Dates to Remember

May
7 Kids Club
7 CFS Movie Night
11/13 NAPLAN Tests
14 Parents & Friends Meeting 9.00am
14 Loud Shirt Day
16 Girls Day Out

June
Occasional Care for children 2 years and over
Friday mornings 8.45am - 11.45am
Held in conjunction with the Kindergarten
For bookings, phone: 8570 2032 Wednesday or Friday

Swan Reach Playgroup
Tuesdays - 10.00am in the Kindy.
All children from birth to age 5 are most welcome.
Bring a piece of fruit to share.
Ring Trish - 8570 1080 - for more information.

MID Murray Immunisation Programme
10.30am - 11.00am
at the SwanReach Area School/Community Library
3rd Tuesday of each month except December.
FREE Pneumococcal Vaccination available for infants up to 2 years
Please book through the Cambrai Council office on 8564 6020

Swan Reach Area School P.O. Box 31, Swan Reach, S.A. 5354
Phone: 8570 2053 Fax: 8570 2325
www.swanrchas.sa.edu.au or email: info@swanrchas.sa.edu.au
Swan Reach Community Library Phone: 8570 2298
Swan Reach Kindergarten Phone 8570 2032

Newsletter
Swan Reach Area School
Principal: Kylie Eggers
Swan Reach & Area Kindergarten
Director: Claire Gregory

Number 7 May 6th, 2010

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Students at the Year 12 Formal at the Grand Hotel.

Integrity - Care - Respect - Success - Participation
NAPLAN
From Tuesday 11th- Thursday 13th May students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 will be sitting for testing in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The areas of testing are Language Conventions, Writing, Reading and Numeracy. Staff at SRAS use this data as a one point-in-time snapshot of student performance taken every two years. All staff do not support the use of this data for superficial comparisons between sites. It is used in conjunction with ongoing data such as Waddington’s, Westwood, Lexile, Running Records, ICAS Competition Results and other in-class data sets to determine an overall picture of student achievement. Also, Year 10 students use the data as a springboard for their Personal Learning Plan analysis. Students who are absent on one of the assessment days will be able to make it up on Friday 14th May.

Literacy & Numeracy in the Home
Thank you to the parents who responded to last week’s article concerning the role of parents in students’ literacy and numeracy. If you have any questions on how you can support your students’ Literacy and Numeracy learning please contact their teacher for suggestions. Perhaps you could ask them what the “Word of the Day” was in today’s daily notices.

National Volunteers Week
I would like to thank all of the staff, students and community members who volunteer in many and varying capacities throughout the school eg SRC, Sports training and coaching, reading with students, driving students to events, Governing Council and committees and student talks / mentoring. Volunteers are invaluable in helping the school achieve its core objective of educating the youth of our community with the input of the community. The volunteer services these people provide to the school are a tremendous help.

Year 12 Hills Formal
Last Friday Nick Schmidt and I had the pleasure of escorting the current year 12s to the Hills Formal held at the Grand Hotel, Glenelg. Our students looked stunning in their glad-rags and did the school proud. I would like to thank the students for allowing us to attend; we found it a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Kylie Eggers
Principal

Girls Day Out
May 16th
I'm inviting the first 13 'girls' who would be interested in a bus trip to the Virginia Nursery.
We're taking a trailer so we can shop up! After a leisurely shop, lunch in the nursery Bistro.
No hubbies and no kids!
Probably leave Swan Reach or Nildottie (negotiable) at 9.30am nibbles provided on the way
If interested please ring Tracey Gierke on 0407 849404 by 10th May.
Remember first in, first on the bus!
($20 - for bus hire)
Testing the waters to make this a regular thing, maybe movie day, shop day etc.
DOORWAYS TO CONSTRUCTION
This course is currently being held at East Murray Area School but will shortly be at Swan Reach. It enables students to obtain a Certificate I in Building Construction. The students have been working on spine extensions and renovation. The course is accredited through the Construction Industry Training Centre and is facilitated by Greg Griffiths, a licensed builder with 25 years experience and Certificate 4 in Training and Assessment. Special thanks to Greg and to Jody Coleman for transporting the students to and from East Murray.

