



Mount Compass Area School Newsletter

17th November 2023
Week 5 Issue 7

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From the Principal

Dear Families,

As we bring you our last newsletter for the year, it provides a great opportunity to reflect on the past year and also flag a few upcoming events. What a year it has been, with so many fabulous opportunities for our student to learn, connect and grow. The highlights for me have definitely been continuing to get to know the students, spending time in the classrooms, and observing the students engaging in deep learning. There have been a number of curriculum and learning reforms this year where we have worked with the Literacy Guarantee Unit and other curriculum leads to focus on changing our approach to reading and spelling in our Junior School and also focusing on high impact teaching strategies in maths in the Middle Years. Staff have an ongoing commitment to their own learning and professional development and we certainly value the time we can come together to focus on this and then embed our learning back in the classroom.

Another school priority has been our data focus where we are investigating the information from the range of assessments students complete, to ensure we are using this to inform our teaching and learning. Again we have worked with specialist staff from the department during our student free days and staff meetings. Our plan for our upcoming student free day on Friday 1st December, is to continue our data focus to work together to review student achievements and results, and also set our directions for 2024. We will also provide time for 'handover' and a deep dive into the learning needs of individual students in order to support a positive transition and learning success in 2024.

We are currently working on class placements for next year and will hopefully be able to communicate this information to families before the end of the year. Starting in a new class is certainly an exciting time, but for some students (and parents), it can be an anxious time.

Here are a few tips to support this transition:

- Set up some play times with children from the new class over the holidays to help develop some new friendships
- Talk through any issues or fears your child might have – whether these are about friends, grades or teachers. Instead of focusing on the 'what ifs', try and steer them towards 'what is'...and what they can do to change the situation to support a growth mindset and resilience

Continued...

DIARY DATES

- Christmas Casual Day**
Friday 24th Nov
- Year 3-5 Swimming**
Monday 27th Nov-Thursday 30th Nov
- Student Free Day**
Friday 1st Dec
OSHC will be open
- JS EOY Final Assembly**
Thursday 14th Dec 9:00am
- EOY Awards & Graduation Ceremony**
Friday 15th Dec 9:30am
- Early finish Last day of Term**
Friday 15th Dec 1:00pm
- Term 1 begins**
Monday 29th Jan
- Reading Army**
Monday - Thursday 8:30-8:50 am

- Principal**
Lucie Walker
- Deputy Principal**
Andrew Cousins
- Inclusive Education Leader R-12**
Bre Bradley
- Student Wellbeing Leader**
Helen Fonfe
- Junior School Coordinators**
Callie-Ann Evans/Hayley Clarke
- Acting Middle School Coordinator**
Vince Nizzola
- Senior School Coordinator**
Samantha McEntee
- Pastoral Care Worker**
Chrisna van Zyl
- Governing Council Chair**
Andrew Bradley
- Parents & Friends President**
Janelle Paech



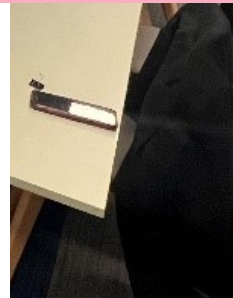
Government of South Australia
Department for Education



From the Principal

- If your child isn't in a class with their friends, help them set up meeting spots for recess and lunch so they can still connect with their friends
- As a parent try to stay calm and present school as a fun, positive experience – children look to us for our reactions and mimic these
- If you are worried about your child transitioning to a new class – please **LET US KNOW** and we can make an extra effort to check-in and “handle with care”

[Tackling back to school anxiety \(beyondblue.org.au\)](https://beyondblue.org.au)
[Back-to-School Anxiety | Child Mind Institute](#)



Some exciting news...

You may have noticed a flurry of activity on the western side of the school oval as our brand new playground is being installed. There is some retaining to be done and soft fall added, and then it will be ready for play! Thanks to our Parents and Friends for their financial contribution, advocacy and all of the research and investigation they undertook to make sure the playground would suit our needs. This will predominantly be a play space for our middle school students, however we will ensure that we have a roster in place so that the younger students can play too.

