

MAS newsletter

May 18 | 2016

08



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Volunteers

Grant Keleher | Principal



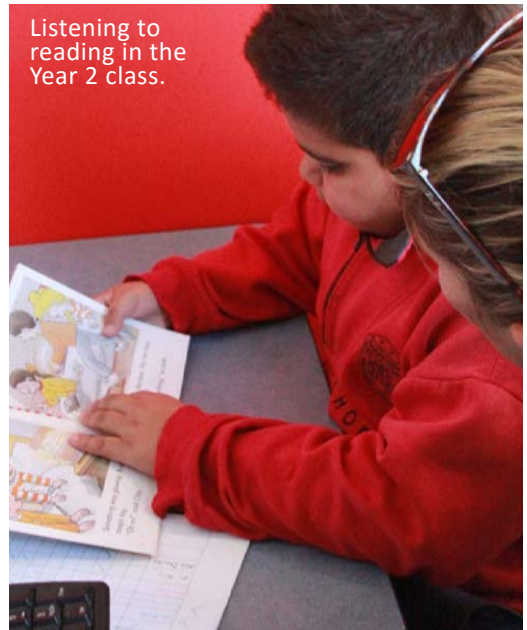
What a fantastic sight, to see so many of our students enjoying the simple pastime of reading. As part of my weekly tours of the school, I walked into our JP area to find parents working with our students on various reading activities. These students are receiving added intervention support on a daily basis from our wonderful volunteers.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Our community volunteers are very important to the way our school operates. I would like to publicly recognise the amount of work they put in to our school. Many of them do it for the love of our community and don't seek praise or celebrate effort they put in. We are very lucky at Maitland Area School to have such an amazing group of volunteers. Our volunteers come in many shapes and forms, from our Governing Council or Parents and Friends, to Mums that come in

a read and our Sports Day helpers, the list goes on. We would not have the success we have today if it weren't for them.

I would like to sincerely thank all our school volunteers who make the effort to come in and work with our children.



ON THE FRONT COVER

Ag teacher Sarah Townsend holding one of the school's piglets, handpicked during the Senior Ag class visit to Paterson's piggery this week.



EXTRA TUTORING

In helping our senior school students achieve the best possible marks they can, we are looking at providing exam preparation tutoring for some of our subjects.

As of Monday the 23rd of May we will have PE teacher Callan Obst tutoring our PE students after school.

Diedre Moloney is also kindly giving up her time to tutor our Year 12 English students during school time. It is imperative that our Year 12's take this opportunity to prepare and hone their skills before the end of year. We are always looking for extra tutors to help our students achieve above and beyond.

PUPIL FREE DAY: MONDAY 6TH JUNE

A reminder to all students & parents that we will be having a Pupil Free Day Monday 6th June. On this day we will be working with all schools in our Southern Yorke Partnership looking at development of teacher's ability to use and integrate technology through their curriculum.

ATTENDANCE

I am proud to say that currently our school attendance is sitting at 90%, while it is still 5% short of the DECD target; it is a 7% increase on our attendance last year.

Mr Salmon's and Miss Derrington's 4/5's are leading the way with an attendance rate of 95%, followed closely by Mrs Westbrook's class with 94%.

It is disappointing to see our Year 11 and 12's with an attendance rate of 78%. I will be meeting with each of the Year 12's over

the next few weeks to see where they are headed and how best they can achieve their educational goals.

I can't stress enough how important it is to come to school every day on time. We (families and the school) need to work together to help students to understand the importance of being at school whenever possible, and that trivial reasons for absence are not sufficient to discharge parents' legal responsibilities.

In today's global society, our students aren't just competing against their classmates for jobs, but the entire world.

SCHOOL APP

Maitland Area School now have their own app as a form of 24/7 communication with our school community. It also provides an avenue for parents to provide information to the school re change of details and absences.

I encourage all of our families to visit the Google Play Store or the Apple Store and download a copy.

In each edition of our newsletters we are providing information on how to use the app effectively. (Pages 18-19)

It is also great for Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, or MAS alumni to download so they can see what it going on at our school. The app is a great way to stay connected and best of all its free! No more notices getting lost in the bottom of the school bag!

Flinders University

Leigh Rothe | Secondary Coordinator



On Friday the 13th we had a visit from Jarrad Stallard of Flinders University. Jarrad spoke to our Senior students about the various options for further studies with Flinders University. He also spoke about accommodation options and campus life. We thank Jarrad for his time.



