**COMING EVENTS**

**Week 8**  
**Virtue – Responsibility**  
**Monday 18-3-13**  
* 8:50 Assembly  
* 9:30-11:30 Kindy-Rec Transition visit 1  
* Year 6-7 Young Leaders’ Day excursion  
* SAKG classes  
* User pays Guitar  

**Tuesday 19-3**  
* Kerry, our Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW), is in 9-4pm  
* Active After Schools (AAS) Athletics  
* Staff meeting  
* **Wednesday 20-3**  
* Kerry at school 11:30-3:30  
* AAS Dance  
* 7pm Positive Psychology parent info evening  

**Thursday 21-3**  
* Kerry at school 9-4pm  
* Senior choir  
* User Pays piano  

**Friday 22-3**  
* Year 3-4 Water Watch  
* 2:50 Assembly Year 1-2 hosts  

**EASTER FAIR**  

**Week 9**  
**Monday 25-3-13**  
* 8:45-1:45 K/R transition visit 2  
* 8:50 Assembly  
* User pays Guitar  
* SAKG classes  

**Tuesday 26-3**  
* Year 6-7 at Noarlunga Aquatics  
* Kerry, (CPSW), is in 9-4pm  
* (AAS) Athletics  
* Staff meeting  

**Wednesday 27-3**  
* Year 6-7 at Noarlunga Aquatics  
* 3:30-4:30 AAS Dance  

**Friday 29-3**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

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**SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Last week the school’s ‘Site Improvement Plan’ for 2013 was added to our website, [www.maccyps.sa.edu.au](http://www.maccyps.sa.edu.au)

The plan lists three main foci:

- Quality Teaching
- The Australian Curriculum
- Student Well-being

Under each of these headings, ‘Improvement Priorities’, ‘Implementation Strategies’ and ‘Targets’ for 2013 are stated. Our Improvement priorities for this year listed under each focus area are:

**Quality Teaching**

* Continue our work in developing and using ‘Assessment for Learning’ strategies  
* Continue our work using Ann Baker’s ‘Natural Math Strategies’  
* Further develop the Professional Learning Communities established with staff from Echunga, Meadows and Callington Primary Schools  
* Continue to use the Teaching for Effective Learning framework  
* Deprivatise our classrooms by asking colleagues to come in and critically reflect on our practices

**The Australian curriculum**

* Continue our work in and further develop our understandings of the Australian Curriculum areas of Maths and Science  
* Develop an understanding of planning, programming, teaching, assessing and reporting in History and English

**Student Well-being**

* Monitor and report issues of Bullying  
* Teach a unit of work from the ‘Child Protection’ curriculum  
* Continue to focus our work in the ‘Virtues’ program and relate this back to our school Values  
* Further develop the ‘Better Buddies’ program between new Receptions and our older students  
* Develop a culture of ‘Positive Psychology’ at school
This fortnight’s virtue is:

RESPONSIBILITY

Being responsible means others can trust you to do things with excellence. You accept accountability for your actions. When you make a mistake you offer amends rather than excuses. Responsibility is the ability to respond ably and to make smart choices.

You are practising responsibility when you:
- Take your agreements seriously
- Respond ably by doing things to the very best of your ability
- Are willing to do your part
- Admit mistakes without making excuses
- Are ready and willing to clear up misunderstandings
- Give your best to whatever you do.

Maccy Merits

Junior Youth Environment Forum

Bodhi, Callum and Aidan have been busy over the past couple of weeks putting up ‘Please Delight Me’ signs next to all of our light switches. Hopefully these signs will act as reminder to the last person leaving a room to turn the lights off.

Schools Clean Up Australia Day (1-3-13)

The whole school participated in this event a couple of weeks ago. The Reception children cleaned up around the main building, the Year 1-2s tidied the oval and the SAKG garden area, the Year 3-4s picked up rubbish in the staff car-park and the Top Block while the 5-6-7s looked after Davenport Square.

While some rubbish was found it was pleasing to note that less than 10kg of rubbish was collected. Most of this was found caught up in the bushes bordering Davenport Square and Venables Street and is most likely the result of rubbish being thrown from passing vehicles.

All in all the children and staff were pleased with the schools and the Square’s tidiness leaving us to believe that, Maccy residents especially the school children, take a great deal of pride in how the town and school presents.

The Year 1-2 class standing next to the one bag of rubbish they collected from around the school. It had a mass of less than 2kg

Mt Barker Council’s Environment Matters newsletter

It made us all very proud to read of the children’s efforts being recognised in the council’s ‘Environment Matters’ newsletter. The children gained recognition for their proposed work in revegetating the Night Paddock and for their efforts in breeding spider mites to be released on gorse bushes in the Day Paddock and leaf hoppers for local residents to release on infestations of bridal creeper.

