



NEWSLETTER

Week 8 Term 4, 2012

Diary Dates



LAP, Multitit & Fun
& Games
Children's lunch
Thursday
6th December
12.15pm

School Assembly
Thursday 6th
December
2.25pm
Run by Mrs
Thomas's Class and
showcasing our
Reception Classes

Wednesday
December 12th
Volunteers
Morning Tea
10.45am

Thursday 13th
December
Year 7 Graduation

Happy Holidays

Friday 14th
December
Last day of Term 4
Early Dismissal
2.15pm

We Value Your Opinion– Parent Opinion survey

Earlier in the year, randomly selected parents received a letter from DECD inviting them to participate in the Parent Opinion Survey. We always find the response disappointing on online surveys, and this is partially due to DECD selecting what we consider to be too small a group of sample families. This year 25 parents responded. Last year, we posted paper versions of the surveys to all school families, and more than 100 responded!

We thank those parents who responded because even with the limited response, we are able to gain a picture of how parents think we are going as a school, compared with our region and compared with the state.



In these graphs, scores have been calibrated to give an average of 10, and the two lines on each bar show where the 25th percentile and 75th percentile. Our school's average score is shown as a black diamond.

You will notice that our parents this year rated us higher compared with than parents rated other schools across the Adelaide Hills Region, and even higher than the average responses across the state. Our parents rated us highest for support of learning. See over the page for the questions in this section.

The responses from the staff survey, with a higher than 50% response by staff, showed similar high results. Our staff rated us especially high for relationships and communication.

The results for the student survey were not as high compared with state and regional averages. We are not complacent, and are always looking at ways we can improve. Some issues we need to address from the individual comments are:

- Electronic Communication... what is happening? *Electronic newsletters have commenced and statistics show a 50% read rate.*
- Teacher absence due to T&D other issues *Addressed on next page.*
- Key personnel out of school together *Yes, sorry, this did happen this year and is not ideal.*
- Parent perceptions re bullying *Despite our best efforts, there is still some parent concern.*
- Student comments "My teacher screams very loud". *This needs to be addressed, as teachers and parents alike want communication between teachers and students to be respectful. Further investigation will take place.*

Parent Surveys cont....

Also of interest was one parent response questioning our practice of giving awards for Progress and Achievement in the NAPLAN tests. This was discussed by both Governing Council and staff. While not unanimous, it was decided that we will continue to recognise our academic achievers in this way. Apart from the Garth Boomer literacy award given to a Year 7 student, it is the only way we recognise our high achievers. Students making high progress are acknowledged equally, and it is a delight to see some students gaining awards for high progress who have struggled in the past. We recognise sporting achievement, achievement in arts and music, citizenship skills, leadership, and demonstrating our school values on a regular basis. We consider it important that we recognise academic achievement too.

A few parents have commented that there seem to be lots of TRTs in the school. For some classes this has been higher than others. Teacher absence for illness or tragedy is a situation that we would never wish on any staff member, and leave for these purposes is a HR condition. We find that releasing teachers in a planned way to attend Training and Development or for collaborative planning with other teachers is a practice highly valued by teachers, and one which has a great effect on classroom programs and learning outcomes for students. We have managed the situation this year by planning for Margie Sarre or trusted teachers who work often in our school to provide release, which helps with stability for the classes.

The questions from the survey below are those in the section which deals with support of learning. Questions in green are the questions where our average parents response was 20% better than the average state response.

1 My child is motivated to learn at this school.

2 My child's teachers provide help and support when it is needed

3 My child has access to quality materials and resources that help him/her to learn.

4 My child is happy at this school this year.

5 My child would receive support for any special needs he/she had.

6 The school changes its programs and activities to improve student achievement.

7 Students know how they are expected to behave at school.

8 Overall, I am satisfied with the management of facilities at the school.

9 This school provides a safe and secure environment.

10 Students have enough materials and resources for their learning.

11 This school has information available about other agencies within the community.

12 This school encourages students to have a sense of pride in their achievement.

Poll regarding School Fees for 2013

At our last Governing Council meeting, a decision was made to set fees for 2013 at \$275. All parents have been posted information about the fees, with the opportunity to vote.

Maths Awards

Each year we offer students the opportunity to enter the UNI NSW Maths competition. This year we had many more students enter than in previous years. Well done to the 19 students who gave it a go this year. We are impressed that you chose to challenge yourself and to develop your skills at solving mathematical problems. Congratulations to the following students:

High Distinction

Max Galettis Year 4

Distinction:

Zachary Bell Year 3

Ben Barrow Year 4

Lachlan Warhurst Year 5

Credit:

Kade Harvey Year 3

Seth Ormandy Year 3

Isaac Warhurst Year 3

Justin Margetson Year 4

Keaton Riddle Year 5

Jesse Amos Year 6

Amber Barrow Year 6

Participation:

Annelise Griggs Year 3

Georgia Amos Year 4

Sophie Barrow Year 4

Izaak Benfield Year 4

Carla Gore Year 5

Riley McCune Year 5

Natasha Munn Year 6

Leah Hockin Year 7



What a great result for Littlehampton Primary School.

Toni Burford

Coordinator, Teaching & Learning

Classes for 2013

The class structure has changed a little from that announced earlier, due to additional children enrolling or leaving our school.

