**From the Principal**

**NAPLAN** Tests for years 3, 5 and 7 will be held from the 12th – 14th May (with a catch up day on the 15th May if required). NAPLAN is used by governments, education authorities and schools to determine whether young Australians are meeting important educational goals in literacy and numeracy. It provides a snapshot of your child’s progress as they travel through school, to see how well they are learning the skills of reading, writing and mathematics. It also provides information to the school that assists in determining areas for further development. It is important to know that NAPLAN is not a pass or fail test. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy against the national standards and compared with their peers throughout Australia. Some nervousness is expected and, as a parent, you can help your child by treating NAPLAN test days just like any other school day and reassuring them that NAPLAN is not a pass or fail test. Students cannot prepare specifically for NAPLAN and are not expected to do so and although NAPLAN familiarisation is important, drilling and excessive practice is unnecessary and unhelpful. Individual test results will be available at the end of term 3, usually around September and will be distributed by the school. If you have any concerns please talk to your child’s teacher.

**Pupil Free Days for 2015**
All Primary Schools have been allocated 4 Pupil Free Days and one closure day. On Monday night the council met and set the days for the 2015 school year. These days are:
- **Monday 27th April** (first day of term 2) – Arts Curriculum Day, **Tuesday 9th June** (day after Queen’s Birthday long weekend), **Monday 20th July** (first day of term 3) – Partnership Day on Moderation.
- **Friday 11th September** (Show Closure Day) and **Friday 30th October** - School Review Day.

Please add these dates to your diaries and remember that:

**Out of Hours School Care** will be available for those families needing care on those days.

**House Captains**
This year we have decided to place a bigger emphasis on the role and responsibilities of House captain’s and have therefore elected them earlier. We are expecting that they will take a leadership role promoting sport across the school throughout the whole year. We are also re-vamping the correct names of the houses that will still coincide with the colours of each team. Congratulations to our house captains and their vice captains for the 2015 school year.
Our Indigenous Excursion

Year 5’s (Val’s) and 4/5’s (Viv’s) amazing trip to the SA Museum & Botanic Gardens was full of hands on activities and we learned lots of things.

At Tandanya we were shown how to weave baskets by the Kaurna elders. Some students will complete theirs at school.

On the trip we went to the SA Museum and learnt about Aboriginal technology and what they ate. Their weapons were spears and boomerangs.

We got to feel lots of artefacts like rock dyes, an old mortar and pestle, boomerangs and a wooden shield.

When we arrived at the Botanic Gardens, Trent took us on a tour through the Mallee, which is part of the Botanic Gardens. It was designed to look like the land before the Europeans came. Trent showed us lots of native trees, plants, fruit and made fire using friction.

Bin Audit at GSPS - Wipe Out Waste

Earlier this week Archer, Fionn, Flynn, (the year five bin monitors) and students from Ms Scott’s class, sorted through some of the school’s rubbish which was going to landfill. The KESAB WOW women, Jo and Cally, told us to put on aprons, gloves and safety glasses so that we would not get germs.

Then we grabbed tongs and put the rubbish into some boxes, which had labels like these: food scraps, yoghurt suckies, paper, cardboard, soft plastic, recyclables, reducibles and other.

Jo and Cally did a great job of sorting the rubbish found in our bins to show us how we can do our part to Wipe Out Waste.

Room 3 wrote about the audit.

Don’t waste food!!!…There was too much good food in the bins. If you don’t have enough time to eat the food or you don’t like it, then take it home and talk to your mum or dad about it. Or is it a good after school snack? Also, food scraps are great for chickens.

We found lots of good reusable things, like: pencils, rulers, a glue stick, money and a musical instrument!!!

All of these things are still useful so don’t put them in the bin.

There were too many ziplock plastic bags. These can be used again……so put them back in your lunch box or pocket and take them home.

We found a lot of little packets for food like yoghurt and chips. Did you know you can save a lot of money by buying big packets of chips or yoghurt and then putting a little bit in a reusable container for school every day? Try having a ‘nude food’ lunch box with no plastic or foil.
TfEL Compass Adventure

On the 23rd of March, four of us went to Modbury Primary School with Ms Vicky Bitzios, TfEL PILOT Leader. We met up with five other students at the primary school to discuss how to notify schools around Australia about the TfEL Compass survey.

