Dear Parent/Carer,

The year is progressing very well. The school has a draft site plan on the table for council to now contribute to. Data suggested work in the areas of Numeracy and Reading would be beneficial. Staff have looked at training and planning in line with this to strengthen their capacity and that of students across the school.

It is well researched that parents and families in partnership with teachers and students, can be of substantial benefit to learning progress of students. It is great to see many parents already assisting in the reading room before school. Please chat to your child’s teacher about many ways you can assist at home too. Even the conversations we have with children, and expect them to engage in with us, strengthen oral language, which is strongly linked to literacy development.

It is also fabulous to see the large number of parents and friends staying on in the preschool to participate in play and conversation with the children.

**Governing Council**

Our first meeting is next Tuesday 21st, at 5pm. An invitation is extended to all parents/carers and family who may like to come along to Council meetings this year. They will be held twice a term again, and are a great way to meet other parents and to help have some involvement in the school, particularly in the curriculum and finance arenas.

Our second meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th March, also at 5pm. The Annual Report Summary and Councillor reports will be presented at this meeting. Officers can be nominated and elected for our new group that we will have met next Tuesday.

Meetings usually run for one hour, and agenda items need to be passed to Karen Wright at the front office, or to Chairperson, Tamara Ploenges.

We look forward to our first meeting over drinks and nibbles this coming Tuesday.

**Sports Days**

Just a reminder that the dates for these days are as follows, weather permitting.

Nangwarry PS Day— 15th March
Pine Sports Day— 21st March

Both days will be held here. Community support is called for the catering opportunity to raise money for the school.
Young Leader's Day

This year the day will be on Tuesday March 13th. Mel Robinson and Ben Clarke will take our Year 6/7 students to Adelaide to attend. The details will be as follows:

**Depart:** Monday March, 12th at 11:30am  
**Return:** Wednesday March, 14th at 2:30pm  
**Accommodation:** Adelaide Shores Caravan park (cabins)  
**Cost:** The majority of costs will be paid for from a budgeted line by the school to enable all students to attend.

There will be a fabulous opportunity to go to the movies, and to eat out at Fasta Pasta together on the Tuesday evening. This leadership trip is a highlight of the year for our senior students, and we are fortunate to have Mel and Ben to take them.

More information will be sent to you as it comes available. Please mark the dates in your calendar as they are not far away.

Guided Reading

Staff will be lucky to have two weeks of training after school on Monday, 27th Feb and then again on Monday 5th March. Bronwyn Phillips, Curriculum Advisor from the Regional Office, will be here to assist Karyn to lead learning with the staff in this area. This is part of our plan to increase knowledge and teacher capacity to then work for higher levels of reading in all children.

With parent support listening to students read at home, and with volunteer input into the school growing all of the time, our partnerships to improve reading are strengthened and exciting.

Swimming

Denise has again done a fabulous job over at the pool with our students. She kindly comes up to run our lessons while schools use the Aquatics Centre for carnivals this week, which is where she teaches many hundreds of children to swim in term 1 and 4.

The weather has been extremely kind! Our pool at Nangwarry does tend to be on the cool side, so a week of warm weather was extremely lucky!

In Australia so many of us live or holiday near water. Swimming and survival skills are essential for children to have to improve their safety and use of water and recreational areas.

Learning Together Programme

Susie Cottle will be running this fabulous programme this year, in conjunction with parents participating. Mel is back and Sally in the Preschool. This is a great opportunity to gain insight into children's play, and how we as adults can make this Early Years time even more valuable for our children and their development. Over the next two weeks Susie and Sally will have more information about the start date in a couple of weeks, the venue and times. Thanks for the interest from adults in the community who are keen to see the programme up and running again this year.

Susie used to be an Early Years advisor for teachers and leaders in the area, before spending three years in New York as a Literacy Advisor. She is loved for her enthusiasm and passion for young children and their development. We welcome Susie, and are very lucky to have her on board this year.

A thanks also must go to Margie Doyle, who introduced the programme here last year. Relationships that she forged, and opportunities she created for children and parents/carers are valued and appreciated.

Keep posted for the new start information!!!!
PRE SCHOOL

The first few weeks of preschool have been busy and have gone very fast. This week we have been talking about friendship and what it means to be a good friend. We have been listening to stories about friends and ‘making our own friends’ at the making table. We have also been enjoying our shared fruit each day, sharing fruit has helped the children to learn and practice sharing and turn taking.

JUNIOR PRIMARY NEWS

In the Junior Primary we have been talking ‘All About Me’. We have looked at words that represent a description of us. Reading to ourselves has been introduced from the ‘Daily 5’ Literacy course. The students have to look at the pictures, tell a story first from them and then read the words. Then the student reads the story with an adult. Picture cues help us to make sense of a story. In Science the topic is ‘Weather’ with Sally. You may like to talk about daily changes with your child. The reading at home programme has started. Folders are checked and changed daily. A new reward system will be implemented next week where your child will receive a sticker after reading at home for 5 nights. You can assist by asking for your child to share their book with you each night.

MIDDLE PRIMARY NEWS

We continue to work on our class routines, especially in the morning and afternoon times and are becoming competent in carrying out these without reminders. A big thank you to our lovely volunteers who are helping all school children change their readers in the mornings. Once again if you are able to help classrooms by listening to reading, please let us know. I hope MP parents found our first class newsletter in your child’s blue reader bag. If you didn’t please let me know via a note in diaries.

UPPER PRIMARY NEWS

Congratulations to our newly elected school captains Kristy and Ryan, the whole class is very proud of you and excited to have you as our leaders. Swimming this week has been lots of fun, with the students learning a lot about water safety and rescue of people in trouble. Please continue to help your child to remember to get their diary signed, it is important to help them to keep organised. We look forward to footsteps next week, and are enthusiastic about participation in this fun program.
Congratulations to the following winners!!
The Pre-School Award goes to: Lilly Perkovic for being helpful and for giving things a go.
The JP Award goes to: Kohdy Gunn for remembering to put up his hand.
The MP Award goes to: Jasmine Rohrlach for excellent work in spelling.
The UP Award goes to: Kristy Price for a great start to the year.
The Japanese Award goes to: Ryan Pearson for writing a funny Haiku poem.
Principal Awards go to: Rhylie Holer for so much more confidence at school.
Katie McMillan for pride in higher achievement.
Melissa Robinson for contribution to professional discussions.

Just starting your cricket career and keen to play against players your own age?
MGJCA are introducing a modified U10 competition for boys and girls. All equipment including helmets are provided. Soft rubber balls are used in all games.
Where: Frew Park
When: Wed 22nd Feb, 29th Feb, 7th Mar, 14th Mar
Time: 4.30-5.30pm
Who: Children will be split into teams upon arrival at Frew Park. Teams will be coached by MGJCA accredited coaches as well as MGHS Cricket Program students
For more information contact Phil Lloyd on 0417 083 146 or Anthony Jennings on 0411 751 733

Scouts come and try Scouting at Penola. Group meets at Scout Hall Riddoch Street, Penola.
Joeys 6-8 yrs Wed 5-6pm
Cubs 8-11 yrs Wed 5-6.30pm
Contact Person Silvana Stepens 0448537215