Improving and building on how we teach children to read and help them to develop decoding, phonics, fluency and comprehension strategies is a focus for our school, but we cannot do this alone. You are an important part of making a difference to the development and attitude towards reading for your child.

**Learning to read is complex**

Reading is a complex process that draws upon many skills that need to be developed at the same time. Marilyn Adams (1990) compares the operation of the reading system to the operation of a car. Unlike drivers, though, readers also need to:

- Build the car (develop the mechanical systems for identifying words)
- Maintain the car (fuel it with print, fix up problems along the way, and make sure it runs smoothly)
- And, most importantly, drive the car (which requires us to be motivated, strategic, and mindful of the route we are taking)

Cars are built by assembling the parts separately and fastening them together. In contrast, the parts of the reading system are not separate from each other. The parts of the reading system must grow together. They must grow to one another and from one another. The ultimate goal of reading is to make meaning from print, and a vehicle in good working order is required to help us reach that goal.

**Teachers should teach with the end goal in mind**

Because learning to read is complex, the most accomplished teachers learn to teach with the end goal of readers and learners in mind.

Teachers working with young children learn to balance the various components of reading, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension in their every day teaching. The very best teachers integrate the components while fostering a love of books, words and stories.

**Kids who struggle usually have problems with sounds and spelling patterns in words**

Difficulties in decoding and word recognition are at the core of most reading difficulties. Poor readers have difficulty understanding that sounds in words are linked to certain letters and letter patterns. This is called the "alphabetic principle."

The reason many poor readers struggle with the alphabetic principle is because they haven't developed phonemic awareness — being aware that words are made up of speech sounds, or phonemes. When word recognition isn't automatic, reading isn't fluent, and comprehension suffers.

**What happens before school matters a lot**

What preschoolers know before they enter school is strongly related to how easily they learn to read in first grade. Three predictors of reading achievement that children learn before they get to school are:

- The ability to recognize and name letters of the alphabet
- General knowledge about print (understanding, for example, which is the front of the book and which is the back and how to turn the pages of a book)
- Awareness of phonemes (the sounds in words)

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Parents as Reading Partners ...continued

Reading aloud together builds these knowledge and skills. As a result, reading aloud with children is the single most important activity for parents and caregivers to do to prepare children to learn to read. So the favourite bedtime story is a MUST.

Learning to read is closely tied to learning to talk and listen
Families and caregivers need to talk and listen to young children in order to help them learn a lot of the skills they will need for reading. When a child says babbles in their ‘made up’ language and her father says, "Would you like a drink?" he is building her knowledge of vocabulary, sentence structure, syntax, and purposes for communication — all of which will help her become a reader in later years. When caregiver’s sings rhymes and play word games with the children they care for, they are helping them recognize the sounds in words (phonemic awareness). Children with language, hearing, or speech problems need to be identified early so they can receive the help they need to prevent later reading difficulties.

Without help, struggling readers continue to struggle
Many children learn to read by first grade regardless of the type of instruction they receive. The children who don’t learn, however, don’t seem able to catch up on their own. More than 88% of children who have difficulty reading at the end of their first year of school display similar difficulties at the end of fourth grade (Juel, 1988). And three quarters of students who are poor readers in year three will remain poor readers in high school (Shaw, et al., 1997). These facts highlight the importance of providing a strong foundation for reading birth through age five, and the importance of parents reading to children and singing songs and rhymes with their child, before they come to school.

Teaching kids to read is a team effort
Parents, teachers, caregivers, and members of the community must recognize the important role they can play in helping children learn to read. The research shows that what families do makes a difference, what teachers do makes a difference, and what community programs do makes a difference. It’s time for all those who work with children to work together to ensure that every child learns to read. It is our shared responsibility.

Sally Slattery & Melissa Thiele
Deputy Principal  Reading Teacher

Bringing NAPLAN Home - The Results and your Child

As parents and carers, we all take great interest in our children and their paths in life. We know it is really important that they develop key skills such as literacy and numeracy to help them through school, work and life.

