Reading is our school priority.

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

BIKES / SCOOTERS / SKATEBOARDS

Being able to ride a bike to school is a wonderful way to foster independence, resilience and road rules. There is a bike rack outside the Staff Room on the North Tce side. If your child rides a bike or a scooter to school they need to park their bike/ scooter at the rack. They will need a lock as the school accepts no responsibility for bikes / scooters / skateboards. I strongly suggest you teach your child HOW to lock their bike / scooter to a rack showing them where to place the chain so it is securely attached to the rack. They should then zip their helmet into their school bag for the rest of the day. If your child rides a skateboard to school it needs to be given to the class teacher who will store it for the day. Unfortunately an unlocked bike was stolen from the bike rack last week and the child was, naturally, extremely upset. This is being followed up by SA Police.

PARENT CLUB MEETING

I would like to invite existing members and extend that invitation to new parents/ caregivers to join the Murray Bridge North School Parent Club. Parent Club is a great way to meet new people and become involved in a friendly relaxed environment. We help with raising funds for a variety of things around the school. Parent Club meet twice a term in the Staff Room for a fun, sharing, relaxed morning supporting the school. If you are interested please come along or if you would like more information please contact the front office. Looking forward to seeing you all there- 8th March at 9.15am in the staff room.

Marcia Stapleton.

How to help your child get the most out of their daily reading

Give your child a PRESENT! Listen to them read EVERY day. This is a gift that not every parent gives their child. If YOU give your child this GIFT they are ahead of those who don’t read EVERY day.

What to do when my child struggles with a word….

Use Pause, Prompt, Praise method to help them:

* Pause
  * Give your child time to work out the word (try not to jump in with the correct word straight away).

* Prompt
  * Suggest going back to the beginning of the sentence, or encourage your child to read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence.
  * Suggest looking at the pictures or the sound the word begins with for a clue about what the word could be.
  * If prompts are not working, tell your child the word and briefly explain the meaning of the word but then quickly prompt them to continue reading.

* Praise
  * Give your child praise for trying, even if mistakes are made. For example you might say: “Well done, that was great reading. I thought it was fantastic how you went back to the start of the sentence to try and work out that tricky word for yourself.”
**FREE seminar – Toddlers and touch screens: what should I do?**

Touchscreens have become part of our everyday world. Parents are amazed at how quickly toddlers become adept in using them and how easily they hold a child’s attention. However, they are also unsure if it is safe for toddlers to use touchscreens regularly.

Come and hear nationally recognised parenting speaker, author and researcher Dr Justin Coulson talk about:

- the pros and cons of the digital age for children 0 to 5 years
- how and when to introduce touchscreens and games
- how to manage electronic media use.

The event will be webcast to accommodate parents and carers who cannot attend in person.

Date and time: Tuesday 5 April, 7.00 to 9.00pm Venue: City Rooms, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace

Register online at http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au to attend, or to view the webcast. For more information, visit http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentingsa/seminars.htm or phone Parenting SA on 8303 1660

Contact: Senior Health Promotion Officer, Parenting SA, Dorian Marsland-Smith, phone 8161 7159

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**FREE seminar – Children, teens and pornography: what every parent should know**

The online is filled with risks for children and families. Come and hear nationally recognised parenting speaker, author and researcher Dr Justin Coulson talk about:

- the alarming statistics regarding children’s access to online pornography
- the impact on boys and girls
- how parents can guide their child or teen.

The event will be webcast to accommodate parents and carers who cannot attend in person.

Date and time: Wednesday 6 April, 7.00 to 9.00pm Venue: City Rooms, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace

Register online at http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au to attend, or to view the webcast. For more information, visit http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentingsa/seminars.htm or phone Parenting SA on 8303 1660

Contact: Senior Health Promotion Officer, Parenting SA, Dorian Marsland-Smith, phone 8161 7159

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**Dates to Remember**

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>9am-4.30pm Aquatics</td>
<td>9am-4.30pm Aquatics</td>
<td>Parents coffee and chat 8:45-10am</td>
<td>World Book Day</td>
<td>National ride to school day /School Clean Up Day</td>
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<td>Adelaide Cup day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Parents coffee and chat 8:45-10am</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
<td>National Day of Action Against Bullying</td>
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<td>Harmony Day</td>
<td>Governing Council Meeting</td>
<td>Parents coffee and chat 8:45-10am</td>
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<td>Good Friday Public Holiday</td>
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We acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional owners of this land on which we meet and work. We respect and acknowledge their spiritual connection as the custodians of this land and that their cultural heritage beliefs are still important to the living people today.
2015 Parent Survey

As mentioned in the last newsletter we received 140 responses to our Parent Survey at the end of last year – THANKYOU!

Below are the results of a significant part of that survey. A very large part of this shows that Murray Bridge North School students, teachers and parents are doing well at meeting child and parent needs. Stay tuned over the year as we address some of the less positive ones.
This term we are looking at animals that live on farms.

Over the last few weeks we have read a range of books and sang songs about farm animals. We have also read many books about the life cycle of a chicken to help us understand how it forms.

We have been fortunate to have new members in Team Awesome in the form of chicks. So far we have seen 12 chicks hatch out of their eggs in the incubator and have seen them grow and develop further in their pen. This has enabled us to learn firsthand that the chicken’s survival is due to the basic needs of food, water and shelter. We will be waiting to see how many turn out to be hens and roosters.

We are all having a go at recording the changes the chicks go through each day in our daily diary. We have also incorporated the farm animals into our maths, literacy and arts programs too. Mrs Galpin is teaching farm animal songs in Music too.

The children have found the chickens very therapeutic and are really enjoying watching the chicks go about their busy daily activities.

Student comments so far...
‘You need a hen and a rooster to make a chic’. Norman
‘Feathers are called down too’. Jacob
‘A pullet is a girl chicken’. Jay

Thank you
Mrs Curtis & Team Awesome
**Music - Mr Crichton**

Although my classes are all varied in terms of age and skill I always start the year in the same fashion. Using the djembe (African drum) we focus on rhythm, beat and their relationship to each other.
Our year 3-5 students are already back composing and writing rhythms and our year 2 students are soaking up the basics in this area.
Our next steps will be working towards playing and composing melodies on our fantastic collection of xylophones.

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**The Performing Arts**

**Dance - Miss Waldron**

In the dance program for 2016 we will be focussing on learning, creating, performing and appreciating different types of dance. Students in Years 2 and 4 will have the opportunity to participate in 1 dance lesson per week. Students will be given opportunities to create their own dance moves as well as learn choreography and technical skills.

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**Music - Ms Galpin**

Reception students have been developing skill in listening, singing, playing instruments and moving to the beat. They have been playing games and learning songs that enable future learning.
Year 1's have been developing their singing voices and understanding of beat and rhythm using voice, movement, body percussion and instruments. They have been practicing reading, writing and playing basic rhythm patterns on percussion instruments.
Mrs. Curtis' class have been enjoying participating in songs and games that help develop listening skills, singing voices and understanding of pitch, beat and rhythm. They have been learning to move thoughtfully in response to music, individually and with partners.
Chinese New Year’s Celebrations

Here comes the Dragon!

And what a lot of noise those musicians made, keeping time as the parade moved through the school to celebrate Chinese New Year.

It was a tight schedule, right at the beginning of the school year and still, year sixes from 1.2 and year threes from 6.4 along with members of the media crew, managed to whip up the energy to carry the New Year’s wishes of all the children for good luck and success in the year ahead.