Welcome back and a special welcome to our new Receptions and other new students starting at Mount Barker Primary School this year. We hope that your time with us is enjoyable.

We welcome returning staff and would like to welcome and introduce our new staff to you. Jill Meszaros - School Counsellor, Wendy Branson - STEM Coordinator and Year 3 /4 teacher, Steve Gallagher - Performing Arts Teacher, Michelle Kohler - Year 1 teacher, Jackie Manly - The Unit, Lauren Varricchio - Support Teacher.

Additions to our ancillary staff are Kirsty Lennell from Lenswood PS and Narelle Chester - Pastoral Care Worker.

We are also lucky to have Jim Goodall (Student Learning Improvement Project Officer for Mount Lofty and Heysen Partnerships based at our school. Hannah Vieceli, Child Wellbeing Practitioner will also be on site on Tuesdays to support students and families.

**ACOCCANTANCE NIGHT / OPEN NIGHT**
MON. 13th February

We know that when schools and parents work together to share information about children, learning outcomes are enhanced. Acquaintance Night provides the opportunity for this important partnership to commence. We hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend this evening.

5.45-6pm. Welcome /Address from Michele Duthy – Principal (basketball court)

6-7pm. Class Visits – meet the teachers

**AGM OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

All parents are invited to attend the AGM of Mount Barker Primary School Governing Council on Tuesday 21st February in the library. The Governing Council meets twice a term on Tuesday nights in weeks 3 and 8 at 7pm. The meetings generally finish between 8.30 and 9pm.

If you would like to know more about your children’s school and contribute to school development and decision making, please consider nominating for the Governing Council.

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**ASSEMBLIES:** Wednesdays at 2.30pm in weeks 2,4,6,8,10.

Please return to office if you wish to nominate for Governing Council

**GOVERNING COUNCIL VACANCIES FOR 2017**

I WISH TO NOMINATE FOR A POSITION ON GOVERNING COUNCIL AND WILL BE ATTENDING THE AGM:

**VACANCIES**

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<tr>
<th>Positions</th>
<th>2 years</th>
<th>1 year</th>
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**NAME:** .......................................................... PHONE NUMBER: .................................

Child/ren’s Name/s .................................................................................................................
PUPIL FREE DAY
ON VISIBLE LEARNING

(ALL LOCAL SCHOOLS AND
KINDERGARTENS)

MONDAY 20TH FEB
OSHC WILL BE AVAILABLE
PLEASE CALL 0417837298 TO BOOK A PLACE.

PASTORAL CARE
Hello everyone!
I am the new Pastoral Care Worker and I look forward to meeting you all. I work Thursdays and Fridays here at Mount Barker Primary and I also work at Echunga Primary School. My work at the school is to support staff, students and families. I do this by working closely with the School Counsellor, teachers and leadership. Activities I do include running lunchtime programs, starting a parent ‘Coffee–n–Chat’ group on Fridays 9-10am, helping out in classrooms and I am available to chat with families, students and staff if required. I live in the Hills, have 2 children, have been married for 20 years and love the beach, board games and having fun! I am looking forward to meeting you.
Narelle Chester, Pastoral Care Worker.

SCHOOL CROSSING
The School Crossing will operate as it did last year with staff on duty and senior students monitoring the crossing. A SA Police officer has trained our Middle Years students this week in readiness for them to commence this important duty.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School Photos will be taken on Tuesday 28th February. Payment envelopes will be sent home soon.

FROM THE COUNSELLOR
Hello everyone and welcome to the 2017 school year. My name is Jill Meszaros, the new School Counsellor and am very excited to be here. I work 3 days and am at school on Monday to Wednesday. The students know me as Mrs M.

We know that when children feel good about themselves, are happy and have positive relationships with teachers, peers and families, they are more likely to enjoy life, school and be successful and engaged in their learning. My role as School Counsellor is to support the whole school community to create a positive, safe and supportive learning environment for all students. You are the experts; you know your children better than anyone in this world. We are the professionals and when experts and professionals work together, it only means better learning and social outcomes for our students.

Mount Barker Primary School continues to embed Positive Psychology strategies to support student wellbeing across the school. Additionally, teachers spend time in the first few weeks of every school year working with their students to establish a positive learning environment where the teacher and students work together to develop a sense of community, identity and belonging.

Our first assembly this year will be a sharing by classes of the ways that they have worked together to feel safe, respected and included in the class. Please join us in the hall Wednesday at 2.30pm. Assembly will be hosted by Room 3, (Year 6).

This week I have introduced myself to classes and have been so impressed with students’ behaviour, participation and desire to learn. My priority is getting to know staff, students and families so please say hello and introduce yourselves to me if you see me wandering around.

If you have any concerns about your child, please feel free to make an appointment with me by either ringing the front office or email jill.meszaros81@schools.sa.edu.au to discuss any issues.

PARKING AND KISS AND DROP
As car parking space is limited, please use the Kiss and Drop zone as much as possible. Please find a copy of our brochure at the end of this newsletter.
FUTURE NEWSLETTERS
Future newsletters will be coming out in Week 3, 6 and 9 of each term via the school website, www.mtbarkerps.sa.edu.au and will be uploaded onto Schoolbag. Newsletters contain both important information and dates for events and are also a way of celebrating student achievement and successes. We encourage everyone to look out for the newsletter. If you have provided a family email address we will send a link for each issue so you to easily access the newsletter. If you are unable to access the website or email and would like to receive a printed copy, please contact Suzie at the front office.

