I have just completed reading a really great book that I want to share. The title of the book is *Brain Rules*, and is written by John Medina. He is a molecular biologist and in this book he shares his interest in how the brain science might influence the way we teach children. This book is an easy read and covers a range of topics. For me the ten most interesting and though provoking ideas were these.

- Getting lots of exercise at any age is really important as it improves our thinking skills.
- Multi-tasking is not good for us as our brain can only focus on one thing at a time.
- We don't pay attention to boring things.
- We need repetition to remember things.
- Sleeping well enables us to think well.
- Loss of sleep really affects our attention, the way we function, our moods and our working memory.
- Stressed brains don't learn the same way.
- Vision is by far our most dominant sense and we learn and remember best through pictures.
- Students learn better from words and pictures than from words alone.
- Smells have an unusual power and bring back memories.

The book is divided into a number of chapters each of which can be read independently. There is a summary of the main points and a reference to a web site where further information can be obtained. The web site is [www.brainrules.com](http://www.brainrules.com). Here you will also find a series of Youtube clips making the information accessible as well as entertaining.

From all the staff we wish all families a great holiday break. Hopefully, there is time to spend doing things together as well as have a rest. I know for some families just not having to get up early in the morning to meet the bus is a break.

*Monica Williams*
END OF TERM

Term 2 will break up on Friday 29th June at 2.20pm. Buses will also depart earlier on Friday; leaving school at 2.30pm. Term 3 begins on Monday 16th July.

MATHS FACILITATOR ROLE

Term 2 has once again been busy. I have visited Raukkan, Tintinara, Coomandook, Coonalpyn, Mannum & Mypolonga schools and their teachers. There have been some great conversations about the maths learning in our schools and a sharing of resources. I have also worked on mapping the Australian Maths Curriculum across the year levels (R-10) and formatted it for a range of composite classes. This has been found to be most useful to the teachers of the region as it allows them to plan and program from a couple of pages of printed pages of text rather than continually changing screens on the online curriculum.

Katrina Hood
Maths Facilitator
Murray & Mallee Region – Coorong & MB Clusters

TREE PLANTING

Two groups from the school have been involved in the Community Planting Program helping to revegetate around Lake Albert in the past few weeks. Year 11 and 12 students spent a hard day planting on the foreshore on the Treloar property. The funds that they raise will go toward making the Formal later in the year more affordable. The Connecting Spirits 2012 group and their families put in two days on the foreshore opposite the school, with the proceeds from the work helping them with the cost of their trip later in the year.

AQUACULTURE SHED

The Aquaculture Shed is now operational. After a number of years of development and research, the Aquaculture Shed is finally operational. As part of his Stage 2 Community Studies subject, Matthew Austin has added 50 fingerling trout to the two tanks, which he hopes to grow to a size big enough to smoke before the end of the year. There is still much work to do; feeding the fish twice daily and regularly testing the water to ensure that the system is working as it should be. It is envisaged that as the project develops we will be able to offer some units toward an aquaculture certificate in years to come.