Dear parents and Carers,

Spring! Amen!!! What a long winter it has been. Unfortunately most of the staff have also succumbed to flus, viruses and infections. We have all required a little recovery time here and there, and have ensured we have all looked after each other’s well being whenever possible. There are still many children at school quite unwell. It is more than ok, in fact really necessary, for sick people to stay home and rest to get well and to prevent the spread of illness. Just give school a quick call to let us know for our attendance records.

If your child needs to be away for an extended family event, or for ongoing medical appointments, PLEASE sign an exemption form for them. This does not then show as an attendance day away, and is understandable.

But.... If you are well, PLEASE come to school. Our attendance rates have slipped over the last couple of years. We did have an exceptionally high level of attendance compared to other schools in the district. We really ask that appointments, holidays, shopping trips, etc are planned for outside of school time. If children are away they miss substantial amounts of learning and we miss them too.

New attendance rewards…. At assemblies from now on, children who have been at school 100% of days in that two week time will receive an attendance reward. Good luck with this, and well done to those coming to school on time and everyday that they are well! (unless an exemption for medical appointments was signed).

Work, health and Safety on site

Why?- Simply, because people matter.

Rosalie and Karyn attended a mandated WHS training in Mount Gambier last week. It was a good chance to reflect on why we need to think about safety, in the site and especially out of it on excursions. We have regular site audits, and processes to keep things working and in good repair to prevent accidents. We learn about safe handling, lifting, storing and keeping walkways and areas clean to prevent trips and injuries. This day also gave us information for all staff about risk assessment, hazard identification and action and the importance of all being responsible for thinking about the safest ways to do things. Karyn will also put this on the Governing Council agenda, as safety is important for parents and families too. Mrs Stewart is an amazing WHS representative and helps Karyn to make sure our Business Manager is up to date, our preventative maintenance is on schedule, our staff regularly have WHS spots at staff meetings and that we are looking after ourselves. (On this note we hope that her sore toes heal after she accepted a student soccer invitation last week, but clearly needs her technique refined.)

Site Review Time

We are currently making sure that all data is collected about our children and their learning. This testing and collation across the school according to our data schedule helps us to get a good rounded picture of where our students are at. We can highlight areas to continue improving and areas requiring site or individual intervention. For example, reading records are tested and updated every 5th and 10th week of the term. We will graph these results to look at growth or areas that need attention. NAPLAN results have also arrived and will be looked at in conjunction with other site data. Copies of these results will be sent home at the end of next week to parents of students who sat the test.
Junior Primary
Book week gives us a great opportunity to dress up as our favourite character. All students had a chance to do different activities across the day that related to books read by the teachers, such as Pig the Pug, bat pencil toppers, spirals and shadows. It was a very busy day with a lot of comments such as, ‘We should really do this again as it was great to work with different teachers and students from other classes’. We will keep that in mind. Great work to all!!
**Middle Primary**

We have been learning about time. We have been learning about what the hands are called, and what they mean when they are pointing at certain numbers on the clock. Everyone is trying really hard to improve, and Korben and Peter are doing really well.

In book week we all dressed up as characters from our favourite books, we had so much fun. Jaxon dressed up as Captain America and Tanisha was a Monster High Ghoul. We did special activities—bats, shells, Pig the Pug and Shadows. These activities were from books.

We are still learning the Ukelele, and we know about 6 chords now, which means we can play a lot of different songs. Our favourite is Mister Clickety Cane, by Peter Combe. We also know how to play The Troubadour Song and Three Blind Mice.

By Jaxon and Tanisha

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**Upper Primary**

In the upper primary we have been researching space to see if aliens are real. Each of us have a planet to study. Some of the things that we will find out about our planet are:

- How far it is from the sun;
- What kind of surface it has;
- If there are living things on it;
- If you would be able to live on it.

In literacy we are making up our own magazines. Everyone has a topic that they have picked. In Civics and Citizenship we had to research who our local politicians were. We have also been learning more about Digital Technologies with Mr Pratt.

We looking forward to a couple of market days that are coming up. We are setting up a market at the Mount Gambier library. We are also possibly attending the Nangwarry Family Fun Day on September, 27th. This is all part of our subject “Business and Economics”. All of these subjects just mentioned are part of the new Australian Curriculum.

By Joel Virtanen and Aaron Edwards

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**Preschool:** Book Week was a great chance to celebrate the wonderful world of books. Our focus book was ‘Snail and Turtle are Friends’ written and illustrated by Stephen Michael King. This 2015 award winning picture book was a great springboard for creating our own art based activities and also to compare the art work of this text to other books. ‘Animals in Art’ and ‘Swirl by Swirl: Spirals In Nature’ were the books used to compare artwork from different sources. We used these as a starting point for creating our own artworks using spiral patterns and octagon patterns. The results were as varied and unique as the students creating them.