From the Principal’s desk...

Once again we are at the end of another busy, productive term at Mylor Primary School. The start of the year saw some changes to the set up of the school and the structure. With increased enrolments and the introduction of part time schooling it was decided to set up 2 units, the Bandicoot Unit and Magpie Unit.

continued overleaf...

above: Henry, Ned and Jack T proudly showing off their solar-powered robots
This has enabled teachers to set up the learning areas with age appropriate resources and give students an area that they feel they can ‘belong’ to. Within these units students have 2 teachers for literacy and numeracy, ensuring smaller groups and allowing teachers to cater for the needs of the children within their group. This change has also allowed the Year 3 students to develop their leadership skills within the Bandicoot Unit as their younger peers look up to them.

Term 1 saw different things happen around the school grounds with the structure of the boat being completed and the activity room being upgraded. These projects once again highlighted what a supportive community we have at Mylor.

When the soft fall needed to be spread around the boat a group of parents pitched in and helped without being asked, when the activity room needed to be emptied we had enough volunteers that it only took approximately 1 hour to complete. It is these acts of generosity that make Mylor such a special place.

At the end of term we celebrated the hard work children had put in to their Science projects. Over the course of 2 weeks all students were involved in a variety of Masterclasses and worked on their own science projects. While at times this was quite challenging for some students, they showed a lot of determination and persistence to complete their projects and produce high quality pieces of work to display at the expo.

It was fantastic to see the majority of the school community attend the expo on the Thursday and take the time to talk to each child about what they had been working on.
The children were very proud of the work they had produced and were happy to have the opportunity to share their learning with others.

Term 2 already looks like another busy, exciting term with some interesting Masterclasses already booked, some excursions planned and of course Bonfire Night. We will also be welcoming 7 new students and their families to Mylor, which takes our numbers to just over 50.

We are all looking forward to another exciting term at Mylor.

_Felicity_
The Magpie Unit has made a good start to the year, establishing routines and good work habits, along with high expectations for quality of work and behaviour.

In Writing we have been working on expositions and narratives, looking at the structure of these texts and producing multiple drafts, gaining peer feedback and writing a well-polished final copy. Spelling lists are derived from individual’s testing results on the Oxford Wordlist and words misspelt in their writing. We are in the process of developing reading groups, which focus not only on reading ability, but also reading comprehension. This will be a R-7 activity held each day.

Students rotate between Numeracy groups, depending upon year level curriculum needs and individual learning requirements.

History this term, focused on the first fleet with the students researching and learning about life during this time. The assessment task required students to write a historical narrative from the point of view of an Aboriginal Australian or first fleet convict.

IPlan meetings were held during the later part of the term, with all students having individual learning goals to work towards. Lesson is set aside for student to work towards these goals.

Looking forward to another great term,

Cori and Kylie
Last year Totally Wild came and filmed us. Our teacher was Bernard who is a dung beetle professional and we got to put some dung beetles in the poo up in the Star Garden.

On Tuesday the 18th February everyone came to school at 7:30 to watch Totally Wild and to have pancakes for breakfast. Miss Shirmer made the pancakes and then we saw ourselves on TV.

by Ethan

by Cordy

by Katie

by Jorden

by Kodi
OSHC is a place where we go before and after school when our parents are busy. Jenny looks after us in the Mylor Primary Library. At OSHC we play games and eat fruit. We also do challenges. In a challenge you have to try your best. We also make things for special occasions.

By Logan, Rahni & Iggy

Jenny and the OSHC Kids.
right: Henry taking control of a maths problem.

below: Miss Schirmer’s Numeracy group working through a maths problem.

right: Preparations complete for Iggy’s birthday party in OSHC.
Photography Masterclass

left: Olivia having a quiet moment in the boat.

down: Liam F - the strong man.
Early on Tuesday 11th of February Amanda from Footsteps Australia came and taught years R-7 [4-7 as a group and R-3 as a group], to do a type of dance called hip-hop to a mixture of different types of hip-hop songs. It was under the shelter by the oval at the front of the school.

Amanda

After being taught the active dance of hip-hop, we were shown Komochi dolls, a type of Japanese doll named Komochi meaning feelings. The dolls have a pouch that opens up and little pillows with feelings like happy, sad and embarrassed were inside the dolls. Amanda, the dance teacher, showed us that it’s normal to feel out of place when we first do something.

We made different plays to show different feelings. Years R-7 most definitely had a wonderful morning.

