Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The end of the 2016 school year is upon us - only 7 more days to go! A busy 7 days at that!

**JP Concert**

Congratulations to all the students and staff involved in the JP concert last night. A wonderful evening was had by all. The students should be very proud of their efforts. It was a fantastic turn-out from families and friends - so thank you for supporting this important school event. Thank you also to the teachers and SSO’s involved in organising and setting up. We greatly appreciate the extra time and effort you put in to ensure a successful night. Well done to the class value award winners - Amareli Thomson, Ryder Lindner, Latika Rainsford, Chad Cockrum, Molly Cushion and Sara Smith for their hard work and consistently displaying the school values throughout the year.

**Year 7 Graduation**

A reminder that the year 7 Graduation is THIS THURSDAY, 8th December. Students will be dining with staff at the Somerset before the graduation ceremony begins at 7:30pm. Thank you to all those staff involved in organising the night. A lot goes into the planning and we appreciate the extra time and effort staff put in. We look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with our year 7 students and their families and friends.

**Classes**

We are very excited to announce that we will be increasing to 10 classes next year. We have had a number of enrolments over the past couple of weeks, which is testament to our strong standing in the community. Whilst staffing is still being finalised we can confirm the following:
- Reception (Lucy Newsom); Rec/Yr 1 (Anne Zalme/Viv Gilbertson); Yrs 1/2 (Jo Merrett/Sue Ireland); Yrs 2/3 (Carolyn Rayson/Di Loveday); Yrs 3/4 (Maddi Klatt); Year 4 (Emma Lauricica / to be confirmed); Yrs 5/6 (Clarrie Squire); Yrs 5/6 (Steph Taylor); Yrs 6/7 (Leanne Scudds) and Yrs 6/7 (Sarah Gellion/Keston Green).

Our specialist subjects of science, digital technologies and design and technology will be taught by Alex Solomon and Amber Deane; whilst our language teacher is to be confirmed. We are currently working on student placement in our new ten class structure. This will be in place for the start of the new year and class lists will be displayed on the 25th January out the front of the office in readiness for paying fees and picking up book packs.

**Year 7 Transition**

This Friday and next Monday, our year 7 students will be at Millicent High School as part of their transition. We hope they enjoy the activities planned and look forward to hearing about their experiences.

**LAP celebration**

Next Monday at 10am we will be celebrating and saying thank you to our wonderful LAP volunteers with a morning tea in the staff room. If you have thought about being a LAP volunteer please join us to hear what it is all about and perhaps chat to those who are already involved.

**Reports**

Reports and 2017 information packs will be sent home on **Friday 16th December**. If your child is absent on this day these will be posted to you.

**Lego Competition**

Last Monday Alex Solomon accompanied a group of students to participate in the first Lego challenge competition. It was a wonderful experience for our students and has created a lot of interest among the other students who did not compete.

**Bushfires**

Parents are encouraged to access a new brochure “Bushfires and Your Child’s School or Preschool - A Guide for Families” which provides important information about what our school will do on a catastrophic fire day or in the event of a fire. Bushfires can occur at any time during summer. It's important that our families understand our Site Emergency Plan, are prepared and have a plan in place for their family should these situations arise.

If there is a bushfire emergency while children are on site we will keep them safe until the danger has cleared even if this is outside of normal school hours.

For a copy of the brochure visit www.decd.sa.gov.au and search ‘bushfire brochure’.

**Lost Property**

The lost property bins are over-flowing at the moment - some of the items are from the various camps too! You are welcome to come and have a look for any misplaced clothing items. Any unclaimed clothing left remaining at the end of the year will be donated to local second-hand shops. None of these items have names on them which show that if all your children’s clothes are labelled, there is a chance that they will be returned to the rightful owner.
School Concert
The Primary Concert will be held next Wednesday 14th December commencing at 7pm at the Civic and Arts Centre. Tickets are available from the Front Office at $2 each. If your child is in the concert, there is no need to purchase a ticket for them as they will be seated with their class.

Students need to be at the Civic & Arts Centre at 6.40 pm to meet their teachers on the lawned area. This is also where they will be picked up at the end of the evening. Let the class teacher know when you collect your child. Please ensure any other children, that are not involved in the concert are seated with you at all times, not with the students on the mats at the front of the hall.

