From the principal’s desk

What another fabulous term at Mylor Primary School.

Starting the term off with eight new students was a highlight; new friendships were formed, learning groups were re-established, parents were welcomed at a morning tea. The school community was buzzing with the news that so many new families had chosen Mylor. It was definitely a chance for us as a school community to feel proud about who we are, and what we can offer to students.

The second highlight for the term must be Bonfireworks night, as we celebrated our 15th annual event. Just under $10,000 was raised that links directly to support students in their learning. A big thank you goes out to all of those people who helped make the night such a success.

Next term sees us linking in with the community as we study the History of Mylor in preparation for Mylor’s 120th Birthday. We are all looking forward to the excitement of what this shall bring.

Keep smiling and stay safe over the break, Ngari

above: Maggy.
below (l to r): James, Shane and Gemma.

Picasso and poles

Fridays have been very busy with a big group of students participating in Art Masterclasses with Mr Haines. What better way to learn about art styles and techniques than to look at the great masters? So early in the term Picasso’s work was the focus and the students explored his Blue and Rose periods.

After discussing and being inspired by his work they used oil pastels, crayons and dye to create moody blue pieces and rose works featuring circus performers and acrobats. They have certainly added colour to the learning areas.

The second half of the term has been dedicated to creating Totem Poles.

There were a lot of creative ideas flying around during the planning sessions and a variety of themes and books were used to come up with an idea to start applying to the 4 metre poles. The students are working in groups ranging from 2 to 4 people and a few brave individuals are tackling the poles on their own! It has been a challenge to develop ideas and then have them painted onto such a tall and skinny surface. It has been impressive watching the groups pull together as a team to solve their problems and the results are looking spectacular. Look out for the Poles appearing very early in term 3, they are sure to look amazing and hopefully turn some heads as cars travel through Mylor.
The Mylor Primary School’s Annual Bonfireworks night on Saturday, June 18, has been declared a ‘success’ by principal Ngari Boehm. The event, now in its 15th year attracted over 1600 people raised $9945 for the school. The school’s only fundraiser included music hot food and drinks, bar facilities, children’s games and activities, as well as laser skirmish, for older children.

“The fireworks were great,” Ms Boehm said. “We also had laser skirmish, which the kids really enjoyed.”

The main attraction of the night, the fireworks, was enjoyed by all around the bonfire. The pyrotechnics show was staged by internationally renowned Howard and Sons which did the fireworks for the opening ceremony at last year’s Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

The event drew a large crowd with people attending from all areas.

“We get people from the plains who troop up the hill for the annual event,” Ms Boehm said.

Much support also come from the Hills, with people from Aldgate, Stirling, Crafers and Mt Barker attending.

Much thanks needs to be given to those parents who took on Team Leader roles this year, and managed the overseeing of each of the stalls. Without parents support, and the willingness to be involved, events like this would not be possible.

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**NAPLAN**

In 2008, the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) commenced in Australian schools. Every year, all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are assessed on the same days using national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy.

This year the students faced the challenge of writing a persuasive text that either agreed or disagreed with the topic “Should more money be spent on toys and games?”

Students at Mylor always perform well in the NAPLAN, having had a number of school based testing experiences, as well as feeling safe in a supportive environment during the test period.

**Stirling Rotary Photographic Competition**

During term one a number of Mylor Primary School students participated in a photography masterclass with Miss K. Some of these students even entered their photo’s in the Stirling Rotary Club photo competition.

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that the 1st and 3rd prize winners of the schools competition for 2011 were from Mylor.

Congratulations to; **James Brogan** - 1st prize winner with a winners cheque of $50, and, **Aeddan Turner** - 3rd prize winner with a winners cheque of $30.

**above:** James and Aeddan receive their winners cheques from Trevor McGuirk of Stirling Rotary Club.

**left:** the winning photographs
**Travelling the world**

**Mrs Boehm’s Literacy Group**

By Georgia • year 5 & Jacey • year 6

This term we have been working on a project titled ‘Around the world’. For the project we needed to select a country and research a range of topics. No two people were allowed to do the same country, which made our early discussions difficult.

Once this was decided, we were presented with the tasks that we had to complete. This time we were given a chance to give some suggestions and add some new sections to the project.

The first part of the project was to find a ‘famous’ person from our country and complete a poster to demonstrate why we had chosen this person and their contribution to their country. Everyone had three other people complete peer assessment on their work.

