Reading is our school priority.

Every child attending the North School is expected to read aloud to an adult every day.

GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM

The Governing Council AGM is scheduled for Tuesday of week 4, that’s Tuesday the 23rd February, 2016. The meeting will begin at 6.00pm in the school staff room. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Governing Council please contact Denise Hill or call in to the Front Office for a nomination form.

The Governing Council runs two businesses that require a Governing Council member to be on the committee – the School Canteen and the Out of School Hours Care (OSHC). The school has a number of other committees that discuss, plan, make decisions, then report to the Governing Council about future directions of the school. These committees include: Parent Club/Fundraising, ICT, Environment and Education. For this reason we ask members of the Governing Council to participate on one of these additional committees so as to be active members of the school community’s decision making process. These sub committees generally meet twice a term.

LISTENING TO PARENTS

At the end of last year I sent out a survey to parents to gather feedback on some aspects of the school. I sincerely thank all of the 140 parents who returned the survey as the information you provided was useful for us in planning for 2016 and ahead. We are listening.

• Parents requested more information from classes with photos eg examples of student work, what topics they are covering. Two classes have been rostered to be showcased in each newsletter and our specialist teachers will also contribute.
• Parents were supportive of the school priorities of reading, comprehension and numeracy.
• The Canteen had excellent feedback with most parents acknowledging that the Canteen is well run with a good range of healthy food as well as special days for food that’s best eaten less frequently.
• The survey showed parents were not necessarily aware of our webpage, Facebook and Skoolbag app and that we haven’t, in the past, been very good at keeping these updated. We are working to address this issue.
• Parent responses show you prefer Student Free Days to be either side of a weekend and in line with Murray Bridge High. When local principals meet to define these days we will take this into consideration. Parents were also supportive of the Show Day closure in September.

More about the rest of the survey in our next newsletter.
NEW ENROLMENTS

We continue to have new students enrolling and have welcomed well over 100 new students to Murray Bridge North School. Watch the Standard Newspaper for a photo of our new reception children! Our students old and new have settled in well with a focus on our core business – LEARNING and in particular READING. For students to maximize the benefits of school they need to be in class and on time. The first part of the day in every classroom is dedicated to building literacy skills. It is as difficult for your child to enter a classroom that has already started work as it is for us, as adults, to enter a meeting that’s already started. Every classroom start’s the day at 8.50am and no time is wasted- MINUTES MATTER in your child’s education if they are to thrive.

COMMUNICATION

Our school newsletter is emailed to parents who have provided their email address to the front office or child’s class teacher. It is put on the Murray Bridge North School website (www.mbnorthps.sa.edu.au) and a link is added to our FACEBOOK page. If you haven’t already ‘liked’ our Facebook page - do so, it’s a good way to stay in touch with the wide range of information and events that occur at the school. We also have a smartphone app- go to the app store and download the free ‘Skoolbag – Murray Bridge North School’ app to stay in touch. If you require a paper copy of the newsletter, call in to the Front Office as we print only a few and have them on the front counter.

Keep an eye on the website for each child’s class YEARLY OVERVIEW. This will tell you what your child will be covering over the year and is broken down term by term. This makes an easy way to support your child in their learning and show interest in what they’re covering. If you would like more detail don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

OSHC

Do you require childcare before school from 6.30 am, after school until 6.30 pm, vacation care or care on student free days. North OSHC offers quality care for primary aged children in a home like environment with dedicated, caring staff. OSHC operates from the ‘Old House’ adjacent to the JP playground. Details and costs involved with using OSHC can be found on the school web site or on the North School app.

Alternatively phone 08 85310179 / mobile 0417 825 455 or call in to see us and we can assist your enquiries.

