This term has been the best start to a year since I started at Mallala Primary School. As a staff, we have been working on Positive Education and the feeling coming from all learning areas and from staff and students is extremely positive. I am encouraged by the enthusiasm and engagement shown by students towards their learning and I am looking forward to seeing our academic results improving over the year. Congratulations to all students and staff for a fantastic term 1.

Homework

Over the last few weeks, we have been discussing the value of homework. We concluded that we believe that two aspects of the learning programme are important for students to work on at home – reading and number skills.

John Hattie is considered an expert in “effect size.” A measure of how big an impact different approaches have on learning outcomes. On homework he says that the “effect size” for primary school homework is very close to zero.

We are also aware that homework can be a source of conflict and frustration between parents and children and we also believe that children need time for exercise, organised sports and time to relax.

As John Buell (2004) puts it: ‘...for a practice as solidly entrenched as homework, the scholarly case on its behalf is surprisingly weak and even contradictory.’

In term 2, we are adopting an approach of not setting homework apart from reading and number skills. We value the time that parents can support their children in these valuable skills and know that this can help make a difference As I explained at assembly this morning, students having a “growth mindset” about maths is most important for their success. Brain research says that a student believing they can achieve a high level of maths, along with quality teaching, will mean that they can achieve that level in nearly all cases.

Imagine you are going to work on some tasks that are complex, but you are looking forward to the challenge and are determined to complete them. This makes you feel excited about the challenge and continue to look for a solution, maybe making mistakes along the way, but learning new strategies all the time. Success makes you want to do something bigger and better. To challenge yourself even further. It’s the same with students and their learning.

Surprising research I have read also shows that by making mistakes, the brain creates new pathways, meaning the brain is growing. Even more surprisingly, brain scans show that these pathways are built even when the mistakes are not recognised.

There is further research I am looking at that I will share with you over the course of the next few newsletters as I hope it will provide you with some insight into how important your role as a parent or carer is in your child’s learning, particularly with maths.

In the meantime, please be aware that a couple of damaging messages you could possibly send to your child are, “Don’t worry, I was bad at maths too,” or, “You’re so smart.” The second

Inside this issue:

From our Principal
Korean Awards
Assembly & Value Awards
Room 1 Science Experiment
High School Transition
Community Notices
Contact details
Around the classes

Assembly Awards
Alec Kluske
Tori McMillan
Jai Kennison
Fergus Tiller
Casey Pratt
Alyssa Standley
Jedd Taylor
Maylea Carpenter
Cheyanne Hornby
Harrison Taylor
Montana Batten

Values Awards

Respect
Patrick Kelly
Lachlan Wright
Luke Hart

Excellence
Sophie Tiller
Ella Standley
Paddy Tiller

Perseverance
Taylah Barker
Ashton Amor
Natalia Manolaros
Amber Pratt

Value Awards

Thomas Tiller - Helping others to follow the school rules in the yard.
Olivia Blackham - For including all class members during learning and play.
Lachlan Wright - Going out of his way to help me carry library resources to class before school.
Patrick Kelly - Accepts all with kindness and utmost respect.
Luke Hart - Picking up plastic bags around the school.
Sophie Tiller - Will attempt new situations keenly.
Ella Standley - Above and beyond with her support of younger students. Always willing to support and is a great role model within the school community.
Paddy Tiller - Chooses to do extra homework.
Amber Pratt - Significant improvement at x7 in intervention.
Natalia Manolaros - Working hard to learn sounds and tricky words.
Ashton Amor - Working hard to master the tricky words.
In science this week Miss Brown put us into groups and we were given a plastic bag, string and a small plastic animal. We had to use them and make a parachute and attach it to the toy animal. We were looking into the steps and planning needed to make this successful. My group cut out a large round shape and cut 8 small holes around the edge of the circle. We then cut 8 pieces of string they were all approximately the same length, tied each piece through each hole, then tied the other ends to the plastic animal. When finished we went outside to the playground and held them up then released them to see how they worked. Some fell quickly while others fell slowly. It was a good experiment and we all worked well in our groups.

By Alex Nicholson
Parenting SA hosted two very successful parenting seminars at the Convention Centre over the last two nights. Feedback from parents, caregivers and professionals who attended the live events and those who viewed online was highly positive. Both seminars are now available to view on-demand until Tuesday April 26th via the link: www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentingsa/

FRIDAY 8th APRIL
SATURDAY 9th APRIL
9.00am - 5.00pm
KAPUNDA S.A.
7 kms From Adelaide

- Agriculture
- Viticulture
- Horticulture
- Tools
- Vintage Tractors
- Tractors & Farm Machinery
- Trailers & Welders
- Lifestyle
- Car Dealers and Trucks
- Extensive Free Health Services
- Alpacas, Sheep and Goats
- ATV’s and Motorcycles

ADMISSION: ADULTS $10, STUDENTS $5 - $3

Visit www.kapundaflm.com
Enquiries: 8598 1860
kapundaflm@kapunda.sa.gov.au

Pinery Bushfire Relief Concert
A recital of songs, arias and piano solos performed by:
Kathryn Zerk (Soprano)
Jamie Cock (Piano)

Pinery Bushfire Relief

30th April 7:00pm
Trinity College Chapel
Balaklava Town Hall
Alexander Avenue (entrance off Greening Drive)
Evanston South, S.A.

Pinery Bushfire Relief

1st May 3:00pm
Wallace Street
Balaklava, S.A.

Raffle tickets for $3 per ticket or 4 for $10 will be on sale at both concerts. Raffle prizes have a total retail value of over $5,000 and include 500 shopping vouchers, dinner packages, wine tours, hot air balloon rides, 1 week’s accommodation at Balaklava Beach Cottages, and much more.

State Emergency Relief Fund for the Pinery Bushfires

Tickets can be purchased at the door of either concert.

Light Pass Primary School

Autumn Fair

Sunday 10th April
10am—4pm
Light Pass Road

Music, Stalls, Food & Drinks

Treasure Hunt

Jumping Castle

Barbeque

Live Music

If you would like to have a stall, call 08 8562 1924
Stall holder fee $20
BYO chairs and rugs

Around the Community

School Holiday Program

Looking for something to do in the holidays?
Don’t get bored. Come and join us for some hands-on fun!

Basic First Aid

Wednesday 20 April
Uniting Church Hall, Gawler Road
Two Wells
1.30-3.30 p.m.

Bugs and Slugs

Tuesday 26 April
Uniting Church Hall, Gawler Road
Two Wells
1.30-2.30 p.m.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Tel: 85222100 Email: library@malla.sa.gov.au
Presented by the District Council of Malla Library Services

Respect, Diversity, Excellence, Perseverance