



## Important Dates

Week 4

Governing Council  
Tuesday 7th November  
2pm

Weeks 2-5, Thursdays  
Cricket SA

Week 5

Student Free Day  
Friday 17th November

Week 8

Governing Council

Week 9

Graduation Dinner  
Tuesday 4th December

Last day of Term  
December 15th  
Early Dismissal 2:15pm

## Reminders

School finishes at  
1.35pm on a  
Wednesday

Respect

Responsibility

Confidence

Persistence

Making a difference by  
engaging & empowering



# Newsletter

Week 3, Term 4, 2023

## NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to term 4.

This term we have Cricket SA coming to do 4 sessions with our students over weeks 2-5. Our students were very excited to engage with the program last week.



The site has been reviewing and updating our whole-school agreements and policies. These can be found on our website at:

<https://midnorthecc.sa.edu.au/>

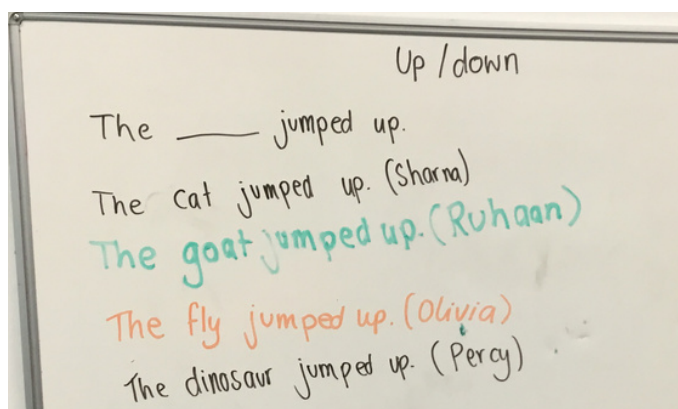
**Save the date** - Tuesday 4th of December we will be holding a Graduation Night for our graduating students. All families are invited to attend the night to celebrate the students schooling. More information will be sent out shortly.

Kind regards,  
Shannon Davis.

# Literacy

Literacy is one of our primary focuses at MNEC, with a focus on written communication. Both Heysen and Spencer focus on literacy in our morning session.

In Heysen, students are exploring letters through play based activities. They are also engaging in supported writing using the alternative pencils and in predictive writing using the word of the week.



In Spencer, students are exploring sounds through the systematic phonics program, engaging in daily writing using a variety of prompts with access to the alternative pencils, and exploring writing letters to others.



## Core words

Week 3- see/ look  
Week 4- eat/ drink  
Week 5- favourite  
Week 6 -please  
Week 7- fun  
Week 8- give  
Week 9- finish/ finished

## Key Vocabulary

Alphabet  
Book  
Consonant  
Letter  
Letter Name  
Letter Sound  
Name  
Read  
Sentence  
Diagraph  
Space  
Vowel  
Word  
Write  
Writing Tool

## Alternative pencils





# Numeracy

Students enjoy engaging with Numicon resources. We have been using the big Numicon shapes to represent our ages.



## Key Vocabulary

Add  
Baseboard  
Block  
Count  
Counter  
Equals  
Even  
Number  
Shape  
Odd  
Pattern  
Sort  
Step (Numicon Number  
Shape)  
Take Away  
Total



# CPC/Shine

Staff attended a SHINE professional development course. In Heysen class, we have been looking at what is a public and private place. Students have also been learning about body parts. Students engaged well with matching activities.





# 10 reasons for talking about sexuality (soon)

01

## Many children want to know

Many younger children are curious about how babies grow, and how they 'started'. Talking to them openly and honestly shows that they can come to you with their questions.

02

## It sets the stage for later conversations

Give children (and yourself) practice being comfortable talking about sexual matters before they are older and reluctant to discuss the topic. Showing them that you are willing to help them find the answers to their 'tricky' questions when they are younger will encourage them to seek help from you when they are older.

03

## It helps children cope better with puberty

Kids worry 'Am I normal?' and 'When will it happen?'. Learning what to expect and how to manage it helps children to become independent and confident. Puberty is tough for those who are the first (and last) to develop. Some girls experience breast swelling at age 8 and some boys have late growth spurts. Explaining that there is a wide range of 'normal' when it comes to how our bodies (and minds) change and develop throughout our life can be reassuring.



04

## It ensures boys get included in sexuality education within the family

Boys often miss out on sexuality education within the family.<sup>5</sup> Mums tend to provide more discussion on this topic but may know less than dads about boys' development. Boys are often left to learn about sex and sexuality via the internet.

05

## It shows your kid you 'have their back'

Tell your kids it's not OK for relatives or others to make observations about their breast development, weight gain, skinniness or any other commentary on their bodies. This is a good way of showing your kids they have the right to have their bodies respected.