We then looked at a number of different topics including food, culture, traditions, festivals and ceremonies, traditional dress and roles within the family and we had to present this information in a creative way to display at our travel expo stall.

This project has been really challenging, and we have all had to do a lot of extra work to make sure we are finished on time. Some of the tasks have been quite difficult, but it has been fun to be challenged.

This is our second project like this and so this time it has been easier to know what comes next and how to do things. Some people have picked really hard countries that have no information and have had to ask the teacher and parents for lots of help.

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**Literacy with Ms K**

By Shane Reeves • year 4 & Lukas Suphke • year 3

At the beginning of this term we had Mrs Ireland. She did Paul Jennings with us and we learnt about his books and him. Mrs Ireland read Singinpoo to us. We did stories about imaginary pets like my pet toilet paper and a pet Lego figure.

Then we did “Mad Moment Monday” on Monday’s. We had to write for about 15 minutes and then we would have 3 words we had been spelling wrong and write the old way of spelling it and learn the new way to spell it.

We also wrote biographies about our classmates. First we interviewed them to collect information about their life and then we wrote all about them. Next we are going to write a biography about an adult in our family, such as a grandparent.

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**Literacy with Ms. Schirmer**

By Ella Brogan • year 2

This term in literacy we have played literacy games like ‘Race to Rubies’ and silly sentences. We learnt about homophones. Homophones are words that sound the same, but mean different things. We have done procedures. We wrote about how to make a hot chocolate. Then we made hot chocolate. And we have done syllables. Syllables are when you break a word into parts.

By Brady Forth • year 1

This term we played literacy games and we did lots of weekend writing and procedure writing and we made hot chocolates. It was fun and we did some reading.
This term in Numeracy we started with a ‘traffic light’ activity where we recorded in our book how well we thought we could do each of the new topics in the Australian Curriculum. Lots of us had reds and oranges.

We started learning about Location and transformation and needed to show our learning with and without technology. We spent heaps of time playing the Turtle game where we even lost our turtle off the page and couldn’t get him back. We also played a game where we took photos of 3D objects and had to transform and translate the picture.

We next moved on to looking at Cartesian number plane where you plot numbers along a number line to create shapes and pictures. Some people did lots of this and other people found it quite tricky and difficult.

We then moved on to percentages one of our activities was to draw a person and estimate the percentage of each body part. For example one arm was 41% of the total body length. We also looked at a number of pictures and needed to answer questions about what percentage was coloured in or not.

One of the highlights was planning our zoo excursion. Each group got to have a map and decide where to lead their group ensuring that everyone was at the right location at the right time, and would not cross each others path.

We also got to make some maths games for other people in our class to play. Ruby made a cool game called domino maths.

Other topics we have looked at include, square numbers, triangular numbers, patterns, graphing, introduction to algebra and number properties.
Ms. Schirmer Numeracy

By Kaitlin Teichert • year 1

This term in numeracy we have been learning about 3D shapes. We made some. I made a rectangle one, it was fun. When we were learning about 10 and units we made bundles of popsticks. We learnt about how to weigh things and put them in order from lightest to heaviest.

By Ethan Hutchinson • year 2

This term in numeracy we learnt about subtraction. Subtraction is when you take numbers away and you end up with a smaller number. We have done Quick Maths and learnt about money. We did piggy puzzles, they had coins on them. We did flip, slide, turn and we made shapes with blocks and then we flipped them, and slid them and turned them and then we drew them.

Wednesday Art

By Jane Mant

Wednesdays this term have been art days. I have been working with a group of students learning about artists and the history of art, creating our own artworks and learning drawing techniques. We observed the work of English nature artist Andy Goldworthy and worked in groups to create outdoor artworks in a similar style.

I have also worked with Miranda and Gemma in the afternoons to develop their already impressive drawing skills.

I look forward to sharing new drawing and art techniques with the children next term.

Orangutan Masterclass

On the 6th of June Kia Zecchin ran a masterclass on orangutans. Kia had just come back from a three month trip to Borneo where she had spent time volunteering in an orangutan orphanage.

During her presentation, she talked about the different roles she performed whilst there. One of the roles was to go out and record the number of orangutans they had seen in the wild. She also worked in the animal hospital to help with young orphans Orangutans that had lost their mums.

