

News from the Principal

Welcome to Term 1 2016. We have been off to a quick start with full busy classes. A big welcome to the new Reception students and their families—Seth, Max and Cruz. Four of the other Spencer students have moved up into other classes.

Governing Council News. Welcome also to new Governing Council members Kellie Perry and Karen & Ashley Allsopp. Congratulations to Cindy Fuller as our new Chairperson and Gordon Thain as Vice Chair. Other members include Alicia Denton, Bernadette Rigg and Lettie Allen (out Pastoral Care Worker). Thank you to Alicia Denton for 2 terms (4 years) of being Chair person and in keeping 'the rudder steady'. One particular task the Governing Council is now looking at school signage, not only out the front of the school, but also the qualities for learning signs in the play areas. This will link in with **The Kids Matters team** running a student competition for the qualities signs. Did you know our students are getting much better at voting? They are practicing making choices as a group and counting these up.

Partnership News. Just recently the Pirie Partnership has arranged for a photo shoot of a selection of students from the schools for publicity and Partnership Plan. One of our students, Anthony, was included in this and 'has done us proud.' The focus for all of Pirie & Napperby public schools is to strengthen numeracy achievement in children and young people and to embed qualities & growth mindset habits in our educational community.

What are Growth Mindsets? We are all learning more about this but it includes several things, so in my words – all children can learn and work on success; success is not how smart you are with high intelligence but how smart you work at achieving, we all need to learn the skills to master goals and this includes lots of practice and being challenged. One concept is the Goldilocks Zone – or rather a place where we are challenges not too easy not too hard. From this we are thinking hard about

- * If things are hard for our students, for us not to 'rescue' them but finding a way to help without taking away their success.
- * To emphasize taking on challenges, practice and more purposeful practice, being OK with 'this is hard' and celebrating effort and new skills.
- * Key words of "not yet" and 'what's next'

Dates To Remember

Governing Council

Thursday 24th March

Adelaide Cup

Monday 14th March

Easter

Good Friday 25th March

Easter Monday 28th March

This links in to our approaches with student goals. The 'what's' next', is how we are all going to work on this bigger plan. What is the next step? We are wanting more 'student voice' input into the goals that are set. Our students if verbal or non verbal, communicate by choices they make, interests they have and their responses. We want all of our students to know success— "Its hard for me now but I am going to work on it so that I can do it".

Swimming This term all classes will have had a one week block of swimming. This is connected to student goals in the NEP for being safe in water. It can also provide challenges in moving safely in a group, self help skills with changing and adjusting to changes. We want our students to be all learning to be more independent.

Our pergola is nearly finished, it is functional with just the railing and blinds to be installed. The students are enjoying sitting there and it has been nicknamed Café MNEC— or as Nellie prefers The Coffee Shop.

Parent & Staff surveys. Thank you for returning your parent surveys and making comments. This year for both the staff and student surveys we will be spreading them out over the year, to give us time to review and discuss both achievements and improvements.

Please check out a few photos on the following pages of what learning has been happening at school. And there's more news attached about an outdoor "mud kitchen" and the connections for numeracy and problem solving learning.

Regards for now, **Anna**



STUDENT LEARNING AT MNEC

Health Forms

Can all health and swimming forms be returned as soon as possible.

Thank you
Helen

Mosquitos

As we all know the mosquitos are quite bad at the moment. If you child is susceptible to bites, please spray them with stronger spray before coming to school and wear full length light clothing. If allergic, additional medical advice may be necessary. If you have returned the permission form for us to use aeroguard we can also apply extra cover during break times.

School Fees

All forms have been sent home to families for school fees and school card.

If you are eligible for school card, please return the form to Tracey as soon as possible.

If you are not eligible for school card, you will need to either pay the full amount or pay by instalments.

If you have any questions, need help in filling out your forms or would like to discuss your options, please call in to see Tracey.

School fees for 2016 are due to be paid by the end of Term 1.

Our Purpose Statement

We Aim:

To make a difference for our students by identifying and meeting their individual needs to enable them to learn to the best of their ability in a safe and supportive environment.

Our Trademark Qualities:

Student Focused Respectful Dedicated Supportive

Term Dates 2016

Term 1 1/2/16 to 15/4/16
Term 2 2/5/16 to 8/7/16
Term 3 25/7/16 to 30/9/16
Term 4 17/10/16 to 16/12/16

Dear families,

This year we are putting a strong emphasis on students engaging in outdoor learning. Through this, we hope to improve engagement, develop problem solving skills and help students to relate their learning to the real-world.

Through our student voice project in 2015, Heysen class asked for a mud kitchen. We had a sink donated and have had it built into an outdoor mud kitchen. Students will be able to use this sink for play, exploration and to develop numeracy and problem solving skills.

You may have seen our sensory garden on the news a few weeks ago. We have been developing our sensory garden over the past 3 years, with the help of Rotary Port Pire and donations from local businesses. It has evolved into a beautiful space that the students love to use.

Our mud kitchen and sensory garden are not finished yet and so we are looking for donations of equipment and resources to help finish the project. We would greatly appreciate any contribution that you may be able to make from the list that is attached.

On behalf of the staff and students at the Mid North Education Centre, I would like to thank you for any donations and your support of student learning and engagement in the outdoors.

Yours sincerely,

Renee Woodman and Janet Ward

List of resources needed...

- Plastic buckets
- Plastic tubs
- Plastic tubs with lids
- Wooden boxes
- Buttons
- Pegs
- Kitchen utensils
- Corks
- PVC pipe lengths
- Bike wheels
- Milk crates
- Large cardboard tubes
- Inner tractor tube
- Mini garbage bins
- Pots and pans
- Baskets
- Mixing bowls
- Kettle
- Fake turf offcuts
- Smooth river stones
- Plastic bottles
- Muffin & biscuit trays
- Bookcases
- Small cupboards (e.g. bedside tables)