By Ella, Olivia, Liam B and Jack M
On Friday the 4th of April it was Sports Day. First was the long run, it was hard but fun. Next we had recess then we had the tabloid events. There were lots of events, but my favourite was accuracy kick and high jump. We did it on the Mylor Oval. Scott Creek, Heathfield, Upper Sturt, and Basket Range participated. Lunch was next we got lunch orders. Then we did the sprints, and then we did the relay race. Then was corner spry. The little kids did water relay and the adults did a water relay. The last thing was the presentation and gold won, then blue, then green then last came red. In the end it was a warm day and it was lots of fun.

By Grace, Ned and Will
Some of the Mylor kids went to Heathfield to do circus skills for Active After School.

We learnt how to juggle and it was really hard. We also learnt crab-on-crab where one person climbs onto another. We could do three crabs!!

At our last visit we did a performance for the parents and we all got an Easter Egg.

BY Savanna, Adi, Jane and Wynter
This term five Indonesian students from Flinders University came to school to teach us some Indonesian games.

They showed us slightly different versions of Hop-scotch, Capture the Flag, Who’s Got the Bone and marbles.

After we played games together we gave the students some chocolate as a thank you gift.
The whole does P.E. with Miss Price and Mrs Jones every Thursday at the Mylor Primary oval. Sometimes we go to the town oval.

This term Miss Price taught us Athletics.

- I loved the running races.  
  *Annabelle*
- My favourite this was jumping over things.  *Emma.*
- I’m good at running fast.  *Alex*
- My favourite thing was the running races.  *Elsa.*
This term in the Bandicoot Unit we have been making our room look really cool. We made a little shop and people come and buy things with the plastic play money.

Mrs Jones and Ms Schirmer made a tree that has words on it, so we know how to write the words. We have been measuring our height.

In the morning we do the roll together. We then go into separate groups to do writing or numeracy. We do lots of work.

We have been learning about towns and what they need. We might be going to make a town. We will do more work next term.

In Mrs Jones’ group we sometimes work with partners.

By Zoe, Meigan, Lily and Ailie

To see what else the Bandicoot Unit has been doing check out our blog

http://mylorbandicoots.tumblr.com

Please see Mrs Jones for the password
Every Tuesday we do masterclasses. Each week we have a choice of three masterclasses. They are usually run or supervised by teachers, but kids can also run masterclasses. Some of the masterclasses this term have included:

- Soccer
- Origami
- Natural collage
- Mothers day plates
- Jewellery making
- Cricket
- Pom-pom making
- Kite making
- Knitting

We choose our masterclasses by raising our hand or use Polling Booths so our friends don’t affect our choice.
Every Tuesday from 3:20pm until 4:00pm the three Year Sevens; Josh, Olivia and James, meet to organize fundraising for their trip to Canberra.

At the moment we are selling Cadbury chocolate boxes. Each chocolate cost $2.

We also designed our Year 7 jumpers; they are purple, and green. Our names are printed on the back of the jumper with a picture of our choice. Olivia’s picture is of turtles, Josh’s is a speedboat and James’ is a skateboarder.
On the 13th of March 2014, 6 Mylor Primary students [3 year 7s, 2 year 6s and 1 year 5] travelled to Scott Creek Primary to learn about the Carly Ryan Foundation and cyber safety. The students were lucky enough to meet Sonya Ryan, Australian of the Year 2013 - Carly Ryan’s mum.

Sonya taught us about the dangers of the online world and how her daughter, Carly Ryan, was lured from the internet and had her life taken by a man who was posing as a fourteen year old boy. They had planned to meet on a beach an hour away from her home. The man attacked her from behind, shoved her face in the sand, stabbed her in the neck and left her to die.

For many school students along with Mylor, it was a large eye opener for people who use social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Twitter, KIK messenger and Snap Chat to set their accounts on private and to set photo pinning location off. Sonya told us about a app called Thread, they got the app name from an old story called also Thread. The story consisted of a golden princess falling in love with a dark prince at the end of the evil forest; the queen gave her daughter a thread of her dress when the princess went to meet the dark prince. The app is like the story itself. The app makes you put in your parent’s or guardian’s email address and if you are in danger the app allows you to take a picture or a video of a suspicious person or car that might be a danger to you. It gives you a 90 second voice recording and with a click of a button, the photo and voice recording is sent to the parents/ guardian’s email address.

The event was worth going to because it gave you a lot of information about the dangers that are out there and it taught us to be safe on the internet.
The Mylor Ark

This term students from heathfield high school finished our ark. It just needs stairs to get up to the top deck. Earlier this term a truck came to deliver bark chips to use around the boat we had to spread them out.

By Jack M
Ricky Moss
On the 27th of February some kids participated in the Courier Cup, at the Mount Barker Mountain Pool. They were Chloe, who entered free style, James who entered breaststroke, Grace who entered breaststroke and free style, and Ebony who entered free style. The schools we were against were Aldgate, Scott Creek and a lot more.

