parents but, in fact they do when we talk with them.

In many ways it is through conversations that kids get a real sense of us and who we are. It is by talking with kids that we impart some of our knowledge, ideas, wisdom and thoughts as well as how we get a window into their worlds and how they think.

Getting conversations going with kids can be a massive challenge. Busy schedules, homes designed for individual enjoyment rather than group living, and kids that clam up are some of the blockers to conversation that parents meet.

So you may need to be a little cunning, a little proactive and a little inventive to get some chat going at home.

Here are five ideas to help you get more conversation going in your family:

1. **Turn off the TV (and other screens).** Most homes have a range of electronic screens that you compete with to get their attention. Don’t be afraid to take control of those screens and create a little conversational space.

2. **Turn on the TV (and other screens).** If you can’t beat them, join them. Some television programs provide great conversational fodder particularly for older children and teens. This can range from “who’s going to win Australian Idol?” to “what is the point of Australian Idol?”

3. **Have more mealtimes (with the TV off).** The family that eats together talks together…or they should. I have a theory that families with a strong food culture (i.e. they love food and value the whole eating experience) have strong bonds. So make mealtimes special and insist that kids sit until everyone finishes rather than they eat all their peas. Avoid turning mealtimes into food fights that you can’t win.

4. **Move more.** If sitting and chatting is not your child’s thing then try getting them up and moving. Boys will often talk when they walk or play so consider getting some action happening. When their hands are busy the tongues will often loosen up.

Published by Michael Grose Presentations.
Nature Play in Learning Hub 3B

Our class was lucky enough to spend time with Simon from Climbing Tree and Natasha from Natural Resources South East.

We used natural loose parts to make fairy or goblin homes.

We also let our imaginations run free with larger loose parts!