As the year draws to a close, I encourage you to come along to our end of year assemblies and other functions (see SchoolStream for details) as we have a lot to celebrate. Thank you for your support over the year as we worked together to educate and care for your children. I hope you all have a fabulous rest of the year and a safe and restful time over the Christmas school holidays.

Kind regards

Lucie

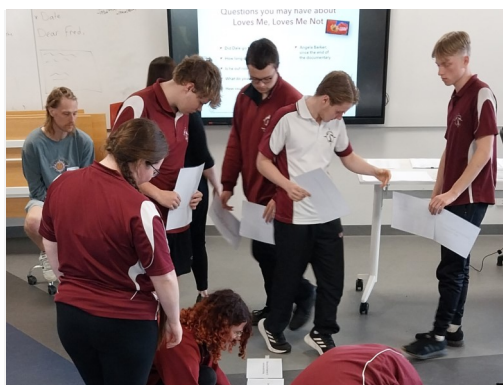
What's been happening?

LOVE BITES

Thank you to the Team at Fleurieu Families for coming and working with our year 10 and year 11 students. Over 2 days, our students discussed safe, responsible and respectful relationships. At times the content discussed was confronting and thought provoking and created meaningful discussions. The aim was to empower our young people to be more confident forming healthy and respectful relationships.

<https://www.napcan.org.au/Programs/love-bites/>

Love Bites is extremely successful Respectful Relationships Education Program for young people aged 15-17 years.



What's been happening?



OPERATION FLINDERS

In August, year 12 student Tanaya Kemp, travelled to Papua New Guinea with some of the Operation Flinders team, to complete the Kokoda track.

In this first photo you can see the team standing under one of the wings, of the twin otter plane that flew them from Port Moresby airfield to the Kokoda Village Air strip. When the team arrived in the village of Kokoda, they were greeted by many of the village children and families who were very excited to meet new people.



The group spent some time at the Kokoda war memorial and met the porter team before taking some photos under the Kokoda track arches, and then starting their journey.

The track had lots of challenges including a very wet and humid first few days, some very steep inclines and declines of mountains, and also some psychological challenges that come with trekking such a hard track.



On day 4 the team arrived at the village of Abuari, which is home to many of their porters. The team were greeted by the village children, who presented them with flower necklaces as well as a fresh fruit feast. The team were fortunate enough to be hosted at Abuari for the whole of day 5, meaning they were able to visit the school, get to know some of the children and families, as well as play some games with the village people.



The group visited many historical sites across the Kokoda track, whilst learning about some of the important history which took place in these spots. At the Isurava battle site camp, the team read plaques about the history of the site, and also did some self-reflection in front of the four memorial stones. The stones were engraved with four phrases, Courage, Endurance, Mate-ship, and Sacrifice. These four phrases are very important and sentimental as they are some of the aspects needed and shown within strong individuals.

The last photo is of the Team moments after completing the track, they are seen in front of the arches at Owers Corner. The team felt very accomplished and emotional, with some left in disbelief that they had completed such an amazing journey as well not wanting the experience to end.

Operation Flinders participants can be referred through the school they attend.

Article by Tanaya





What's been happening?

SWAMP AMBASSADORS

On Wednesday the 13th of September, the Swamp Ambassadors, Young Environmental Leaders, Youth Environment Council members and some volunteers helped Rachel and Chris Nieuwehnhoven start the revegetation process in our school swamp. Together, we cleared, dug holes and planted approximately 130 seedlings before staking each one with a tree guard donated by FP-AG. The plants were grown by John from Fleurieu Natives.

GOVERNOR'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to Amarli Carmichael who presented her final project and graduated from the Governor's Youth Leadership Foundation on Wednesday the 25th of October. Amarli took part in a two-day camp at Mylor in June. She then participated in workshops during June, August and September with group mentors at University of South Australia. Amarli volunteered at foodbank and also met with her sponsor, OZ Harvest. At the Graduation Ceremony Amarli presented an 8 minute speech in-front of almost 100 people including the Governor.