06

## It helps young people make healthier choices

Research shows that children whose parents talk with them about sexuality and who receive good sexuality education at school are more likely to: start sex later; have sex when they are ready; have consensual sex; are less likely to have an unplanned pregnancy; and less likely to get an STI.<sup>1</sup>

07

## It can help protect them from sexual abuse

Keeping discussions about sex and bodies a secret can help sexual abusers keep their crimes secret. Open discussion at home gives children permission to talk with you about sex and sexual body parts which makes them feel safe to ask questions and let you know if they are worried about something. Regular reminders that their body is their own and that no-one can touch them without their consent helps protect them in both their early and later years.

08

## It can make life easier for kids who are not traditional 'boy' types or 'girl' types

There is more than one kind of boy and one kind of girl, but kids can suffer if they don't follow the expected norms. Children who are transgender or intersex, or kids in LGBTI families can find themselves excluded too. If we start early to question rigid gender stereotypes we can prevent a lot of misery and help to broaden everyone's options, ultimately contributing to kids' wellbeing and sense of belonging.



**Talk Soon. Talk Often**  
A guide for parents talking to their kids about sex.

09

## It allows you to share your family values

Having open discussions offers lots of opportunity to share your values and beliefs. Using examples from social media and TV allows you to discuss topics hypothetically. Offer suggestions for how you would hope your child to respond in that situation.

10

## It shows them that it's OK to talk

The research tells us that children may not come to you if they have a question – they are waiting for you to raise the topic first. They may be embarrassed to reveal that they are interested or, in the case of older teens, worried that you will assume they are sexually active. Show them it's ok to talk by taking the lead and starting conversations.



SA

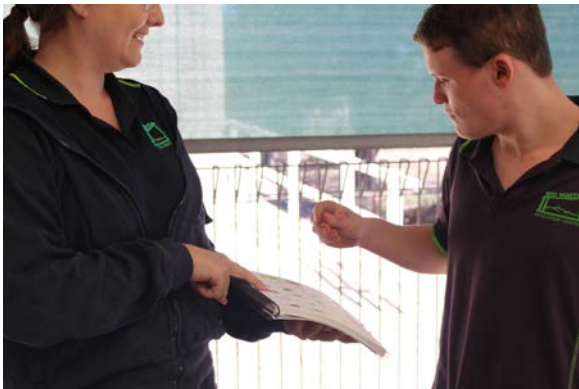
SHINE

# Communication

October is AAC Awareness Month.

## What is AAC?

AAC is short for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Communication devices, systems, strategies and tools that replace or support spoken language are known as AAC. These tools support a person who has difficulties communicating using speech.



Group PODD



AUSLAN



Prolo2Quo



Visual Cards

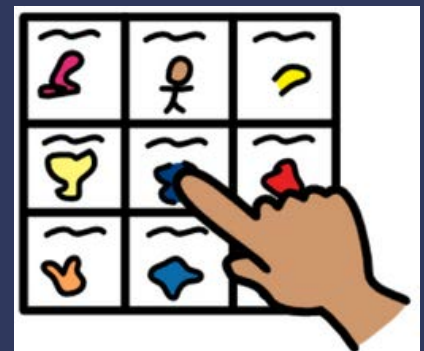


Communication Board

## Other information

At the Mid North Education Centre we are dedicated to give all students an effective way of communicating.

Therefore we are investing in Grid for iPad's and the PODD program; starting this year with all staff iPad's and continuing for the next 2 years with a focus on ensuring all iPad's have the programs.



I have the right to have my communication system. To have them working and to be with people who know how to set up use and fix my communication system.



# Sports Day 2023





# Basketball Carnival 2023





# Gardening with Spencer Class

In Week 2, students from Spencer Class participated in the planting of new plants in our front garden. Students engaged in a hands-on experience digging, planting and watering the plants. A big thank you to Heidrich's Landscaping Supplies for donating some of the plants.





# What is happening in the community?

## Laura Markets

**Saturday  
4th Nov**

**Laura Civic Centre**

**9am-2pm**

**Indoor & Outdoor Stalls**

Jewellery Plants  
Candles Art  
Essential Oils  
Handmade Gifts  
Pet items Lollies  
Massage Quilts  
Craft items Cakes  
and much more!

**Coffee lunch & snacks**

A COMMUNITY EVENT

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:   Laura Markets

Christmas Market date: Sat 2nd Dec

CONTACT:  
NIKKI: Via Facebook page  
SARAH: 0434 588 169

VACSWIM is South Australia's most renowned summer holiday program giving your kids confidence in and around water!



# VACSWIM

WATER AWARENESS · WATER SAFETY · WATER CONFIDENCE · WATER SKILLS · WATER FUN!

## SKILLS FOR ANY SEASON!

Enrol from Friday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023



**8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> January  
2024**

Port Pirie Aquatic and Leisure Centre  
Contact VACSWIM for more information!

December and January • 5 day blocks • Ages 3 – 12 years • Beach, lake, river and pool locations

**vacswimsa.com.au**



## JOIN YOUR LOCAL SA AMBULANCE SERVICE VOLUNTEER TEAM TODAY



More volunteers are needed for the Mid North Regional Response Team.

Do you want to learn new skills, meet people and give back to your community?

Gain a qualification in healthcare.

www.saasvolunteer.sa.gov.au  
1300 175 584