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy) is a national test undertaken by Yr 3, 5, 7 & 9 students, designed to provide information on your child’s literacy and numeracy achievements.

NAPLAN results provide additional information, which can be used along with school assessment and testing. It allows you to compare your child’s achievement with other children across Australia. By itself, NAPLAN does not improve the quality of education, but it gives us a national snapshot of how our children are doing in those important skills of literacy and numeracy.

NAPLAN is important to your child as it provides information for school authorities and schools to review the effectiveness of their programs and to address any areas requiring improvement. It is important that you know as early as possible about your child’s strengths or if your child needs assistance. NAPLAN helps with this.

Sometime in August and September you will receive your son or daughter’s NAPLAN report. I encourage you to read the report in the context of what you already know about your child’s academic performance and in conjunction with other assessment information and reports you may already have received from your child’s school. Further information on how to read the report is found on the NAP website:


Your son or daughter’s results will be reported against six levels of achievement. Your child’s results will be indicated by a black dot. The black triangle shows the national average for children in that year level.

This means you can compare your child’s performance to children in the same year level. As with all tests, small differences between students’ NAPLAN scores do not reflect real achievement differences.

Using this information, you can then take the time to celebrate the success that you see and/or identify areas for improvement. You should talk to your child’s teacher about what you should do next if you see areas that need improvement.

If your child is concerned with their results, remind them that NAPLAN isn’t a pass or fail test and there are no rewards or penalties for the result your child achieves. Rather, the NAPLAN student report is a point in time snapshot of your child’s achievements in the important areas of literacy and numeracy. This snapshot gives an indication of how your child compares with students across Australia.

ACARA is committed to improving learning for all young Australians through world-class curriculum, assessment and reporting. This year we are aiming for NAPLAN results to be returned to you more quickly than in previous years.

As teachers and parents continue on with the rest of 2014, I urge you to keep NAPLAN student reports in context. Continue with activities your child enjoys and avoid focusing your child only on literacy and numeracy. Evidence shows that a well-rounded education, including the pursuit of other activities such as sport and art, contributes to the development of literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills. All activities are crucial to the school program and contribute to developing informed, happy children who are confident in their own abilities.

Robert Randall
Chief Executive Officer
ACARA (Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority)
School Closure Day
Friday 12 September 2014

Student Free Day
Monday 15 September 2014

Staff will be undertaking Professional Development on this day.

OSHC will be available on both dates - please contact Jacky if you require care for your child/children.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider. All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend.

Dental care is FREE for most children. Children who do not qualify for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule can also attend – a small fee will apply for each course of general dental care provided.

All dental care provided is FREE for preschool children.
To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

READING OPEN MORNING

All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend an Open Morning in your child's classroom on Monday 25 August. All classrooms will be open from 8.45 until 9.30am. You will be able to see the reading program in action and have some time listening to your child read. We look forward to seeing you.

Further details will be posted on Facebook pages.

Sally Slattery
Deputy Principal

WHAT’S THE BUZZ?

A social skills enrichment program for primary school children.

- Sequenced follows a logical step-by-step breakdown of each skill
- Active use role plays or behavioural rehearsal with feedback
- Focused dedicate a period of time solely towards teaching a specific skill
- Explicit teach a specific social/emotional skill each lesson.

The program started on Monday 4/8 and will continue for the next 16 weeks (Monday/boys & Wednesday/girls).

Julia Osborn
Christian Pastoral Support Worker (CPSW)

PARENT INFORMATION OPEN DAY/EVENINGS

Parents and caregivers of preschool children interested in enrolling in 2015 or 2016 are invited to attend one of our information sessions to hear about our innovative programs and how we can support your child in making their best start to school. This will include a short presentation, a tour of our Junior Primary facilities, the opportunity to ask questions and some light refreshments.