ATTENDANCE AND STUDY

Maitland Area School encourages excellence in all subject areas and for our senior students, terms 2 and 3 represent a major part of their workload for the year.

It is important that students are supported through this period, particularly our year 12's who now have less than six months of formal schooling left.

Attendance is a key factor in being successful in completing the SACE. Missing one day per week will see students missing over a month of schooling for the rest of the year, time which is extremely difficult to catch up.

If a student is absent then it is important to let the school know of the reason for the absence, and also to work with teaching staff to catch up the work that has been missed.

HOMework

Homework is also critical in achieving the highest grades possible. All year levels will have some homework set throughout the week. Please check your children's diaries to see what work is required and when it is due. By the time a student reaches year 12 they should be completing about three hours of homework per night, just to keep up with all of their course requirements. This will allow them to meet deadlines and to revise and prepare thoroughly for assessment tasks.

PUNCTUALITY

A reminder also that the school day starts at 8:50 am. Home class period is an important part of the day which establishes routines and allows staff to pass on information to students. Even being 5 minutes late disrupts these routines and impacts on the start to the day. If students are arriving late, or leaving early during the day, they are required to report to the front office with an explanation. Staff will be following up unexplained absences and irregular attendances. We have started to implement extra strategies to help our students be successful and I look forward to discussing these as they are rolled out.

Remembering our ANZACS

Sarah Atkins | JP Teacher



Week 1 saw the Junior Primary classes proudly learn all about ANZAC Day and the brave soldiers that fought to keep Australia safe. We read stories, cooked ANZAC biscuits and created poppies to place at the Maitland War Memorial.

On Thursday the 5th of May the classes walked down to the memorial and dedicated their poppy to a brave soldier by writing the soldier's name on it. We observed 1 minute of silence and respectfully laid our poppies before returning to school.



AQUATICS CAMP

On Tuesday the 10th of May our Stage 1 & 2 Physical Education students teamed up with Ardrossan Area School and ventured to Port Vincent for two nights in order to undertake a SACE practical, the physically demanding 18 hour kayaking course, delivered by the Port Vincent Aquatics Centre.

Conditions weren't ideal but to our kids credit they showed great resilience and enthusiastically battled on against the elements. Our students were tested both physically and mentally, being assessed on a variety of skills including distance paddling, techniques such as sweep, support, and draw strokes, emergency stops, capsizing, deep water and Eskimo rescues and their overall independence and initiation of tactics.

Our students, Anna Falco, Ben Colliver, Jakkeb Marshall, Reuben Parker, Georgie Robinson, Ezra Glazbrook and Luke Clifford, thoroughly enjoyed the three day experience. They each met the criteria required of them as a result of working collaboratively in various scenarios and showing great determination and perseverance in all practical tasks.

In addition, they represented our school with upmost respect towards their instructors, teachers and of course each other. I couldn't have been more proud of their overall contribution, endeavour and morale over the three days.

Well done team!

Andrew Mills | SACE Teacher





PIGGERY VISIT

The Year 9/10 Agriculture class visited Paterson's piggery on Tuesday May 17 and a workman called Daryl gave us a tour of the facilities.

We collected six pigs to raise here at school.

The class would like to thank the piggery for hosting the trip as they found it very interesting to see the pigs at their various stages of development and they especially enjoyed holding the baby piglets.

They will use the information in their Pig Housing project later in the term and will monitor the growth of the six pigs as part of their assessment.

Thank you to Miss Townsend for organising the trip and to Mrs McLean and Mr Johnson for their help on the excursion.

"It was really cool to actually see in real life what we have been learning about. The smell was the only downside though."

Zoe Howse

"I learnt that pigs are way bigger than I thought"

Jayden Luciani

"It was good and interesting"

Tyson Kernich

"It was interesting to see how big they actually were."

Angus Hamilton

"I enjoyed the Ag excursion because we learnt about how the pig life cycle works and where the pigs stay for each part of their life"

