The primary classes were busy on Monday, 7 March cleaning up the College grounds for Clean Up Australia Day. The Years 3, 5 and 6’s tidied up around the grounds and carparks. The Year 4’s collected all the recycling bins and sorted the containers into the correct bins to go to the Recycling Centre. This will compliment their Geography lessons later in the year when they will look at the topic of Recycle, Reuse or Reduce.

We would encourage students not only to use these recycling bins for their 10 cent containers, but to put ALL their rubbish in the correct bins at all times so our College is a beautiful litter free environment.

VOLUNTEER HELP REQUIRED
If you are able to help with the following sporting events can you please let Mr Peters know as soon as possible by contacting the College Office on 8821 4945 or email christopherp@Harvest.sa.edu.au

Year 3 –12 Sports Day, Wednesday, 16 March. We require help with recording, running of events, set up and pack up. Sports Day will be held at the Kadina Football Oval. Any time you have available to help would be appreciated.

SACSA Sports Day, Thursday, 31 March. We are in need of four helpers on this day. This event is to be held at SANTOS Stadium in Adelaide. Departure from the College will be at 6.00am. We will return by 5.30pm. Thank you.

WORKING BEE LEVY—FINAL YEAR
2016 will be the last year that parents will be charged the annual Working Bee Levy. As from 2017, the levy will be replaced with an annual IT levy to keep the progressive College’s IT plans moving forward. Working Bees will continue in 2017, however only on a needs basis rather than an annual schedule. They will no longer be compulsory for families to attend, but rather by choice. It is hoped however, that as a College community, many families will still attend Working Bees, and take pride in making "our College looking the best it can be for our kids".
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Attendance and absenteeism

Dear families and friends of Harvest

This week I would like to focus on the importance of school attendance. Poor attendance may lead to learning difficulties because children who are frequently absent are likely to miss learning the basic skills needed for their future education.

Harvest Christian College is eager to work with parents to encourage attendance and participation to:

- provide a safe and caring environment
- provide relevant learning programs for all students
- maintain accurate records of attendance
- ensure non-attendance is followed up through early intervention
- develop strategies to resolve attendance difficulties

Compulsory school age is when children must be enrolled in and attend school, from when they turn 6 until they turn 16. Compulsory education age is when students aged 16 must be in an approved learning program until they turn 17.

Patterns of attendance and absence that are set up in the early years usually persist through education and life. Regular attendance at school is important to a child’s learning and development.

Situations where it is acceptable for a child to miss school include times when the:

- child is too sick to leave the house
- child has an infectious illness such as gastroenteritis, chicken pox or measles
- child needs to attend medical or dental appointments that could not be made out of school hours
- school principal is provided with a genuine reason that prevents the child attending school
- child has been granted an exemption from school
- child has been sent home or suspended from school for disciplinary reasons.

If a student is absent due to reported illness for three or more consecutive days the College needs a medical certificate.

Informing the College about your child’s absence

It is important to notify the College of your child’s absence and the reason for it. If you are unable to notify the College in advance, send a note covering the days missed when your child returns.

Refusal to attend the College

A child’s refusal to go to school can be very distressing to both parents and the child. Non-attendance can take different forms. While some children may refuse to leave home, others may leave the house but not attend school or slip away from the school (truancy).

There are many reasons why children refuse to attend school:

- separation anxiety
- learning difficulties
- not having friends
- being bullied at school
- not getting along with teachers

If you have difficulty with your child attending school you should immediately contact the College to seek help. There are many staff members who can assist you. You can discuss your concerns with your child’s Teacher, Counsellor, Department Coordinator, Deputy-Principal or the Principal.

For more information on how to help your child with their school attendance phone the parents’ hotline on 1300 364 100 or visit the parenting and child health website.

I am looking forward to working with you to create a stable, safe environment where our children can learn and achieve their goals.

Blessings

Gerhard

PRIMARY SWIMMING

The annual Primary Swimming week was held in Week 5 this term, a favourable move from the exhausting Term 4. Students learnt valuable survival and water skills, along with having an enjoyable break from the classroom.

The lessons were conducted in Wallaroo at the local Jetty and Office Beach by the highly experienced Mrs Anne Rule and her team. The instructors taught students the fundamentals of swimming, learning both competitive and survival strokes, along with surf rescue and water safety skills. Students particularly enjoyed the survival day on the Thursday, learning how to rescue somebody with a variety of equipment including survival ropes, swimming aids and a Surf Rescue Board.

A big thank you to the staff, parents, drivers and administration for all the hard work leading up to swimming, making this week enjoyable. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Mr Christopher Peters
SACSA BASKETBALL

Last week, Harvest Christian College competed in the Senior Basketball South Australia Christian Schools Sport Association competition. We sent down four teams; 8/9 Boys, 8/9 Girls, Open Boys, Open Girls. All teams did well, with the 8/9 Girls and the Open Boys finishing third in their pool.

Notable players were Ed Linke (Yr 11) in the Open Boys, scoring 6 massive three-points in the final and Jamie Tabb (Yr 9) in the 8/9 Girls team scoring consistently, with a colossal 16 points scored in one game. Well done.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

A slightly late, but well deserved acknowledgement of Tom Paddick’s (Year 6) achievements with SAPSASA at the end of term 4 last year. Tom was accepted into the state team and represented Harvest Christian College in Canberra late last year. Tom competed in a variety of events and was able to bring back the Bronze Medal from the relay team. Well done Tom, we look forward to your continued success in the future!

