



NEWSLETTER

Week 4 Term 4, 2012

Diary Dates

School Assembly
2:25 pm
Thursday 15th
November
Location: Gym



Parents Welcome
**Change of Finance
Meeting**
Finance Committee
Meeting
Monday 19th
November
6.30pm

Parents and Friends
Meeting
21st November
Staff Room at 9am



Governing Council
Meeting
Monday 26th
November



Our First Canberra Trip!

What a pleasure it was to join 59 of our students, 3 teachers and 2 parents on our very first Canberra Trip, last week. A trip to Canberra for Year 6 and 7 students is encouraged by the Australian Government, who regard it as an important part of learning about Civics and Citizenship in Australia. Our students can be proud that they made the most of their time to learn, question, study and explore. The teachers received many favourable comments about the students and their positive attitude and behaviour. A special thankyou to two parents who took a week off work to join us in Canberra, providing extra supervision. Mark Lucas and David Ball, we very much appreciated your dedication and generous support.

Our Next Trip to Canberra will be in 2014, when we will take our Year 6/7 students once again. This means our current Year 4 and 5 students. An information pack will be sent home shortly so parents can see the range of activities done while in Canberra.

Photos next page.

And Back in

Adelaide, 21 of our Year 6/7 students also had a great week of learning and excursions, with visits to our State Parliament House and Adelaide Gaol.

Thankyou too, to our dedicated Upper Primary Teaching team, Mrs Chatfield, Mrs Taylor and Ms Claridge who planned activities for both groups.



Is Our School **Bushfire** Ready?

The purpose of this information 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 .

Parents' Responsibility

It is parents' 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?

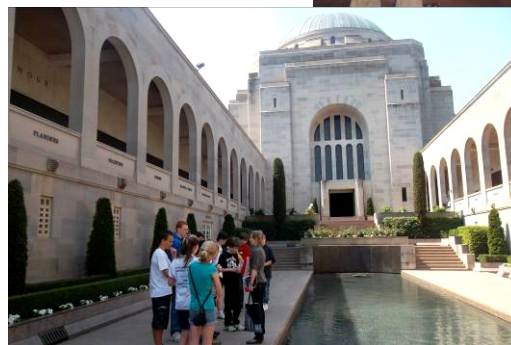
Staff will not be at school on days when the school is closed. It is my duty as principal to ensure that a staff member who lives locally comes to the school if it is safe to do so. They will bring any children into the school, ring their parents or emergency contacts and ask that their children be collected.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



**More photos
of our first
Canberra
Trip. Next
Trip 2014!!**



**Camp
Cottermouth,
our beautiful
camp**

We thank PACER for financial support for this trip!

This is the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate. This is Federal funding, and we will soon receive \$60 per child. Knowing the school would receive this rebate has enabled us to keep costs for the trip down. Please note this rebate has already been given to each family through a discount on the trip fees.

Students on this trip will soon receive a PACER certificate, stamped at each of the venues we were required to visit to access this grant.

Did you receive a text message from the school? On Tuesday test text messages were sent out to the mobile phone contact number of all school and preschool families. This is our means of contacting you should the school be closed for the day. If you did not receive the message, please contact Debbie Jackson on 8391 1194 to update your contact details.

Code Red Catastrophic Days Cont....

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 that 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).

In the coming weeks 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 may be cancelled, at the discretion of the principal. 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 Miels 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, 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 Debbie Jackson at the front office 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

SA Country Fire Service (CFS)
Web site 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!

Thank you from Fundraising Forum - Crazy Foot Day

Thank you to all of our students and families who supported Crazy Foot Day, which was held to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and to Leah Hockin who suggested this activity as a fundraiser for our school.

We raised \$299 from the Gold Coin Donations, and \$110 from the merchandise sales.



Class Placement Process for 2013

The class placement process for 2013 will begin soon. A reminder that 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, to the Principal, by Friday, 9 November, and mark the envelope "Confidential". Please address your concerns in terms of educational needs of your children. **Please refer to the Week 2 newsletter for a complete outline of our processes.**

Teachers for 2013- Farewells and Welcomes

At the end of the year we will farewell Naomi Smyth who has been appointed to Crafers Primary School and Toni Burford who has been appointed to Glen Osmond Primary School. We wish them all the best in their new positions! Brigitte Meyer will be taking maternity leave for the greater part of the year.

New Teachers Appointed: Danielle Stone has been appointed permanently to our school and a new teacher, Susan Close has also been appointed.

Our Fantastic and Reliable Contract Teachers

Staffing is not yet complete, and there will be several vacancies in our school. We hope to see our fantastic and reliable contract teachers back again next year: Paris Huffman, Helen Forrest, Helen Kupczynski, Alison Saunders, Alison McLean Piero Barazin and Gillian Bevan.

NRM Award for Littlehampton Primary



On the 24th October our school was the recipient of an award from the Natural Resource Management Board for being the winning school in our region for all the great work that we have done for environmental sustainability.

Leah Hockin and Georgina Calderwood represented our school on behalf of our 4 environmental forums: Wipe Out Waste, Kitchen Garden, Super Savers and Yard Saviours.

Well done to all forums for all their hard work during this year! You should be really proud of this achievement.

Free Parenting seminar !

Parenting SA is holding a free parent seminar - 'Parenting Teenagers: Whatever!' The presenter is Dr Andrew Fuller, a well known psychologist, author and ABC presenter of the series 'The science of teens: Whatever'. Andrew will be presenting information about how brain changes during adolescence impact on teenagers' behaviour. The seminar is on Monday 5 November at the Education Development Centre, Hindmarsh, from 7pm -8.30pm. To book online, go to <http://teens5nov.eventbrite.com> or contact Sue Kay, Centre for Health Promotion, 8161777 for more information.

Samaritan Purse

Thank you to all families who have contributed to the Samaritan Purse (shoe boxes). We had a huge response and would like to let you know that 18 boxes have been sent in from our school.

Principal's awards

Congratulations to the following students who all received a Principal's Award at our recent assembly:



Isabel Provis, Mia Philips, Cooper O'Neil, Dhiren-Kaunanithi-Carter, Tyson Nottle, Tyson Daniel, Sarah Culp, Thomas Wilmott, Charlotte McAvaney, Alana Macdonald, Rowan Thom, Carmelo Pollifrone, Emily Bishop, Gavin Barrett, Grace Kipling, Caitlin Anderson-Nulty, Jorja Heinicke, Carmelo Pollifrone, Callum Taylor, William Bollmeyer and Judd French

Climbing trees

Just a reminder that students are not allowed to climb trees at school. This is for safety reasons, since children have been hurt this way in the past. It is also to protect the trees! We have lost a few branches recently from students hanging off of them and breaking them. If you are with your children in the school yard before or after school, we would really appreciate it if you could remind them not to climb the trees. Thank you!



Electronic Version of Newsletters and Top 5 school News events.

Did you tick a box asking to receive the newsletter by email, and to get the email mail out of Top 5 school events, and have been wondering why you have not received it?

We have decided to go with 'SAFE NEWSLETTERS'.

Parents will need to go onto this website and subscribe to our newsletter. A link to our newsletter and Top 5 list will then be emailed to them.

<http://safenewsletters.com/Newsletter-Sign-On.asp?CID=233>
Note: This link is currently active. Please note that this link will not be active on Monday Nov 5th.