Lucy Rowe

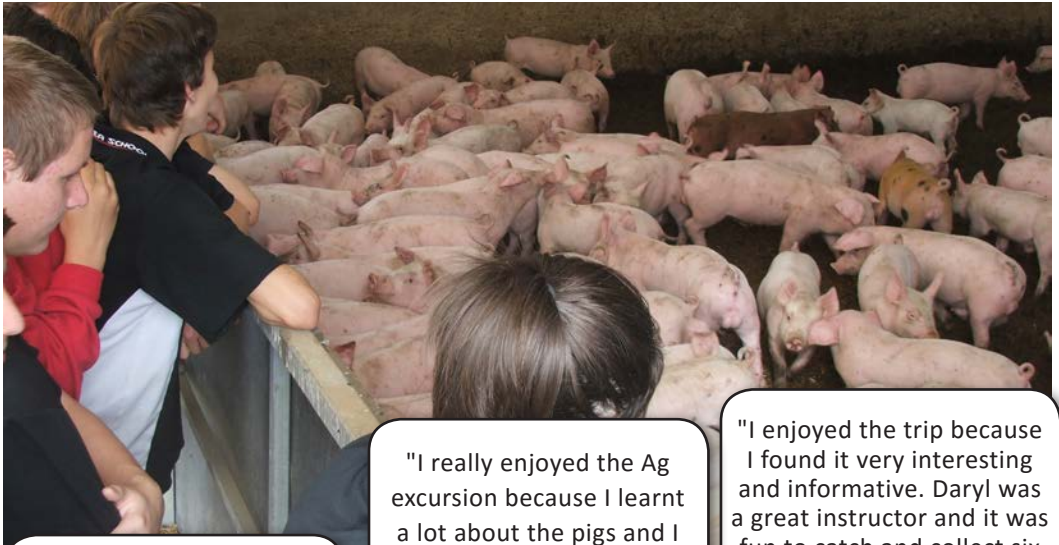
"I learnt that pigs can have up to 14 piglets"

Dekan

"Pig's hair is very rough"

Kimberly Papps





"I can't wait to eat the pigs"

Mattaya Warrior

"I really enjoyed the Ag excursion because I learnt a lot about the pigs and I liked holding the piglets and collecting six."

Krystal Masculet

"I enjoyed the trip because I found it very interesting and informative. Daryl was a great instructor and it was fun to catch and collect six pigs. I can't wait to raise and look after them!"

Olivia Dyett



"It was interesting to see how they farm pigs compared to other animals I know of."

Ben Smart



"I liked holding the piglets but I didn't enjoy the smell"

Will Bennett



"It was interesting and fun to hold the pigs"

Tiana Short



"It stunk really bad!!"

Tyson Fensch



Animal Care

Tim Tuck | Head of Primary



Our Performing Arts Centre now has two semi-permanent inhabitants (no, not mice!) living in the front foyer. Rex (an Eastern Blue-Tongue lizard) and Axel (a Mexican Walking Fish) have moved in and are being cared for by a very enthusiastic band of students.



Thank you to Emily, Elouise and Macushla who are feeding both animals, removing old food, watering plants, replacing water filters, checking pH levels and ensuring both animals are comfortable and cared for. Thanks also to Macy and Steph who take Rex out for walks before band on Wednesdays. Both animals have become more energetic, responsive and inquisitive under the students care. Well done!

NAPLAN TESTS

Ensuring the smooth running of the Naplan tests is a difficult task and all credit goes to Deputy Principal Beth Hector for her organisation and administration of these important data-gathering tools. I supervised the Year 3 students over the four tests and

it's a shame that students' enthusiasm and concentration aren't graded as the class would easily get an A! Well done to Mr Mills for his preparation and well done to the students for giving it your best shot.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

This year our Year 2/3 class were loaned recorders and recorder books. The Year 5 students have saxes, flutes, trumpets, trombones and clarinets. Older students have hired similar instruments. All are having tuition and many are involved in class ensembles, year level bands and the Concert Band.

But despite the teaching time, financial commitment from school and families, there's a missing element that would increase students' ability, progress and enjoyment: practice!

Practice is simply the best way to get better!

And with music, a little bit goes a long way. One student admitted they'd finally done 10 minutes practice - for the week! The improvement in their playing was noticeable, in fact a whole grade noticeable!

"Practice isn't the thing you do *when you're good.* It's the thing you do that *makes you good.*"

Malcolm Gladwell

I encourage parents to encourage their music-playing children to do that practice, if only for the ten minutes! Help your child make the most of this wonderful opportunity to learn music by having your child:

- Take their instrument home.
- Play through the pieces from their lesson.
- Play along with the accompaniment CD
- Play to the family.

With practice your child will see improvement, and with improvement comes engagement and greater satisfaction and achievement. Start your ten minutes *this week!*



SCHOOL CHOIR

The school choir's performance at the opening of Vinnie's Maitland Store earlier this term received many positive comments, and they repeated their fine singing with an impromptu performance at the 4/5S assembly.

It's terrific to see the mix of ages, experience and skill in the choir and I look forward to hearing more from the group.

