Dear Families,

At the South, student learning is enriched by the extent and variety of co-curricular and out of classroom opportunities that our students are able to participate in. So far this year students have had the opportunity to participate in:

- Road Crossing training
- Athletics training, Basketball sessions and Dancify dance sessions
- SA Police sessions
- Wetlands excursions
- SA Water workshops
- After school Chess club
- After school Touch Football, Teeball, Netball and Soccer
- Junior Primary swimming sessions
- National Science Week with Sci World shows
- Premier’s Be Active Challenge
- Premier’s Reading Challenge
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Ladies of Variety excursions

These activities help to extend student’s curriculum knowledge, experiences and understandings and allow students to develop their social, interpersonal, communication and citizenship capabilities and are an invaluable part of our school life.

Students can look forward to future opportunities with Book Week activities, Cricket sessions, After school sports, Zoo excursions, Camps, Fun Run and the 4/5 Production of ‘Pirates of the Curry Bean’.
STOP and take a minute to read about the excellent NAPLAN results that our students are achieving every year at the South School.

Recent media coverage of national NAPLAN results painted South Australian schools in a very poor light. At Mount Barker South Primary School, however, our outstanding results in Years 3, 5 and 7 are the culmination of many years of relentless focus on literacy and numeracy. It is clear that Mount Barker South’s “Reading and Maths for Learning”, “Three wave Intervention” programs and whole school critical commitments are bearing fruit, and the results are a credit to the dedication and commitment of not only the children, but the teaching staff, support staff and wider school community who have all played critical roles in our children’s learning.

Some local and community members would say it is because we get more funding and resources than other schools but that is not true and accurate. In fact the South school receives similar funding to other schools in the HILLS. The difference being that all funding is targeted directly towards improving student learning outcomes through our unique acceleration programs, teacher training, intervention for all approach and focus on dispositions for learning.

Our results show that our Year 3, 5 and Year 7 cohorts achieved averages significantly above South Australian figures. In fact, our Year 7’s achieved average results of over 10% above the national averages as well in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Numeracy respectively. Having EVERY CHILD in Year 7 demonstrate this level of learning is an exemplary result!

Similarly, our Year 5 students achieved outstanding results of over 10%, above South Australian averages in Reading, Writing and Spelling and Numeracy. This, too, reflects the results of several years’ focus on literacy and numeracy, as this cohort of students also had upper progress in reading. It is apparent that our Year 5s now perform in the highest levels consistently as a result of the programs and focus on improvement in place at Mount Barker South Primary School.

Of course, these results would not occur without the full dedication of the R 7 staff team. It is their collective responsibility, high expectations for every learner and relentless focus to ensure all children reach high standards that makes the South school the best place to learn.

“The South” are excited by the challenge of having our children achieve similarly outstanding results in the future and thank you for your ongoing partnership in our schools focus on high performance for all children and students.

Please feel free to send us a text message, letter or call and join in on our celebrations of the South children’s excellent achievements.

Kind Regards,
Catherine Cox-Walliss
Book Week Sale & Swap

To celebrate Book Week, Room 12 & 13, together with the Governing Council will be running a book stall where you will be able to buy quality second hand books or participate in our first book swap.

How you can get involved...

1) Donate pre-loved books that can be sold in the book sale
*Take this opportunity to spring clean your book shelf by donating some books to the sale. Books can be taken to the Library and placed in the ‘Book Sale’ container up until Tuesday 23rd August.*

2) Buy a book
*Now that you’ve cleared out that book shelf how about you purchase a few new books to fill it back up? Prices will range from $1 - $5.*

3) Bring a book to swap
*The rules are simple: bring a book, take a book. There will be a selection of books available for swapping.*

The Book Week Sale & Swap will take place in the Assembly Hall on Wednesday 24th August at recess and lunch time as well as before and after the Book Week Assembly.

BOOK WEEK - Week 5 - Australia: Story Country

DRESS UP DAY Wednesday 24th August

Parade & Assembly 9am

Students and staff will be walking to the Mt Barker Library for a SPLASH THEATRE PERFORMANCE.

They will leave school after around 12:50pm, students will eat lunch before leaving.

(parents/caregivers are welcome to walk with classes)

**Thursday 25th August** – 4/5-Mr Short, 3/4-Mrs Taylor, JP Rainbow-Jackie, Primary Rainbow-Mrs Castleton, & R/1/2-Mrs Greenwood

**Friday 26th August** – 1/2-Miss Pilla, 5/6-Miss Nolan, 6/7-Ms Young & Rec/1-Miss Lade

Mt Barker Library - 1:30pm to 2:30pm