



NEWSLETTER

Term 1 No 1

Thurs Feb 4th 2016

www.millelps.sa.edu.au

Principal – Stephen Jolley
Chairperson – Tim Scanlon



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Dear Families,

Welcome back to all students and families. We start the year with 97 students and we have had a great start to the term. The behaviour and positive attitudes displayed by our students has been outstanding.

A number of students and families have joined our school this year; William C, Nicholas C, Claire D, Georgi G, Zara H, Aynslee H, Emmie L, Matilda O, Edison O, Annalie P, Alexia P, Alison S, Monique S, Clare V and Henry and Emily S. We welcome these students and their families and trust their time with us will be enjoyable and rewarding. We also welcome Miss Kimberly Mason who will be teaching in both the UP and MP classes this term and Mrs Sutherland who will be replacing Ms Sloan, also for Term 1.

Our class and teaching arrangements for this term are:

- Rec & Yr 1 (20 students) Teacher: Mr Ben Savage
- Yr 1 & 2 (19 students) Teacher: Mrs Alicia Sutherland (Term 1)
- Yr 3 & 4 (30 students) Teacher: Mrs Judy Harradine/Miss Kimberly Mason
- Yr 5, 6 & 7 (28 students) Teacher: Miss Eryn Brumby/Miss Kimberly Mason

Mrs Shirley Hogg will also be teaching French lessons in each class and Miss Brumby will be released to perform a counselling/wellbeing role on Thursdays.

Our SSO staffing for this year is:

Judy Lacey (Admin/Finance)
Angela Beltakis (Class support)
Sandra Robinson (Class support)
Charmaine Ramage (Class support)

Jill Gilmore (Library & Class support)
Carolyn Jones (Class support)
Steven Grosvenor (Computing support)
Patrick Dean (Grounds)

Over the January break the school has had some areas of the grounds re-developed. The main project, which was jointly funded by the school, Parent Club and SRC, was the development of a natural play area in the space adjoining the tennis courts. This area looks fantastic and will provide many opportunities for our students to engage in creative play. The second project was the establishment of a lawn area at the front of the school. Both of these projects have significantly enhanced the presentation of our school.



Our Reception students who started school for the first time this week.

Respect - Participation - Success

A school Facebook page has been started (further information is provided in the newsletter) and we look forward to interacting with you and reading your feedback. All content posted is a reflection of our school community and we trust that all postings will be reflective of our school values of Respect, Participation and Success. It is anticipated that the school's current SMS service will only be used for urgent or emergency circumstances.

The staff and I look forward to working collaboratively with the school community. Supportive and positive home-school partnerships are crucial in providing a great environment for our students to learn and develop. At any time during the year I encourage you to talk to myself and our teachers about your child, their learning and any concerns that you may have.

Regards,

Stephen

PLEASE FIND THE FOLLOWING INSERTS WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

- Welcome letter from the Minister, ECD
- Term 1 2016 Planner
- MLPS External Fire Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Cyber-Safety User Agreement
- Volunteer Screening information
- M&S and Swimming Invoices
- MLPS reply slips
- Swimming & Aquatic consent/medical form
- DECD consent form
- Parent Club News insert including reply slips
- Parent Club Welcome Morning Tea invitation
- School Uniform order form

DATES TO REMEMBER

February

Monday 8th

Friday 12th

Tuesday 16th

Wednesday 17th

Friday 19th

Mon 22nd – Fri 26th

Tuesday 23rd

Thursday 25th

Mon 29th – Fri 4th Mar

March

Friday 4th

Heat Ups commence.

Parent Club 'Welcome' Afternoon & Meeting, 1.30pm.

Issue 1 Book Club closing date for orders.

Acquaintance Night, BBQ from 5pm.

Assembly, 3pm.

T-Ball begins.

Swimming – Year 1&2 class and Years 3-7.

MLPS AGM 7pm. Governing Council meeting to follow.