Although the choir is a voluntary activity, I'd like to remind students that they have made a commitment to the group and any changes to that commitment can impact on the whole choir. Students reconsidering their involvement are encouraged to discuss any issues with Mrs Schwartz or myself and should be aware that parents will be consulted before changes are made.

INSTRUMENT HIRE CHANGES

Talking of changes, some changes are being made to our instrument hire program as we will be sourcing instruments from the DECD Instrumental Music Service rather than a commercial supplier.

The only effect this will have on students is a change-over of instruments and the signing of a formal hire agreement form. There will be no change in hire-fee costs to parents.

BLUE LIGHT DISCO

The Parents & Friends 'Blue Light Disco' is on next Wednesday in the PAC with R-6 running from 5-6.30pm and 7-12 running from 7-9pm.

The disco is run by the SA Police with supervision from volunteer parents and teachers.

It's also an SRC fund-raiser, so get along and dance (a short part) of the night away!

CONCERT BAND PRACTICE

Due to the Blue Light Disco, the Concert Band is rehearsing at Ardrossan. Students are meeting after school to load the school vehicle before travelling together to AAS.





Mr Salmon's class started their assembly with recounts then shared their HASS 'Treasure Island' maps, which featured compass roses, legends and scales. Next up were their amazing 3D lizards, a combination of Science & Art lessons.

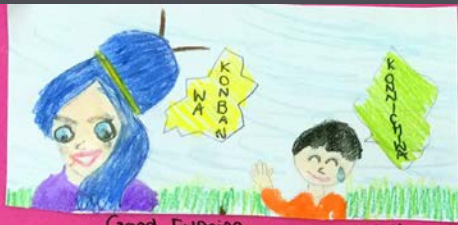
There were lots of merit cards to hand out with quite a few younger students getting special cards for 50 nights of reading.

Mr Salmon's class is famed for its Maths activities and the students shared their perimeter drawings with us.

After an entertaining video of the class activities this year the choir performed our closing song.

Japanese Anime Comics

Students have been demonstrating their Japanese language skills as well as some amazing drawing skills with their Anime influenced writing projects.



Good Evening
 こんにちは

Hello
 こんにちは



I am Adele
 あいげんまです

I am sam
 あいげんまでタムです

Bella & Evie



Healthy Thankyou
 けはたす

How are you?
 おけはたすか



See you later
 ままたの

Good bye
 さようなら



Ilea & Ella

Japanese Exchange 2016

UPDATE

Our visitors have now confirmed numbers for our exchange and we will be hosting 21 students. Already generous MAS families have offered to take 11 students, so we're half way there!

Please consider hosting an exchange student (or two!) and help ensure our visitors have a wonderful Aussie experience. If you'd like to be involved, please contact Mrs Derrington at the school with your preferences for a male or female student (or students!)

SCHEDULE (AUGUST)

- 2 Leave Japan (Afternoon)
- 3 Arrive Adelaide travel to Maitland
- 3-7 Host families and school in Maitland
- 8 Leave Maitland
- 9 Arrive back in Japan.

HOSTING

Hosting can be a wonderful experience for all the family (just ask any of our previous host families!).



As well as providing a genuine Australian experience for the visiting students it's a great opportunity for children to develop their language skills, gain valuable insights into both Japanese and Australian cultures and potentially pave the way for reciprocal hosting when our students travel to Japan.

We'll be holding cultural sessions a little closer to the date to answer questions and learn a little more about Japan.





PROUDLY PRESENTS

2016 Music is fun

MAS RECREATION CENTRE ★ 10:15 THURSDAY JUNE 9 ★ \$8 PER STUDENT





USING YOUR MAS SKOOLBAG APP

Demand for the MAS Skoolbag app has been strong with downloads representing almost half our school community's families. Users of the app have already been notified of more than ten school circulars, sixteen alerts and have all this year's newsletters at their fingertips.

DOWNLOADS

To download your the free app, head to the App Store on your iPhone or iPad or to the 'Play Store' if you're an Android user and search for 'Maitland Area School'. Click to install and you're away!

PUSH CATEGORIES

Following feedback, we've expanded our alert categories to include SAASTA and the P & F.

