Dear Parents and Friends,

It has been a busy week with Lisa Burman here working with teachers and the Peter Combe concert on Wednesday. This will continue next week which is Book Week. This will be a great celebration of books and literature throughout the week.

We welcomed another new student to our school this week. Callum Burgess has joined the Foundation class and has already settled in well.

Influenza

DECD has put out a health alert of the outbreak of influenza, which has caused a high number of absences across the state. The key message is to prevent the spread of the illness by ensuring children remain home until they are well enough. We are asked to remind students that good cough, sneeze and hand hygiene is important in preventing the spread of 'flu. Wash, wipe, cover, don’t infect one another. Hopefully, this will allow children the chance to get well and stay healthy giving them more time at school.

Minor Staffing Changes

Next week Julianne Williams returns from Long Service Leave. We thank Siobhan Barwick who has had a great few weeks filling in for Mrs Williams whilst she has been away. I’m sure the students have enjoyed having her in the class. Next week Cathy Heyn starts her five weeks’ Long Service Leave. Her classroom commitments will be covered by Stacey Walters and Fiona Holberton. Her specialist subject lessons will be taken by Jenny Tocaciu. We look forward to hearing of Cathy’s European adventures.

Bookmaking and Writer’s Notebook

Earlier in this newsletter it was mentioned about teachers working with Lisa Burman, who is a consultant in pedagogical change. Much of the focus for these few days was looking at Bookmaking and Writer’s Notebook as strategies for improving Literacy. There are many benefits to these strategies, but one of the most important is the continuity of learning from McKay Kindergarten through to Year 7. We look forward to seeing these strategies being further implemented in classrooms across the school. Feel free to ask your child’s teacher if you wish to know more about either of these.

NAPLAN

Today you will receive the NAPLAN results for your child/ren in Year 3, 5 and 7. As a school, there were some positive aspects as well as areas to focus on now and in the future. Key aspects:

- Strong results / improvement in Numeracy across all year levels
- Good improvement in Year 7 cohort from Year 5 including 31pts in Numeracy and 24pts in Reading.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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<th>Terms 3 and 4</th>
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<td><strong>August</strong></td>
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Decrease in writing results in Year 5 and 7

97% all students achieved National Minimum Standard in Numeracy and Literacy

General decrease in most areas of the Year 5 cohort from Year 3 to Year 5.

Further analysis will help drive teaching in the future as we strive for continuous improvement. See next page for school data.

Newspaper Mama!

Earlier in the week we hosted Peter Combe who performed to over 300 students from five different sites. The students sang along and joined in as he sang some of his classics. It is always nice to see children singing along to songs that we remember from our school days! It was also great to see many parents come along and relive their youth and sing along. The cost of the concert was covered by the performance levy component of school fees.

Book Week

As mentioned earlier, next week is Book Week. The theme this year is *Books Light Up Our World*. Our library staff members have organised a number of recess and lunchtime activities for children to enjoy. Because books are the focus, there will not be a dress up parade as has often been the case in the past. Each class will present its interpretation of a book, whether it be through art, writing, song, skit or other artistic form. This will take place at the Book Week assembly on **Thursday, 27th August at 9:00am**. We look forward to having lots of parents, relatives and friends come along to celebrate Book Week and enjoy each class’ presentation.

**SAPSASA BASKETBALL**

Last Friday we sent three teams, Year 5/6 Boys, Year 6/7 Boys and Year 6/7 Girls, to Millicent to participate in the Mid South East SAPSASA District Basketball Competition. Our Year 5/6 Boys’ team found the going a little difficult, while the two Year 6/7 teams both finished runners-up and consequently qualified for the regional tournament which will be held next Friday, August 28th at The Icehouse in Mt Gambier. The winning team in each division from that day will then travel to Adelaide to contest the state finals. Many thanks to Miss Sims, Hamish March and Sam Klemm who volunteered to coach on the day.

Both teams are to be congratulated on their efforts and everyone is excited about progressing to the next stage. Although the competition promises to
be very tough, the experience will be most worthwhile. Best of luck to our boys-Brady Pahl, Jacob Robbie, Zac Currie, Kaleb Messenger, Caleb Lythgo, Connor Hunter and Joel Dent; and to our girls-Ally Jones, Amy Whitehouse, Skye McLachlan, Jess Eastwood, Lucy Sharman, Georgia Winter and Annie Pollard.

Toilet Upgrade
Work has begun on the renovation of unit toilets which will be a welcome improvement for the students. We look forward to starting Term 4 with these new facilities.

Wanted
Donations wanted:
Used rubber boots, suitable for children aged 5, 6 and 7.
If you have some old boots laying around that no longer get used, please drop into the front office. We will put them to good use!

SRC
A reminder that Friday September 4th is Superhero Day! This is a fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy and we hope to see all students and teachers dress up as their favourite superhero. As well as being fun, the gold coin donation will raise valuable funds for MD programs, services and research at the National Muscular Dystrophy Research Centre.

Roster
Thursday August 27th— Kim McMillan
Friday September 4th — Silvana Stephens

Munchies
Tuesday 25th August
Tammy Leistra
Mardi Currie
Melissa Hunter

Tuesday 1st September
Jo Skeer
Dionne Klemm
Leolla Balk

Parent Club
Thank you to all the families that have returned their raffle tickets (sold or unsold) and money to the office. Please return by September 2nd to ensure all tickets make it to the draw.

Community News
ATTENTION AUSKICK PARENTS
Can anyone who has a child that participated in Auskick this year (not first timers) and has not received their AFL t-shirt please contact me ASAP by emailing tnt_brand@bigpond.com.au with the following information:

1. You never received the initial email requesting confirmation of your child’s participation in the program that included the option to select team and shirt size.
2. You selected team and shirt size, it hasn’t arrived and you have had no contact from AFL Auskick to say why.

Cheers
Trish Brand
0427 164 557

South Indians Baseball Club
Registration Day
Friday 4th of September 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
Where: Mount Gambier Baseball League Clubrooms, Blue Lake Sports Park
ALL PLAYERS WELCOME. JUNIORS AND SENIORS.
COACHES:
U13s Haydn Timms 0413 434 664
U15s Bruce Morale 0429 848 137
U17s Ash Ratcliffe 0439 229 273