SAPSASA District Swimming.

Swimming – Rec/1 class and Years 3-7.

Clean Up Australia Day.

CHANGE TO VOLUNTEER

SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

DECD have updated its screening policy to make it easier for parents and guardians to volunteer their time. From this term, parents and guardians volunteering in schools to support their own child's education will no longer need to undertake relevant history screening. Screening will still apply to all DECD employees, volunteers working with children with disabilities and people

(including parents and caregivers) attending overnight camps and sleepovers. DECD have developed an online screening tool at www.decd.sa.gov.au that will clarify the requirements for people seeking information about volunteering in schools and pre-schools. Included in this newsletter is an insert that you can use as a reference also.

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SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE AND PHOTOGRAPH CONSENT FORM

We have started a school Facebook page with the purpose of using it as a forum for sharing information with our school community. Included in this newsletter is a copy of the policy that will guide the use of this social media. Key points are:

The Facebook page will be an open community and posted content will include:

- Events and activities
- Important dates
- Information for families
- Brief reports
- Photographs
- A link to the most recent school newsletter.

Users of the school's Facebook page will be able to 'like' and provide comments in response to postings.

Content that will be removed includes anything that is:

- Abusive and offensive
- Bullying, harassing or defaming to other people
- Personal and/or cultural attacks or insults
- Potentially libellous or defamatory
- Off topic
- Commercial or obscene content
- Detrimental in any way.

Please be aware that if inappropriate content is posted, the police may need to be involved.

Student Photos

There may be occasions when children's photos and work are posted on Facebook by staff. For this to occur, parents will need to sign the appropriate consent form that has been sent home in the newsletter. We also acknowledge that some parents may wish to photograph or film their children's participation in school events such as swimming lessons or assemblies. In order to ensure the privacy of all students, please be aware that any vision or photographs taken must be for personal use only. When taking photographs, please try to include only your child in the image. Images taken of students other than your child, require the consent of their parents, and

should not be placed on public forums such as personal Facebook pages. We appreciate your respect and co-operation in this matter.

Please contact the school if you have any queries about the planned use of Facebook or the consent form for student photographs.

ICT USER AGREEMENT

Last year information was sent home to families about expectations on the use of ICT resources at our school. A part of this agreement involved parents and students signing a consent form endorsing these guidelines. A copy has been provided in this week's newsletter. Please check the reply slip of this document; there is a section which indicates if your family returned the form in 2015, if 'no' is circled, please complete the attachment and return it to school.

ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16TH

This year the school has made a change to the format of the Acquaintance Night. It has been decided that the Annual General Meeting will be held on a separate night to allow more time for families to meet and interact.

The Acquaintance Night will also provide an opportunity for families to visit their child/children's class and find out about class routines and expectations. The format of the evening will involve each class being 'open' for a specific time, they being:

- 5.30 – 5.50pm Reception & Yr 1
- 5.50 – 6.10pm Yr 1 & 2
- 6.10 – 6.30pm Yr 3 & 4
- 6.30 – 6.50pm Yr 5, 6 & 7

BBQ

Families are able to place an order for sausages and hamburgers which will be provided by the school and cooked on the night by parent volunteers (see reply slip). Families will be responsible for bringing their own salad and utensils or other extras (including drinks) if they choose, but will not have to bring any meat to cook or bread. The BBQ will be available from 5pm and families can eat either before or after they visit the classrooms.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23RD

The Annual General Meeting will commence at 7.00pm and the first Governing Council meeting of the year will follow after this has been held. Please see the information below regarding Governing Council if you are interested in joining this group.

Governing Council

If you are interested in nominating for Governing Council this year please register your interest by returning the attached reply slip with this newsletter.

Governing Council Member Information

Continuing members for this year:

Rob Harding, Lucy Innes, Rebecca Opperman, Judi Paul, Mark Robinson, Tim Scanlon, Melissa Shanks, Stacey Stafford.

