



MOUNT BARKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and Child Development

Dates to Remember

Week 10:
Mon 02/04—
Easter Monday

Week 11:
Fri 14/04—
Last Day of Term -
Finish at 2.10pm
Casual Day - Gold coin
donation for school
performance

Term 2

Week 1:
Mon 30/04—
First day back!

Newsletter

A Community of Successful Learners

Week 9 Term 1 – 30/03/2018

Harmony Day 2018



This year for Harmony Day, Room 1 worked with their buddies in Room 17 to create hearts. The message of Harmony Day is to respect everyone's differences and live together peacefully.

After we finished the base, we decorated them with feathers and beads. We then wrote a message of peace on a pop stick and weaved it on to the heart.



When we finished, we hung the hearts up on a small tree out the front of the school.

After we hung the hearts up, the little buddies whispered their message to the trees so the trees could give it to the wind so the wind takes it around the world.

By Josiah and Coby Rm 1



Acting Principal: Jo Simpson

Excelsior Awards

Week 9



Kiss and Drop

Please drop your children off and pick them up at the top entrance, near the bus shelter on Apollo St. **Do not** drop off or pick up children at the entrance near the staff car park or let them walk through the staff car park. There have been a number of near misses due to cars stopping at the car park entrance as drivers behind you expect you to continue up to the bus shelter entrance.

The expectation, particularly for pick up is that cars pick students up at the **bus shelter entrance**. Too many cars stop half way between the staff car park entrance and the bus shelter entrance, effectively blocking the line up of cars behind. It is simply not safe for cars behind to pull out and overtake the car that is blocking them.

Please be responsible role models and follow our Kiss and Drop protocols as they are there to make sure everyone stays safe

Bikes, Scooters and Skateboards

Just a reminder that for safety and security purposes all wheels must be **walked** by students through the school yard at the beginning and the end of the day. We have had way too many near misses with wheels being ridden.

The bike rack is not secure, so students will need to bring their own locks to school to secure bikes. Scooters need to be housed in the bike rack area and skateboards in the front office.

Please be aware that the school is unable to take responsibility for lost or damaged wheels and they are brought to school at your own risk.

Autism Awareness Day - April 2nd

Let's Talk About Autism

I have autism. And I'm not ashamed to admit that.

It may come as a bit of a surprise to you, as the only autism you may know of being exposed to have is the low-functioning, severe, non-verbal kind. I do not have low-functioning autism. I am a high-functioning autistic. There's a whole spectrum of autism, (that's why its full name is autism spectrum disorder) and no two people with autism are the same. Those with high-functioning autism/mild autism/Asperger's syndrome do indeed face extremely different issues to those with low functioning autism, but there are similar issues affecting the majority of the spectrum that most people do not know.

Imagine having all five senses multiplied by one hundred. Many people with autism, myself included, have never experienced complete silence. We always hear the humming of the lights, or a bird outside, or even the sound of our own breath. We always hear this loud and clear, even in noise-filled crowded room. We feel labels in our clothes for the entirety of the day if they are not cut out, some smells and tastes make us literally unable to breathe. After this all gets too much (trust me, this usually doesn't take too long for most) we can experience something called sensory overload. If visible to others, it probably looks like a tantrum (If you were wondering, I haven't experienced full-blown sensory overload in years, but it still stands. You just learn how to repress it). However, we are not waiting to see if others respond. We want to get out of there as quick as possible, and we certainly don't need judgement from others. I know our behaviours may seem self-injurious to those around us and it may seem funny to see a child who is not two kicking off and screaming, but who are you to judge? You have absolutely no idea what it is like.

Imagine being seen as rude when you do not get the gist of social norms. Most people are born with a general understanding but just need to be reminded to mind their P's and Q's from time to time. Usually, they are well-mannered by the age of four or so. Well... we are all still learning, whether we are eight or eighty. We do try our hardest to think before we speak, but we slip up quite a lot. Sure, it's funny and cute when a three year old says something they shouldn't, but when a nine year old accidently starts an argument between their family after they repeat something their parents muttered under their breath (Guess who did that, kids!), you're seen as rude and inconsiderate...

A Community of Successful Learners

Autism Awareness Day - April 2nd

Imagine struggling to catch a ball, hold a pen or do anything that involves fine or gross motor skills. We are the children that run with a gait, who are always picked last for the team, whose handwriting ranges from scruffy to illegible. The worst thing is, we are not often given help for this. As autism is known as an invisible disability, people think we are not trying hard enough, children laugh at our mishaps, we feel left out and like a failure on many occasions.

