



## Newsletter 9 Term 3 Tuesday

### SAS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thankyou to those of you who joined the School Board last week for their meeting. Thankyou to Lorraine and Craig who reported to the Board members on two of our priorities: Early Years Learning and STEAM. Next meeting reports will be presented on The Arts, Culture of Thinking: Independent Learners and Sustainability. The draft Business Plan 2018 – 2020 will also be presented.

No appetite for changing the name for SAS or increasing the size of SAS was evident. Some discussion both for and against each of those came to that conclusion for now.

Here, an excerpt from a book that Eddie is reading, from the Chapter How to Turn Brains On, references:

*“People in small towns are much more likely to know one another, say hello, and help each other in times of trouble. This dynamic is likely present because of the resemblance of small towns to the tribes of our evolutionary past that stimulate primitive social instincts. In line with this, small versus large groups enhance vigilance for threats and make it more likely that individuals will contribute to the common good (Isaac et al., 1994; Roberts, 1996). As social groups grow larger, the biochemistry of attachment appears to be supplanted by a state of mind and body that weakens primitive social instincts in the service of self-preservation. As this occurs, we see that people grow less attuned to, identified with, and empathetic toward one another.*

*The economy of scale within public education often leads to the creation of classrooms, schools, and educational bureaucracies that create a sense of alienation and a diffusion of responsibility. Administrators blame politicians, teachers blame administrators, and students and their parents blame everyone. Because the problems are innate to the structure itself, individuals are hard-pressed to create positive change. When group size is optimised for attachment in combination with physical and emotional safety, a classroom can become a secure base from which to think new thoughts, explore, and learn. Smaller classes and school sizes allow for more personal interactions, one-on-one and small-group*

*activities, and a stronger sense of group identity, which enhance tribe building.”*

### SAS P&C MEETING

It was a well attended meeting with a very full agenda. Thankyou to those of you there – and those of you who sent through your apologies, comments and contribution. Laughter and energy enlivened the meeting and it was a credit to the time keeping skills of Eddie that it was able to close, with much achieved, at 8:30pm.

### PIRATE FAIR

Following his pitch to the P & C Justin and his pirate crew motivated the kids of the whole school on Friday with the idea of a Pirate Fair (aka School Fete in pirate costume and themed). Hopefully your child/ren came home and started planning with you your family's contribution to the success of this fun. The Fair is scheduled for Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November. More information will arrive home soon.

### CENTRE for EGGsELLENCe

The Hentagon is no more! It was such a marvellous endeavour when kids, parents and staff collaborated to build it. It served us well for many years; the chooks enjoyed it and they and their eggs were enjoyed by community. The chooks were a resource and a part of the learning program for all kids. They certainly gave us some challenges and reasons for calling on our problem-solving skills. Over their time we had veterinarian students and members of our community advise with their knowledge and experience of these birds. The sad fate of the deterioration of chook house, chookyard and ultimately the chooks was after a dedicated struggle by a very committed group to do what they could to mitigate the conditions and improve the lot of the chooks that they loved and cared about.

Thankyou Justin for leading the crew in demolition of the rat infested building in the first stage of clearing and cleaning the site for future use. It will be a springboard for creative imagining.

## LEANNE COOLE YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

The winners of these – the Beautiful, the Brave, the Bold and the Brilliant – and those highly commended will be announced at this week's Whole School Meeting, Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August. Thankyou to esteemed judges, Georgia Richter and Naama Grey-Smith of Fremantle Press, for giving their time to judging these and to Deb Fitzpatrick who, along with Georgia, created these awards for our SAS kids in memory of Leanne Young / Coole; beloved teacher and inspirational writer. Leanne's son Jedd represented his mum last year and this year her son, Steele, will do so.

The following was received as part of the Judges Report – pleased to see plenty of new names and some old ones – yet another fabulous list of young writers at SAS:

*What an excellent array of stories were presented in this year's competition. Thank you all for the time and effort you put into your work. There were many strong pieces that made choosing the winning and commended stories a challenging task. All the stories were judged anonymously. We looked for stories that showed care and commitment in their presentation. We looked for lively turns of phrase and inventiveness. We looked for stories and poems that were cleverly shaped, or that made us laugh, or were suspenseful, or that had a surprising ending. Leanne would have been delighted by the rich array and variety of the stories entered. We encourage you now to share and enjoy your work with each other!*

Further judges' comment will be shared following announcements and presentation.

