



### Diary Dates



31/10/11 & 01/11/11  
Lab On Legs



Pizza and Iceblock day  
Tuesday 8th November.



03/11/11  
Footsteps starts for Year  
6 & 7

Assembly in the gym  
2:25pm Thursday 3rd  
November 2011

14 November 2011  
Year 6 & 7  
To Mt Barker High  
School



Year 6 & 7s to  
Canberra  
October 22nd –26th  
2012

## Is Our School **Bushfire** Ready?

The purpose of this newsletter is to ensure that parents know what will happen at our school should there be a day of Catastrophic weather conditions for bushfire during the fire season. During school terms in 2010 there were no such days, however there was one day early in the January vacation in 2010, which affected OSHC services.

### 1. Level of Bushfire Risk for Our School

Our school has been identified as at **Moderate** risk of bushfire. It is not on the list of schools that will automatically close on Code Red Catastrophic Days because this applies to schools at High, Very High or Extreme risk of bushfire. However, there could be days when we will be directed to close if a decision is made to close all the sites in the Hills region.

### 2. How will parents know if the school will be closed?

Even on days when the radio reports that it is a day of Code Red Catastrophic weather conditions, our school will remain open unless you hear a message from the school. The school will give you a message in three ways:

1. If we know with advance warning we will send you a letter with your children the day before (realistically, it is unlikely that we will be given sufficient notice to do this.)
2. You will be sent a text message to your mobile phone. The school has installed a ZAPITS text messaging system which enables us to send a message from any on-line computer. You will receive a message which reads:  
"We have been notified by DECS and by the CFS to close the school on (day and date). No student is to attend school. Parents please activate your family bushfire plans".
3. A message will be left on the school answering machine which gives the same information as above. (There may be situations where we are unable to record the message on the answering machine, due to difficulty in staff accessing school in the event of a fire.)
4. The Red school closed signs will be placed on the fence at the front of the school and the preschool (see photos).
5. As the fire season starts, DECS places a list of schools to be closed on their website:  
[www.decs.sa.gov.au](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au) .

We are currently updating our ZAPITS records. If you have changed your mobile phone contact number since the beginning of the year, please contact Maree Pomery at the front office by Friday 4th of November. The mobile phone numbers of all our parents will be uploaded onto ZAPITS on Monday, 7th November.

### Parents Responsibility

It is parent's responsibility to provide up to date information on mobile phone numbers. If your mobile phone number has changed since the beginning of the year, please let us know.

### What happens if I drop my child at school, and the school is closed?

Staff will not be at school on days when the school is closed. It is my duty as principal to ensure that a staff member who lives locally comes to the school if it is safe to do so. They will bring any children into the school, ring their parents or emergency contacts and ask that their children be collected. Children and staff cannot remain at school.

**What happens about OSHC** Before School Hours Care and After School Hours Care will not operate on a day when the school has been directed to close because of Code Red Catastrophic Fire .



## Code Red Catastrophic Days- Cont

conditions. Vacation Care will operate unless we have been directed to close the OSHC service on a day of Code Red Catastrophic Fire conditions. I have asked Kathryn Schultz to ensure that there are two staff members on site at all times when we are open on Code Red Catastrophic Days.

### 3. What will I do with my kids if the school is closed on Code Red Catastrophic Fire Days?

Many families in the Adelaide Hills have bushfire action plans. It is essential all families who live in bushfire prone areas have a bushfire action plan and that part of the plan needs to address what action will be taken when children's school or preschool is closed. This needs to be decided now. There is an obvious range of possibilities including staying with a parent at home or at work; local arrangements with neighbours or friends; or taking the child for a day trip to the city, where there is a low fire risk are possibilities.

## BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY PLAN

Bushfires also happen on days which are not of Code Red Catastrophic Risk.

What is our School's Bushfire Plan?

(Note a day of total fire ban is not the same thing as a Code Red Catastrophic day).

Next week we will practice our Bushfire Emergency Plans, to ensure we are well prepared in the case of an emergency.

**Level 1 On a total fire ban day,** staff are reminded of our bushfire plan. Excursions are cancelled. Classroom rolls are kept ready, and front office personnel are given the task of listening to the radio, to monitor for fire alerts. At all levels of alert, teachers' primary responsibility is to keep children calm.

**Level 2 If a fire threatens our immediate area.** At this stage, we keep children in their classrooms, cancel any specialist lessons and ensure the children have drink bottles filled with water. The teacher checks that all windows and doors are closed, and removes flammable materials (eg paintings hung on walls and on wires around the room.) At this stage we would expect that it would be smoky and unpleasant outside, and parents may begin to come and collect children. Parents must sign children out at the front office, so we can keep a record of who has left.