The day started with the singing of the Australian Anthem. We then got changed into our bathers for our races. Although we did not win any races we all had a lot of fun.

BY Chloe + James
On the **25th of February** Mylor Primary School had an AGM BBQ. Families and teachers got together to find out about Mylor Primary School for 2014. Emma and Jane’s dad Dave cooked the meat while Emily made the salad. The food was delicious. While the parents went to the annual general meeting the kids played together. It was good to catch up and spend time together.
On Monday the 31st of March we started science weeks. First the Magpies had to start on their first question and research it. Then some of us did experiments and started making posters, power points or brochures. The bandicoots started group stuff like mixing marshmallows with lots of different liquids and then we went on with our own projects. Throughout the weeks we did lots of fun master classes such as turning milk into plastic, cleaning oil spills and growing plants. On the Thursday the 10th of April there was a science expo for parents and friends to see the kids work.

By Katie, Eirinn, Ethan
SOS – CLEANING UP OIL SPILLS

On Thursday the 3rd of April the Magpie Unit participated in a Masterclass about cleaning up oil spills. They worked together to brainstorm what materials would best absorb oil. The materials used were hair, coconut fibres, chicken feathers and cotton wool. These materials were tied into a muslin bag and then dipped into a water and oil mixture for 30 seconds. They were then drained of water for 30 seconds and we recorded how much oil it had absorbed by measuring the amount of oil left in the tub.

The coconut fibres absorbed all of the oil and then it all drained out. The cotton wool absorbed half the oil, the chicken feathers absorbed approx. ¾ and the human hair absorbed the most. We used the microscopes to see how each material had absorbed the oil.
Meditation & the brain

On Monday the 7th of April, Rachel presented a Masterclass on the effects of meditation on the brain. After discussing what affects the children thought it would have Rachel taught some basic neuroscience about how meditation slows down the activity in the brain. Even if you have never mediated before after a 20-minute session the beta waves (that indicate your brain is processing information) dramatically slow down.

![Graph showing brain activity before and after meditation.]

After being taught some basic meditation techniques the children found a quiet spot in the school yard to meditate and then came back together to discuss how they felt.
Endangered Plants

On Tuesday the 8th of April Martin Semple (Lily’s dad) presented a Masterclass on endangered plants. Martin bought in different samples of rare plants that can be found in the Adelaide Hills and from around the world. The children learnt how plants are preserved using a plant press so scientists can refer to these specimens when conducting research. The children were then able to look at the different specimens Martin had bought in and ask questions. There were some plants that live in the desert and can survive for years without rain, plants that are only found in small parts of SA and also in one place in South America. They learnt how different birds are responsible for the germination of seeds and the scientific names for some of the plants. Everybody’s favourite plant was one that had small sacs of liquid and was called the ‘snotty’ plant.
Endangered Plants

During the Science Block Proo Geddes and John Wamsley presented a Masterclass on Endangered Plants in the Mylor area. We had to work in small groups to build a bridge out of straws and popsticks. This activity was to get us thinking about what things might be growing under bridges. John then showed us a plant that he had found at Warrawong and told us there is only 1 left in the world. They have tried to have it identified by botanists, but have not been able to find out what it is. John and Proo have been very successful in preserving plants growing in the Scott Creek Conservation Park. We hope to work with them again, looking at ways to reintroduce endangered plants to the area.
Milk into Plastic

On Thursday the 3rd of April the Bandicoot Unit made plastic out of milk. On Monday we had already seen the affects Red Bull can have on milk by separating the protein, then on Thursday we went a step further and used the acid in vinegar to separate the casein and use this to make plastic. The children used 5, 10, 15 or 20ml of vinegar mixed with warm milk to see how much they needed to separate the milk. From there they strained the casein from the top of the milk and used it like dough to form different shapes. After leaving it to dry for 4 days, the children had a small piece of plastic they had made out of milk. They also learnt that this type of plastic was used many years ago to make jewellery, especially small beads for necklaces and bracelets.
Growing Plants

On Monday the 31/3 R-7 students had the choice of participating in a Masterclass about the best conditions to grow plants. To start the experiment students observed and recorded what happened when you cut the stem of a flower and put it directly into liquid (food colouring). The students observed the flowers change colours as they absorbed the liquid. The students used the information they learnt from this short experiment to develop their hypotheses for the next experiment that would take a week to complete.

Students used cress and mustard seeds in petri dishes to see which conditions they would grow the best in. The 4 conditions were: in salt water, in acidic water, in the fridge and in the dark. After a week the students used microscopes to carefully look at how the seeds had grown and record the results.