Kia talked to us about the palm oil plantations and encouraged us to get on board, writing letters to politicians to make sure that all products list when palm oil is used. It was fascinating to hear that once a palm oil plantation has been cut down, that NOTHING can be replanted there for a really long time.

The orangutan pictures that she showed us, and the stories that she shared about her trip were great. It definitely made us think about what we could do at school with the SRC to help in the future.
This term for discovery/inquiry we have done a lot of reflection about our learning. All the children had the first half of the term to finish and present the projects they were working on.

After that we spent a week conducting a review and finding out the children's thoughts about what they liked about discovery/inquiry, what they didn't like and what they would like to change or try.

From there we have been working on extending the children's thinking by completing a range of ‘Thinker’s Keys’ activity.

The 20 Thinker's keys are:
- The reverse key
- The what if key
- The disadvantages key
- The combination key
- The BAR key
- The alphabet key
- The variations key
- The picture key
- The prediction key
- The different uses key
- The ridiculous key
- The commonality key
- The question key
- The brainstorming key
- The invention key
- The brick wall key
- The construction key
- The forced relationship key
- The alternative key
- The interpretation key

By Ebony Lobanov • year 2
This term we have been doing some activities about the ‘Thinker’s Keys’. My group had to answer the question ‘What if pandas lived in Australia? Some of our ideas were – people could pat them, people could have them as pets and they wouldn’t have a habitat to live in.

We also had to list 10 things that pandas could not do. We said that pandas cannot dig, pandas cannot fly, pandas cannot pick up bricks and pandas cannot eat houses. I like working in a group for these activities.

By Benjamin Playford • year 4
I did a topic on robots and my inquiry question was “Name 3 robots and what they do”. I presented it with a power point.

By Jack Palmer • year 5
This term in discovery and inquiry we have all done at least one inquiry each. I did a topic on soccer, my inquiry question was “If I made an all-stars team who would I choose and why?” I presented it with a poster.

Our Changing Earth

By Will Palmer & Jack Miller • year 2
During term 2 we went to a masterclass ‘Our Changing Earth’. We learnt about volcanoes, fossils, the future and different types of rocks.

We learnt that there are volcanoes in Australia, but they’re not active anymore. We learnt that there are fossils under the water and that people find them when they go scuba diving.

There are plates in the earth that move and make earthquakes. We got to hold some rocks and coal and learnt about volcanic ash. We also watched a slideshow about all of the volcanoes and fossils that have been found. We enjoyed it, it was good.
Drumming with Jes Virgo

By Georgia Forth • year 5

This term a group of students have worked with Jes, who is year 12 student from Heathfield High on drumming. This has been an optional master class for students in year’s three to seven.

We learnt what the types of beats you can play on the drums and practice them. Each week we use part of the drum kit with drumsticks and also the African drums.

We have tried drumming beats on all sorts of objects including the adventure playground. Some of the rhythms have been difficult to learn. We sound good, but it takes a lot of practice.

Next term we hope to perform with the Heathfield High School Renegades as they tour some of the Adelaide Hills Primary Schools.

Taiko Drumming Workshop

By Jeanne Thomas • year 6

The students who are in the drumming master class with Jes Virgo went to Heathfield High School to attend a Taiko Drumming lesson. There were high school students and Mylor students attending and it was run by adults who have been playing for years.

They showed us some special movements and the types of drums we were going to play, and then we got a go at playing it. Then at the end they did a big demonstration. It was really fun and it was great having a go at their drums.

Rachel’s Farewell

Rachel first came to Mylor Primary in 2008 in her role as Christian Pastoral Care Worker. During her time here she has been a wonderful support to students and families, helped oversee SRC, worked with classes with social skills and team building, ran cooking master classes and participated in the highlights of many excursions, camps and celebrations.

This term we said our farewells to Rachel as she completed her studies and accepted full-time work. On Rachel’s last day we had a shared lunch and then each class presented an acknowledgment of Rachel’s hard work and her influence on their school lives.

We sincerely thank Rachel for all she has done at Mylor and wish her well for her career and future.

Festival of Music School Choir

By The Choir Kids

This term in Choir we have continued to work on our songs ready for the Festival of Music concert in term three. Two of the songs we are doing even have choreography, and we have started watching the video that shows us what to do.

This term in choir we had our assessment, where one of the choir trainers from Adelaide came up to see how well we had learnt the songs and how well we could sing together in two parts. Mrs Dent gave us some feedback and areas to work on before our concert.

