



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education  
and Child Development

# ON THE VINE

Established 1855



## McLaren Flat Primary School Newsletter No. 1 8/2/2018

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Principal: Stuart Hage

Business Manager: Kerry Hooper  
Governing Council Chairperson: Raechel Hann

**Resilience**

**Responsibility**

**Pride**

**Respect**

**Honesty**



### IMPORTANT DIARY DATES



Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	R-5 Swimming
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	7pm Governing Council
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Acquaintance Night
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	6.30pm Volunteer Training

### No Assembly Week 3 (R-5 Swimming)

### From the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Community members of McLaren Flat Primary School,

Welcome to the 2018 school year.

I trust you enjoyed the holiday break, had a Happy New Year and are looking forward to a productive 2018.

The first week certainly went quickly and I enjoyed catching up with our students and hearing many of their holiday adventures.

Each year we look forward to the challenge of improving our learning opportunities and community.

This year is no different as I have continued to challenge our students to focus on 3 areas:

- 1. Best way to help your learning – be at school, on time, every day.**
- 2. Be Powerful Learners.**
  - Take risks
  - Have a go at everything
  - Learn from their mistakes
  - Learn for themselves, from others and teach others
  - Come to school each day wanting to learn new things
  - Have a growth mindset; understand the power of the word 'yet'.

### 3. Challenge yourself – expect teachers to challenge you!

Staff will also be challenging themselves by focusing on the External review directives and continuing to improve our learning environment for all students.



I would like to welcome all new students and new families to the McLaren Flat Primary School community; 35 new students have started with us this term.

Stuart Hage  
Principal

### House Keeping 2018

#### Assemblies

Assemblies are planned for Thursday morning; week 3, 6 & 9 of each term. These are subject to change when whole school events take priority.

#### School Lunch Orders

School lunch orders are continuing with the McLaren Vale Bakery on Wednesdays. Please note that orders must be placed by 9am Tuesday in the classroom lunch bag.

#### School Crossing

Student monitors manage the crossing before and after school – please support them by following directions and for the safety of all **ensuring that your children or as a family you use the crossing.**

#### Payment Window

Payments can be made to the money window in the morning from 8:30 to 9:15am and in the afternoon from 2:30 – 3:15pm

## School Times

8.30 am Students arrive (**students should not arrive at school earlier as teacher supervision begins at this time**)

- 8.50 am Lessons commence
- 10.50 am Recess break (20mins)
- 11.10 am Lessons continue
- 12.40 pm Lunch eating (10mins)
- 12.50 pm Lunch Break (40mins)
- 1.30 pm Afternoon lessons commence
- 3.10 pm End of day bell
- 3.30 pm Teacher supervision ends



## Parking/Traffic

It is pleasing to see people are using the back entrance to the school for pick up and drop off (avoiding major congestion in the main road).

Please remember this has been structured as a one way path (clockwise around the oval) and take note of the speed restrictions **10km/ph**.

**The safety of our school community is paramount – driving slowly with care will ensure this.**

Please note that if you are parking on the main road, Council Inspectors and Police patrols are targeting inappropriate parking in school zones before and after school.

**Parking in the Community Club/Bowls car park is not part of our lease agreement. Please do not park your car there or use for a drop off before or after school!**

## Newsletters

Newsletters will be published Thursday each fortnight (even weeks of the term).



## Ice Blocks

Ice-blocks will be sold this term on **Fridays** at lunchtime – 50cents.



## Dress Code

The Governing Council continues to actively support the dress code and monitor the quality and variety of clothing on offer. With this in mind I would like to take the opportunity to remind families that navy blue (with the exception of tights with the girls' winter tunic) and black are not school dress code colours and should not be worn to school.

Remember – broad brimmed hats are required for all outside activity and supportive, firm fitting shoes that allow participation in rigorous activity are needed for PE, Health and play times.



## Early Years Unit

The early years team (junior primary classes) are working busily with your children to help them settle back into the school year. Part of this settling is to develop independence and follow routines.

To assist with this (especially in the afternoons) it is asked that parents/carers do not step up onto the decking when collecting children at the end of the day until the final bell.

Seeing mum, dad and younger siblings can be exciting and distracting at a time when the children need their attention on the end of day information and packing up routines.

## Family Holidays

If you are planning a family holiday during term times (for any amount of time) an exemption form is required by DECD to be completed. These forms are available from the office and must be returned to the office prior to going on holidays.

## Year Book 2017

As soon as the year books arrive we will notify families who placed orders in 2017.

## Volunteering

Parent/Community volunteers are an important and valued part of our learning community. There are many opportunities to support the school through volunteering and we wholeheartedly encourage as many people as possible to join us in the development of our students.

### What is required?

**Criminal History Screening:** We encourage all volunteers to undertake a DCSI criminal history screening – information available from the front office, there is no cost (school covers fee).

