Dear Parents and Caregivers

It doesn’t matter what day of the week you open up a newspaper on, there is always a story about education and what is happening in our schools. Some of the stories are sad, even tragic or terrible, others are ‘good news’ stories about the great work people do in schools and students’ achievements.

During the Christmas school holidays I read a story about improving students’ progress in reading, and like many such stories, it was the headline that grabbed my attention and I kept reading. Without going into all the details, the article outlined a programme that had been set up for primary age students to improve their reading through practice. No rocket science there, I don’t think!

These people, whoever they were, were pretty proud of their programme and they had the data to prove it worked. All they did was put these students on the phone for 20 minutes with an older ‘buddy’ who would then listen while the child read their book over the phone to them.

As far as I am concerned, this story wasn’t a good news story, even though the paper presented it that way. I just found it sad.

Sad that there was no one in that child’s own home or vicinity that could hear them practice their reading once a day for around ten to fifteen minutes.

Sad that the adults in those households didn’t know, or perhaps realise, how much difference that such practice would make, not just to the child’s reading achievement in the short term but to their ability to make good progress in all areas of learning at school and in life overall.

Maybe it’s just another sad indictment of the busy lives people lead these days? I don’t believe that ‘busy-ness’ and ‘business’ are the same thing in terms of the relative quality of different activities and I would argue that reading practice, in this instance is ‘business’, ie the real deal!

Or simply pause for thought in the ‘busy-ness’ of things?

Tracy Griffin

At last night’s Governing Council Meeting, a Student Free Day was granted for Friday, March 7th. Teachers will be working on their understanding of the Australian Curriculum on this day.
BANKSIA CLASS NEWS

We’ve been practising ‘generating ideas’ for writing. We used Winter Olympics pictures to think about what we knew, and what we could write. These are some of our stories.

Ice Skating
In the Olympics, there are some people ice skating, and they’re famous. To protect them, they wear helmets and goggles. Their colours were red, blue, blue, and blue. By Lucy.

In the Olympics, people were watching the skiing. They go side to side on the snow. The camera men were taping it. There were 20 people skiing on the snow. The people were amazed with their awesome skiing. When they were going side to side they crashed into each other. Soon in the end Australia won and got a gold medal. By Lydia.

Go Skiing.
The lights light up the trees.
By Tim

They are skating.
They are famous.
By Boston
The 4-7 Class has been very busy over the last 2 weeks, both with their work in the classroom and with projects around the school.

Their first big job was to clean the blackboard outside of the Junior Primary room. All of the 4-7 boys volunteered their lunchtime to scrub and polish the board to bring it to scratch. It is looking great and will soon be given a new coat of paint in order to get it looking like new!

The next major job was to clean out the PE equipment shed. We all braved the weather conditions on Friday and got stuck in. We cleared everything out of the shed, gave it a good clean and then worked out how we could get it all back in again before we were washed away! All of the gear was sorted and put into containers and can now be easily found. We pumped up balls and threw out gear that was no longer usable.

While cleaning out the shed we stumbled across some great games that hadn’t been used for a while. These included boche ball, bowls sets, croquet set and quoits. We now have these out to play with at recess and lunch. They have been a huge success with students of all ages playing together and having a great time.

After cleaning out the PE shed we also opened up all of the gear that we received from the Woolworth’s Earn and Learn Program. We were lucky enough to receive 2 new cricket bats, a rubber cricket ball, junior soccer nets, 2 mini soccer balls and 6 sets of stilts. These are already being well used at lunchtime and there has been some excellent sharing happening.

With all of this sorting and cleaning we have managed to do some work in the classroom too. We have started out Geography topic focusing on using maps and the world around us. In writing we have been learning about recounts by writing about our holidays and reconstructing a range of recounts.

We finished Reading Storm Boy and watched the movie so that we could make comparisons. We found that there were many differences between the book and the movie. We then went on to make a treasure box to display all of the items that would represent Storm Boy’s character. These look fantastic and all show a great deal of thought and effort.

4-7’s we are very proud of you!!
Parents’ Club AGM
Just a reminder to you all that our AGM will be held this Friday morning, February 21st at 9.30 in the Library. Hope to see you there!

The Manoora Hall committee will hold two Produce Markets this year on Easter Monday 21st April & Saturday 4th October (Holiday weekend) 9am – 3pm.
If anyone is interested or knows someone that maybe in having a table please contact Glenys Quick 884 84330.

A trading table will be held at the hall on State Election Day Saturday March 15th donations of saleable items would be gratefully accepted. A sausage sizzle will also be available with proceeds going towards the Variety Bash Appeal. Please help support local team member and driver Greg Schwartz who will participate in this year’s bash. Theme for this year will be “Cat in a hat” with the vehicle making a special visit and will be on display at the hall. Watch this space for further details.

Anzac Day service will be held at the Memorial Gate of the Centenary Park on Friday 25th April at 11am. A luncheon will follow in the Manoora Hall. More details to follow.
SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

A new children’s dental benefits schedule for 2 – 17 year olds started in January 2014. It is called the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider and welcomes babies, children and young people under 18 years.

**Dental care is FREE for most children** and the School Dental Service will bulk-bill Medicare.

Children who do not qualify for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule can still attend – a small fee may apply for each course of general dental care provided.

There are no waiting times at the School Dental Service. To keep your children’s teeth and gums healthy we encourage them to attend the School Dental Service.

The **Clare School Dental Service** is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 4:20 pm for school dental clients. Please phone on 8842 4196 to make an appointment.

For more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

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$10 Gift Voucher for all new BankSA Accounts

For the start of Term 1, BankSA is offering all students who open a new Incentive Saver Account via the School a $10 Gift Voucher, which will be deposited into your child’s account once opened.

All children under 13 years who open an account with BankSA will also receive a Digger the Wombat Money Box, LittleSavers Calculator, LittleSavers Library Bag and a School Bank Wallet. LittleSavers is BankSA’s special saving club for kids and it’s all about having fun and learning how to save! Take a look at the LittleSavers website littlesavers.com.au

This offer is available until 31 March 2014 and is for new customers only. **For more details or to collect a BankSA Application Pack, please call into the school office.**