

# MCLAREN VALE

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESPECT | INTEGRITY | SUCCESS

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NEWSLETTER TERM 2, WEEK 3, 2020



### UPCOMING KEY DATES

RECONCILIATION WEEK  
27th MAY to 3rd JUNE

PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
(QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY)  
MONDAY 8th JUNE

GOVERNING COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 16th JUNE

LAST DAY OF TERM  
FRIDAY 3rd JULY  
2:05pm DISMISSAL  
CASUAL CLOTHES DAY



## — WELCOME — BACK TO SCHOOL

LYN LANGELUDDECKE, LEANNE LOVETT & MATT MILLAR

With 95% of our children back at school in week 3, we are feeling like school is well on the way to returning to normal, with children happily engaging in high quality learning programs, and working and learning collaboratively with their peers.

We want all of our children to return so that teachers can concentrate on the one mode of learning of face to face teaching. It's been very encouraging to see how happy the children are and how receptive they are in switching back to their @school learning routine, particularly given there is some catch up required with the changes to and fro.



We are slowly reverting back to how things were before. This week children are able to visit the library and borrow library books to take home and some teachers are starting to also send home the take home reading books which will help to get kids back into the practice of reading every night.

Bill in room 7 is very proud of himself telling us that:

*"Mum and dad wait outside the gate. I pack up my stuff and my bag. I walk up to the gate to find my mum or dad and then I go to the car and we go home."*



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Welcome back continued

LYN LANGELOUDECKE, LEANNE LOVETT & MATT MILLAR

Further to this our highly skilled SSO team will be back working with small groups of children in literacy and numeracy intervention programs.

Specialist teachers (Japanese, Science, Performing Arts & PE) are back in their 'specialist' rooms and kids are digging and sowing seeds in the garden with Nat and Tamara. The Instrumental Music Program resumes next week with teacher Karen who is in the process of contacting the families of children involved.

Meagan is very happy to have the canteen open with a new winter menu which is proving to be very popular. We will also see other programs resume shortly including What's the Buzz? with Tyson Maddern, as well as Vale Reps and Choir.

THE GOOD THING IS THAT BECAUSE WE ARE ALL PLAYING OUR PART TO PREVENT THE COVID SPREAD, WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION FOR ALL CHILDREN TO BE AT SCHOOL, WHICH WE NOW KNOW THROUGH OUR RECENT SHORT EXPERIENCES WITH REMOTE LEARNING, IS THE BEST PLACE FOR LEARNING.

We really appreciate the families who are supporting us by staying outside the school grounds, and we are impressed with our very competent and capable students who have been managing independently, with many reception teachers commenting how well their young students are doing without mum or dad coming into the classroom.

Social distancing among parents and caregivers at drop offs and pickups is vital to ensure that we can continue to make daily school operations normal for our children. We are noticing that there are still a lot of families not supporting this, especially at pick up times, and the yard areas, particularly around JP are very congested. We really need our parent/caregiver community to support us with this preventative measure, otherwise we may have to enforce stricter restrictions. Please remember to pick up outside the gate wherever possible. If this is not possible then please: do not congregate with other parents; stick to one adult collecting a child; and please leave the school grounds immediately (playgrounds and the nature play spaces are out of bounds after school).

WE ARE CONTINUING TO PAY STRICT ATTENTION TO HANDWASHING AND SANITISATION OF SHARED SPACES TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF. WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME CHILDREN ARE EXPERIENCING 'SORE' HANDS FROM CONSTANT WASHING AND ARE ENCOURAGING SOFTER WAYS OF DRYING HANDS, WHILE STILL USING DETERGENT BASED SOAP WHICH IS A REQUIREMENT.


We have been heartened by the immense positive feedback received from our community and wanted to share some of the comments supporting the work of our staff team.

*"Thank you so much for your excellent updates through this ever changing situation, and the team's really positive and optimistic attitude about the kids being at school and safe. We have felt this from all of the staff at McLaren Vale Primary, certainly our child's teachers have always made him and us feel very welcome in the classroom even through these uncertain times, and we have really appreciated it. I think you guys have just done a great job of handling a very tricky situation"*

*"I think you have done a fantastic job around the Covid-19 communication and management; the regular emails have been very clear regarding any changes from the department, the options (and expectations) around home learning and school learning, and all that is happening at school as far as safe practices go. The emails have also been appreciated as they have enabled me to feel connected to school although I haven't been on site for several weeks. It has been great to get a sense that the school is happy to have so many kids back on site sooner than initially expected this term. Seesaw has made classroom teacher communication really easy - fantastic that this was being used across the school prior to this situation"*

*"Thank you for being ready to support my son in learning from home. He did have some time away but is now back in class. Our family is grateful that you continue to ensure that he is looked after and you are ready to support him irrespective of what is going on."*

*This makes me think of Stephen Hawking's quote "Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change". Please pass on my thanks to all of the staff at MVPS that have been adapting to change, you are truly an intelligent group of people!"*





# Student Feedback

LYN LANGELOUDECKE, LEANNE LOVETT & MATT MILLAR

Here's some feedback from our children about how they went with their remote learning programs and then being back at school.