**Level 3 If the fire front is threatening the school.** At this stage children take their drink bottles, and move to their bushfire ready building. We have two, the main administration building, and Molly Meils building (Preschool and Rms 13 – 16 children move to the main building). When the fire front passes, they lie on the floor. After the fire front passes we would wait to be advised by police/CFS of the next steps to follow, and ring the DECS Hills district office (In Mt Barker) to

update them on our situation, and gain instructions. Often the school is the safest place in a community, and parents are invited to come in and shelter with teachers and children if they would like to do so.

Schools that have experienced emergencies state that the biggest problem is with communication. Parents are unable to contact the school by phone, and school mobiles are used to keep in contact with emergency services. People will turn up to collect children, and staff may not know who they are, or if the parents have given permission. For that reason on the consent form sent home last year, we asked.. "in the case of bushfire, are you likely to delegate to another person to collect your children?" Parents were asked to indicate, *Yes, I may delegate* or *No under no circumstances*. We will still try to contact you first, however this gives us some guidance if contact is not possible.

Have you forgotten what you answered to the question, "are you likely to delegate authority for another person to collect your children in the event of a bushfire?" Please ring Maree Pomery to check or update your response.

Once again, we are hopeful that we will not need to use Level 3 procedures. We did get to Level 2 when there was a grass fire in Balhannah in 2008.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

DECS Emergency and Crisis Management Website  
Department of Education and Children's Services

[www.crisis.sa.edu.au](http://www.crisis.sa.edu.au)

SA Country Fire Service (CFS)  
Web site [www.cfs.org.au](http://www.cfs.org.au)  
CFS Bushfire Information Line  
1300 362 361

During days of forecast catastrophic fire danger rating or an actual bush fire, a Parent Information Hotline will be activated.

**PARENT INFORMATION HOTLINE**  
**Ph: 1800 000 279**



**A DECS brochure is available in the front office for those interested. This newsletter contains much more information specific to our school—we suggest you keep it!**

## Classes for 2012

Placing children in class groups is a complex process which takes many weeks.

Usually this means creating a group of students which has a gender balance, a range of learning abilities and a range of behavioral and social needs. Factors such as friendship groups, preferred learning styles, social and emotional maturity, and even physical size are all considered when making up class groups.

Listening in to teacher's discussions when they are making up class groups, it is evident that:

- teachers know the children well; and
- they make decision based on good educational reasons.

It is also school policy that teachers ask children for a list of 4 friends, and we undertake to place children in class with at least one of the friends from this list. If we are not able to do this, we ring parents.

### Additional information from parents

We consider that each child will benefit from having each teacher, and during the course of their time at Littlehampton, parents can expect that their children will have each teacher in the school. Parents can also expect that their children will spend time in both the lower year level of a multi-year level class and the upper year level of a multi-year level class.

Littlehampton Primary School has made a focus of developing consistent quality practice in curriculum in both content and in methodology. We were commended for this in our 2010 school review by the Regional director and peer review team. If you have important circumstances that you believe need special consideration, (such as a request for twins to be in the same or in different classes), **please address your concerns in writing**, and mark the envelope marked Confidential, "to the Principal, Jenny Lewis" by **Friday, 11 November** and addressed to **October**. Please address your concerns in terms of educational needs of your children. We value the high quality teachers in this school and requests for or against specific teachers will not be favorably received. Due to the complexity of the process, it is also school policy that verbal requests given to teachers will not be considered.

### Who makes the decision?

It is the responsibility of the Principal to make the final decision on classes and placement of students.

***Due to the "domino effect" of making changes after classes have been organised, no changes can be made after classes are released. Please ensure that you provide us with any relevant information or opinions now.***

### When will parents know about 2012 class placement?

We aim that class placement information will be sent home with students on **Thursday, December 9th**.

However, it is possible that our enrolment numbers will go up or down to the extent that we will not be able to inform parents about class placements until January next year. This happened last year, when class lists were placed on the windows of school on the Friday before school commenced.

### Likely class structure 2012

Class 1, Reception  
Class 2, Reception  
Class 3 Year R/1  
Class 3 Year 1  
Class 4 Year 1/2  
Class 5 Year 2  
Class 6 Year 3  
Class 7 Year 3/4  
Class 8 Year 4/5  
Class 9 Year 4/5  
Class 10 Year 5/6  
Class 11 Year 6/7  
Class 13 Year 6/7

We anticipate a second reception class will start in Term 3. Please note that this class structure could change if there is even a small increase or decrease in our student numbers.

In order to form classes it is important that we estimate our 2012 student numbers as accurately as possible.

***If your child will not be attending our school next year, please let us know ASAP. Alternatively, if you have a child due to start school next year, please enrol them now!***

## We are a Nut Aware School

Parents are reminded that our school has a nut aware policy, and parents are asked NOT to send nuts or products containing nuts to school with their children.