## THE GREAT BOOK SWAP

The following Wednesday also has a strong literacy/literary focus. Supporting the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) all SAS kids will participate in The Great Book Swap Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1:30 – 2:30pm. The Harmony Group leaders have prepared detailed information and it will come home separately to this notice. HG leaders will organise and coordinate the afternoon, assisted by their elders.

Each child is to bring in a book, that they have loved, to swap among themselves and possibly find a new favourite. Each child is to contribute a gold coin to participate in this event and the money raised will be

forwarded to the ILF hoping to raise \$200,000 to buy 20,000 new books.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Karen organised for Emma from Waste-Wise to update staff last Wednesday on the work of this program. Karen also presented an update and consideration for our ongoing participation in the Low Carbon Schools Program. We, SAS, will host a gathering of current LCSP schools here next Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September. Some SASsy kids have volunteered to present some of their learning to this group and others will prepare some sustenance for our visitors.

## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

Learning will be conducted in our own glorious Great Outdoors on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> September. We are signed up and joining in this global movement! <https://outdoorclassroomday.com.au/>

Thanks Craig and Bakoolbans for conducting the tour of our Piara last week. To have the energy and attention focused in this way is just great. It is timely to regenerate our activity here.



## STEAM

Practical PD will present a session on Coding and Robotics here at SAS on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. Staff from other schools will participate in this.

## NAPLAN

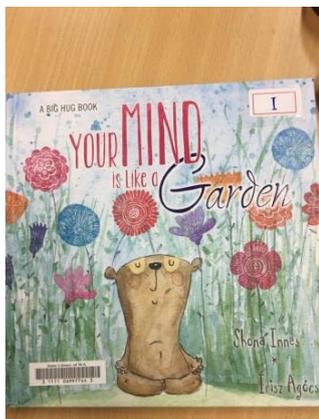
The reports for kids who sat these – those in years 3 and 5 – have arrived at school and may be collected by you, their parents, from the office. Please remember when reading through these:

- the assessments were undertaken in May
- it was the first such experience for many
- they refer to specific skills
- they compare performance with all other kids at year level across Australia and
- in relation to a national minimum standard
- they may not necessarily reflect your child's capacity and potential
- "caution should be exercised as the results refer to a single point in time only and may not reflect the full range of your child's ability"\*
- "they complement but do not replace the information that teachers gather"\*

Staff have been analysing the results – applying disciplined dialogue - to contribute to our planning for improvement. We are also able to identify the progress kids make between their On Entry assessment and between years 3 and 5. We reflect on the NAPLAN, alongside Reports to Parents and all other data collected; including attendance, learning behaviours and attitudes, to create a holistic picture on which to reflect upon current teaching programs, practices and pedagogy to determine where to place emphasis, intervention and celebration.

Please refer to the \*Information for Parents flyer before reading your child's report.

## LIBRARY COLLECTION



We've recently purchased a number of books that 'Promote Growth Mindset'  
<https://selfsufficientkids.com/growth-mindset-childrens-books/>

The illustrated title, brought to our attention by Jai Ram will be added to these.

Thankyou to SASsy kids Maya, Olly and Zara for your contribution of a beautiful book of Maya Angelou

poetry and a very fun Mo Willems collection of stories to our library.

New to teacher resources:

- The Growth Mindset Playbook
- The Innovators Mindset

## STUDENT TEACHERS

Shaneane Weldon has requested to complete her practicum here at SAS. She is in her final year of teaching degree and will join Coinda for term four. Shaneane completed one of her earliest pracs with us.

Another teaching student, Jordan Holloway, has asked to attend and make observations in classes at SAS as part of his Masters in Education. He will come in and chat with Denise about this later this week.

## NOONGAR LESSONS

The kids have been missing having Noongar lessons. Vivienne's daughter is very ill and Viv is supporting her and new baby and will not be able to take Noongar classes for the rest of this term.

At this stage she is planning to be back with us term four.