These sessions will be held on:
- Wednesday 20/8 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 27/8 10.00 am
- Wednesday 27/8 7:00 pm

Please call Lee on 83823824 for further information and/or to register for one of the sessions.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS 2014

Master School Portraits will be at our school on Friday 29/8 to take photographs of the children. Please note that all children will be photographed individually and in their class photo, irrespective of whether photos are to be purchased.

Points to remember are:
- Online payment is available. The range of options available online has increased. As well as the option to download a Low Resolution image for a Smart-phone, also available for purchase is a High Resolution Digital Download of your child’s image.
- Family/Sibling packages can also be ordered online.
- Two new packs are available in High Resolution.
- MSP now offers 10% discount for all family orders above $90.00 per family.
- If you pay by cash, cheque, credit card or money order, money is to be sent in the envelope ON THE DAY OF THE PHOTOGRAPH via your child’s class teacher. Do not send money to school before Friday 29/8. Please enclose correct money as no change is given.

- If there are two or more students in one family attending the school, payment can be made in the one envelope but each student must still submit a completed prepaid envelope to the photographer.
- Envelopes are to be kept separate. Only payments are to be placed in envelopes, not messages or other children's envelopes.
- Please print details required clearly on the front of the pre-paid envelope, including a short note if payment is included in another student’s envelope.
- Family photograph envelopes may be collected from the office. If a family photograph is not requested none will be taken. Payment is made on the day, Friday, 29/8. No family envelopes are to be handed into the office. NO ENVELOPE, NO FAMILY PHOTO.
- No orders will be accepted at school after the photography day. Contact MSP on 83913951.

For a really great photo make sure your child is neat & tidy and must be in school dress code.

Lee Clements - Front Office
Term 3, Week 5 (18/8-22/8)

**Morning:**
- Clint Noble
- Declan McMillan
- Jordon Gill
- Tanisha Mather
- Jade Bowman

**Afternoon:**
- Kaleb Schirripa
- Kyoto Muller
- David Conlon
- Sarah Williams

**CROSSING MONITORS**

**Term 3, Week 6 (25/8-29/8)**

**Morning:**
- Clint Noble
- Emily Gill
- Ruby Parkinson
- Jessica Klemetilla

**Afternoon:**
- Jye Leake
- David Conlon
- Sarah Williams

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

- **Knowing Your Teenager** Is your child about to enter High School, Do you wonder what it means to be a “modern teenager”? Parents, guardians and carers are invited to a FREE Community Seminar on Wed 27/8 from 5:45-7:30pm at Morphett Vale Primary School, Lawrence St, Morphett Vale. Bookings essential. Ph Julie 81865064 to register.

- **Recovery from Anxiety** Centacare’s PACE program is for individuals living with panic, anxiety, obsessive compulsive and eating disorders and those that support them. Forum held on Wed 27/8 from 1:30-3:00pm, Conference Rm, 5 Cooke Terrace, Wayville. Ph 83784100 to register.

- **DAIR to be Free!** A recovery support group for people with OCD related thoughts and behaviours looking to FREE themselves from the fear of Discarding your possessions, Acquiring compulsively, Intrusive thoughts and Rituals. Held each Friday from 10:30am-12:00pm in Meeting Room 2, City of Onkaparinga, Ramsay Ave, Noarlunga. Ph 1800809304 or 81591400 to register.

- **Homelink for Children** Disability Carers needed now. Share your home and join our growing team of Carers. Ph 82052591 or visit www.unitingcommunities.org/homelink.

- **Foster Care** Centacare is currently seeking Foster Carers for both its Family Preservation and Permanency Foster Care Programs for children aged 0-12yrs. Information Session Held at Marion Shopping Centre Stand, near K-Mart, Level 2 297 Diagonal Rd, Oaklands Park on Mon 18/8 from 9:00am-4:00pm or at Marion Cultural Centre Library, 287 Diagonal Rd, Oaklands Park on Tue 19/8 from 6:30-8:00pm. Ph 81591400 to register.