**Volunteer Induction including Reporting Abuse & Neglect Training (RAN):** All volunteers must now have undertaken this training (formerly known as Mandatory Notification training). The required school induction will be offered this term (you can do RAN component online)

**Find accompanying information! Apologies the address/link sent home earlier about online training no longer exists. A specific note about this training has been forwarded home.**

## Staffing 2018

Stuart Hage – Principal  
Jo Bell - Deputy Principal  
Clint Mullins - Teacher Year 6/7  
Aaron Kinnear- Teacher Year 5/6  
Iliia Grigoris - Teacher Year 4/5  
Diana Barrett – Teacher Year 4  
Jimmy Marin - Teacher Year 4 & Music  
Debbie Loke – Teacher Year 3  
Patty Payne - Teacher Year 2  
Linda Macera - Teacher Rec/Year 1  
Jodie Hobbs - Teacher Rec/Year 1  
Tonya Bishop – Teacher – Science, 6/7 class  
Tania Folland - Teacher – Japanese  
Gabrielle Anderson – Teacher – Library / ICT  
Kathie Davis - Teacher – Special Ed.  
Kerry Hooper – SSO – Business Manager  
Debbie Brooksby – SSO – Front Office / Admin  
Liz Ingoldby – SSO - Student Support  
David Baker – SSO - Student Support  
Kerryn Coventry – SSO – Classroom Support  
Paul Tilden – SSO - ICT technician  
Karen Prenzler – Pastoral Support  
Steve Tilley – Groundsman

## School Attendance

Regular attendance at school is one of a number of key factors relating directly to students' achievement. Being at school, on time, every day, ready to engage in the learning community is an important goal for all children. In 2018 the DECD attendance target is 95%. In 2017 our attendance percentage was 94.6%. Our challenge is to meet this target every year which effectively requires students to ensure they have less than 10 days absent over the four terms.

DECD requires us to monitor student attendance and gives the school detailed data indicating students who are at risk or meet the criteria of 'chronic non attendance.' You will receive a letter in the near future if your child's data for 2017 is of concern – we will then work with you to support an improvement in attendance.

## Acquaintance Night

Staff will be hosting an Acquaintance Night on Tuesday 20th February (Week 4).

This is an opportunity for the teachers to share information with you on the programs, learning, routines and plans your children will experience throughout the year.

An invitation and information on times will be forwarded home.

## Pastoral Care Worker

Welcome back to school for 2018!! It's been really nice to see so many of you and hear about the holiday break. A big welcome especially to new families! I'm wondering if any of you have started off the year like this...

You pick your child up from school and ask:

"How was your day?"

"Good"

"What did you do?"

"Nothing"...

We KNOW they didn't do *NOTHING!* But getting anything out of them is like getting water out of a stone! This is a common scenario for many families – mine included! How can we do this better?

Donna Broadhurst (a counsellor who works with children and families) says that 'When we come together with our child at the end of the day we really need to **focus on the reunion**, because more often than not, our kids have missed us. By starting with something like "There you are! It's so nice to see you. I've missed you" and really focusing on the relationship, children can relax into the reunion which helps ease the transition from school or kindy into the family again.

Asking them a lot of questions such as 'how was your day, where is your bag, who'd you play with today?' can be like an interrogation. This puts a lot of pressure on kids and they don't always know how to respond. What if you were thinking they might play with Joe and

they didn't play with Joe? Are they going to be in trouble now? 'What's the right answer?' Instead, give them a couple of minutes to reconnect with you and **then ask "How was your day?"** If you still get little response, **tell them about your day!**

**Modelling how to have that conversation** can be useful. For example "Let me tell you a bit about my day. I had lunch with Aunt Cathy. I had a busy day at work." Adopting these strategies can potentially make the reunions a whole lot better.

Of course I had to try this out! And you know what? I actually heard a bit about my kids' days!! Nate went to the library at lunch with his friend and Matilda played on the monkey bars. Now she has blisters and Nate told me all about the Titanic.

Families who have tried these ideas have told Donna "I can't believe the difference this has made!" "I don't have the tears/big behaviours that I used to have." It goes much more smoothly."

So if you're struggling to get information out of your kids at the end of the day, try this! Let me know how you go!

\*\*For more ideas check out

[www.cherishingthechildparentrelationship.weebly.com](http://www.cherishingthechildparentrelationship.weebly.com)

## Governing Council

**Governing Council members for 2018:**

- Raechel Hann
- Jane Reeves
- Nicole True
- One Vacancy
- Wally Baraiolo
- Sharelle Furner
- Sally Osmond

**Each Governing Council parent is allocated to represent a class. Governing Council reps. will introduce themselves at Acquaintance night.**

## Playgroup

Many of our playgroup children have now moved on to kindergarten which leaves an opening for someone to take on the role of playgroup coordinator. If you are interested in running a weekly playgroup for local little people and their parents/carers, please come and see Jo Bell, Deputy Principal, in the front office. As there is currently no one to coordinate playgroup, sessions will not continue until a replacement coordinator is found.

## Second-hand Uniform Shop



**OPEN:** 2:50pm until 3:20pm

Friday afternoons fortnightly

Weeks 2, 4, 6 & 8 (even weeks)

Open Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

**All items \$2**



## ROOM 14

We are Powerful Learners because we...

- take risks,
- make mistakes,
- have a go at everything,
- use the word YET,
- learn from others, teach others and teach ourselves.