SCHOOL VEGGIE GARDEN

In Home Economics this year students across the Middle School have been designing, building and growing their own vegetable garden. Students conducted their own research and decided which foods they wanted to grow. They have used this part of their study to learn about healthy eating, sustainability and reducing waste. Produce is now used in the school kitchen and is also available for purchase on the school's Market Cart, located outside the front office. Well done kids!

JUNIOR SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

This week Ms Gillett's Year 1/2 Class hosted the final regular Junior School Assembly for the year. All Year 3s from Mrs Clarke & Mr Hansen's class along with Ms Foster & Ms Ollino's class shared their recent learning with the audience.

We congratulate our award winners listed below, who received a School Values award for displaying either Respect (R), Kindness (K) or Integrity (I).

R Davis	Aspen D (R)	Neiva L (K)	Octacia K (I)		
R/1 Steimanis/Coleman	Tanner C (I)	Mila D (K)			
1/2 Gillett	Bella P (R)	Bryden P (I)			
2 Stewart	Flynn H (K)	Harrison (K)	Casey D (I)		
3 Clarke/Hansen	Mason L (R)	Allana D-D (I)	Anttony H (K)		
3 Foster/Ollino	Marcus J (I)	Taj B (K)	Jayden O (K)	Tao D (R)	
4 Woodward	Eleanor A (K)	Sophia H-B (R)	Connor J (K)	Asher R (I)	Charlotte D (I)
4/5 Becker	Nathan D (I)	Scarlett F (R)	Maya B (K)		
5 De Zilwa	Finn L (R)	Susannah C (I)	Ella G (R)		



The Youth Governor's Leadership Foundation program is designed for students in Year 10 from a diverse mix of backgrounds and schools.





What's been happening?

TERM 3 LEXILE AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students who received a Lexile Award for their Term 3 reading achievements.

Bronze (10 or more quizzes passed or 75,000 words read)				Silver (25 or more quizzes passed or 100,000 words read)		Gold (50 or more quizzes passed or 150,000 words read)	
Ms Stewart		Mrs Clarke/Mr Hansen		Ms Stewart		Ms Foster / Ms Ollino	
Oliver A	Eira P	Dawson C	Bailey S	Billie P	Darcy S	Isaac D	
Zahlia D	Kai H	Eva S	Holly T	Ms Foster / Ms Ollino		Mrs Becker	
Keely H	Flynn H	Eliza H	Harry M	Sky-Lah S		Mila P	Jasmine P
Kingsley H	Ella K	Mrs Becker		Mrs Clarke/Mr Hansen		Jade T	Torah P
Sam M		Hudson T	Esha B	Harmony C		Saxon H	Laura C
Ms Foster / Ms Ollino		Nathan D	Lorenzo P	Ms De Zilwa		Jade K	
Taj B	Iggi G	Ms De Zilwa		Sahara M	Skylah M	Ms De Zilwa	
Max A	Stella D	Hayden C	Lenny G	Indiana S		Esther B	Susannah C
Gary E	Ella M	Delaney S				Mitchell D	Maya K
Jayden O							

Not only does regular reading help make you smarter, but it can also actually increase your brainpower.

SAVE THE DATE

Our final Junior School Assembly for the year which includes performances by all classes and awards will be held on **Thursday 14th December during Week 9**. We hope all families can join us for this exciting showcase and recognition of award winners.

TERM 4 JUNIOR SCHOOL EVENTS

- **Preschool Orientation Visits** – we are excited to welcome Preschool students who will be our 2024 Receptions to our school for weekly visits on Wednesdays this term.
- **RAA Street Smart Sessions** – *Tuesday 14th November*. Teaching R-3 students about road, bike and pedestrian safety through interactive activities in a 50 minute session.
- **Camp Quality Puppet Show** – *Monday 20th November*. Our R-2 and Year 6 students will each watch a fun and interactive puppet show which educates students about what cancer is and dispels myths in an age appropriate way. This is in support of one of our school families who are continuing to be affected by cancer.
- **Year 3-5 Swimming Lessons** – *Monday 27th November to Thursday 30th November*. Students will learn stroke and water safety & survival skills at Noarlunga Aquatic Centre.





