Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 3 everyone! We trust you all had a fun and eventful holiday break and that everyone is now ready for the exciting things ahead at the South. What a brilliant beginning to the term we have had with all children and staff returning positively to the busy term ahead.

A warm and friendly welcome to the following new students and families who have joined our school recently.

**Important event that we encourage you to attend:**

**Parent/teacher/Student Learning Interviews**

Our aim this year is to have 100% participation rate by families at our up and coming 3 way student/teacher/parent learning interviews in **Week 6** as we look forward to working in partnership with you to maximise our students’ outcomes. It is critical that all families join the teaching staff during the reporting period so that you know how your child is going and what you can do to help them in the next steps in their learning. Please book a time to see your child’s teacher via the School Interviews website.

**PUPIL FREE DAY AND SHOW DAY - SCHOOL CLOSURES**

**Friday the 2nd of September is a Pupil-Free Day** for staff to continue their work in Mathematics.

Please contact the Out Of School Care on 8398 2474 to make a booking if you are needing to book your child in for the Pupil-Free Day.

The **final date** for all families to remember this term is the approved school closure **Show Day** that has been scheduled for **Monday 5th of September**.
STUDENT ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES

Missing school means your child misses out on vital information and maintaining learning routines. This can result in a loss of confidence and missing out on forming vital friendships. Attendance is recorded each day. As a parent or caregiver you are responsible for ensuring your child attends school every day, including sports and birthdays unless your child: has an unavoidable medical or dental appt (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays), is required to attend a recognised religious holiday, is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral), is sick or has an infectious illness.

If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend school regularly, you might like to talk to either the School Counsellor Mr Todd or myself. If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, including arriving late or leaving early, please either inform your child’s teacher or Ursula/Jane in the front office, or explain the reason by phone, text, email, or written note as soon as possible, or within seven days.

Our school has a goal of achieving a 95% attendance rate for Term 3, a goal we take very seriously and which some classes are already achieving. Well done to these students, staff and especially the families of children in these classes that get their children to school every day on time. Parents play a critical role in supporting children to attend school every day and so we need your help, guidance and persistence in reaching this attendance goal.

How important is attendance?

Our school’s attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent. In addition to falling behind in academics, students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get into trouble with the law and cause problems in their communities.

A 2008 study conducted by the Rodel Community Scholars at Arizona State University that tracked students from kindergarten through high school found that dropout patterns were linked with poor attendance, beginning in kindergarten. Gregory Hickman, director of the Rodel Community Scholars program and former director of the Arizona Dropout Initiative, notes they discovered that as early as kindergarten, behavioural differences are apparent between those who go on to graduate and those who drop out, with dropouts missing an average of 124 days by eighth grade.

Parents play a critical role in supporting children to attend school every day and so we need your help, guidance and persistence in reaching our attendance goal. Are our students making sufficient progress?

What is Progress Monitoring?

Progress monitoring is a scientifically based practice that is used to assess students' academic performance and evaluate the effectiveness of instruction. At Mount Barker South, Progress Monitoring is implemented termly with individual students and in Term 4 with entire classes.

How does Progress Monitoring work?

To implement Progress Monitoring, the student’s current levels of performance are determined and goals are identified for learning that will take place over time. The student’s academic performance is measured on a regular basis (fortnightly and monthly). Progress toward meeting the student’s goals is measured by comparing expected and actual rates of learning. Based on these measurements, teaching is adjusted as needed. Thus, the student’s progress of achievement is monitored and instructional techniques are adjusted to meet the individual student’s learning needs.

One Plans And Our Progress Monitoring

Last week you would have received a letter from us about the Progress Intervention Group that your child is in for Literacy and Mathematics for Weeks 1 and 2. The letter also detailed the focus of your child’s intervention and goals that they are working on for the fortnight. This information details your child’s intervention support plan and progress they make as each goal is reached. Each term students in Wave 2 and Wave 3 Intervention Programs have a One Plan developed in partnership with families. This plan is monitored throughout each fortnight to measure your child’s achievement at reaching their short-term goals. Each child’s short-term goals are displayed on their desk for regular self-reflection and are an easy way for you to see what your child’s focus is on for the fortnight.

In Term 3 we have over 50 students in Wave 2 and 3 and another 70 students in Wave 1 or 1.5 working on 206 short-term learning goals per fortnight. The students were very excited to achieve 100% of their goals in Term 2 as reported in their mid-term school reports. This is a great achievement by both students and staff in supporting all children to make progress every week at the South.
HELPING OUT AT SCHOOL - PARENT/CAREGIVER INVOLVEMENT

Helping out at school is a great way to get involved in your child's education and to get to know the school staff and other parents. Research shows that children benefit when their parents are actively involved in their education and school life. Keep an eye on the school newsletter for opportunities to help out at school and ask your child's teacher if you are interested in helping in the classroom.

You will be required to complete a “working with children check” and induction meeting with Mrs Cox-Walliss beforehand.

Here are some ways you can help: listen to children read in the classroom, volunteer on Sports Days, help to supervise excursions, get involved in whole-school activities, join a school committee, help out in the garden, work in the library covering and returning books or run a sports program at recess or lunch times.

We are always keen to have parents helping out with making our school a quality, positive and exciting place to be for all.

If you are interested in volunteering with us please register at the front office for one of our volunteer training/induction meetings. Finally, a big thank you to the many families and community members that are currently volunteering in the school. Your care and support is greatly appreciated.

AREAS THAT OUR TRIBES AND KIDSMATTER PHILOSOPHY IMPACTS ON...

