Greetings:

At a recent working bee, I had the privilege to watch the best example of collaborative thinking and problem solving I've seen in a long time! There were ideas being proposed, people analysing and building on those ideas, people using their previous knowledge to refine the ideas, testing the ideas, adjusting of strategies in response to the trials, and finally, a very successful outcome. It took time and good humour, but the results were impressive! Thankyou to that group of Dads.

This is the kind of thinking we are explicitly building in our students. The ability to remember, and hold several pieces of information in your mind at the one time. The ability to be flexible so that when one strategy doesn’t work, you try another one, and the ability to be self controlled, and to take time to think things through before acting. These are what are called the Executive Functions.

Our learning toolbox encourages students to be curious and ask questions, to be creative in the solutions they think of, to be gutsy and take reasonable risks, to go for it and keep trying until they reach success, and above all, to get along and find solutions collaboratively.

This is the poster we are using with the students to explain these thinking skills:
When I:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REMEMBER</th>
<th>AM FLEXIBLE</th>
<th>AM CONTROLLED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I hold onto things that I hear, say and need to know</td>
<td>I can change what I think &amp; do to fit what is happening around me</td>
<td>I listen patiently, waiting before saying or doing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then I can use my Learning Toolbox to:

When people use these thinking skills, then tasks such as the ones undertaken during the working bee become much more likely of success. Research has shown that people with good executive function and thinking skills tend to have more successful lives overall – executive functions and thinking skills contribute to success in all aspects of life. It is not something you are born with - it develops over time. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that it can be deliberately developed and used effectively at any stage in your life, and I certainly saw evidence of it during that working bee.

Congratulations to all of our students and the impressive way in which they participated in the athletics carnival! As a staff we were extremely proud of their good sportsmanship and humour, their teamwork and persistence – well done!

Point to Ponder

“Our greatest strength lies in collaboration, not competition.”

Joseph Rain

Athletics Day Award Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Girls Champion</td>
<td>Olivia Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Junior Girls Runner Up</td>
<td>Amy Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Junior Boys Champion</td>
<td>Oscar Knight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Sub Junior Girls Runner Up</td>
<td>Matilda Knight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Sub Junior Boys Champion</td>
<td>Hayden Rolfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Sub Junior Boys Runner Up</td>
<td>Tom Harvey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It’s the end of week 3 already? I can’t believe how quickly this term is already going. It might have something to do with how busy we have been keeping ourselves in the JP room though. So far this term, some of the things we have been working on are: odd and even numbers, shapes, The BFG, Olympics, beginning school concert preparation, rhyming words, refreshing recount writing and squeezed in there we also had a Sports Day. Most excitedly, this week we began integrating our new iPads into our Literacy Centres at one of our reading stations. I am very excited to see technology be integrated into our learning more and more and can’t wait to see what students are going to be able to create after some How to/exploratory Digital Technologies lessons.

In reading we have almost finished our class novel ‘The BFG’ and have particularly enjoyed reading the chapters about “trogglehumper” (bad) and “phizzwizzard” (good) dreams. In a writing session last week we enjoyed coming up with our own “trogglehumper” and “phizzwizzard” dreams and then illustrated our own dream jars just like the BFG collects and has on his shelves. I was blown away with the creative thinking that the students displayed – what imaginative minds!

The Olympics have added a lot of excitement to our classroom despite only doing a few activities around it. We have looked at where we are in the world compared to Rio, the Olympic rings, Olympic torch and every day at the start of Maths we are tallying Australia’s medal successes. I was blessed to be a part of a beautiful conversation between my students last week when we also looked at team mascots and the characteristics and design of the Olympics and Paralympics mascots. They designed some intriguing mascots themselves and had the BEST conversation about the Paralympics. I really urge you to tune into any Olympics events and talk about the medal ceremonies and countries and sports and to do the same when the Paralympics are on.

On Sports Day I was really impressed with the way the JP students participated, well done to all the JP students who attended the day and gave it your all. I heard from lots of people that you all were great listeners and helped out others around you and most importantly you tried your best in everything you did. Our class would specifically like to congratulate Matilda who was awarded the runner-up champion for her age group at Sports Day. Pretty impressive for a Year 2 competing against Year 3’s!

Until next time,

Miss. Lorelle Barton
It has been a busy couple of weeks and I must thank the students of our class as well as the other staff for keeping things running smoothly whilst I had to take a few days rest and recovery time after a slight accident in the holidays. We were also missing Olivia and Ben for three days last week as they ventured off on camp with the Lameroo students which, by all accounts, was full of adventures and the making of new friendships. Things have settled back into a great routine this week and the students are very enthused by our new ‘House Cup’ competition running in the MUP class. Earning points for their houses has many of the students making an extra effort to ‘do the right thing’ as well as looking out for opportunities to help others and being motivated to complete their homework nice and early in the week! Keep up the great effort everyone!