The year in review
This year has been highly successful due to the engagement and involvement of students, staff and parents. As is often mentioned, “it takes a village to raise a child”. Students learning potential is greatly enhanced when staff and parents work together. Significant gains have been made for the vast majority of students this year in all areas of their learning. This has been reflected in NAPLAN, PAT-M, PAT-R and other tests. Alongside the academic curriculum offered this year, there have been a range of extra-curricula activities that students have been involved in that have provided opportunities for students to develop social skills, demonstrate leadership skills and provide hands-on experiences that support the curriculum. Some of these include - Sports Day, Fun Run, Specialist PE in the areas of Netball, Football, Basketball and Tennis, SAPSASA, Gala Day, YELP, Pedal Prix, Student Voice, Scratch Day, Lego Challenge, Camps, Swimming, Assemblies, Concerts, Transition, ANZAC Day Ceremony, LAP, Remembrance Day Ceremony, School incursions/excursions and many, many more. These extra-curricula activities are only possible through the support of students, staff and parents. They value add to the learning experiences provided in the classroom environment and create life-long memories for students. We greatly appreciate and thank everyone in our school community for enabling, and providing, such a rich, varied and engaging learning program.

Thank you
It is always dangerous attempting to thank individuals involved in activities and events throughout the year, as inevitably people are omitted. All efforts have been made to thank those involved - either personally whilst at events or publicly through the newsletter after events. We are not going to attempt to list everyone again here, but want to acknowledge the collective contributions of the Parents and Friends committee and the Governing Council for their support and efforts this year. We encourage anyone considering being involved in either or both of these next year, to do so. It is a great way to have a say and contribute to education at MNPS.

Farewell
As we have already mentioned, we farewell a number of staff at the end of this year - David Todd, Nan Minty and Wendy Mariager. These staff members have been an integral part of the MNPS community and will be greatly missed. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We also farewell Ilma our CPSW. Ilma has been a friendly face in our school for the last 3 years. Staff and students have enjoyed their chats with Ilma and have appreciated her genuine care and concern. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best.

Also leaving us are our year 7’s - Amy Beckett, Kody Bowering, Jenna Brooks, Lacey Brown, Mitchell Craig, Ashlyn Golding, Madison Golding, Tom Gray, Jed Haines, Lilly Hateley, Brianna Hawke, Jemma Hayward, Bella Lambert, Tyson Langdon, Jayden Lawson, Cody Levison, Sorayah Lynch, Giaan Marshall, Phoebe Mcguinness, Tanner Milnes, Thomas Murphy, Mitch Oorthuis, Brock Plunkett, Jayden Poulish, Claudia Pratt, Paige Rowan, Charlotte Simmons, Harrison Sutcliffe, Emma Tedham and Jorja Wilkinson. Some have been with us only a short time, but all have made their mark on those around them and have created life-long memories of experiences shared. It is exciting times ahead for these students as they embark on the next chapter in their lives - high school!! The staff have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of their learning journey and wish them every success for the future.

We are also saying goodbye to many families at the end of the year. Thank you for your contributions to our school community.

As we embark on a 6 week holiday break, we have included some information on how you can support your child’s literacy and numeracy these holidays. Whilst the holidays are certainly a time for some much needed (and deserved) R&R, your child will benefit from continued practice of key learning areas in the school holidays. Please see us if you have any questions or would like any extra assistance in this area. We wish all our staff, students and families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year with friends and loved ones. We look forward to seeing everyone when school returns on 30th January 2017.

Reminder - 2:25pm dismissal Friday 16th December.

Kind regards
Graham and Di

How You Can Best Support Your Child’s Literacy and Numeracy these holidays

Reading: Children NEED to read to you, or someone in your family, EVERYDAY. As with any skill we want to develop, regular practice is required. We urge you to find 10 minutes in every day to listen to your child read. Talk to them about what they are reading as this will help you to ascertain their level of comprehension and word knowledge.

