Greetings:

I have been at a two day literacy and numeracy training workshop this week, talking with other site leaders about what strategies bring about the best learning outcomes for students. The research is showing that when we teach our children how to think, then that will have a positive impact on all of their learning. Strategies like our learning toolbox help students identify what tools to use when facing problems – what to do when you don’t know what to do! More and more we are seeing our students be gutsy, go for it, get along, be creative and curious, and as a consequence they are facing new challenges confidently and with enthusiasm. Don’t forget to praise your children when you notice them using their toolbox – praise them for their effort, their strategy, their concentration, their thoughtful choices and their persistence.

In a recent study by Carol Dweck, she found that it was this specific kind of praise, rather than ‘you’re clever’, that helped children remain motivated, confident and effective. If you’d like to read the whole article, here is the link: www.cardiffschools.com/cms/lib03/.../Centricity/.../boosting_achievement_dweck.pdf

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**Diary Dates**

**Term 2**
- Thu 26<sup>th</sup> May: P&F
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun: Assembly
- Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Jun: SAPSASA Cross Country Championships
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Jun: Pupil Free day
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Jun: Queen’s Birthday
- Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Jun: Hot Lunch
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Jun: Assembly
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> - Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun: Camp at Warradale
- Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Jun: SAPSASA Football/Netball Tryouts @ Peake
- Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Jul: Assembly

**Term 3**
- Thu 11<sup>th</sup> Aug: Hot Lunch
- Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep: Athletics Selection Day
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Sep: Tennis & Cricket Selection
- Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Sep: Hot Lunch
- Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Sep: Athletics Country Champs

**Term 4**
- Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov: Hot Lunch
- 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Nov: Cricket & Tennis State Carnivals in Adelaide
- Thu 1<sup>st</sup> Dec: Hot Lunch

**TERM DATES 2016**
- Term 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> May - 8<sup>th</sup> Jul 2016
- Term 3: 25<sup>th</sup> Jul - 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2016
- Term 4: 17<sup>th</sup> Oct - 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016
TIQBIZ
We have achieved 75% of our families joined up to Tiqbiz, so the Governing Council has decided to continue, as already it has been a positive aid to communication between families and school. If you have not yet registered, you can do so by following the instructions below. If you have any problems, please give Sue a ring!

WELCOME MR WURFEL
Today we were excited to welcome Mr Nick Wurfel to our teaching team, taking on Mrs Smith’s previous role in teaching the 5/6/7 group and the Arts on Fridays. Margie has decided she would like to put all of her energy into her PCW role, which she does so wonderfully.

Regards,
Ruth

Term 2 has got off to a great start in our class with lots of activities keeping us all busy. Today we received in the mail a certificate from the NRM at Murray Bridge acknowledging our participation in the Easter Foil Recycling Challenge. With the help of our school families and the local community we collected 415 grams of Easter egg wrappers which made a ball of almost basketball size. This was quite a remarkable effort for our small school, and we received a special mention in the results based on school numbers. The overall winner was St Joseph’s School, Murray Bridge, with a whopping 4026 grams of foil! It’s satisfying to know that the efforts of our class have prevented all that foil going into landfill.

This exercise has tied in particularly well with a couple of our learning areas this term. In Health our focus is on healthy eating and lifestyles and the students have begun planning and preparing

A Point to Ponder
Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve
Roger Lewin
for an upcoming *Nude Food Day* – stay tuned for more details! On Monday they collected all the wrappers from both classes’ recess and lunch – this was quite an eye-opening experience showing how much rubbish our small student body produce in one day. The Year 3 and 4 students counted the rubbish and calculated that the 84 pieces collected in one day means that our school produces around 16800 pieces per year! The students then studied the ingredients lists on the wrappers and sorted the foods into healthy, unhealthy and ‘not-too-bad’ groups. While they did this, the Year 5, 6 and 7’s started recording some of the ingredients and researching exactly what they are. We will keep you posted as we work out what we think are some of the healthiest options for snacks as well as trying out some simple, home-made recipes.

In Science we have commenced our *Physical Sciences* strand by investigating forces and movement. The students have enjoyed some simple investigations into how potential energy can be converted into kinetic energy and are currently designing and constructing catapults. The ‘balloon poppers’ they built last week created a great opportunity to use the measuring skills we are practicing in Maths at present as they competed to see how far they could shoot a small pom-pom with their poppers. Along with measurement, our Maths focus has been on developing multiplication and division skills with the Year 3, 4 and 5 students. They have been doing well at mastering different written and mental strategies for these operations but, as always, it’s apparent that continual practice of times-tables will make this easier. It has been great to welcome Stuart Bond into our maths class on Tuesdays as a volunteer – his help is much appreciated by the students and me!

I look forward to another interesting range of Passion Projects coming to fruition this term. Remember that nightly reading and practice of spelling words is still a homework requirement in addition to the Passion Project, and that some times-tables practice would always help too.