Well done kids. Keep up the great environmental work you are currently undertaking around the town.
Positive Psychology

Mt Barker High School is now entering its second year of introducing positive psychology to its students. Positive psychology is the study and teaching of strengths and virtues enabling individuals and communities to thrive. If successful, with positive psychology, a student’s well-being is greatly improved. Data shows that the greater a child’s well-being the greater their achievements.

As a feeder primary school to Mt Barker High School Macclesfield will pick up the philosophies of Positive Psychology and implement them with our students. This will involve teaching them PERMA.

PERMA is an acronym that stands for;

P – positive emotions - “Hunt the good stuff” in order to fight the negative and create an upward spiral

E – engagement – enabling “flow” to occur where students achieve complete focus

R – relationships – practising active constructive responses to good news showing that other people matter

M – meaning – a belief that we belong to and serve something greater than ourselves

A – accomplishment – where Grit = passion and perseverance for achieving long term goals

With An increase in well-being through the teaching of PERMA it is hoped that children will have:

- Less depression (likely)
- Less anxiety (likely)
- Better relationships (possible)
- Less trouble (possible)
- Higher grades (possible)
- Greater success in life (probable)
- Better physical health (probable)

Warren Symons
Principal of Mt Barker High School will be addressing a Parent Information evening on POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY at Macclesfield Primary School On Wednesday March 20th 7:00 – 8:00pm in the RBLC

All parents and interested community members invited

Please contact the school on 8388 9338 If you plan to attend Creche provided
Messages from Kerry...

Easter Memories

Memories help shape our sense of who we are; family memories help shape our sense of belonging. Sharing family traditions and stories help children belong, because they know the collective story and can contribute to it. While it is a great to sit around and tell stories and look at photos and other mementoes, it is just as important to create the traditions that become part of your family’s story.

Yes, we groan when we see hot cross buns in the shops before January, instead start to think of your family traditions, plan to make your own Easter buns. There are packets of sweet bun mix in the shops or you may have traditional family recipe you can use. Half an hour mixing and shaping, plus some waiting time for rising and cooking, you have created an Easter memory or a happening tradition. You might use the waiting time to share the stories you know of Easter or to talk about why there is a cross – a symbol of God’s love and Jesus’ death – on the buns. Making Easter buns together for a couple of years and you will have established a family Easter tradition.

Doing things and talking about them are important. But perhaps the most important thing is to be growing together. While children love you doing things for them (at times), and love you letting them do it all by themselves (at not so convenient times), allow time and space to do things together. Children grow up knowing that they really belong when their gifts and abilities are intermingled together with others in the family and what they bring is value and affirmed. Try to find opportunities throughout the lead up to Easter to play, wonder, remember and grow with your children. What are the memories and stories that you are planting that will carry through to the following generation?

Some other family Easter traditions

- Make Easter decorations
- Dye hard boiled eggs
- Easter Egg hunt
- Make Hot Cross Buns
- Family get together
- Attend Church service
- Eat fish on Good Friday
- Family picnic
- Easter baking

Harmony Day next Wednesday is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home - from the owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By acknowledging Harmony Day we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong and enrich this great nation.

Next Wednesday the children are encouraged to wear the colour orange to remind us that everybody belongs........

In 2013 the theme is: Many Stories – One Australia. Our Australian Story is diverse. We come from many countries and make up the pages of the bigger Australian story we share today. Everyone has a story to share – share yours with your children today.

www.harmonyday.gov.au
Birthdays for the next fortnight:

Students:
Emily    16/3    11 years
Thomas   28/3    12 years
Birthday wishes to the both of you!

Parent /Teacher Interviews
Interviews are being held in week 10. Notes will be coming home from class teachers next week. Please complete and return to school asap.

ICAS Tests
Please send in money and forms to school if you wish your child to participate in these tests.
Forms were in last fortnight’s newsletter.

Maccy Merits

50 Maccy Merits for the week:
Hayley Bolt
Sebastian Scamps
Julian Henstridge
Tianna Ewens
Jaycie Cearns
Jena Cearns

Free dental care for all toddlers and preschoolers

The School Dental Service is available to children aged from birth up until 18 at public dental clinics throughout South Australia. Dental care is provided by teams of dentists, dental therapists and dental assistants.

For all toddlers and preschoolers dental care is free.

The School Dental Service recommends children have their first dental visit at around 12-24 months.

Fees apply for primary school or high school aged children unless your child is the dependant of, or holder of, a current Centrelink Concession Card, Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession Card, School Card or Medicare Teen Dental Voucher.

It is very important children develop good dental habits early in life. Dental staff will talk to you about your child’s individual dental health needs.

Contact your local School Dental Clinic to make an appointment for your preschooler.

The contact details are: Mt Barker School Dental Clinic

Phone: 8391 0858
Address: Dumas Street, Mt Barker
Open: 8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri

Email: Graeme.milne59@schools.sa.edu.au
www.maccyps.sa.edu.au
Mobile: 0401 120 388