Automaticity with Number: This refers to your child’s ability to know automatically their knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. As children progress through their primary school years, they build upon their knowledge from number facts to 10 to the 12 times tables. Children need to practice their number knowledge at home every day. 10 minutes a day is all it takes. This can happen when you are driving, getting a meal ready, any time when you can ask your child to go through some number facts.

Time: This is another area in which you can enhance your child’s learning. Here are some examples of questions you can ask at different times throughout the day:

“What day is it?,” “What day was it yesterday?,” “What day is it tomorrow?” “What time is it?” “What month is it?” “Which season are we in?” “How do you know?”
BACK TO SCHOOL—PAYMENT OF FEES AND BOOK PACKS

At the end of next week, as part of the end of term package, you will receive your invoice and letter for next year. The office will be open on Wednesday 25th January 2017 from 8am – 12 noon then again from 1pm – 4pm. Please be mindful of these times as the office staff are under extreme pressure and need their breaks!! If you are unable to come in on this date, please ring Annette earlier in the week to make alternate arrangements. However, the stationery packs may not be available until Wednesday. The school will be unattended on Thursday 26th (Australia Day) and Friday 27th January.

You can assist greatly by bringing all your filled in consent forms and student detail forms on Wednesday 25th January.

Fees can be paid in full, part payment or school card applications. If you will be applying for School Card, please bring along you Centrelink or Health Care Card.

If fees are not paid in full, an instalment agreement MUST be completed.

If you are able to pay your fees IN FULL—an easier option is to pay by internet banking during JANUARY and just bring your receipt in on Wednesday 25th January. Ensure you put your child’s name, invoice number or surname as a reference or I will not know who’s account to take the payment off!! Use care if you are not the only family with that surname.

Details are below and will also be on the invoice.

BSB: 105 053    Acct No: 2140 94140

Have a fantastic Christmas break & see you next year!!

Annette
Finance / Administration Officer

CANTEEN

Please DO NOT order frozens with lunch orders

Keep a look out for canteen specials on our Skoolbag app

RESOURCE CENTRE

End of the year is fast approaching, could I ask that all children’s resources be returned to the Resource Centre by THIS Thursday - 8th December. Classes who have returned all books by then will go into a draw for a pizza lunch one day next week. If your child receives an overdue notice or a bill for lost/damaged book(s) could you please help them find and return items promptly to Resource Centre or pay the outstanding bill at the Front Office by next Friday.

READERS

All readers will need to be returned to classrooms by Friday, 9th December so that a stocktake can be done and new readers put into boxes ready for a new start in 2017.

Remember the Public Library will welcome borrowers over the holidays. I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas. Good luck to all families for 2017.
Lucy Newsom – Reception

We have had a fantastic year in our Reception classroom this year. The students have achieved so much over the year, making leaps and bounds in their Literacy and Mathematics and also with their social skills. They have grown in maturity, resilience and self motivation and have built solid relationships making their first year at school a huge success. We have been lucky enough to go on excursions to the Gymnastics club, the Goode Egg Farm in Mount Burr, the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre in Mount Gambier with the Millicent North Kindy students and most recently had a week of swimming lessons in Mount Gambier. The students success at school can also be attributed to the huge amount of parental support we have had this year. Students have been reading at home to support their literacy progress and we have been very lucky to have regular parent helpers on excursions as well as parents and grandparents listening to students read each week. I am confident that the Receptions are ready to move on to Year 1 and I wish them the best of luck for next year!

Anne Zalme & Viv Gilbertson—Year 1

This year has been very busy, with our children participating in many extra curricula activities such as tennis, swimming, gym, etc. Our Inquiry units have been very exciting, and the children have been busy exploring, inquiring, discovering and playing. Our focuses have included Safety, Pamela Allen Author Study, Farm to Plate, Growing and Families, Fairy Tales, Rainforests, Social Skills and Dinovember. It’s been great to see all of the Junior Primary children enjoying the Loose Parts in our playground, with some very creative and imaginative play occurring.