What's been happening?

REBEKHA SHARKIE VISIT

As part of the HASS Curriculum are of Civics and Citizenship, we invited Rebekha Sharkie to speak to the Year 3 to 5 students on Friday the 20th of October. She spoke to students about the Australian Federal Parliament. Some of the Year 5 students participated in various roles that would be part of the House of Representatives Rebekha and Constituent Adviser Rose brought along some dress ups and a script for students to follow. Other students participated by sharing their views about the topic of 'we should ban homework'. We are very thankful that Rebekah was able to fit us into her schedule. Last year we had David Basham speak with students about state parliament. By inviting these people into our school, it supports students' understanding of the different levels of government in Australia.

When Rebekha Sharkie came over, I learnt about the Mace that the Sergeant-at-Arms carries on his shoulder. When the speaker says that someone can speak, they need to say, "thank you speaker," before they speak. If you are up in front, you need to look all fancy in black and white. I learnt that there is an opposition side and a side that agrees. I loved how we were the House of Representatives and we learnt about the Senate.

Willow C (Year 3)

I learnt that there is a speaker and that they sit in a U shape in the House of Representatives. I enjoyed that it was funny and the Year 5 class were the actors. Alex was the Sergeant-at-Arms that carries the Mace. It was in the Lower House and then it goes to the Senate to pass a bill.

Amelia (Year 3)

I learnt what it feels like to be a Federal politician. I learnt what they learn about and I enjoyed seeing Rebekha Sharkie. I found it funny when the kids forgot to say, "thank you speaker."

Clay (Year 3)

I learnt about the people voting and both the Lower and Upper House.

Gary (Year 3)

I thought it was funny when my brother got to hold the Mace and when Gus stood up.

Max (Year 3)

I learnt from Rebekha Sharkie that the House of Representatives has to be in a U shape. I also learnt that there has to be one speaker and a new bill or idea has to go from the Lower House to the Upper House. I enjoyed that we played it in real life.

Ella (Year 3)

I learnt that there is a big gold Mace and a Sergeant-at-arms. I learnt more about the Lower and Upper House in class and while seeing Rebekha Sharkie.

Aiden (Year 3)



Civics and Citizenship provide ways that citizens can actively participate, question and improve democracy.

Continued...





What's been happening?

The Lower House gets the idea and if everyone approves, it gets sent to the Senate. If everyone approves, it gets sent back to the Lower House to then be approved by The Governor General.

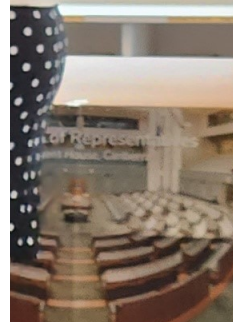
Isaac (Year 3)

I thought it was funny when Marcus got up to speak about why we should ban homework.

Lincoln (Year 3)

The Upper House is the Senate and the Lower House is the House of Representatives. If you want to pass a bill, it has to go to the House of Representatives and if they say yes, it has to go to the Senate. If they say yes, it has to go back to the Lower House and if they say yes again, it goes to the Governor General. If they approve it, it then becomes a bill.

Liam (Year 3)



THE MUSIC ROOM

A hearty cheer for our Year 8 student Stirling Down who spent two days, in Week, 4 with the Instrumental Music Concert Band at a workshop culminating in a performance of songs at Ridley Hall on the Adelaide Showgrounds. The concert band included students from across the state. We are very proud of Stirling, particularly as this is his first year learning the Trumpet.