A copy of our Nut Awareness policy is given to parents on enrolment. Our policy is currently being reviewed, and a complete copy of the reviewed policy will be sent home with the next newsletter.

## Community Notices

We have been asked to advertise the following. If you would like more information it is available at the front office.

\*\* MILO in2CRICKET starting Thursday 3rd November at 4pm. At the Nairne Oval. [www.in2cricket.com.au](http://www.in2cricket.com.au)

\*\* Adelaide Hills Swimming Centre. Ages 4 & up.

Contact Zoe Schultz on 8389 7388 or 0417 809 257

\*\* Kids Taekwondo for information ph 0412 909 500 or 0400833979. Ages 5 and up.

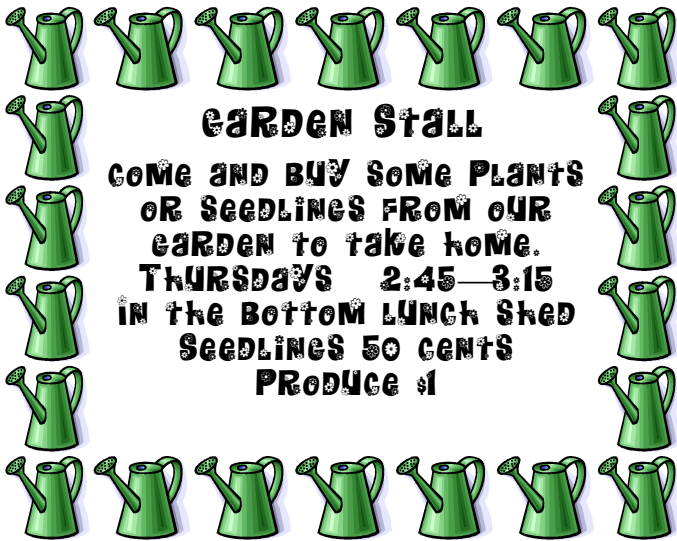
\*\* Paper Ink Festival of SA Authors, Illustrators and Poets. Mt Barker Community Library at 5 Dumas Street Mt Barker. Saturday 5th November 10am-3pm.

\*\* VACSWIM enrolment form available at the office.

\*\* Echunga Golf Club FREE Coaching Clinic for Juniors under 16. Phone 8388 8038

## Music Lessons

A few vacancies exist for students wanting to learn Piano, keyboard and guitar in term 4. Lessons are conducted during school hours at a cost of \$22 for a half hour individual lesson. Anyone who is interested should contact Peter Beeby on 0431 151 104. Enquiries about enrolments in 2012 are also welcome.



### GARDEN STALL

COME AND BUY SOME PLANTS OR SEEDLINGS FROM OUR GARDEN TO TAKE HOME. THURSDAYS 2:45—3:15 IN THE BOTTOM LUNCH SHED SEEDLINGS 50 CENTS PRODUCE \$1

## Family Maths Day



*We all had a great time at Family Maths Day on Tuesday! Thanks to the family members who came to share our numeracy learning with us. It was fantastic to see so many here!*

## Pizza Day

### Pizza, Iceblock and Cake day Tuesday 8th November



The Parents & Friends will be running a pizza day. The cost of the pizza is \$2. Cakes and iceblocks will be 50 cents.

There will be ham & cheese (gluten free), BBQ beef and onion and Margaritas (vegetarian and gluten free)

Order forms will be out soon.

## Walking Safely to School

Wayne Dunningham from Mount Barker Council has asked us to clarify for parents the safest routes for children to walk to our school. We were fortunate a number of years ago to have a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights installed for student safety on Princes Highway. **All students having to cross the main road** should cross at the pedestrian lights near the Childcare Centre on Princes Highway, even though it may mean walking a short distance further. The main road is very busy and we consider it to be unsafe to cross when walking to school, even at pedestrian islands.

Some students walking to school from the direction of Mount Barker who need to cross the main road should cross Junction Road at the pedestrian island, carefully watching for drivers turning left onto Junction from the direction of Mount Barker, who have limited visibility when turning compared with vehicles coming from the other directions. They should then continue along past Bauldy's and cross at the pedestrian crossing. These few extra steps will ensure their safety... and a bit of extra exercise won't hurt either!

We ask parents to walk with their children and teach them safe crossing procedures, until they feel they are able to walk safely on their own. If you have any questions about the safest route to school, please contact Margie Sarre at the school.

## Parking on William Street

We have had a couple of reports of parents parking across driveways along William Street, blocking the access to home owners. As hard as it is to find a parking spot some mornings, we can all appreciate how frustrating this situation must be for the local residents, and we ask that parents respect the parking regulations around the school. Our neighbours will be very grateful! Thank you so much for your cooperation.