The TfEL Compass Survey is a self-reflection tool that is used by teachers to get feedback from another teacher and students about teaching and learning. Teachers also use this tool as self-reflection on their own practice. Many students across Years 3-7 classes in our school have used the survey to give feedback to their teacher about the teaching and learning in Mathematics lessons.

Teachers have also set up a survey for their students in their class to give feedback about the learning for a particular lesson/topic.

In working with the Modbury PS students, we shared what is unique about the survey and how we think it can help teachers to improve how they teach. We agreed that the survey also made students think more about themselves as learners and how they learn. Our new friends from Modbury PS, shared how they have used the survey in their classrooms with their teacher, to give feedback about the learning and teaching. It was interesting to hear about how other schools have used Compass.

We all brainstormed ideas of what we thought were the important things to know about the Compass survey so that we can support students in all the schools get the most out of the opportunity of giving feedback.

We look forward to updating you over the next term.

By Isaak, Jasmine, Tara and Fionn

ICAS 2015

ICAS entry forms are due back to school next week.

If you wish your child to participate please download the consent form (link below), indicate which tests to be sat and pay sitting fees to the front office.

All consents and payments are due by WEDNESDAY 1st April 2015.

CONSENT FORM
http://1drv.ms/1AYwUzJ

2015 Sitting Dates
- Digital Technologies (Years 3-7) - 19 May
- English (Years 2-7) - 28 July
- Maths (Years 2-7) - 11 August
- Spelling (Years 3-7) - 16 June
- Science (Years 2-7) - 2 June

The school and Parents/caregivers are provided with a comprehensive report on their child’s performance. All students receive an Achievement Certificate.

More information on what is covered in the tests is available from http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data:
School students with a disability

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together to implement annual national data collection on school students with a disability.

In 2015 the first full national collection of data on school students will take place in all Australian schools.

We are trained to include all children in our school that fit the criteria of the Disability Discrimination Act and the Disability Standards for Education.

The collection will take place over a period of ten weeks starting in term 2 from 8th May and be completed by 7th August 2015.

Please see your child’s teacher or contact Carol West (Deputy Principal) if you require further information on this collection of data.
Love Learning with Mathletics

All students at Gilles Street Primary School have access to Mathletics, a multi-award winning learning resource that encourages students and rewards results – hugely popular with students, teachers and parents alike. Mathletics covers all years of schooling and is currently used in over 5,000 Australian schools.

Benefits of Mathletics:

Proven advantage to support your child - a recent independent study found that the results of students using Mathletics are up to 9% higher in NAPLAN.

Free Mathletics Parent Console which is designed to help you enhance your child’s learning experience and gather valuable insights into their progress. Receive weekly reports on their results to encourage regular participation. Register for your child’s weekly report at www.3plearning.com/parents

Glossary:

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying occurs when technology is used to deliberately and repeatedly engage in hostile behaviour to harm someone. Groups and individuals can be both the perpetrators and targets of bullying.

A full cybersafety glossary may be found at www.cybersmart.gov.au/glossary.aspx

Community Notices

Adelaide City Council celebrates being a Refugee Welcome Zone

WELCOME PICNIC

Cultivating a culture of welcome in our community.

SATURDAY APRIL 18 AT 12.00PM

DRINKS & SAUSAGE SANDWICHES ARE... FREE!

FREE!

&

MOST IMPORTANTLY A SMILE, FRIEND AND CHAIR!

MIRNU WIRRA PARK, SOUTH TERRACE, ADENADE (ADJACENT TO PRINCESS ELIZABETH GARDENS)

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Family Fun Day

 Adelaide Aquatic Centre, Jeffcott Road, North Adelaide

50m pool, leisure pool, café, splash pads & water play

Imagination playground

Jumping castle

Face painting

Imagination playground

Part proceeds from online on the day will be donated to the Little Heroes Foundation

Sunday sales

Monday 13 April 2015 12noon – 5pm

A full cybersafety glossary may be found at www.cybersmart.gov.au/glossary.aspx

Don’t forward messages or pictures. Though they may not have started it, they will become a part of the cyberbullying cycle. Stand up and speak out against cyberbullying. Encourage the child to tell the bully that their comments or actions are hurtful and that they should stop. Talk to someone they trust like parents or a teacher. Support your child’s friend by reporting the cyberbullying. Most websites have online help centres and reporting facilities and online abuse is in violation of the Terms Of Use of most social networking sites.

If your child or someone you care about has been affected by cyberbullying, contact the Cybersmart Online Helpline (www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx) or Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.