

Mypolonga Primary School & Community Newsletter

2nd April 2013



Teamwork
Integrity
Generosity of
Spirit
Excellence
Respect

"Sports do not build character. They reveal it."
~ Heywood Broun ~

Assembly Roster – Term 1 2013

Week 10 – Tyler Martin, Keeghan Davis, David Hazel

Week 11 – Maddison Cain, Jessica Donald, Abbey Kruschel. This is our End of Term Assembly, commencing at 1:45pm with dismissal at 2:30pm. At our end of term assemblies, students are presented with most improved student for the term, student of the term and Kiwanis (Terrific Kids) awards.

Inserts to this Newsletter

- . Junior Primary Pancake Breakfast note
- . Call of the Blobfish flyer
- . Attendance Policy

Dates to Remember

. Student Free Days

Monday 20th May 2013

Tuesday 11th June 2013 (following the long weekend)

2013 Payment of School Fees / Swimming Travel Costs

A reminder that this year's school fees are due to be paid **by the end of the term, 12th April 2013**. If you wish to arrange an instalment plan or apply for school card, please see Annie or Necia in the office.

Swimming travel costs **were also due to be paid on or before 22nd February 2013**.

School Photos – Wednesday 1/5/13

Photo envelopes were sent home last week for every student. Please take time to read all the relevant information. Please do not seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope. However, EACH child must have their own, clearly marked envelope with them on the day if you plan on ordering photos for them. You may return the envelopes to the school prior to photo day for 'safe keeping'. Online ordering is now an option (refer to details on the envelope) and family envelopes are available from the front office.

Happy Birthday

12/4 – Mitchell W (Year 7)



The Boring Bit (Theory)

Anne and I have, for the past year, been involved in DECD funded practitioner research. Our research question was 'How can we use student voice, leadership and mentoring to develop a culture of resilience in adolescent learning?' We looked at the work of Martin Seligman and Andrew Fuller to inform our research and we have produced a report, which we will share with you later.

The Reality (Yay)

What we found was that what we already had, replicated the work of Dr Seligman. He talks about 'What's working?' rather than 'What's wrong?' What we realised was, that we have always focused on 'What's Working?' and using this to move forward and then we identify 'What's wrong?' We had Mypo-fed the research into our own language and we have been at the forefront of current research. Other principals have asked me 'How do you win all of these awards?' My response is: 'It's like a snowball; one thing leads to another.' Having a positive approach works!

Our Reception class is currently full for this year and next. When parents come to our school for a visit, when they are contemplating enrolment, while I take them to the JP class, I always take them to the Upper Primary class. Why do I do this? I do this because this class is the absolute indicator of school success. They are the role models the younger students look up to, and Upper Primary has to be a place where younger students aspire to be.

Evidence

Any parent or community person could not but be impressed by our House Captains on Sport's Day. They started in Week 2 of this term to organise team games and scheduled practices accordingly. If in any year we needed House Captains to rise to the occasion, this was the year. Every Monday during Sip 'n' Crunch time, the Upper Primary students mentored their Junior Primary team to develop their skills. House Captains organised recess and lunch-time practices to support their younger mentees. I have never been prouder of a group of House Captains.

Cass Rathjen told me that while she was sitting next to the gold tent, she was so impressed by the authority exhibited by the House Captains and the strong leadership skills they demonstrated. I would like to congratulate all our House Captains on a job well done. Some House Captains had to work very hard and their resilience was outstanding. Well done also to Scott Carter's 'Welcome to Country.'

At the end of the day, we were all tired and hadn't even realised that the following day was a public holiday. Griffin O'Connor, Gold House Captain, realised the bins hadn't been put away, so proceeded to put them all away. He is the absolute epitome of leadership: 'A leader knows the way, shows the way and goes the way.'

.../2



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Sport's Day

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the success of our wonderful Sport's Day. To all of the people who monitored stations and helped make our teacher job so much easier: to our students who strove to reach great heights: to Kevin and Julie who made beautiful lunches, we thank you. Well done to Georgia Payne (Tenacious G) and Kailan Challenger, who achieved perfect scores on the day. Congratulations to Hindmarsh for their magnificent win.

But most of all, we thank Marlene. Her contribution to the culture of our school is incredible. Marlene will be taking long service leave for the rest of the year and we are so proud to announce that Kim Polkinghorne will take over Marlene's teaching role and we look forward to her fresh perspective. SAPSASA teams will be notified shortly.