Congratulations to Elise Pringle (Year 7) and Jazmine Gay (Year 7) who have been selected to represent the Yorke Peninsula in SAPSASA Softball.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Friday Afternoon activates continue to go well. Below left is a photo of robots that have been made over the last couple of weeks. To the right is a picture of the Photography group.
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Dear families and friends of Harvest

Over the past few weeks, many people have been campaigning against the Safe Schools Coalition Australia (SSCA) and its controversial policy to include topics in schools which many believe have no place in an educational institution.

SSCA, funded by the Commonwealth Government (and the Victorian Government in Victoria), campaigns against “homophobia and transphobia” in schools; teaching staff and students that they must be inclusive and accepting of any gender or sexuality choices made by students. In participating schools, posters are displayed which include a boy in a girl’s dress, or students in homosexual relationships, and ‘Stand Out groups’ supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual people are formed.

Many schools are being told they must support any child who decides to declare that they choose, from a range of options, a ‘gender’ which is different to the one they were born with. This is not just a choice of ‘boy or girl’ – there is a mind-boggling range of options including ‘gender diverse’, gender fluid, trans, ‘two spirited’ and so on. The SSCA, and even official Victorian Education Department rules, state that schools must fully endorse a child’s transition from one gender to another – including use of toilets and participation in sport.

Other alarming examples of the program’s content include:
- Teaching students that there are 13 different gender identities
- Stating that phrases such as ‘boys and girls’ and ‘ladies and gentlemen’ should be avoided
- Asking students to ‘imagine’ they are in a relationship with someone of the same sex as part of an interactive exercise
- Suggesting schools could host events with guests or teachers speaking on why they support marriage equality

As Christians we are called upon to ‘Love one another’ (John 13:34). This includes all individuals, whether they are living a life contrary to that of Biblical Teaching or not. At Harvest Christian College we desire our children to be educated in an environment in which they feel safe and free from bullying or harm, and one in which our family values are promoted.

It is possible to ‘love one another’, but still be opposed to what the Bible calls ‘World ways’ (1 John 2:15-16). As Christians it is important that we stand up for the Biblical values and freedoms we have enjoyed in Australia for so long and we protect our children from being exposed to such things as this policy stands for. We encourage all members of our community to familiarise themselves with the Safe Schools Coalition Australia Program and what this means for your family.

At Harvest Christian College, we will continue to uphold Christian values.

Peter Ayoub

Acknowledgements:
Some information in this article has been obtained from:
http://www.saltshakers.org.au/
http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au/resources

YR 8 VACCINATIONS
Kadina Medical Associates will again be providing the Year 8 vaccinations. You should have received a package to consent for your child to be vaccinated. This contains detailed information about the vaccines and what to expect. The first round will include Varicella (Chickenpox) and HPV (Human Papilloma Virus). This first round will occur early in April.

Varicella is a virus that is highly contagious. Complications can include pneumonia, inflammation of the brain or spinal cord and death. Even milder cases can cause scarring. If you are not sure of your child’s vaccination status, having a dose even if had a dose previously is not dangerous.

Human Papilloma Virus is responsible for cancers of the genital area, throat and mouth, cervical cancer in women and genital warts in both male and female. And some neck and head cancers. This vaccine does require 3 doses over the year to provide the best immunity. It is important to receive the full course.

The vaccines are well tested and safe and any side effects are minor. Please complete the consent form accurately, fill in all areas and return promptly.
BEE AMAZING PROJECT

The Bee Amazing Project has been a fantastic opportunity for all students across a number of learning areas within the College. Students have developed their awareness of the impacts associated with our declining bee population across the world, and have investigated alternative ways to sustain the bees for future generations.

As the Bee Amazing Project reaches the final implementation stage, the College would like to seek written expressions of interest from the College community to house and manage the individual hives. The hives will be fully managed and sustained by owners under the guidelines that it is an opportunity to assist with the sustainability of our local honey bees.

Equipment available:
10 hives that will be allocated separately to the individual applicants.
9 bee suits of various sizes costing $50 each.

Written expressions of interest should be emailed to sarah@harvest.sa.edu.au by Friday, 25 March and need to include the name of the person who is interested in owning a hive, the person's intentions and the reason why the person is requesting a hive.

PANCAKE DAY

Thank you to all the students and staff who supported Pancake Day on Tuesday, 1 March. A total of $635 was raised to support Uniting Care Copper Triangle services to local families.

Please make note of the following important dates:

- Monday, 14 March — Adelaide Cup Public Holiday.
- Friday, 25 March — Good Friday Public Holiday.
- Monday, 28 March — Easter Monday Public Holiday.

COLLEGE FEES

There are a number of options to pay your fees. These include BPAY, CentrePay, Direct Debit, cash, cheque and EFTPOS. Direct Debit forms are available from Mrs Heather Drysdale. If you intend to pay fees by instalments please let Mrs Drysdale know by calling the College Office. Alternatively you can email fees@harvest.sa.edu.au

If you are paying for anything other than College fees via BPAY or EFTPOS please email or phone the details through to Mrs Drysdale. Thank you.

In the event of the withdrawal of a student from the College, in the absence of a prior agreement, parents are required to give written notice of a minimum of 1 term’s notice (not including holidays), or pay the equivalent amount in lieu.

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup are looking for donations of the following items:
Baby dolls, doll prams, musical instruments eg: bells, paper towel, gladwrap or alfoil rolls (no toilet paper rolls please), A4 coloured cardboard, toy animals and wooden /duplo blocks.

Items can be dropped off at the College Office. Thank you.