Kind regards,

*Kathryn Roberts and the MUP Class.*

Welcome back to Term 2 – we have had a bit of a rocky start with lots of “bugs” going around but this week it has been nice to see almost all faces back and to also be feeling 100% better myself! Hopefully we can keep it this way!
On Wednesday we had a very exciting afternoon for our Digital Technologies session. Students were introduced to BeeBots, which we explained are little bees that are robots and just like robots, they need to be told or programmed to know what to do. We talked about the role of a programmer and what things around us need programming or require us to control them. We practised giving and following directions to see the importance of a programmer and the importance of inputting correct information.

We had a lot of fun learning about how to program the BeeBots to move to certain places on some grid maps, racing them in teams to get to certain points and moving them through mini mazes. From the laughter, I think our favourite part was when we practised inputting information to get them to turn a full circle and move backwards. We cannot wait to utilise them throughout other learning areas in the next week.

Another highlight from this term has been our Literacy Centres for the year. I have particularly enjoyed listening to students read their guided reading texts every day and am starting to hear some wonderful expression throughout their group reading. Everyone is really improving at becoming an independent writer too, in the Work on writing centre and I have enjoyed reading some interesting silly sentences or mini stories. It has been really fantastic to see confidence developing and students enthusiastically wanting to read and write every day.

REMINDER: Our theme for this term is ‘Stories’. Specifically, we are looking at nursery rhymes and traditional fairy tale or superhero and villain stories. If you have anything related to these themes, even if it’s a version of a classic nursery rhyme or fairy tale, we would love to read them together and share them in our Fairy tale corner.

Take care,

Miss. Lorelle Barton
I keep all staff and families of Geranium Primary School in my prayers as we learn in the midst of the mundane!

Margaret Smith
Pastoral Care Worker

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THANK YOU

A BIG THANK YOU to Meredith Lithgow for rescuing the abundance of produce from the Vegetable Garden. Thank you Meredith, for the scrumptious soups, dicing up the vegetables for the freezer and for the hours of weeding. We appreciate your time and value your support of the school!

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Needed for Kids’ Club Craft

- Washed Milk Cartons
- Plastic Bottle Tops in assorted colours and sizes

Items can be left in Marg Smith’s PCW room at school.

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Unfortunately, Piano and Violin Tuition will no longer be available as Pastor Harry Pickett has moved to the Mid Murray Lutheran Parish.

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From 1 February 2016
- 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge starts

9 September 2016
- Reading finishes for the 2016 challenge

11 July - 23 September 2016
Student Reading Records collected. Data entered in schools - from the end of term.

Students have recording sheets in their diaries.

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2016 CENSUS FIELD OFFICERS
Up to 38,000 opportunities to make a difference...
We’re seeking up to 38,000 Census Field Officers to join our team and play a role in shaping the future of Australia.
If you’re community minded, comfortable using a computer, mobile or tablet device, are an Australian Citizen or have the legal right to work in Australia, then jump online and apply today.
A Census Field Officer’s duties may vary, depending on their assigned area, but workers from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.
Apply now at abs.gov.au/careers

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We need all kinds of people to become foster carers.
Phone 1300 2 FOSTER (1300 2 367 837) or visit www.fostercare.sa.gov.au
DO YOU NEED CHILDCARE?

Childcare places are available for babies to 5 years old in Geranium on alternate Fridays during the school term

Session Times: - 8.45am - 5.15pm
(Morning and afternoon sessions available)
SESSION TIMES: - 8.30am - 5.15pm
(morning and afternoon sessions available as well as OSHC)

CONTACT:-
MALLEE CHILDCARE ON THE GO SERVICE
(Mallee COGS)

HAYLEY (Administration Coordinator):
0428 763 970

BELINDA (GERANIUM Team Leader):
0439 887 099

National Volunteer Week - May 9-15

Dear volunteers,

You are usually busy putting other people’s needs first, but this week it’s your turn. Today marks the start of National Volunteer Week when we recognise and celebrate your contribution to our community - especially to South Australian kids.

South Australians can be proud of our record of volunteering. Despite our busy lives, almost 37 per cent of us still find the time to volunteer in our communities - the second highest rate across the country.

This figure includes thousands of parents, grandparents and others who give their time in our children’s centres, preschools, schools and care and protection services. Thank you for all the roles you take on, including coaching kids’ sport, serving on governing councils, listening to reading, helping out in tuck shops or on camps or excursions, teaching languages in our ethnic schools and helping kids in care with their homework, providing transport so they can visit family members or supporting older kids to learn vital life skills.

You make kids’ lives better in so many ways. You support them to develop a love of reading and to know their heritage and culture, you introduce them to the fun of sports and the value of teamwork and you help to establish safe and settled environments for kids in care. And just by being there and sharing your valuable time with kids, you show them they - and their future - are important.

To all of you, I want to say thank you for giving so much to our communities. This week, the spotlight is on you - enjoy your well-deserved celebration.

Susan Close
Minister for Education and Child Development