Grease

One of our former students, Catherine Hughes, has a major role in the performance of 'Grease' at Unity College. Unity is holding a dress rehearsal on Wednesday, to which we have been invited to attend. We love the opportunity to support and acknowledge former students and their successes. A big thank you to Kerry's dad Bob, who is driving the school bus, which means our students can attend the performance at no cost.

Attendance Policy

Thank you so much for all of your support of our attendance policy. So far, this year we have 0% of unexplained absences, of which we are very proud. We are including our attendance policy as part of this newsletter. Please note that in the case of shared custody, both custodial parents will be informed of poor attendance.

Warm Regards, Rita

Counsellor Corner



This fortnight, I will be continuing my article around, '7 Common Resiliency Robbers' by Michael Grose, 'Australia's No. 1 parenting educator'.

Resilience Robber No. 4

'Parents put unrealistic or relentless pressure on kids to perform'

Many children today experience excessive parent pressure to perform at continuously high standards. Expectations about success and achievement are important. Too low and kids will meet them. Too high and kids can give up. Too much and kids can experience anxiety. There are highly-anxious kids sitting in every classroom.'

At Mypolonga Primary School we do have high expectations of our students but we are there to support and encourage them at every stage. We let our students know that it is ok to make mistakes as long as you learn from them but never to give up and to keep persisting.

Our motto is 'OK isn't excellent'.

Ask your children regularly how they are going at school, if something is not right make sure you speak to their teacher.

Cheers, Kerry

Class Awards

Term 1 Week 6

Junior Primary class

Koby Stimpson – taking extra care with his recount writing.

Junior Primary 1 class

Jade Prosser – for writing a brilliant swimming recount.

Tyler Cappelluti – for working hard in all subject areas.

Lower Middle Primary class

Jackson Ross – working very hard to improve his handwriting.

Amber Gielen – great exposition writing.

Middle Primary class

Darcy Elliott – excellent home reading this week.

Tyler Martin – 100% commitment to learning.

Upper Primary class

Alys Bockman – for excellent writing in Science.

Aimee Kelly – for asking excellent questions on our excursion.

Staff Profile

This fortnight, we would like to introduce our Junior Primary teacher **Amy Stone**. Amy teaches Reception and Year 1 students and will be sharing the role with Hailey Perry on her return from maternity leave next term.

Introducing...

Amy Stone
Junior Primary Teacher



How long have you been at Mypolonga Primary School... 1 year teaching full time but have been associated with Mypo for 2 years.

Favourite quote... "There are no mistakes in life, only lessons. The greatest risk in life is not taking one."

What 3 words would others use to describe you...
Bubbly, approachable, honest.

What is your most positive teaching experience...
Having transitioning children who are normally afraid of change, being completely at ease within my class.

Who is the best teacher you ever had? Why...
My Reception/1/2 teacher was Mrs Whelan at Flagstaff Hill Primary. A KISS concert was performed by our Year 7 class. I was petrified so she took me back to class and I helped her. The rest of the class had to sit through the whole thing.

Historical Recounts

Students in the Upper Primary class combined their studies of Ancient Egypt with the whole school writing genre of recounts. They wrote a recount from the point of view of an Egyptian child.

Following are extracts from some of their excellent work. The writing can be viewed in full on the Upper Primary verandah display board or in the Library.

Atum

by Scott Carter, Year 7

The night was so dark that all I could see was a lantern blooming on the front bow of our boat. I could hear murmurs coming from the village as we sailed closer to the town. A gust of wind blew the sail, making me shiver as I pulled up near the bank. I put my jewellery on; my sparking necklace dazzled in the sun; stunning earrings and sandals that had diamonds that reflected like the Red Sea. "ATUM" my dad called. My dad was a tall, strong man who had many jewels and an amulet that had been handed down from generation to generation. Today, I would get the amulet handed down to me.

Sacrifice

by Paige Vandenberg, Year 6

I was disgusted. Speechless. Worried. I moved on, forgot him and found my mother. When I got to my mother's small hut, I told her all about what had happened. She broke out in tears, but then I told her I wanted to move in with her and start a new life. That made her happy. Her cheeks turned bright red. We baked bread and rice. The soft, white bread slowly slid down my dried throat, and the warm rice topped with slightly melted cheese hit my stomach like an arrow hitting its target.

My mother and I had now moved on but I will never forget my sweet, loving, caring and talented father. I was happy my father was in the sky, flying with the sweet singing blue birds and the rest of his family.