Doorways Reflection  Andrew Bajszl
I think that Doorways at East Murray Area School is good so far. I’m learning a lot and I think that it’s worth the travel every morning. I think that Doorways has really helped me and when I finish school I want to get a trade. This course will help me get that trade. I think the best part of Doorways is taking down the cladding. I have improved my measurements, so it is also improving my maths.

Doorways  Mitchell Williamson
The work we have been doing at East Murray has been great. I like the work that is involved. This program will really help in the future if I want to be in a trade. Despite some frustration with things that don’t work, I’m really enjoying Doorways and I’m planning on continuing it.

Doorways 2 Construction has been set out at East Murray Area School so far. We have been building a room which will be used for various things. We have constructed floors, walls and ceilings, and have also done plastering. I learnt how to cut blue board, noggins and studs with the nail gun. As I have never used the nail gun before, this was a new skill that I had to learn. I really enjoy Doorways because I love hands-on work and constructing different things. The long hours and continuous work can be tiring. Also everything takes a long time to complete. Despite this, I really enjoy Doorways and am hoping to get an apprenticeship because of it.

Daniel Christian

The things we have been doing at East Murray have been great. I like doing D2C because it is outside and hands on, and the things we are doing are new to me. My D2C is going to help me a lot because I want to get a job in the trades. If I had a choice I wouldn’t be sitting in the classroom right now, I would rather be outside doing something with my hands. That is why I like Tech and PE and D2C because they’re outside.

Robert Raines
Junior School News

It has been a relatively quiet 2 weeks since the last newsletter. All the children have settled into school life again with ease and are working well. It's always a pleasure to go into the classes and see the way the children are fully engaged in their tasks and the positive and friendly interactions they have with each other and their teachers.

A warm welcome goes to Charlotte and Noah Baker who have just started at Swan Reach.

Charlotte is in Yr 2 and Noah is in Reception. I'm sure they will enjoy their schooling here.

Next week the Yr 3 and 5 classes will sit the NAPLAN test. This is held over Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with different aspects being completed each day. This test is just one part of the overall assessments the children do in their schooling.

Morning fitness has started again this term on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. The children often end up 'starving' after this and so are given time to eat a healthy snack. Any foods from the green section on the Healthy Eating Guide, which was recently sent out, are ideal.

Also please encourage your child to bring a water bottle to school.

Have a good fortnight, and Happy Mother's Day to all those special Mum's (you know who you are).

Anne Wilksch (JS Coordinator)

Middle School Report

Feedback from all concerned is that everything is going particularly well across Middle School, at this early stage of term 2. This is by no means a reason for complacency, and so I must comment on the need for students to reliably provide the opportunity for teacher-parent communication via student diaries.

This is an essential channel of communication which is extremely useful when parents are difficult to contact for a variety of reasons, and/or that teachers are similarly busy in their activities.

Students must ensure that their diaries are available for scrutiny, commentary, and in a good state repair or presentation. Moreover, students should diligently take their diaries home for parental review each and every day and particularly when requested to do so if an entry has been made by a teacher for the benefit of a parent.

I would like also to remind both students and their parents that uniform dress codes applies at SRAS to avoid 'competitive-dressing' and to establish an identifiable school identity... which has always been well supported and established at SRAS.

This dress-code also relates to the use of make-up, personal jewellery and other clothing accessories (such as hats, belts and shoes); variations of which I have noticed creeping in that are not in compliance with school policy. If unsure, please seek clarification or check the numerous Rules and Policy posters located around the school.

Congratulations to those middle and senior students who gave a very competitive account of themselves in the recent 9-aside football carnival at Karoonda; the girls were runners-up and the boys placed third.

Tim Benger (MS Coordinator)
Science - Learning Area Focus

The emphasis in science is on learners developing understandings of the physical and biological world in which they live, and an appreciation of the relationships they have with these worlds.