Congratulations also go to the many children who have begun their instrumental music journey this year. We have had students learning the strings including both Violin and Cello. There have also been Brass and Woodwind instruments learnt including the Flute, Saxophone and Trumpet and which formed an ensemble that rehearses a few times each term.

Next year these students will have the opportunity to continue their learning.

If your child is in year 3 next year (2024), then there is the opportunity to learn Violin or Cello. If they are in year 5 or above (2024) then there is the opportunity to learn brass or woodwind instruments. Currently students are learning trumpet, saxophone, or flute and next year we would like to add Clarinet to that list if your child should be interested.

If you would like more information, then please contact me – Michael Hansen at the school.

YEAR 10 HOME ECONOMICS

This Semester, students in Year 10 Food and Hospitality have been researching and working on Native Foods Design Tasks. All students have spent time learning about the different native Australian foods and their health benefits. In groups, they had to come up with a meal and choose a native ingredient which had to be the 'star' of the dish. The students had to also calculate the costings and design their own menu cards. On Friday, the 3rd of November the students created their meals and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Native foods are naturally nutritious and a great source of different vitamins and minerals.





What's been happening?

BUSH TUCKER GARDEN

On 9th November our Bush Tucker Garden was almost complete. We have planted lemon myrtle, lilly pillies, native currant, native river mint, pig face, grey salt bush and muntries. We just have quandong and blueberry lily to go. The Bush Tucker Committee is getting the mural ready for students who won the competition to add their artwork. Thank you to the members for their hard work Shae, Janelle, Adam, Ailee (and Ms Foster).

Thank you to the Target Works team Lorenzo, Oscar and Sam who worked with Roy to get the beds organized and weeded for us. That was a huge job! Thank you to Kym for collecting the mulch and Mr Sinclair for setting up the watering system, and students from Target Works Duke, Kaitlin, Liam, Will, Hayden, Braxton, Jack NT, Jack C, Sam and Oscar who put the mulch on the garden.

A group of students from classes who said they were interested in helping in the garden, were involved in the planting. These students are also going to monitor the plants' growth and help with the upkeep of the garden beds. All classes will be given posters explaining what each plant is used for.

We can't wait until the plants grow and we can use them in our cooking. Thank you to Woolworths, CRT, and Bunnings Victor Harbor for their funding and generous donations.

THANKS FOR YOUR CARROT-TASTIC SUPPORT

In May I applied for a scholarship to be involved in the youth governor's leadership program. I went on a 2-day camp at Mylor after getting accepted into the program. My role was to spread awareness about fighting food waste. I then gave a speech in front of the Governor of South Australia.

My Home Group teacher Mr Gramola convinced me to wear the same carrot costume that I wore during my presentation to the Governor and give carrots to members of the junior school at recess in exchange for the opportunity to shave his beard
Amarli Carmichael (Year 10)



When we waste food, we also waste all the energy and water it takes to grow, harvest, transport, and package it.

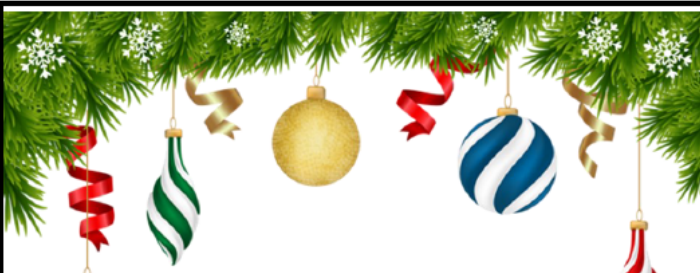
Resource Centre

2023 Premier's Reading Challenge has been extremely exciting this year with the additional celebration of the 20th Anniversary Challenge. The school had 131 students participate in reading 12 books over the course of the year. The extra 20th Anniversary Challenge was for students to read 20 books. The 8 students who participated read 32 books this year because they participated in both challenges. We are proud of everyone who gave their best and achieved this amazing effort.