Members whose tenure finished at the end of 2015:

George Beck, Anne Gaffney, Michael Kirby, Matthew Johns.

MATERIALS AND SERVICES INFORMATION

Invoices have been sent home today for Materials and Services Fees and Swimming. Please ensure these are paid by the due date which is by the end of Term 1 for Materials and Services fees and prior to the lessons commencing in Week 4 for swimming fees. These can be paid at the front office by cash, cheque or EFTPOS, or if you wish to use EFT direct to the school account please refer to the bank details printed on the invoice. Payment by instalments may also be negotiated. Please see Stephen or Judy Lacey. If you have any concerns over the payment of these amounts please let us know.

SCHOOL CARD

For eligible families the School Card Scheme supports families with the cost of Materials and Services fees.

Families that feel that they may be entitled to School Card are asked to call into the front office and collect the application forms and details as soon as possible.

START OF YEAR REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

Please be aware of the following information; we thank you in anticipation of your support in these matters:

- Judy Lacey, who manages our Front Office, does not work on Tuesdays. Please be aware of this when returning notes or completing payments for particular items.
- Front Office 'Letterbox': we do have a drop off box where notes etc. can be delivered. All notes need to be named and if money is included, ensure that it is in a sealed bag or envelope.
- Morning bell: parents, please be mindful of keeping the area outside classrooms free from this time. By doing so ensures a smooth start to class routines. Also, at times, there may be children who are upset when they first come to school in the morning and it is easier to transition them into classes without others being nearby. Being mindful of this request will be a positive reflection of our school value of Respect.
- Before school catch ups with staff; Staff are in their classrooms from 8.30am. This time can provide an informal opportunity for parents to catch up and chat with teachers but please be aware that they are also preparing for the day ahead. If you wish to discuss a matter, it may be more appropriate to organise a time to meet after school. Quite often, during the morning, there are other children in the class and therefore the conversation cannot be held in privacy.
- For student absences please provide your child's teacher a written note. This is a DECD requirement. For extended absences from school, due to family circumstances e.g. holidays, an exemption form needs to be completed which is available from the front office.

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SWIMMING LESSON INFORMATION

Students in Years 3-7 participate in two weeks of lessons and Rec-Year 2 students have one week of lessons which are held at the Aquatic Centre in Mount Gambier. The dates for the lessons are as follows:

- Week 4 Feb 22nd – 26th
Years 3-7 and Mrs Sutherland's Class
- Week 5 Feb 29th – March 4th
Years 3-7 and Mr Savage's Class

Lessons for all students are from 1:30-2:15pm. We will be having an earlier lunch and depart school, by bus, at approximately 1:00pm and returning to school at approximately 3:00pm during these dates. It is an expectation that all students participate in swimming lessons. If you have any further queries please speak to your child's class teacher. Students are not permitted to bring money to purchase items from the Aquatic Centre Canteen.

If your family has a season pass to the Aquatic Centre can you please contact us because this will impact on the cost of your child/children's swimming lessons.

ICYPOLES

From next week, icy poles are being sold under the shelter during lunch times this term for 50¢ each. Students will be limited to buying no more than 2 each day and we also discourage children buying icy poles for their friends.

ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS

Our assemblies for Term 1 will be held in Weeks 3, 6 and 9. Each class will take it in turns to provide comperes for the assembly and if so, will not present any class work on this day. Our arrangements for this term are (the named compere class will not be showing class work):

Date	Class Compere
Week 3, Wed Feb 17 th	Year 3 & 4
Week 6, Tue March 8 th	Year 5,6 & 7
Week 10, Tue April 5 th	Rec/Yr 1

Our assemblies commence at approximately 3:00pm and all families are welcome to join us. If the weather is fine, our first assembly will be held under the shelter near the Library.