To do this, learners need an understanding of the use of scientific processes such as investigating, collecting and interpreting information, and communicating. This, along with the ability to think critically and to measure the impact of science on society, is essential to learners' success in this area.

Science is a process of discovery as well as the gaining of knowledge about the world. Science develops the ability and aptitude to make inquiries through observations and experimentation. Through Science, students gain self-confidence and become empowered to invent, shape and influence their future and the future of others.

Students are encouraged to:

- observing, questioning, exploring, predicting, hypothesising, collecting and interpreting evidence and communicating understandings gained
- use appropriate scientific language
- draw conclusions
- collate evidence
- use a range of scientific equipment

Reception and Year 1 Science

This term in science Miss Vine's R/1 class are learning about insects. The students have been able to see firsthand the unique stages of the butterfly. Mr. Carter has been kind enough to give the class an enclosure full of Monarch Caterpillars which have gone through the stages to becoming Monarch Butterflies.

The students have been amazed at the different stages of these insects and the closer look has really interested and engaged the students. The students will research many different insects and will be able to name the differences between insects and other animals. They have been engaged in many factual books about insects.

The students will learn about other insect life cycles, habitats, and diet and the different body parts of insects.
LEARNING AREAS — SCIENCE

Year 4/5

Learning science expands student's interest and knowledge about their lives. Year 4/5 students learn a variety of topics in this subject involving many research works, experiments and activities to prove scientific facts or phenomena.

So far this year, they have learnt the topics "Life cycle & Water cycle" and "Filming, animation & optical illusion". This term, students are learning about "the Solar System". They are researching information on each planet using books and the internet.

At the end of this unit, students will work in groups and make a miniature model of the Solar System using foam balls. This miniature model will include information on each planet. When students finish this activity, their miniature models will be displayed in the classroom.

The topics (SACSA teaching strands) we will cover this year are:
- Life cycle & Water cycle (Life system),
- Filming, animation & optical illusion (Life system),
- Space — Solar system (Earth & Space),
- Adapting for life — features of animals & plants (Life system),
- Earth's changing face — features of the Earth (Earth & Matter).

In Term 1 Mrs Horstmann and I had a common theme of Water for Science and SOSE. The children looked at where water is used, different ways in which it is used and the different properties of it. Various experiments were carried out to show the effect water had on different surfaces.

This term our topic is Natural and Processed Materials. So far, the children have discussed what the words natural and processed mean, can sort objects into the correct groups, use describing words and have become comfortable in using the terms natural and processed. We will be looking at the different ways materials and foods react to heat, cold, and pressure. I can't wait for the mould test and which materials are best at preventing it!
Students in Year 10 and Stage 1 English have written expositions to showcase their ability to formulate an opinion on a particular issue and convey their views in a clear and logical fashion. The last two are from Rohie and Shailey.

They deserve better!

by Rohie Griffiths

Would you let your children play in an unsafe environment? No, of course not! The Mid Murray Council has neglected the local Nildottie playground to such an extent, that it’s in a state of disrepair and consequently nobody uses it. The area consists of two swings, two seesaws and a basketball court, which are all in a dangerous condition. Having a new play area may encourage young children to get outdoors, play and socialise. It could also create a better atmosphere for the community.

To begin with, the area is not secured by a fence. As the playground is right next to a vineyard, tractors and utes often go past. If a wandering child sneaks away for a couple of seconds, they could get seriously injured if hit by a vehicle. The equipment is also unsafe. The swings are made of splintered wood and rusty chains. What child wants to play on that? The seesaws are also old, rusty and on the verge of breaking. To make matters worse there is no soft fill under the area. If a child falls off the equipment, they have nothing to soften their fall. Just rock hard dirt covered in prickles. One of the back boards on the basketball court is completely gone and the other is in no condition to be used. The asphalt has loose rocks all over the place and is slippery. When children see the playground, they aren’t going to want to play in an environment like this.

Secondly, statistics have shown that children in Australia are getting less and less active every year. I believe that this is not the children’s fault. They love being active, going to playgrounds and interacting with other children. But, how can the local Nildottie kids stay active if there’s no place to go?