We have also enjoyed visiting Scott Creek for our combined practices and have started to make some new friends with the Scott Creek choir kids. Thank you to Lisa Smith, Janet Fielke and Mrs Boehm for driving us.
**Homework Club**

This term we have introduced Homework club to Mylor. Homework club is about providing an opportunity for parents to work with the teachers to deliver their child’s homework in a supported environment.

We start at 3:30pm and it is a requirement that all children have a parent present. The classroom teachers set the work which links directly to areas of need, i-plans or parent requests.

Homework club currently is runs on Tuesday and Thursdays and on average we have around 6 - 8 students attend each session. We all stop for a fruit break or healthy snack at 4pm and everyone seems to think that it is helping. Here are what some people had to say:

- Homework club has improved my children’s reading and spelling. It has been interesting as a parent to learn different methods of learning.  
  *Karen Palmer*

- I think homework club is good because you get to do it at school.  
  *Will Palmer*

- I think the activities are better at homework club  
  *Benjamin Playford*

- It is helpful to see how the school uses different methods to aid learning  
  *Marie Reeves*

- I think homework club is better than doing it at home  
  *Shane Reeves*

**Playgroup**  
*Wednesday mornings*

*By Jane Mant*

Playgroup has continued to be consistently well attended.

We were all sad to farewell Rachel Agars who was a regular attendee of playgroup and a caring and warm listener, helper and friend.

Her help during the revamp of the playgroup room was invaluable.

We have assisted the transition to school for the Wait family. Emma was able to do some of her transition days to coincide with playgroup days so that her family was nearby. Some of the R-2 girls came to sing and play with us and to interact with Emma, building her confidence and cementing friendships.

The clear-out of the playgroup room and storeroom is now complete. We have received some wonderful donations of a baby play frame from the Brogan family and a wooden dolls house from Susan Lewis.

We hope to purchase some more art and craft materials and dolls in the near future.
The DECS Improvement and Accountability Framework supports DECS to achieve and sustain high performance. The DIAF reflects best practice approaches to develop effective schools, preschools and education systems. It provides a whole of department approach that integrates processes of improvement and accountability to achieve effectiveness.

The DIAF outlines the way in which government schools and preschools, supported by regional and state office personnel, work to continuously improve the quality of outcomes and services for learners and communities.

The five elements of the DIAF support a cycle of improvement:

- Standards
- Self Review
- Improvement Planning
- Intervention and Support
- Performance Reporting

These elements ensure that sites have an integrated process to review performance, plan for improvement, target areas of need, and report on standards achieved to the community.

This term Mylor Primary School undertook it’s three-year review. During this time, a panel of other Adelaide Hills Principals, the Adelaide Hills Regional Director, and the Adelaide Hills Performance Analysis and Reporting Consultant, provided feedback to the site by way of commendations and recommendations.

The final outcome was Mylor Primary School achieving all aspects of the review process confidently with our next review scheduled for 2014.

Welcome to our new students and families

This term we welcomed 8 new students to Mylor Primary School. It has been a long time since this number of students has started in any one term, and has really demonstrated to the school community that Mylor Primary School is definitely on the right track.

Our engaging learning programs, and positive word of mouth, have been two significant features that have helped us achieve this tipping point.

The positive experiences students are having, and subsequent conversations that occur within the local supermarkets, sporting arenas and social outings have helped to increase the amount of genuine interest in the school.

An informal welcome morning tea, was put on by the Mylor Parent Network and demonstrated to new parents the collegiate nature of the school.

A warm welcome to...

Savanna and Ethan
Alex
Velouria
Quill
Maggy
Garth
Ocearna

Mylor Primary School Validation

By Aeddan Turner • year 6
& Ruby Langkilde • year 6

This term in Indonesian a student from Flinders University came to Mylor to talk with us in Indonesian.

Her name is Nani and she’s from Banda Aceh in Northern Sumatra. We interviewed her and asked her questions about herself. We learnt that she loves Australia, that she’s a nurse, her favourite colour is orange, her favourite animal is a duck and that she’s 29 years old.

Her favourite food is Cap Cai (Chinese noodles). She helped us speak in Indonesian. It was lots of fun and we want to do it again.

This term Mylor Primary School undertook its three-year review. During this time, a
Minibeasts

This term in Science we have been learning about life systems. Each child had the opportunity to choose between minibeasts or zoo animals. To begin the process the minibeast group had to find out what a minibeast was.