FIRE POLICY

Enclosed in this week's newsletter is our External Fire Policy. Please note the following points:

- Mil Lel PS is not rated a 'high risk' site therefore will remain open on days when Catastrophic Weather Conditions are forecast.
- If Catastrophic Weather Conditions are forecast, no buses will run in our local area, including the bus run to our school. If the forecast is upgraded to Catastrophic during the day buses will operate as per normal unless otherwise instructed by emergency services.
- Refer to the CFS website or call 1800 000 279 for further information. The CFS will declare fire danger ratings from approximately 4pm the day before.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM: PASTORAL CARE WORKER

This year Robyn Howard will be taking maternity leave from her role as Pastoral Care Worker at our school. At this stage a replacement for this position has not been determined.

STUDENT PROFILES

A feature of our newsletters is 'student profiles'. Student profiles 'spotlight' our students whereby they are interviewed to find out such things as their interests, hobbies and what they like doing at school. A photo of the child also accompanies their information which is then sent home to all families in our newsletter. Students enjoy reading one another's profile information and it also provides a positive way of getting to know our students at Mil Lel. We request that families let us know if they do not wish their child to be featured in a Student Profile. Even though our newsletter is available on our school website the student profile information is not put on the website.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

On Monday March 21st an information session is being offered for our families on the topic of Growth and Development. The sessions will be run by a presenter from Adelaide and held at Suttontown Primary School. The details are below.

Session 1: 6.40pm – 7.30pm `Where Did We Come From" (suitable for parents of Rec – Yr 4 students)

Topics.

- Myths about where babies come from
- The birth process
- Conception/fertilisation

Session 2: 7.40pm – 8.30pm `What's Happening To Us (suitable for parents of Yr 5-7 students)

Topics.

- Puberty
- Body Image and Media Influences
- Parent Issues

Families are welcome to come along to one or both sessions and school aged children are also allowed to attend with their parents. No cost is involved for attendees.

T-BALL INFORMATION

A T-ball competition for boys and girls in Years 3 to 5 will be run in Term 1. Games will be played on Friday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. The first game is on February 19th and the weekly venue is the baseball grounds at Blue Lake Sports Park. If you are interested in your child/children playing school T-ball please fill out the reply slip and return it to the front office by Wednesday February 10th. All equipment is provided and players wear their school uniform. Coaches, managers and perhaps umpires are needed for each team and without volunteers to take on these roles no teams will be entered.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Our school will be participating in a Clean Up Australia Day Activity on Friday 4th March. The area that we will tidy is the Railway Lands in Mount Gambier and will occur before the scheduled swimming lesson on this day. Parents are welcome to join us. We will begin from the Bay Road end at approximately midday.

YR 3-7 SCHOOL CAMP - ADVANCED NOTICE

A camp for Year 3–7 students has been booked at the Grampians Retreat for Wed Sept 21st – Fri Sept 23rd in Term 3. We are currently in the planning stages and once costing has been finalised we will let you know further details (no deposit is required at the moment). At this stage the cost will be somewhere between \$200-220 per student. We are also likely to require parent helpers for the camp and will ask for nominations later in the term.

STUDENT DETAILS UPDATE

We remind parents of the importance to keep telephone numbers, especially mobile numbers, and emergency contacts up to date so that we can easily contact someone when your child is ill or injured. Medical conditions are of particular significance where it is necessary for us to know the condition and symptoms/treatment. Please notify us of any changes to your child's details by Monday 8th February.

REPLY SLIPS

Due to the high number of reply slips for both the school and Parent Club in this week's newsletter we have provided them in separate documents. Therefore there is no need to return individual reply slips. We request that you complete the sections relevant to you, leave the other sections blank and then return the entire form.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

You will find further information regarding the following on our Notice Board, by phone contact or visiting websites provided.

MIL-LEL MEMORIAL PARK INC: Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 9th February at 7.00pm in the Mil-Lel Hall. Please note change of date. Contact Janet Phillips 0400 078 237.

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