Few children are going to go for a walk to stay active. They don’t look at exercise that way. Why would any child consider playing on the old, busted playground, when they could have so much more fun at home playing the Playstation? Updating the Nildottie playground would give the children an opportunity to be active and get out-doors.

Even though the Nildottie community has an amazing and friendly atmosphere, there is so much more potential in the area. If the Nildottie Playground was attended to, this could open up all kinds of doors for the locals. Most parents work long hard hours every day and are looking for some leisure time when they get home. What better way for them to unwind than to take their children to the playground and socialise with other parents. As well as the parents having some recreational and social time, their children would be in a safe and friendly environment. However, in its present state the play ground is not a pleasant place to be.

I understand there would be some major costs associated with building a new playground. The area needs much work and may take some time to get the process complete. But, surely our children’s health and happiness is enough to justify the cost. If the council does see to this situation, I hope they take this opportunity to create a safe and friendly area for the people in our community. It would be very disappointing if they chose to take the cheap way out which would be to demolish the playground, leaving nowhere for the children to play.

In conclusion, a new playground could benefit the community’s families in many ways. At the moment the playground is, in reality, not up to the safety standards it should be. The local parents and children deserve better than this. They deserve a playground that’s safe and attractive. The children deserve somewhere to play, somewhere to socialise and somewhere to be active. The parents deserve a safe and friendly environment to take their children and chat to other parents.
Man's Best Friend....FOR SOME!

by Shailey Coleman

51% of all dogs being euthanized are done because of behavioural problems. I think this is horrible! These dogs are being put down because their owners aren't training them; it's not the dog's fault. In this essay, I will be looking at how some people abuse their dogs. Some people get a dog, and just lock it up in the back yard and don't walk it. Others get a pit bull and cut their tails and ears off for fighting and put fillings in their teeth to make them sharper! Also a lot of people are not training their dogs properly; I've seen some dogs that can't even sit when told! I believe that dogs are being abused (whether the owners know it or not) and something should be done to stop it.

Firstly, a lot of people these days see a dog as a fashion accessory and just get one because everybody else has a dog. Some people get a dog for the kids, but it just ends up being forgotten and kept in the backyard. I understand that some people do have a small backyard or have to keep the dogs locked up because they can't be left alone with the kids. But if that's the case, WALK THEM! Why get a dog and lock it up? They need to be active and get exercise. Some people also start breeding dogs, and it gets out of hand, and they end up with hundreds of dogs. The people then can't afford to feed them all and end up letting them starve and abandoning them. If you don't have the money, why start a breeding program? Yes, the dogs will make you money, but until then, you have to have the money to feed them.

Secondly, people who make dogs fight and make adjustments to their dogs to fight them, should have their ears cut off and be forced to fight other people. This is the worst point of them all! This is disgusting behaviour. Dogs should be kept at home and be loved and cared for, not forced to fight other dogs. A lot of dog fighters have a new dog every fight, because once the dog has earned the owner money, they are disposed of. Some people don't cut tails and ears off for fighting, but they do it for looks! They put their dogs through all that pain, just because they want their dogs to look better. These people don't deserve the love, loyalty and trust of a dog!

My third criticism is the bad and lazy attempt of some owners to train their dogs. Why get a dog if you're not going to train it properly, or even attempt to train it? So many dogs pull at the lead, chew up shoes and have to be told 10 times before they sit. Dogs are like children; they need consistent discipline and if you give them respect, they will give it back. They are kind and gentle creatures, if trained the right way. Some people are very cautious of their children going up and patting dogs. This shouldn't be the case because dogs shouldn't bite children or adults. If dogs were trained properly, then children would be safe and parents would feel safer letting their kids pat other dogs.

On the other hand, a lot of people are caring and love their dogs as they should. You can now get services and procedures such as dentistry, coats and fancy (but expensive) retreats for dogs. In some of these places, you have choices like private or social rooms, TV and music and comfortable chairs and beds. A lot of owners spoil their dogs with treats and comfortable beds. Others have little coats for the winter and take their dogs with them everyday. They are a part of the family and that's how it should be.