Jayden: *"It was easy to follow, there was no one being loud and distracting me. It was easy to jot down ideas and focus. Now that I am back at school I really like that we can still see and talk to people that are still working from home through Google Classroom and Google Meet. I like being back with my friends."*



Reece and Rhys: *"We like being at school and working with Sharon because we get lots of work done. It's fun."*

Gabby has been super impressed with her Room 7 reception students, noticing a strong sense of maturity in her class, with many students who in term 1 often struggled saying goodbye to parents in the morning, now no longer having separation anxiety because they have had to be independent due to the restrictions.



Ava: *"Being at school is better because I can see my friends again and do loads more learning. It feels better at school. I like reading, it helps me get to know loads of words. I like playing on the monkey bars with my friends."*

Eddie in Room 7 is also being amazingly independent, telling us that *"mum drops me and my sister at the tree, but not the climbing tree, and we walk up the road. My sister walks me near Room 16 and then I walk to my class all by myself. I can also open up my banana all by myself now."*



Ethan: *"I like being at school and seeing my friends, especially my friends that are on my basketball team."*

## Library Helpers

JULIE WALSH-LIBRARY SSO

Thank you so much to those wonderful people who were able to cover library books for us during Term 1.

If you are able to help again, or would like to lend a hand for the first time, I am keenly searching for some volunteers from our school community, who have some time to spare, and who would consider covering some new books for the library.

I would love to hear from you, please contact me in the Library for details.

# Safety in the school drop off and pick up zones

LYN LANGELOUDECKE

In the safety of all of our children, we are updating families on the use of the drop off and pick up zone as it has become very congested with the COVID-19 restrictions with families encouraged not to enter the school grounds. We thank you for heeding this advice and now need everyone's cooperation to help manage the traffic flow on Caffrey Street.

This zone is in an area near the school gates and enables you to drop your child off safely and quickly. The intention is that drivers do not wait in these zones and stay in the vehicle so that traffic is streamlined and traffic queues are minimised. In reality, it only takes a few drivers to overstay in the zone and the system breaks down.

We want to ensure that no child is hit by a car when going to and coming from school. You need to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones.

Make sure you and your child understand the road rules. If you break the traffic rules in a school zone, you are putting children at risk.

- ◆ Kiss and Drop zone is a "no parking" area
- ◆ Move entirely into and to the top of the zone. Drivers should remain in their vehicle at all times
- ◆ When you leave home, ensure children are in their seats with their bags
- ◆ Make sure your children use the footpath side of the door when getting in and out of the car
- ◆ Never double park
- ◆ If there is a need for you to get out of the car, please park in an area outside of the Kiss and Drop zone
- ◆ When crossing roads please use the traffic lights. We need to set a good example for our children
- ◆ Do not park in the staff car park for drop-off and pick-up of children

## PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS

### DO NOT LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE

To assist with smooth traffic flow, drivers should remain in their car while children get in and out. School bags should remain in the car, rather than in the boot.

### BE TIMELY

If your child does not get in or out of the car within the 2 minutes, you must vacate the parking spot and re-enter the zone behind existing traffic.

### STAY IN SEQUENCE

Drop off or pick up your child close to the start of the Kiss & Drop zone, allowing vehicles following you to continue in an orderly manner. Please do not cut into the queue.

### SAFETY

Please ensure children get in or out of the vehicle on the kerb side. Ensure children have their appropriate restraints secured before driving off.

### NO U-TURNS

Please do not do u-turns in busy school zones. They are dangerous and put children at risk.



KISS & DROP ZONES NEED COOPERATION TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY.  
PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY AROUND THE SCHOOL ZONES



# School facilities upgrades

AMANDA MARCEL, LEANNE LOVETT & MATT MILLAR

During the school holidays, a long held plan to install a veranda on the western side of the Minniss building came to fruition. In the past the cost of this project has been too prohibitive but with thanks to a large grant from the Australian Government we were finally able to get it built.

This new veranda has many benefits.

- Four classes are now protected from extreme weather enabling better access to natural light and airflow, particularly during the summer months
- These classes are now able to be kept cooler, thanks to the shade provided, so our sustainability is improved by reducing excessive air conditioner use
- We have been able to create more uninterrupted work spaces by allowing students to enter and exit that side of the building to go to specialist classes when it is raining (rather than use the shared learning spaces to leave their classes)
- The whole school is able to benefit from the additional shade provided by the veranda to the outdoor learning area



Our Library renovations are slowly taking shape, with some freshly painted walls and art work providing a lovely feel, as well as some changes in configuration to allow a better flow for students and a more collaborative learning space.

Keep an eye out for the exciting changes happening in the new STEAM Hub (formerly the Computer Room)

The school has installed some additional flag poles to enable us to proudly fly the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.