School Sections

- 7-12 (Secondary)
- R-6 (Primary)
- Children's Centre
- Point Pearce AS

Classes

- R/1 Atkins
- 2 Atkins
- 3 Mills
- 4/5 Salmon /
Derrington
- 5/6 Davies / Koch
- 7/8 Townsend
- 9 McLean
- 10 Moore
- 11/12 Thomson

Bus Routes

- Buses: Arthurton
- Buses: Balgowan
- Buses: Point Pearce
- Buses: Port Victoria
- Buses: Sandilands
- Buses: Urania
- Buses: Winulta

Other

- Governing Council
- House Team: Eagles
- House Team: Sharks
- Music: Choir
- Music: Concert Band
- Music: Instrumental
- Parents & Friends
- SAASTA
- SRC
- Staff

SETTING UP ALERTS

By enabling push notifications, you can receive alerts from the school. These alerts can be customised so you only receive those relevant to your child or children.

To set your alert choices:

1. Tap the **More** on the bottom menu.
2. Tap **Setup Push Notifications**
3. Select the Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch

ABSENTEE FORM

The MAS Skoolbag app has a handy built-in Absentee Form. Use this to directly inform the school of a current, or pending absence.

1. At the main menu, tap **eForms**.



2. On the eForms menu, tap **Absentee Form**.



3. Complete the form with the relevant details. Please note that all fields must be filled with the exception of the Parent / Carer Email Address and the Parent/Carer Mobile No.

- Student First Name*
- Student Last Name*
- Student Class / Year*
- Parent/Carer First Name
- Parent/Carer Last Name
- Parent/Carer Email Address
- Parent/Carer Mobile No.
- Away Start Date*
Select a date from the date spinner
- Away Finish Date*
Select a date from the date spinner
- Away Full Day*
Select Full Day / Part Day / Late
- Reason for Absence Comments*
Type in box
- Has Doctor Certificate*
Select yes / no from spinner
- Please sign here*
Tap the screen area. Sign, tap done.

Away Start Date*:		
18 May 2016		
15	February	2013
16	March	2014
17	April	2015
18	May	2016
19	June	2017
20	July	2018
21	August	2019

Away for Full Day*:	
Full Day	▼
Full Day	
Part Day	
Late	

Reason for Absence Comments*:
Sore throat

Please sign here:
Jan Denton

4. Tap the submit button. Your form is emailed to the School Office.



Please note that the school may contact you to verify details.

blue light dance party

Wednesday 25th May
Performing Arts Centre
Maitland Area School

5.00pm – 6.30pm R-Yr6
7.00pm – 9.00pm Yr7-12

ALL WELCOME

\$5 entry

POLICE SUPERVISED

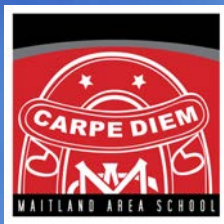
DJ

PRIZES

LOCK – IN EVENT

CANTEEN





we need

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS!

Please consider becoming a canteen
VOLUNTEER by donating a few hours to
help in the **CANTEEN** this term.

Vic and Annette would greatly appreciate the extra
VOLUNTEER hands and especially on
the busy days from Wednesday to Friday.



Call the school on 8832 2613 and put YOUR hand up to help.



11

May

↑ Stage 1 & 2 Aquatics Camp at Port Vincent

big pictures big pictures

5

May

↓ Year 5/6 Mother's Day cards and gifts.





17

May

↑ Senior Ag students picking out the pigs.

big pictures big pictures

17

May

↓ Reading practice in the Year 2 class.



The Back Page

CALENDAR DATES

MAY

- 19 MAS Cross Country - 11am
- 19-20 SAASTA Power Cup
- 20 YP Vets Visit to JP
SYP Leaders Day
3M Primary Assembly
- 25 Year 8/9 9-a-side football (Maitland)
Blue Light Disco
- 26 Open Netball (Maitland)

JUNE

- 1 8/9 Netball at Ardrossan
- 3 R/1A Primary Assembly
- 6 SYP schools Pupil Free Day
- 9 Music Is Fun Band concert
- 13 Queen's Birthday
- 17 R-6 Primary Assembly
- 20 7-9 Camp to Erappa
Yr 10 Work Experience
IMS Music Camp

JULY

- 1 Primary Assembly - Mr Tuck
- 4 Pre-service teachers arrive
- 4-8 Year 10 Work Experience
- 7 Reports go home
- 8 SRC Assembly
2pm dismissal
- 25 First Day of Term 3
- 29 Primary Assembly - Mr Tuck
Trees Day

AUGUST

- 3 Japanese Exchange begins
Band performance to MAS 2pm



LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

Monday	12.00 - 7.00
Tuesday	9.30 - 4.30
Wednesday	9.30 - 4.30
Thursday	12.00 - 7.00
Friday	10.00 - 4.30