In conclusion, people should only get a dog if they can afford it and have the time and motivation to walk it regularly. Dog fighting is already illegal, but the people who are still doing it are very sick and disturbed and should be stopped. Dogs should be trained properly, so they listen and respect their owners. Some owners don't realise it, but they are abusing their dogs, whether it be cutting their ears off and fighting them or not walking them and training them!
Senior School Report

I would like to start this week's report by firstly welcoming Miss Brandon back!! I hope that you had a fantastic time overseas (even with the unfortunate environmental events!) and I know that both staff and students are glad to have you safely back with us at Swan Reach Area School. I would also like to thank relief teacher Alex Hoffmann for stepping into Miss Brandon’s role with minimal issues, and to our students for simply ‘getting on with the job’.

Last Friday Mrs Eggers and I were fortunate enough to attend the Birdwood, Oakbank, Swan Reach combined year 12 formal held at the Stamford Grand in Glenelg. This was a fantastic and well catered event, and our students and their partners all looked very glamorous and mature in their beautiful dresses and well fitted suits. This was a brilliant occasion and I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to attend this event and help our year 12 students celebrate their final year of study. Now this is over, students have time to focus on their studies, and achieving the best results possible.

Congratulations to our 9-a-side girls and boys teams who played at Karoonda last Thursday, and thanks to Mr Martinson and Mr Carter for supporting our students at this event. For a comprehensive review of the day please read Shailey and Rohie’s report in the newsletter!

Meetings for ski trip are starting now and we have a record number of students attending this year (161). Students need to decide if they want to ski or snowboard, with more information to follow. It is compulsory this year for both skiers and boarders to wear helmets. These can be hired on the mountain for $35 for the week, but many bike helmets are now snowboard approved, so check the sticker on the inside of your helmets to see if you can save some money!

Nick Schmidt – Senior Coordinator
The Dietitian (Country Health SA) visits Swan Reach from Tanunda. Appointments are free and no doctor’s referral is required. Reasons for seeing a dietician include nutrition in pregnancy, children’s nutrition, underweight, nutrient deficiencies, digestive disorders, allergies, overweight, diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure. To make a referral phone Healthlink on 1800 003 307. The dietician is also available to run workshops with some groups - phone 8563 0690 for details.

SWAN REACH WOMEN’S REST ROOMS
CRAFT ROOM
Open Wednesdays, 10am to 2pm. Locally made gifts.
Anyone interested in selling handmade crafts or local produce, please contact
Josie: 8570 2249 or Taryn: 8570 2377

Come and See...
An exhibition of photographic prints
'Photos by Dawn'
Now in the Swan Reach Women’s Rest Rooms
'Gallery Room'
Open: Wednesday 10.00am to 2.00pm
and most Saturdays and Sundays.

Weather / Wether / Whether
The climate is made up of “weather”; whether it is nice out depends on whether it is raining or not. A wether is just a castrated sheep- and Microsoft does not recognise this.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Phone Kylie or Rowan Eggers.
(h) 85708192. (m) 0428308192 (R)

SWIMMING POOL KEY HOLDERS
The swimming pool season has now closed and pool key holders are asked to return their keys to the Front Office as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY RELIEF & FINANCIAL COUNSELLING
Available at Swan Reach Community Hall 3-5 Nildottie Road Swan Reach every Wednesday
Emergency Relief provides for an immediate need to overcome an unforeseen event.
For appointments or further information please phone: Lutheran Community Care 8562 2688

SWAN REACH COMMUNITY CENTRE
ROBERT TAYLOR HOUSE
Remedial Massage Practitioner,
Ann Wilde,
will hold Wednesday Clinics.
For appointment - Phone 8568 1789 mobile 0438 894 431
Loss & Lifestyle Change Counsellor,
Laura Wardleworth
Free consultations the 1st Wednesday of each month.
For appointments phone: (08) 8563 8544