LIBRARY BORROWING
If parents want to assist their children with borrowing the library will be open every morning from 8.30 to 8.50am and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3.10 to 3.30pm.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE
Please advise the school if your child is unable to attend for any reason. The text only line is 0417937568. Extended absences due to medical reasons may require a doctor’s certificate. Any absence over 2 weeks will require an exemption form (available from the office) completed prior to the absence. Students arriving late or leaving early are to be signed in and out at the office. They will be given a pass to give to their teacher. It is important that students arrive on time as frequent late arrival can impact on learning. Please take the time to read the article included on Attendance.

SWIMMING
Swimming for Years 2 – 5 begins next week. Please return your consent forms before the commencement of the program. Students will be taken by bus to and from the pool. Please note that photography of students swimming or at the pool is not permitted. Due to the short time frame, if you have difficulty paying in full before swimming commences, please see the Finance Office to make arrangements.

BUSHFIRE INFORMATION
Information is provided at the beginning of the Fire Danger Season and to new families on enrolment. Information is also available on the school’s website. If you have any questions regarding the bushfire information please ask Suzie at the front office. It is also important that our student records are always kept up to date with changes to mobile phone details for families. If your details have changed please notify the school as soon as possible. If a Catastrophic Fire Danger Day is forecast, the school will be closed and you will be sent an SMS. A message will also be put on the electronic sign outside the school. A site closure includes OSHC.

SECOND BITE PROGRAM
We are hoping to continue our involvement in the SecondBite Program and will be receiving donations of surplus fruit, vegetables and bread from Coles, Mt Barker. We are looking for volunteers to continue the program. If you think you would be able to help in collecting the food from Coles please let our Pastoral Support Worker – Narelle Chester know by making contact with the front office. Narelle will be at school on Thursday and Fridays. Thank you.

Just a reminder if you are a new parent to install the Skoolbag app onto your mobile. This enables you to access digital copies of class and whole school newsletters and communications from the Principal and Deputy. If you have installed the app last year please remember to adjust your push notifications for your child/children’s new class. You can select more than one option to receive push notifications including communications from the Principal, Deputy and specialist subjects. You can do this by opening your app and selecting the more option at the bottom right hand corner. Then select Set up Push Notifications and move the required options from off to on. Once they are on they button will turn green.
DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 1

Week 2
Tuesday 7/2/17  Swimming commences Tuesday to Thursday.
Wednesday 8/2/17  Assembly 2.30pm in the Hall.

Week 3
Monday 13/2/17  Swimming continues Monday to Thursday.

Week 4
Monday 20/2/17  Student Free Day – OSHC available.
Tuesday 21/2/17  Swimming continues Tuesday to Thursday – Yr 2-5.
Tuesday 21/2/17  AGM of Governing Council 7pm in Library.
Wednesday 22/2/17  Assembly 2.30pm in the Hall.

Week 5
Tuesday 28/2/17  School Photos.

Week 6
Wednesday 8/3/17  Assembly 2.30pm in the Hall.

Week 7
Monday 13/3/17  Adelaide Cup Public Holiday.

Week 8
Wednesday 22/3/17  Assembly 2.30pm in the Hall.

Week 9
Friday 31/3/17  Sports Day.

Week 10
Wednesday 5/4/17  Assembly 2.30pm in the Hall.

Week 11
Friday 14/4/17  Good Friday Public Holiday.

MATHS OPEN AFTERNOON
Towards the end of term 4 we held an open afternoon to allow parents to visit classes to see what numeracy in action looks like. This was a highly successful afternoon with over 40 parents and grandparents attending. The feedback from parents was the session had helped them develop an understanding of what their children are learning and why. It was also requested that we follow this up with further sessions in 2017. During the afternoon the focus was around the structure of the number system called ‘Base 10’. Parents requested further information about this and I am pleased to attach a ‘Base Ten Factsheet’ to this newsletter.

As a school we recognise that the best way we can support students in their learning is by working collaboratively with parents. We are currently planning a session with a focus on ‘Quick Think Maths’ and will send home details in the week 3 newsletter.

Numeracy improvement will continue to be a school priority and I will share information about strategies and school programs throughout the year.

Jo Simpson.
How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and iPad users:
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device.
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 81 Phone and Windows 81 or 10 device users:
1. Go to the Windows Store on your 81 Windows Phone or Windows 81/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 81 version Windows Phones, or Windows 81 and 10 devices.
Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early
School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

• Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
• Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
• Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
• Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
• Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

• Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
• Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
• Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
• Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
• Don’t let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
• If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
• Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
• Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?

CHRONIC ABSENCE
18 or more days

WARNING SIGNS
10 to 17 days

GOOD ATTENDANCE
9 or fewer absences

Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.
Our Kiss and Drop Zone is located on Apollo Street. Please note the following information - The solid yellow line in front of the Staff Car Park (pictured below) means cars are not permitted to stop where there is a solid yellow line. Please do not drive through or park in the staff car park at any time.

The yellow dashed line on Apollo Street indicates where cars may stop briefly and pick up or let children out of cars. Drivers are not permitted to leave or park the vehicle. Please move to the front of the line when in the zone. If parents arrive and their child is not yet at the kiss and drop zone they will be required to do another lap to avoid congestion.
The picture below shows the shelter and path leading from the school to Apollo Street. Staff will be on duty until 3:30pm in the afternoon to supervise children leaving the school grounds. Children will be allowed from the school grounds when parents arrive in the zone. As an added safety precaution, no child will be permitted on the footpath until parents arrive.

The map below shows the route vehicles need to follow.