This involved the children dividing into groups and discussing what they thought the answer was and then heading to the library to find out the information (no computers were allowed for this task).

After each group had found out the definition of a minibeast there was much debate as to whether animals such as crabs were included in the group.

The minibeast group is still a little unsure as to the answer as we have found varying information. From this the task for the term was to research a minibeast of choice, make a poster and then prepare a letter to an exterminator explaining why they should not kill the chosen minibeast.

As part of our learning we also went on a trip to the Adelaide Zoo, which was a great day.

Zoo Animals

The zoo animals group starting by listing as many zoo animals they could think of. We then checked our lists against the Adelaide Zoo maps and realised that we had missed a number of animals, mainly the ones that were not that common.

After we had recorded our lists we each chose an animal that we wanted to research further. For the next couple of weeks we practiced the skills of note taking and finding information in books using the index and glossary pages.

We even practiced these skills with the whole class looking at a bandicoot book and trying to find certain information by just using the index page.

We used books and the Internet to locate a number of facts about our animals and recorded these in our books. Then we drew a large picture of our animal, stuck it to cardboard and painted it.

Our facts were stuck to the back of our animal, and were hung from the ceiling in the Blue learning area.

Active After School Softball

This term for Active After School the children participated in Softball. This involved heading over to the town oval every Tuesday for an hour to learn different skills and to play some games. During Softball the children learnt how to catch, hit and throw a softball. It took awhile for some to remember to take the ball out of the glove before throwing it, and to not throw the bat while batting. Each week the children’s skills improved. During the last game there were a few big hits by Braydon, Byron and Alex. Lukas was awarded a hat for his efforts over the weeks, which he was quite proud of. Overall the children’s hand eye coordination improved greatly and everybody learnt some new skills.
On Thursday the 9th of June we went to the Adelaide Zoo. We went on the bus to the zoo. When we got there we had recess straight away and then we went to look at the animals and we went to the children’s zoo. Ned hugged one of the goats. I patted one of the sheep. I saw the Tapirs. I saw the quokkas and I patted one. He was soft. When we opened the gate they came out into the cage. I saw the giant tortoise and there was a big poo. I touched the head of a crocodile. It was fun.

Adelaide Zoo Excursion

By Liam Reeves • year 2

On Thursday the 9th of June we went to the Adelaide Zoo. We went on the bus to the zoo. When we got there we had recess straight away and then we went to look at the animals and we went to the children’s zoo. Ned hugged one of the goats. I patted one of the sheep. I saw the Tapirs. I saw the quokkas and I patted one. He was soft. When we opened the gate they came out into the cage. I saw the giant tortoise and there was a big poo. I touched the head of a crocodile. It was fun.

Student Teachers

Joanne Ireland and Abbie Jones are second year students from Tabor Adelaide studying education and who completed their second year practical placement at Mylor Primary.

Abbie worked under the guidance of Felicity Schirmer, primarily with the Reception to Year 3’s. Abbie intensively worked with the new receptions to teach them their letters and new sounds, taught about recycling with the whole-class and took a small group for discovery and inquiry, mentoring students with their work. Abbie worked with Felicity’s Literacy and Numeracy group, using a range of strategies.

Joanne worked alongside Kylie Kuchel, intensively involved with the teaching of the Literacy and Numeracy Groups and also working with the Year 4-7’s. In Literacy Joanne completed a unit of work focused on the Australian author Paul Jennings. Students were very engaged in their learning and enjoyed the ‘gross and twisted’ stories. In Numeracy, Joanne taught a unit on Fractions. Her teaching included concrete and visual games and activities and explained the complexities of the topic extremely well.

Both Abbie and Joanne were enthusiastic to gain as much as they could from our school and spoke very highly of Mylor Primary and their experience with us. We wish Abbie and Joanne all the very best they continue their studies.

clockwise from above left: Ms Boehm’s group, Maggy and Garth pat a kangaroo and the deer eats Gemma’s homework.
What’s on the horizon

**Term Three Dates**

**28th July**
Combined school’s Maths Challenge

**2nd August**
Mylor Primary School presents “Moodle and 21st Century Learning” to other schools in the Adelaide Hills

**28th - 30th September**
Whole School Camp to Elshaddai, Wellington.

Ebony, Maggy and Liam B making productive use of their personal time by renovating the Star Garden Scarecrow