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<th>Monday 16/2/16</th>
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<th>Thursday 19/2/16</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Every Wednesday 8:45-10am Parent coffee and chat</td>
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<td>22/2/16</td>
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<td>SAPSASA Softball Trails</td>
<td>SAPSASA Swimming Trials</td>
<td>Parents coffee and chat 8:45-10am</td>
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<td>29/2/16</td>
<td>1/3/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 Aquatics</td>
<td>Year 7 Aquatics</td>
<td>Parents coffee and chat 8:45-10am</td>
<td>World Book Day</td>
<td>National ride to school day</td>
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<td>School clean-up day</td>
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Science for Years 3-7.

There are four areas of study in Primary Science lessons; Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth & Space. This term all the classes will be investigating the area of Biology.

Year 7 students will be investigating the question, “How do systems interact and respond to change?” In this we are looking at the island of Surtsey which was created by volcanic activity in the 1960s and has been colonised by flora and fauna.

Year 6 students are looking at the world of micro-organisms. This involves discovering the conditions for yeast to thrive and to make bread with and without yeast. They also plan investigations around the best conditions to grow mould, another micro-organism.

Year 5 students are investigating the ways animals and plants have adapted to Australian conditions, particularly desert conditions. They need to plan investigations to discover the effects that leaf size and surface area have on transpiration.

Year 4 students will be working with plants discovering the conditions needed for plants to grow, flower, be pollinated and set seed. Particular emphasis is placed on the pollination and seed dispersal process where a variety of ways seeds are dispersed will be investigated.

Year 3 students are studying the Primary Connections topic of ‘Feather, Fur or Leaves’. Through hands-on activities, students explore how living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things.

I read the book ‘The Best Beak of Boonaroo Bay’ to Fabulous 14 and we are now carefully investigating the different adaptations birds have made to exist in different environment. We are investigating the feet and beaks of birds to gain a better understanding of what they might eat and which environment they inhabit.

Greg Hockham/Science teacher.

Pastoral Care Worker- Narelle Chester

I work as the Pastoral Care Worker Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Murray Bridge North School. My role is to support staff, students and families by providing resources, referrals and support in any situation. I am employed by the schools ministry group and supported by local churches. I am available to chat to anyone regardless of background and beliefs. If you would like to book an appointment leave a message at the front office or with a classroom teacher. I can also support students and I work alongside teachers and leadership to help students be the best they can be.

I run a lunchtime program on Tuesdays - a lego/craft/activities club and help out around the school as needed.
I’d love to meet you at playgroup on a Tuesday or parent coffee n chat on Wednesdays.
Narelle

Learning Together Playgroup

Learning together playgroup @ North School is on every Tuesday from 9am - 11am. It’s in the old house (OSHC building) and is free of charge, it includes activities for babies to preschool, fruit time, songs and other activities. Run by Anne from learning together and supported by Narelle Chester (Pastoral Care Worker).
Building Strong Beginnings – Room 4.6

Mrs Cummings and Mrs Whittle

To help build strong relationships in 4.6 and to get to know each other 4.6 have been engaging in a range of activities promoting interaction skills.

A ‘Find Someone Who’ bingo game meant we had to talk to others in the class and find out something about them (eg. If they had sisters/brothers, could tie shoelaces, liked playing chasey etc). We had to use our manners and ask questions for each section of the game.

‘It was fun getting to know other people and what they like doing.’ – Zavier

‘It was fun asking people if they have brothers and sisters’ – Sharlee

‘I know lots of people but I didn’t know what they liked.’ – Aimee

‘I wanted to see if they liked playing chasey because I might want to play with them.’ – Dayna

‘It was fun writing our names down for things we like to do.’ – Coby

‘It was fun seeing if someone was taller than me.’ – Maddie

‘I got to know people when I didn’t know their names.’ – Crystal
Hi Everyone!

In Room 6.8 we have been practising getting along with others. We have been sharing and taking turns. We have made collages of our families. Mrs Miegel wanted us to take our own photos of our collages but someone took our flip camera from the collage table on our first day. If you see it can you please return it to 6.8 so we can record our learning.

Love Mrs Miegel and the learners in 6.8