Fishing

by Jack Slattery, Year 7

The glare of the morning sun blinded me as I walked through the sloppy mud down to the shaduf to water the crops. I stopped to imagine I was the Pharaoh's son and how great life would be. The food, the hunts, and the special occasions. Shouting brought me back to reality. "Osiris, Osiris". My mother was shouting at me to get to work so I moved off to the shaduf and lowered the bucket to the water. When it was full, I pushed down on the lever and moved it around to the crops and tipped water on them. The murky water splashed around the wheat stalks. I turned the bucket away from the golden wheat fields and back to the murky green Nile and did it again. The bucket filled and I swung it around to the crops again. I emptied the bucket again and the water swirled around the crops.

Amun and the Queens Sarcophagus

by Griffin O'Connor, Year 7

My father and I were almost finished when suddenly we heard the harmonious tune of the mighty pharaoh's flute orchestra. The tune was so beautiful that I thought I was being taken on a journey through the afterlife by the gods. "The pharaoh's coming!" said my father as he tidied the house. I polished the coffin, then Khufu entered the hut and my father and I dropped to our knees in respect. The pharaoh was a mighty being. He wore the finest of togas with a ruby amulet draped around his neck and a mighty crown with many more gems on it. "Rise", the pharaoh bellowed in a stern voice. He stared at the sarcophagus with a blank face. It felt as if the gods had stopped time, while my heart was beating as fast as a jackal leaping upon its prey, and the sweat of my brow crashed to the floor.

Lower Middle Primary Class Artwork

~ Sturt Desert Peas ~

The Lower Middle Primary class have recently drawn some lovely Sturt Desert Peas to coincide with their study of explorer Captain Charles Sturt.

Below is artwork by Year 3 students *Bella Smith* and *Logan Baker*.



Sport's Day



Woolworths 2013 Earn & Learn Program – it's back!

We are once again participating in the Earn & Learn program to obtain valuable resources for our school.

From Monday 8th April 2013, you can collect stickers at Woolworths' stores and place them on a points sheet (we will send a points sheet home to each family when they arrive, with extra copies being available from the office or Woolworths' stores). Every \$10 spent = 1 sticker.

A collection box will be located in the office.

2013 International Competitions And Assessments For Schools (ICAS)

Sitting Dates

Science – Wednesday 5th June 2013

English – Wednesday 31st July 2013

Mathematics – Tuesday 13th August 2013

There is an opportunity for Year 3-7 students to participate in the 2013 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) in the key subject areas of Science, Mathematics and English.

This year, ICAS is also extended to Year 2 students in English and Mathematics.

All students receive a certificate and an **individual student report** indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested.

These competitions, unlike NAPLAN, which is for all Year 3, 5 and 7 students, are designed for our "top" students who have an interest and are skilled in a particular learning area.

To guide you, we will nominate students whom we feel will benefit from participating in these tests.

Naturally, the decision is up to you. There is no expectation that your child has to participate because they have been nominated or that they cannot participate if they have not been nominated. Our aim is to support you to make informed decisions.

A nomination form will be sent home to nominated students' parents/caregivers before the end of the term to inform you of our nominations.

Please feel free to discuss this with your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

Attendance Reminders

Signing In / Out

When a student is late for school (after the bell has sounded at 8:55am), it is asked that a **parent/caregiver** sign the student in at the front office.

Parents/Caregivers who listen to reading or are at the school on a voluntary basis are also asked to sign the visitor's book located in the front office on their arrival and departure.

Unexplained Absences

We refer to our last newsletter article regarding unexplained absences. We are proud to say we currently have **0** unexplained absences since the beginning of the year. A great team effort and we thank you for your support!

Student Drop Off Times

For OHS&W reasons, parents/caregivers are kindly reminded to drop off their children no earlier than 8:30am, when a teacher is present on yard duty. We also ask that children be dropped off and collected from the **Williams Street** entrance of the school.

Harmony Day

On 21st March 2013, we celebrated Harmony Day. The message of Harmony Day is *Everyone Belongs*. It is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

During the week, classes were involved in activities to celebrate Harmony Day. Below are some examples. The Middle Primary Class (which also forms the School Choir) ended the week by singing "When We Stand Together" at assembly.



Koby, Hayden and Phebe's Junior Primary class were involved in making colourful harmony balloons.



Monique, Maddi and Linx's Junior Primary 1 class were involved in making harmony banners.

The **Lower Middle Primary** class completed a survey of their likes and interests. For example, "what is your favourite holiday destination" and "what are your favourite activities". The survey responses were then cut up and grouped together to chart children's similar answers.