1 st Year Certificate	2 nd Year Bronze	3 rd Year Silver	4 th Year Gold	5 th Year Champion	6 th Year Legend	7 th Year Hall of Fame	20 th Anniversary
30	22	28	17	20	11	3	8



Community News




We invite you to join us at the

Junior School End of Year Celebration Assembly

Thursday 14th December 2023

9am - In the Gym



MOUNT COMPASS WAR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE INC Tim Stokes Memorial Trust - Awards 2023-2024

Important dates:

1. Applications accepted from 1st November 2023
2. Closure date for applications 15th January 2024
3. All applicants notified after 31st January 2024

Background: The *Tim Stokes Trust Fund* was set up by the Mount Compass community in 2002 as a way of honouring the memory of our much respected doctor who unfortunately passed away before his time. 'Dr Tim' was particularly well regarded for his compassion & care shown to the young people of this district. With this in mind, the fund has made awards every year to assist local people under the age of 30, in a variety of ways to help them reach their next level of achievement.

The Trustee of this perpetual fund is the Mount Compass War Memorial Community Centre Inc. With the assistance of the generous volunteers working in our local Op-shop, the Community Centre is pleased to be able to offer Scholarship awards again for the year 2023-24.

Where you can obtain Application Guidelines & Forms:

1. Mount Compass Area School (Reception desk)
2. Melita's IGA
3. Mount Compass Community Op Shop
4. Digital copies from: timstokestrust@gmail.com
5. Contacts: Bob Martin 0401 763 273





FREE Parent Workshop

Understanding reading difficulties - Why some children struggle and how to help

- Develop an understanding of reading difficulties, including dyslexia
- Develop a practical understanding of the associated characteristics and difficulties
- Explore ways to support your child

This 2 hour workshop is a great first step to gaining a better understanding of reading difficulties and practical strategies that can help your child.

Monday 27 of November, 12:30pm - 2:30pm

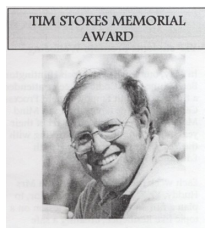


Victor Harbor Library




BOOK ONLINE at:
speldsa.org.au/regional-parent-workshops

Thank you to the Department for Education for supporting this initiative.



Community News



Mount Compass Area School

Year Group Captains 2024

Nominate for our future

Nominate yourself or another student to represent your year group as a student leader.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Step 1
Ask permission to nominate that student. Tell them why you are nominating them. Students may nominate themselves.

Step 2
Give the name of your nominee and the reason for their nomination to a member of staff

Step 3
Your nomination will be submitted by the staff member using Microsoft Forms.

REMEMBER: You must have the permission of the student before lodging the nomination

NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE FRIDAY, WEEK 8, 8TH DECEMBER,



Prizes for Best Dressed

CHRISTMAS CASUAL DAY

Christmas theme Casual Day

Friday 24th November

Gold coin or Christmas decoration donation
Money raised will be spent on Christmas decorations for the school

OLIVE OIL - TARGET WORKS

The Target Work students were given an opportunity to experience harvesting olives at Strout Farm, Willunga.

The olives picked produced 200 litres of olive oil. The Frantoio Extra Virgin Olive Oil is available in 1 litre bottles. Purchasing bottle/s of the olive oil can be made on QKR for \$15/bottle and collected from Student Services or simply come into Student Services, pay and collect.

All profits will go to the Target Works program.



SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT ZONE

Please can the community be reminded that it is 25km when children are present on Arthur Road, School Road or the Town Oval. Alexandrina Council are considering extra safety measures which can be put in place for Arthur Road because it has become especially dangerous when students are walking to the school farm or the boardwalk on Arthur Road.



SCHOOL STREAM FREE APP

Mount Compass Area School uses this fantastic app called School Stream. Parents/caregivers can receive instantaneous information, class news, newsletters, alerts, forms etc right on your phone.



1. Download the app to your mobile device,
2. Agree to push notifications
3. The administrator will then approve the account
4. Once approved, open the app
5. Type your school name into the search THEN select Mount Compass Area School