Although after reading this article autism may seem like a terrible thing to have that will ruin your entire life, don't be fooled! All of the best scientists (Einstein, Edison, etc.) that changed our world and way of thinking drastically were rumoured to have autism, along with such famous faces as Daryl Hannah, Tim Burton and the legendary Temple Grandin. We can go on to do the most amazing things if our self-esteem isn't shattered.

Autism has no known cause and no known cure, but there is somebody who can make life easier for those who are diagnosed.

It's you.

Autism Awareness Day is coming up on April 2nd, and you will probably be told to wear blue to make people more aware, but I want you to do more than that. Make every day autism awareness day. Try to make a safe space if somebody with autism is on edge at a party. Gently nudge them if they say something wrong. Pick them for your team if playing sports. Even smiling and saying hello in the corridor. Small gestures matter. Often, they can speak louder than words ever could. Please, be autism aware.

Thank you.

Written by Beth Hiatt, 13; for Autistic Not Weird

At Mount Barker Primary School one of the things that I am most proud of is our inclusive and supportive environment. We have several students who are on the Autism Spectrum and as educators we work hard to ensure that the diversity and differences they bring to our school are celebrated. Happy Autism Day to you all!

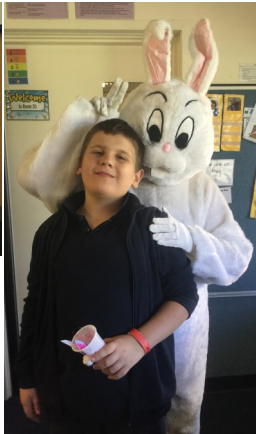
Jo Simpson



Easter Bunny Visit



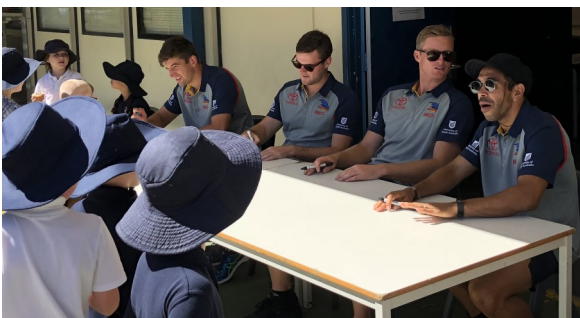
The Easter Bunny came to visit this week.



Adelaide Crows Visit

Some Adelaide Crows players came to visit the school recently. They went around the classrooms, had a chat and signed a lot of posters.

There were a lot of happy faces on the day!



Student Clean Up

A small, but dedicated group of students were quick to offer up their lunchtime to help with some general tidying at the front of the school last week. They made a huge improvement to the crossing and along the front fence. Well done!

Following on from last week's successful clean-up, a larger group of students decided that the "block" needed some similar treatment, with several bags of litter collected at lunchtime on Wednesday.

It's great to see students taking the initiative to improve the environment of the school and near surrounds.



Governing Council

The new Governing Council for 2018 met on 20th March and were quickly down to work, led by new Chairperson, Daniel Austin.



Swim Vac 2018

Swimvac is a week-long swimming programme and excellent opportunity for your child to gain valuable skills and produce noticeable results.

Classes: Seahorse, Penguin, Seal, Starfish, Marlin, Dolphin, Kingfish and Superfish.

Week 1: 16/04 to 20/04

Week 2: 23/04 to 27/04 (ANZAC Day on 25th)

Times: 9 / 9:30 / 10 and 10:30am

Please call State Swim Mt Barker on 8391 1213 for more information.

We need curtains!

The performing arts room is very fortunate to be shortly getting a small set of stage lights which will transform learning opportunities for all our students in this subject. However, our new stage lights won't be much use unless we can shut out the sunlight! Can you help? Do you have any thick black out curtain material and rails that we use in the performing arts room. We're very lucky to have a volunteer called Ros who is pretty handy with a sewing machine and who has kindly offered to help run up any suitable material into curtains.

If you do - give Steve a call in Performing Arts or leave a message with Reception. Thanks!

Camps Information

Please be aware that Year 6/7 camp is **NOT** going ahead as there was not enough interest. We needed 70 students to express an interest in the camp and we received only 53 responses. We extended the deadline for responses and sent out reminders via Facebook and SMS however we still did not receive enough responses. The year 6/7 teachers are currently investigating some alternatives and will be sending out further information in term 2.

The Year 3/4 camp will be going ahead and information will be sent out early in term 2. This will enable families to set up payments plans if required.