



MOUNT BARKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dates to Remember:

Week 4
Tues 7/11/17
Governing
Council meet
7pm in staff
room

Week 5 Mon
13/11/17 Stu-
dent Free Day

Week 8
R/1 Swimming
lessons

Tues 5/12/17
Governing
Council meet
7pm in staff
room

Week 9
Mon 11/12/17
End of Year
Concert Night

Thurs
14/12/17
Graduation

Newsletter

Week 3, Term 4

No 12

Do our kids bounce?

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

So much learning and fun has taken place in these first few weeks back!

I was pleased to hand out so many Excelsior Awards this week at assembly. Many of the awards were focused on our students being resilient and coping with setbacks in their school journey. As adults we understand that sometimes situations can be difficult and we have the ability to dust ourselves off and keep going. This is because we have had the luxury of experiencing success when we have worked through difficult situations and have come out the other side. Some of our students are more able to cope with challenges than others. As teachers we talk to students about being resilient. We can only develop resilience by facing challenges and not shying away from them. If you feel that your child may require support with developing resilience please have a look at the Kids Matter website. It provides parents and teachers with research and resources to promote our children's ability to bounce back. (www.kidsmatter.edu.au).

The big news at our school this week is that we have been given \$7.5m from the Building Better Schools project. These funds are in addition to the \$1m we were given last year to improve our STEM teaching and learning. The department will be in touch before the end of the year to create concept designs of what our new learning spaces could look like. Receiving these funds is an important achievement for Mount Barker Primary School as this journey was started several years ago by Principal, Riley Smitheram and Governing Council Chair, Tim Milne. Michele and Alan Harvey have continued to advocate for better facilities for our students and we are thrilled at this result. This money will enable us to create spaces that support 21st century learning and encourage collaboration between teachers and students. Exciting times!

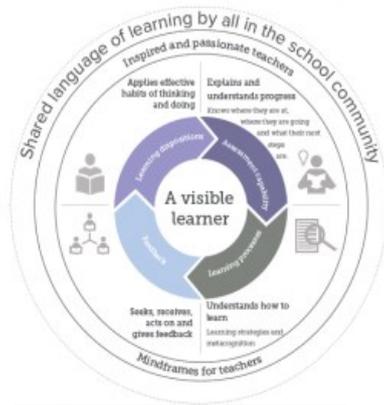
Kind regards, Jo Simpson
(Acting Principal)



Visible Learning

Visible Learning is professional development for teachers and school leaders that explores how evidence can be used to create innovation in the learning environment. The things that have the most significant impact are all about making learning visible (and explicit) to students.

“When teaching and learning are “visible” – that is, when it is clear what teachers are teaching and what students are learning, student achievement increases.” (John Hattie (Routledge, 2012)



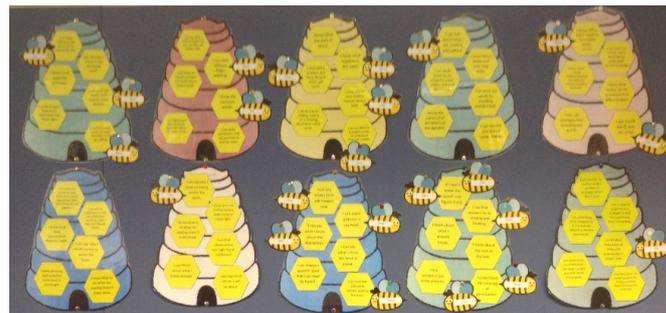
Our goal is for our school to have a shared language of learning by all in the school community. We are at the beginning of our Visible Learning Journey. Teachers, School Support Officers and Leaders have attended Visible Learning workshops and teaching staff have been involved in professional development sessions as part of staff meetings.

There are four key areas of Visible Learning and they are:

- Promote life-long learners
- Inspired and passionate teachers
- Know thy impact
- Feedback

So far we have surveyed the students on what makes a good learner. We have asked the teachers; ‘What makes an effective teacher?’ We have collected some data to find out where we are at the beginning of our Visible Learning journey so we can track our progress.