## CAMP 2018

Camp Committee Meeting # 2 took place yesterday. The first meeting determined a focus and shaped a draft agenda pretty quickly thanks to the frameworks established to enable this. Thanks Helen, Oona and Peta who have joined Karla and teachers on the Camp Committee. We will meet again, Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September.

If you would like to join us for any meeting, make any suggestions and/or give feedback on thinking so far you are very welcome.

Whole School Community Camp '18 will run from Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. CAMP CURIOSITY!

*"Kids walk into schools full of wonder and questions. How you, as an educator, respond to students' natural curiosity can help further their own exploration and shape the way they learn today and in the future." The Innovator's Mindset*

## SHOES – BEWARE!!

Please remind your child that they are to wear shoes at all times at school: much as we love bare feet ourselves and encourage it for some activities when it is appropriate.

Recently some sharp shards of glass have been found in the sandpit. We do not want them to be found in your child's vulnerable foot.

### **LONG SERVICE LEAVE (LSL)**

Working under the directive from the Department of Education for everyone to clear their long service leave.....like Jo is doing currently....

Kristine is taking leave for weeks 9 and 10 of this term and for week 1 of fourth term. Lehani will be with Coindans. Gitika will be with them as usual on Wednesdays.

Lorraine is taking leave for the first four weeks of term 4. Bec will be with Narooma for all of the first week. Mandi – known well by some but not all members of SAS community – will be with Narooma for the other three weeks. She is looking forward to being here, a school that she knows, appreciates and resonates with.

Denise will take leave each Wednesday for the remainder of term three to care for Jasper. She and he will come along to visit and participate in the various spectacular Wednesday events scheduled.

Kerry is taking leave for weeks 9 and 10 of term also.

### **BUNGANA**

Lilanie will be with Bungana for the remainder of this term from Tuesday through to Friday. Lehani will be in Monday next week – as she has been taking the class on Mondays. Ali will return to Bungana for Mondays only week 9 and 10 and planning to return to three days per week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday – for term four. Lilanie and Gitika will continue, as this term, to be with Bungana Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Coming home today, for each Year 6, from the School Nurse, "Health Information for parents of upper primary children".

### **GRADUATION 2017**

Please, parents of graduating students, meet with Denise at the end of Tuesday next week, 5<sup>th</sup> September, to have a conversation re graduation ceremony.

### **DESERT ADVENTURE 2018**

I know conversations about this have started. It will be good to get together soon – that is parents of all kids currently in years 4 and 5 – to consider some things that we can do already this year to support the adventure next year – eg there is a suggestion, from the P & C meeting, that you, as a group, may wish to

take on the running of the next Sausage Sizzle, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, and the funds raised be put towards your kids' trip next year.

It is also suggested that you consider taking on meals (two breakfast, two lunches and 'teas') for Camp 2018 and profits made also put towards funding the trip. Oona is intending to talk to you all about this.

The trip to Mount Margaret is an expensive exercise for which costs can be minimised with fervent fundraising efforts that we, and our wider community, can all support.

Check out the new mosaic on Bungana doorstep – Lake Ballard and Antony Gormley sculpture – this place is part of the Bungana to Mount Margaret experience. Lovely work, Lindy!

### **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School photos will be taken on Friday, 8th September. We will start on the front grass oval as per usual.

Grads and Naroomans - please arrive by 8:30am and make your way down for group / class photos.

SAS sibling portraits will be taken unless you opt out.

Individual prints, print packages and digital files will be offered this year (more details to come).

I get asked every year for sibling (outside SAS) photos. This year I will be offering those between 8:00 and 8:30am only. Please confirm your participation in advance: 0405 348 383.

Orders will be processed online with purchasing details to be emailed at the start of term 4.

### **ENROLMENTS 2018**

Enrolments for kindergarten and pre-primary will be finalised tomorrow.

All other years....PLEASE....except for those of you with kids graduating...let us know if you are thinking of going anywhere else next year as soon as possible. We are currently considering classes and staffing for 2018.

### **FATHERS' DAY**

Happy Fathers' Day to all our lovely SASsy Dads! Enjoy a gorgeous day with your kids.

**CELEBRATE  
DADS'**