Jo Merrett and Sue Ireland – Year 1 / 2

We have had a busy and exciting year. In first term we had Steph Barton in our class to complete her final teaching placement and in term 4 Zoe Fennell did work experience with us. We are having tennis lessons with Mr Mac on Mondays. We have also had a week of swimming and 2 gym sessions. The Junior Primary classes have been doing Dinovember so we are learning a lot about Dinosaurs. In Geography we have learnt about the Continents and the world around us. On Thursday afternoons we have continued our visits to the garden with JB. This term we have planted our summer crops. We have been recycling food scraps in our room for the compost bins and wormery. We have been doing lots of problem solving in maths and have learnt lots of skills to support us with this.

Carolyn Rayson and Dianne Loveday - Year 2/3

This year we had a specific focus on the local history of our area. We studied some of buildings from what they were many years ago to what they are today. We visited the museum and went on a history walk around the town. As the 150th Millicent Show was happening we took a trip down memory lane to see what the show looked like over the past 150 years. We watched a home movie of the Millicent show from 1959 and Mr Noel Boyle entertained us with his memories of the show when he was a child. In term 2 Mrs Linda Hamilton did her 3rd year prac teaching with us. She loved being in the class so much, that she returned in term 3, to do her final teaching placement. It has been sad to see her go!

We have read a number of novels by famed author Roald Dahl. His novels have proven to be so popular that many students went out and bought their own novels of his many stories.

In term 4 all students were involved in swimming lessons in Mt Gambier and are busy rehearsing for their first chance at performing at the Civic and Arts Centre for the end of year concert.

Maddi Klatt & Amber Deane - Year 3/4

This year we have worked really well as a whole class to achieve some amazing outcomes. The students have worked extremely hard to continue to develop their learning in every area. We’ve expanded upon our reading skills focusing on our understanding of different texts and how we connect to those texts. In writing we’ve looked at lots of different types of texts focusing on how those texts are structured and their features. We’ve also developed our creative writing and even written our own picture books complete with LEGO and plasticine illustrations.

In Maths we’ve continued to develop different strategies with a huge focus on problem solving and how to break down a problem.

Our adventure through Australia’s history was a focus in HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences) as well as our Olympic Countries Expo. We have learnt a lot about researching and how we have to be persistent to find relevant information.

The year 4 students thoroughly enjoyed Monarto Zoo and pitching in to help the zoo keepers. Minimal complaints were heard when they were asked to shovel rhino poo. Everyone loved the experience of patting a rhino.

It’s been a jam packed but successful year!
Emma Laucirica – Year 4/5

It has been a very busy year in our class. We have made some excellent progress in our literacy skills, particularly in our descriptive and narrative writing. We have also worked hard on our comprehension and inferring skills during English as well as other areas like History and Geography. This has been reflected in some outstanding improvements in our PAT Reading test data. In Maths we have completed a lot of problem-solving activities, to allow us to collaborate and share our learning. We have also learnt how to better display our understanding and break problems down into steps.

In History and Geography we have learnt about environments found in other countries. We also have a better understanding of the different continents and countries within them. We have learnt about the European settlement in Australia. During the year this saw us complete a number of research and enquiry tasks; we even participated in a Middle Primary Expo, where we each set up a stall about another country for the other classes to look at.

Throughout the year, through the use of iPads and laptops, we have experimented with and successfully used a number of new ways to integrate technology in our learning. We created podcasts and online books, communicated on Edmodo, regularly used interactive quizzes and tried out using QR codes.

Clarrie Squire – Year 5/6

We have had a lot of fun this year doing a fair amount of learning & then we even squeezed in some fun activities. When we thought about the things we most enjoyed this is what we came up with:

- Class camps
- Swimming lessons
- Learning new things
- P.E. with Mr Todd, Mr Mac, Mrs Goode & Mr Squire
- Going to the Public Library & then the Domain Playground
- Sports Day
- Read to Self
- Recess & Lunch activities
- Lions Mad Minute
- Design & Tech
- Concert practice with Jan.

It has been a very busy year & we have all enjoyed working together but are also looking forward to new people & experiences next year.

Wendy Mariager and Sarah Gellion – Year 6/7

Wow! What a year we have had in the Gellion/Mariager classroom. We have had some of the most amazing students, who have been keen to learn, and made magnificent progress throughout the year. We've learnt to write expositions, narrative and information reports. We have also learnt about the number system, cartesian planes and perimeter. We've delved into the world of Roald Dahl in English, to volcanoes in Science and coding in Technologies. Students have been involved in a number of performances and special events both inside and outside of school.