- **Toddlers - What Can I Do Now I am 2?** An interactive workshop for parents with children 2yrs old. Have fun supporting your child’s play, communication and development. Held on Tue 19/8 from 1:00-3:00pm at O’Sullivan Beach Children’s Centre, Galloway Rd, O’Sullivan Beach. Ph Sue, Johanna or Martine on 83822850.

- **Occupational Therapist** From socks to jocks and all manner of little people skills in between. Occupational Therapy consults for parents and carers wanting information or support with their child’s sleep, toileting, dressing, hand eye coordination and/or independence. Ph Sue, Mandy or Johanna 83822850 to make an appointment. Sessions held on 20/8, 3/9 & 24/9 at O’Sullivan Beach Children’s Centre.

- **Recognition Circles** Four sessions held on Mondays over four weeks covering Introduction to Recognition (History, Myths, Stereotypes and Prejudice), Australian Constitution & Government Policies & Practices, Culture (identity, land & water, language and race powers) and Motivate for Action (formulate your own strategy for achieving social justice). Commencing on Monday 18/8 from 5:30-8:30pm. Ph Jessie DeGaris 84635525 for more information.

- **People Matter - Hackham West** Hackham West Children’s Centre, Community Centre and HWR-7 School aim to better meet the needs of the local community in Hackham West. You are invited to come along to the next meeting on Thursday 14/8 (second of each month) from 10:30am-12:00noon at Yellow Unit, 50 Glynville Dr, Hackham West. Ph Richard 83017236 or Gill 83820955 for more information.

- **The Royal Adelaide Show** Celebrating its 175th year the Royal Adelaide Show is open from 5/9-14/9. Pre purchase tickets from IGA, Foodland and Ticketek and save.

- **Women’s Education** Women moving into work/study. Why not apply for a Certificate in Women’s Education? Information Sessions held on Thursday 21/8 at 2:00pm or Thursday 18/9 at 2:00pm at Room W202 (West Wing, Level 2), Enter via Foundation Skills Office, TAFE SA Noarlunga Campus, 1 Ramsay Place, Noarlunga Centre. Ph 82073150 or 82073037 for more information.

- **Men’s Cooking Classes** Get hands on experience cooking low cost meals, learn what meat to buy and what is easy to grow at home. Held at Hackham West Community Centre, Cnr Majorca Rd & Warsaw Cres on Wed 20/8-24/9 from 5:00-6:30pm. Ph 83841065 or Tod 0414505097 for more information.

- **Tune It Up** A 5 week music program designed for young creative people to produce a CD and learn about acoustic recording, song writing, composition and performance. Held at The Arts Centre, 22 Gawler St, Pt Noarlunga on Wed 20/8, 27/8, 3/9, 10/9 & 17/9 from 4:30-6:30pm for 12-20yr olds. Free. Ph Natasha 0414290747.

- **Mental Health First Aid** A 2 day course covering helping people in mental health crisis situations and/or early stages of mental health problems. Each session looks at the signs, symptoms, risk factors, treatments and resources for mental health problems. Held at Southern Volunteering (SA) Inc, 13 McKinna Rd, Christie Downs on 21/8 & 22/8 from 9:30am-4:20pm. Cost $88. Ph 83260020 to register.

- **Our Club Swears** The Pt Noarlunga Football Club invite you to come and join the local community and show your support to stop the violence against women. Held on Sat 23/8 from 8:00am-5:00pm. Ph Tod 0415405097 for more information.

- **Keeping Safe in Cyberspace** A Free information session for parents and caregivers on Wed 27/8 from 9:30am-4:00pm at Australian Education Union Building, 163a Greenhill Rd, Parkside. Ph 1800724640 for more information or to register.

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Flyers with further information relating to the above events are available from the Front Office.