Teachers have been working on the way they give feedback to students and receive feedback from students so they are learning together. Some have been working with goal setting and classes across the school have been using the language of the ‘Learning pit’. Moving forward we would like leaders, teachers, students and parents to choose some learning dispositions that we value the most to focus on and develop as a school community. The learning dispositions will be reflected in the excelsior awards and will become shared language across the school community.



The Early Years classes are using a visual display to show reading progressions. This helps students to see what they know, what they need to learn and where they are going next. Our first focus is to develop Visible Learners- students and teachers. We want everyone to see themselves as learners.

Annette Virgo (Visible Learning Impact Coach)

Assembly

Wednesday 2.30PM

Week 6 - Rooms 14 & 15

Week 9 - Rooms 11 & 12

Aspirational Statement:

Mount Barker Primary

School - A community of

Successful Learners

An Update on Fuji

As Fuji the Guide Dog puppy in training was part of our school community this year, I thought I would share the exciting news that he has passed all his exams and will be starting his new career as a fully-fledged Guide Dog next month.

Last week I went down to the Royal Society for the Blind (RSB) to say my final good-byes and to spend some time with Fuji. As part of the process I got to experience Fuji in action when he walked me, blindfolded, around a local shopping centre. This opportunity gave me a much better understanding of just how hard he had to work to make sure I was kept safe (so please remember not to talk or pat any dogs when they are working as they have to concentrate really hard on what they are doing).

I also got to meet the Japanese equivalent of the RSB staff who gave us Fuji. They were so proud of him and of the work we have all done with him. So on behalf of myself, the RSB and Fuji, thank you for allowing him access to Mount Barker Primary School. We should all be very proud.



Ruth Hughes (SSO and RSB Puppy Trainer)

Total fire ban days

During fire danger season, the CFS advises the public of total fire ban days. The rating is forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology each day and is an early indicator of the potential danger, should a bushfire start. A fire danger rating is not a predictor of how likely a bushfire is to occur, but how dangerous it could be if it did occur.

There are 3 classifications of total fire ban

- Severe
- Extreme
- Catastrophic

Schools may be required to take special measures on these days to make sure that they are ready to respond to a bushfire threat. The bushfire threat flowchart can be found on the DECD website and is a handy guide to what schools and preschools may need to do on the respective fire ban days, depending on their own risk rating.

Too Deadly Awards

On 1st November 2018, I accompanied our Aboriginal students to the Too Deadly Awards. These awards enable the Aboriginal community to meet and celebrate the achievements of their children. Alexis Coulthard was acknowledged as being a graduating year 7 student and Aiden Thiele-Crowe received a certificate for 0 unexplained absences.

For the main award categories students are nominated by their teachers and over 60 students were nominated in each category. I am pleased to share with you that Ellie May Sumner was nominated for an excellence award. Ellie May has a perfect attendance record and her commitment and enthusiasm for learning means that she is achieving to a high standard. Well done Ellie May!



Alexis and Ellie May

Jo Simpson, Acting Principal



ZONTA

CLUB OF
ADELAIDE HILLS INC

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

The Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills invites you to attend our White Ribbon Event and the Launch of our 2018 Expect Respect Calendar on Monday 20th November, 2017 in the Mount Barker Community Library, 5 Dumas Street, Mount Barker.

The ceremony commences at **10.30 am** and includes:

- Launch of 2018 Expect Respect Calendar featuring the artwork of the Mount Barker and Mount Barker South Primary Schools' years 4 and 5 students.
- Guest speaker Sgt Derrick McManus, White Ribbon Ambassador
- Swearing of the White Ribbon Oath by local males
- Shouting NO to Violence in Mount Barker
- Following the ceremony, which will conclude at 11.30am, light refreshments will be served in the Library

The students' artwork will be on display in the Library from Monday 13th November until the end of November

Please invite men who would like to be part of the swearing of the White Ribbon oath.

The project is proudly sponsored by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills with generous donations from Mount Barker Anglican Mothers' Union, Mount Barker Neighbourhood Watch and Mount Barker District Council.

MOUNT BARKER CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Costume try on times for the pageant are:

Monday 20/11/17

Tuesday 21/11/17 &

Wednesday 22/11/17

3.15pm to 4.15pm on Dumas Street behind TAFE & the bus car park.



Government of South Australia

Department of Education and
Children's Services