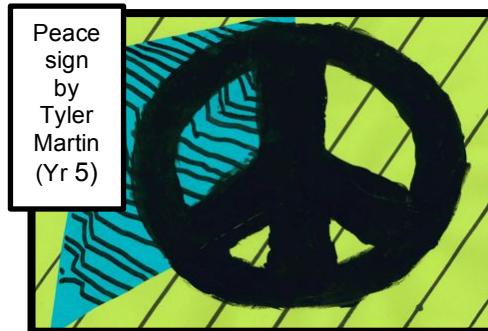
The outcome of the activity was to highlight to the children that they have many things in common with many other classmates.

One of the topics was "Something I Could Not Live Without". The majority of the children said, "my Mum or Dad" or "My Family". A lovely response!

Did you know:....

- . Around 7 million people have migrated to Australia since 1945.
- . 45% of Australians are either born overseas or have a parent who were.

Harmony Day ~ continued



Peace sign by Tyler Martin (Yr 5)

SAPSASA Softball

During the week beginning 12th March 2013, Year 7 students Georgia Payne and Aimee Kelly travelled to Adelaide to compete in SAPSASA softball.



The girls competed against a number of teams from Adelaide and surrounding areas. The first game they played ended in a draw and the second game was cancelled due to hot weather.

By the end of the week, the girls had one draw, lost 3 games and won 3 games. The final game of the week resulted in an extraordinary win against the Hills team and was the best game of the week.

by Aimee Kelly and Georgia Payne



SAPSASA Swimming

On Friday 22nd March 2013, Year 6 student Alys Bockman and Year 7 student Chloe Elliott travelled to the Marion Aquatic Centre for SAPSASA swimming.

The girls were in two races, each including a relay, which both girls were involved in. Alys came 21st out of 30 for her 50 freestyle. Chloe came 16th out of 20 for her 50 breaststroke.

Both the girls did personal bests, which took more than one second off their previous times.

This was a great experience for both girls.

by Chloe Elliott and Alys Bockman



Community News

Mypolonga Cricket Club – Presentation Night

Saturday 6th April 2013 at the Mypolonga Combined Sport's Club. Teas available from 6:00pm with presentations following. All welcome!

Mypolonga Football Club

Junior Player Teas – Thursday 4th April 2013 following training. *Under 9s and 11s*: - free sausage sizzle. *Under 13s, 15s and 17s*: - free yiros and chips will be available plus a presentation of guernseys. \$5.00 for parents wishing to stay for a meal.

Home Match Tea - Saturday 13th April 2013 at the Mypolonga Combined Sport's Club. Teas available from 6:00pm.

Mypolonga Scout Group - AGM

To be held at 5:30pm on Tuesday 7th May 2013 at the Wall Flat Hall.

Netball SA – School Holiday Clinics

To be held on 15th and 16th April 2013 at Netball SA Stadium. Have fun while learning new netball skills, drills and techniques. Clinics: 5-7 years and 8-10 years NetSetGO!, 11-16 years NetballSkills! Phone 82380500 or visit netballsa.asn.au for further details. Registrations close COB 10th April 2013.

Planning Calendar - Term 1 2013

MCSC – Mypolonga Combined Sports Club

MFC – Mypolonga Football Club

MCC – Mypolonga Cricket Club

MNLC – Mypolonga Netball League Club

MBHS – Murray Bridge High School

10	1/4 Easter Monday	2/4 Newsletter	3/4 Upper Primary class attending "Grease" performance at Unity College	4/4	5/4 3:00pm Assembly MCSC Friday Night tea	6/4 & 7/4 6/4 – RMFL/RMNA season begins Mypo -v- Ramblers @ Ramblers 6/4 - MCC Presentation Night 7/4 – Daylight savings ends
11	8/4	9/4 SRC Casual Day Junior Primary Pancake Breakfast	10/4	11/4 SAPSASA District Day	12/4 Last day of Term 1 Newsletter 1:45pm Assembly 2:30pm Dismissal	13/4 & 14/4 13/4 – Mypo -v- Imps @ Mypo 13/4 – MFC Home Match tea

Planning Calendar - Term 2 2013

1	29/4 Start of Term 2	30/4	1/5 School Photos	2/5	3/5 3:00pm Assembly MCSC Friday Night tea	4/5 & 5/5 4/5 – Mypo -v- Tailam @ Mypo, including home match tea
2	6/5 Newsletter	7/5	8/5	9/5	10/5 3:00pm Assembly	11/5 & 12/5 11/5 – Mypo -v- Meningie @ Mypo, including home match tea

Mypolonga Primary School

Principal: Rita O'Brien

www.mypolongaps.sa.edu.au



17-27 Williams Street
Mypolonga SA 5254
p 85354191
f 85354160
info@mypolongaps.sa.edu.au