Last week we commenced our Design and Technology topic for this term which looks at Food and Fibre production. With primary production being such a huge contributor to Australia’s economy it is important that our next generation have an understanding of where their food comes from and the processes behind its journey from the paddock to their plate. It is believed that this understanding also encourages children to make healthy eating choices. With our students growing up in a rural environment we assume they know a lot about this topic but they are choosing to investigate areas of farming that are outside of their local experience. For the older students these investigations include learning about the importance of sustainable farming practices as well as comparing modern practices with those of our forebears. We also hope to spend some time planning and replanting the school vegetable garden for the upcoming spring growing season and looking at ways of using the fresh produce with some healthy cooking and meal planning. I am quite excited about this learning journey for our students and hope to be able to include a relevant excursion.
The Junior Primary class are also covering the same topic and this week enjoyed their first lesson, investigating pig farming.

Well done to all the students for the amazing efforts you put into participating at the Athletics Carnival at Lameroo. I was very sorry not to be there to watch and cheer you on but was proud to hear of what a great job you did. Congratulations to all of our age group winners and runners-up: Olivia, Amy, Oscar, Hayden and Tom. We also wish Olivia and Luke well as they head off to Adelaide next week as members of our district SAPSASA netball and football teams – I know you will represent Geranium with pride.

Kind regards,

Kathryn Roberts and the MUP Class.

Students working on designing and constructing innovative packaging for a fragile object in our Science topic on Materials.
“What’s the Buzz” Social Skills Program is up and running again with Groups 3 & 4. Our focus this week is “Meeting and Greeting”. Maybe you could encourage your children to practice the art of “greeting”.

At the end of the term, I will be having a “Cup Cake Cook Up” with the help of the PCW Support Group. More details later.

Welcome to Montanna, year 6 student, to Geranium Primary School and I hope that your days here are fun! I also welcome Montanna’s family: Narissa, Brenton, Ashley and Olivia to our school community.

I have been away for Weeks 1 & 2 of Term 3 and I really missed the fun times with my school “family”. (One of the Junior Primary students said, “It seemed like you were away for a year, Mrs Smith”, and I agreed. It did feel like a long time for me as well).

I was at Napperby being a grandmother, as my daughter Petria, has a new baby, Olivia Grace. (I am biased, I know, but she’s beautiful!)

Thinking about Olivia Grace’s name, I came across a song by U2, “Grace” on Youtube. If you want to listen to the song, type in U2 Grace Youtube & Mother Teresa.

The clip is great and the words ring true for me. Grace isn’t about “getting even”.

Grace makes beauty out of ugly things
Grace finds beauty in everything.
Grace finds goodness in everything

As Bono says, “I’m holding out for Grace”. May you find it in you to live, speak and show grace as “stuff” happens.

I keep all families and staff of Geranium Primary School in my prayers.

Margaret Smith (Pastoral Care Worker PCW)

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**SOUTHERN MALLEE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**POOL VACANCIES**

**LAMEROO/PINNAROO**

**Life Guards**

Registrations of interest are sought from suitably qualified persons to act as Life Guards for the Lameroo/Pinnaroo Pools for the 2016/2017 season.

**Minimum Qualification** - Bronze Medallion, First Aid, CPR [renewed yearly] and National Police Clearance. Copies of current appropriate certificates to be enclosed with your application.

Minimum age for this position is 16 years.

**Canteen Operators – Lameroo Only**

Registrations of interest are sought from persons interested in operating the canteen at the Lameroo pool.

**Minimum Qualification** - First Aid and National Police check. Copies of current appropriate certificates to be enclosed with your application.

Minimum age for this position is 15 years.

**Applications**

All applications/registrations of interest must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “Pool Vacancies” and addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Southern Mallee District Council, PO Box 49, Pinnaroo SA 5304. Applications close 2 pm on Friday 26th August 2016.

For information on the above mentioned positions, please contact Lesley Caulfield telephone 85 763 002 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
Art Exhibition.

Thank you for all for attending my art exhibition. A total of $100.50c was raised for the New Smile Orphanage. Mr and Mrs Durant have visited Cambodia and seen the children and bought writing books, pens and pencils for each of them. Thank you to Mrs. Bond who made some delicious cupcakes! Another big thank you to Mrs. Howard for bringing in some great art work, and to all the students who put in their artwork as well.

Emelia.