We have had many highlights throughout the year including Sports Day, the Fun Run, the March in May for the Year 7 students, Scullions fine dining restaurant and the BFG excursion to Mount Gambier.

Jed, Corey and Jaxon all made SAPSASA cricket while Ty was off to SAPSASA tennis in Week 6. In this same week the Year 6s and 7s headed off to camp, where plenty of memories were made. Year 7 Graduation is progressing along nicely. After this we send the year 7s to Transition before we all come together to celebrate the End of Year Concert.

As a class, we are sad to farewell Wendy Mariager at the end of 2016. What an amazing career she has had, not only here at Millicent North for the past 20 years, but at various other schools, over the past 40 years. Quite the achievement and we wish her all the very best for retirement.
Leanne Scudds – Year 6/7

It’s hard to believe the year is almost over. Term 4, as always, is shaping up to be incredibly busy. The kids were really excited and looking forward to both the Grampians and Aquatics camps in week 6. These camps created many wonderful memories to carry into year 7 and 8.

Our unit maths and writing programs continue to be highlights and student growth has been excellent. Our focus in unit maths has been on fractions, decimals and percent. In an effort to assist with retention of mathematical concepts we have been incorporating maths mental and problem solving daily. Our writing focus this term has been on creative writing and our students are producing really exciting, interesting and well-structured narratives. Last term our students completed a unit on response writing which culminated in us putting together the ‘Scullion Restaurant’. They were fed a three-course meal, and wrote a review about their experience. Some of the writing to come from this unit was remarkable and it’s fantastic to see the enthusiasm for writing that our students are demonstrating as they become increasingly skilled.

Term four saw our year seven students transitioning to high school. It will be with a genuine sense of sadness that we send this cohort off on their next educational adventure, as they are truly a delightful group of intelligent, kind and thoughtful young people. Graduation and school concert has kept us very busy and of course we look forward to celebrating the completion of a successful school year. Busy times!

Alex Solomon - NIT SUBJECTS

Science 3 to 7
Topics covered this year have included volcanoes, soil, plants, light, magnets, micro-organisms and mixtures. The science program embeds inquiry-based learning into the SE’s teaching and learning model and has an explicit focus on developing students' knowledge, skills, understanding and capacities in science and literacy.

Amber, Sue and Alex planned a STEM activity afternoon for science week, which was very successful with parents and caregivers joining in with the activities.

Technologies 3 to 7
This year students were introduced to Scratch, a coding program. It was fantastic to see students pick up coding so quickly with the year 6/7’s coding their own games to play. Six students from year 6 & 7 attended a Scratch Day where they were able to help other schools learn the coding language. From this Scratch Day, Harry D’Onghia and Clayton Nicholls competed in the Limestone Scratch Competition. The boys coded information, a game and an interactive quiz about the dairy industry. The boys were awarded second prize in the competition.

Topics covered in Design & Technology this year included kites, playgrounds, bridges, weaving and bread making. The students have enjoyed the hands on designing and making lessons.

YELP
Phoebe, Giaan, Keelie and Brock attended the YELP camp in term 2 and have completed their environmental project. The students chose to plant an orchard and had big ideas. The big ideas were scaled down into stages with stage one completed this year. Outside the science room the students have planted nine fruit trees including peach, apple, plum and nectarine trees. Stage 2 will commence in 2017 with the orchard extended with citrus trees.

LEGO LEAGUE

Last week the first Lego League tournament was held in Mt Gambier. Millicent North took a team of seven students to the tournament. The students competed in pre-programmed robotic challenges using Lego, in team work challenges and presented a research project based on Animal Allies. The students had a wonderful day showcasing their programming skills and watching other teams compete. Thank you to Harry D’Onghia, Harry SucIan, Jed Haines, Mitch Craig, Lilly Hately, Brock Plunkett and Tanner Milnes for being part of the first Millicent North Lego League Team and for representing the school with pride.

Lego League will be back in 2017!