# OSHC News

## NATALIE WELLS-OSHC DIRECTOR

Welcome back to another term. I hope you all managed to have some down time and fun moments in what was quite a different 2 week break. While we didn't have any excursions or incursions these holidays, we still had a great vacation care program. We spent lots of time outside enjoying the sunshine, had a campfire, made some delicious treats, enjoyed wheels days, collected bugs and so much more. Our last day of the holidays was Anzac Day activities. The children made a yummy Anzac slice, we talked about what Anzac Day means and then we all stood for a minutes silence while The Last Post played. It was definitely a very special moment for the children and staff.

Our numbers this term are looking to be high once again, with some mornings and afternoons already at capacity. If you do not need to use a morning or afternoon session it is really important that you give us 24 hours notice so we can let other families know we have a spot available.



WE HAD A FIRE WHERE WE HAD TOASTED SANDWICHES AND MARSHMALLOWS



WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT ANZAC DAY MEANS AND THEN WE HAD A MINUTES SILENCE WHILE THE LAST POST PLAYED.



WHEELS DAY WAS VERY POPULAR

*A meaningful life is not being rich, being popular, being highly educated, or being perfect.*

*It's about being real, being humble, being able to share ourselves and touch others.*

## Bring Your Own Device

### MATT MILLAR

We are moving into a world where digital technology is becoming more important for accessing information, guiding the way we work and delivering quality education programs.

In today's day and age, computer literacy is an important part of a child's learning plan. By providing children with much needed digital skills, we are preparing them for future careers and much needed skills in society.

Our school currently uses Chromebooks as the main device for students with Google Classroom being the main digital platform for accessing learning from Year 3 upwards. This provides an opportunity to enhance student learning and access a variety of resources in and out of the classroom.

We are exploring a modified Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program at McLaren Vale Primary School to begin in 2021 for students in Year 3. This means parents/caregivers would purchase the Chromebook through the school and it would then belong to the student. The school would then manage the device with updates and security.

This device would follow them throughout their education at MVPS from year 3 to 6. In 2021 year 4-7 students will access existing Chromebooks at the school.

**The costs involved with purchasing a Chromebook are:**

**Dell Chromebook - \$388 ex GST**

**Chrome License - \$40**

**Total: \$428**

**Cost to family: \$300**



Flexible payment options are welcomed to support families and can be negotiated with the school Finance Officer. Considerations will be made for families with multiple children or experiencing financial hardship.

A survey link for families to provide feedback can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XPJQ93Y>

Further articles about the benefits of 1 to 1 devices and Chromebooks can be found below:

<https://www.aisink.com/2019/08/22/the-benefits-of-chromebooks-in-the-classroom/>

<https://www.goguardian.com/blog/technology/7-reasons-your-students-need-chromebooks-in-the-classroom/>





# School Canteen

MEAGAN WALSH

Hello families,

Welcome back to Term 2!

We are excited to have the canteen back up and running for lunch orders and snacks at first lunch.

With limited access for parents/caregivers to the school grounds, you are now able to place your orders with Meagan directly by texting 0420 217 377. Please be sure to include your child's name, room number and food order in your text message. You can order the night before, or first thing in the morning, but please ensure all orders are placed before 8.30am on the day of your lunch order.

Alternatively, you can send your child with the details of their order on an envelope or inside a snaplock bag which can be handed directly to Meagan by the student themselves first thing in the morning.

The canteen is still accepting cash and all measures will be taken by canteen staff to ensure change given is clean.

Should you prefer to use direct deposit as your form of payment, please include your child's name and the order date as your reference.

**Text: 0420 217 377**

Bank details for payment are:

**Ms Meagan Walsh**

**BSB: 105 071**

**Account Number: 031 864 640**

Starting in **Week 4** the canteen will also have a vegan pastry range available from Balfours Bakery. Choose from:

Curried Lentil & Potato Pie or Kale & Mushroom Pie both \$5.50

Potato, Leek & Rosemary Sausage Roll \$4.50

Another new addition to our menu will be a Bio Cheese Toastie for \$3.50

## See us at Willunga Markets!

TAMARA PIEC - KITCHEN GARDEN SPECIALIST

This coming Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, McLaren Vale Primary School will be having a stall at the Willunga Farmers Market for the first time. It is not a regular thing, just a pop up for when we have an excess of produce.

We will see how it goes and possibly do it again in a fortnight.

Please come to the Willunga Markets and support us!

It's from 8:30am-12pm.

Our stall will be on the Recreation Park Oval so look for the school sign.

Please contact Tamara if you are keen to help serve on the stall on 0414 720 365.





# What's happening in class?

ROOMS 20/21

During this uncertain time, we have focused on looking after student wellbeing by practicing a mindfulness activity called *a line is a dot that went for a walk*. Students explored some basic colour theory and created a colour wheel with the primary, secondary and tertiary colours. We investigated which colours are complimentary and used this to colour in our mindful art.

See some of work below.



“Mindfulness is important as it helps you to focus and not worry. It helps you to calm down.” Ashlee and Mali

“You can change your brain to focus more using mindfulness.” Tom

**“Mindfulness is good because it shrinks the amygdala... This is the part of the brain that controls your negative feelings.”** Aida

**“MINDFULNESS IS ALL ABOUT THE PERSPECTIVE OF KEEPING YOU CALM AND NOT BEING SO CRAZY AND OVERREACTIVE.”** Max