So far this year we have received a range of constructive feedback from across the community about TRIBES and how it is impacting at our school. We greatly appreciate when families attend our Assemblies and stay behind afterwards to speak to us about what they are noticing in our children’s behaviour. One of the wonderful ways parents have noticed TRIBES impacting on our children’s learning is through the ways children are now using and feeling our school values of REACH – Respect, Excellence, Achievement for all, Co-operation and Honesty.

Our TRIBES philosophy is based on all school community members deeply understanding a collective set of values. Our collective values include:

- developing a love of learning and having mental agility
- pursuing excellence and high standards in everything we do
- developing care and respect for self and others in all relationships formed
- taking pride in all work and our school
- exhibiting a strong sense of fairness, equity and social justice for all
- having respect for and understanding of Australia’s history, including the cultures and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first peoples of Australia, and Australia as a multicultural society
- having a deep appreciation of Science and how it impacts our lives
- actively participating as positive citizens in the community
- being able to self-regulate and develop self-awareness, optimism and hope for the future

Finally we believe every school should be a model home, a complete community actively developing future compassionate citizens capable of creating, leading and contributing to the kind of democratic communities in which we all long to live.

We greatly appreciate the many families that have supported our school ethos as this has contributed to a greater sense of student belonging, wellbeing and dignity at the South. Our community reputation has greatly improved and new families enrolling regularly comment on how warm and caring the South school is.

Finally I would like to share a message with you all from James our Term 2 Basketball coach......

Thank you again for allowing me to deliver basketball at Mt Barker South Primary School. The students were great to work with the confidence and skill improvement was fantastic. The basketball games we played in the last three sessions also showed their ability to work as a team.

If you could pass on my thanks to all the teacher involved in the lessons as they warmly welcomed me into their class, as well as Catherine, support and office staff who also made me feel very welcome.

Regards
James Rattus

Kind Regards,
Catherine Cox-Walliss
Congratulations to all the students who received Tribes, Science & K-Kids Awards for Term 2!

Congratulations too many of the staff that received certificates from the Minister for their dedication in working with children for over 10 years and a special certificate for Mrs Hill for over 30 years service.
Book and Science Week Event this term.
This year Science Week is being held in Week 4. Children will be attending 2 Science Shows in the school hall and we also encourage you to come in and join your child during the Science show to experience their learning first-hand.

- Tuesday 9th August 11am to 12pm
- Tuesday 16th August 11am to 12pm

This year Book Week is held the week beginning 22nd August and at the South reading for learning and pleasure is one of our key School Improvement Areas that we take very seriously, as witnessed by the outstanding growth we see every year in children’s reading achievements.

This year the theme for Book week is: “Australia Story Country” and the children will be attending SPLASH Theatre company performances at the Mount Barker Library on either Thursday the 25th or Friday the 26th August.

We encourage all family members to join us for our Book Week Assembly on Wednesday 24th August at 9.00am for our Book Week dress-up parade and class performances.

BOOK WEEK Week 5
Australia: Story Country

DRESS UP DAY

Wednesday 24th August
Parade & Assembly 9am
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We would like to introduce you to the booking system for Three Way Interviews (Parent/Teacher/Student) that are being held this term in Week 6. Bookings are made online and must be finalised before Friday 19th August 2016 at 10:00am, when bookings for this event will close.

For parents that do not have internet access or an email address, please phone Ursula in the Front Office 8391 1197, for support to make a booking. Interviews are strictly 10 mins. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements. Please phone the school if you require any further information.

BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY 19TH AUGUST 2016

Now you can book Three Way Interviews for the times that suit your family. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

Simply enter the code and press "Go"

THIS CODE CHANGES – DO NOT USE YOUR LAST EVENT’S CODE

Enter your details

Select the teacher you wish to see:
JP Rainbow – Aleah & Jackie  Primary Rainbow – Mrs Castleton
Reception - Miss Lade  R/1/2 - Mrs Greenwood  1/2 - Miss Pilla  3/4 – Mrs Taylor
Primary Classes - 4/5 Mr Short – 5/6 Miss Nolan – 6/7 Ms Young

Select the appointment times that suit your family best

When you click FINISH, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately – Check your junk mail folder and make sure your email address is correct.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until the bookings close on Friday 19th August 2016 at 10:00am.

You may change your bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact their class teacher.
Throughout terms 2 and 3, students have been taking part in a $20 Boss Challenge run by the National Australia Bank (NAB). This project is the basis the students’ learning of Economics and Business from the Australian Curriculum. Students have formed individual businesses, partnerships or companies and in turn have set up small businesses which will sell their chosen product or service at our upcoming Fair Day.

Classes are invited to attend the fair between 12-12:40pm and walk around as a class to see what the students have to offer. During lunch time (12:50-1:30pm) students will be able to go to the stalls individually to purchase products or services. The final half hour of the fair (1:30-2pm), is available for final purchases for the day.

Along with students and staff, we are encouraging families and community members to attend and support the students businesses during 12-2pm on Fair Day. A booklet showcasing the stalls will be sent home with students in week 3 and also made available on Fair Day.

We hope to see as many people as possible and thank you to those who have already been supporting the students with their business initiatives.

The event is being held at:

**Venue:** Oval, Bottom Court and Hall at MBSPS  
**Date:** Friday 12th August (week 3, term 3)  
**Time:** 12:00pm – 2:00pm  
**What to Bring:** Money if you wish your child to make purchases

Kind Regards,

Kate Nolan – Room 13 Teacher  
Cassie Young – Room 12 Teacher