Class 1 Year 6/7- 29

Class 2 Year 6/7-29

Class 3 Year 6/7- 29

Class 4 Year 4/5- 29

Class 5 Year 4/5- 28

Class 6 Year 3/4 -29

Class 7 Year 3 - 27

Class 8 Year 2 - 26

Class 9 Year 2 - 26

Class 10 Year 1 - 24

Class 11 Year 1 - 23

Class 12 Reception/1 - 23

Class 13 Reception (older receptions) 21

Class 14 Receptions (new) 13

Class 15 Receptions (new) 12

Total Children: 367

The class placement exercise is still underway. As yet teachers names have not been allocated to classes. We plan to inform parents about their children's placement in the last week of school, also to provide an opportunity for students to meet with their class teachers for 2013.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Caitlin Melville who has successfully auditioned, through the South Australian Public Primary Schools Choir, to be a part of the recording group for the Festival of Music CD for 2013.

Caitlin will attend 2 full days of rehearsal and then the recording will take place in week 2 of next term at St Augustine's church at Unley.

Caitlin was also lucky enough to have been involved in recording last year. Caitlin said, "It was really hard work, we could spend a half an hour or more on just one phrase but it was the best fun ever"!



Thank you to Bailee Pashley in Alison McLean's Reception class for bringing in two little friends for us to meet: Honey the baby possum and Timmy the joey. Bailee's grandma does voluntary work for the Native Animal Network, and currently has 50 kangaroos she has rescued living in her paddock! Bailee told us how Timmy was rescued from a car accident, and Honey was found abandoned at the bottom of a tree, weighing only 50 grams. It is great to hear of examples like these of community members giving their time to help animals in need.

JUST TOO DEADLY AWARDS

Last week 3 of our students attended the Just Too Deadly awards ceremony in Mount Barker. We would like to congratulate Alexis Knowles for winning an award for Artistic Achievement. This was the top award for a Junior Primary student in the Adelaide Hills Region, and she



received a certificate, a camera and cinema tickets. What a great honour for Alexis, and for our school. We would also like to congratulate Tye West for being shortlisted in the category of Persistence.

Well done to both of you!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR GARDEN STALL!



Look at our fabulous garden stall! We have lots of great things to buy:

Organic produce from the garden (with free recipes), homemade lemon cordial, preserved lemons and gingerbread biscuits, seeds and seedlings we have propagated.

Come and pick up a bargain! Thursday afternoons from 2:45- 3:30 pm

PARENTS AND FRIENDS

The Parents & Friends Team would like to wish all the staff, students and their families a very Merry Christmas filled with lots of fun and laughter. Please stay safe over the holiday season. Thank you for your wonderful support in 2012.

There is a last chance to purchase your tea towel, which has the whole school hand-drawn portraits on it and your child's name. There is a wonderful memento and meaningful Christmas gift for parents, relatives and special friends. They are \$12.00 each tea towel. Purchases can be made and ordered from the front office of the school.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TONI BURFORD

Toni has been appointed to the position of Australian Curriculum teacher facilitator for the Adelaide Hills region, which is a full time position. So, she won't be going to Glen Osmond Primary after all!

'HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH' VIRUS

There have been a few cases of hand, foot and mouth in our school and Preschool in the last week. Please monitor your children to see if they have symptoms, which are slight fever, tiredness, loss of appetite, blisters in the mouth and on the hands and feet and a sore mouth for a few days before the ulcers or blisters appear. Affected children may refuse to eat or drink. Spread takes place through contact with the fluid in the blisters. Children and teachers with this virus are excluded from school and Preschool until all the blisters are dried.

THANK YOU MORNING TEA



The staff appreciates the many ways in which parents/caregivers provide assistance to us and the children. We would like to say Thank you by inviting you to a morning tea on Wednesday 12th December at 10.45am in the Stephanie Alexander kitchen. Please ring or call in to the

school to let us know if you are able to come and celebrate with us.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Children and Volunteers of LAP, MULTILIT and FUN & GAMES PROGRAMS are invited to a celebration on Thursday 6th December at 12.15pm in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen. Children are to bring a plate of sweets please.

Littlehampton's Got Talent...

Kicks off today with performances by 2 of our Year 6/7 students and 4 groups from Year 4 and 5. Students can bring 50c to attend a performance each day, and cheer their friends on. Other performance heats will be at Lunchtimes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

Launch of our History Trail



Yesterday in our special assembly we launched our new history and community trail. Silvio Apponyi, sculptor and Mayor Ann Ferguson were present, and so was David Booth who welcomed us on behalf of a Peramangk elder, and played the didgeridoo. We were impressed as some of the 121

students who worked on this project explained their ideas, the symbolism and how they worked.

We invite parents to follow the trail themselves, using the brochure attached to help them learn about the history of our local area. Congratulations to Silvio, Alison Saunders and the 121 students who worked on this project for their creative ideas and hard work on this fantastic project!

MOUNT BARKER HIGH TRANSITION DAY

Transition Day for Year 7 students who will be attending Mount Barker High School in 2013 will be on Thursday 6th December between 8.30am and 2.55pm. Please bring your bag, a drink and something to write on and with. Recess and Lunch will be provided. Please inform the high school if you have any special dietary requirements, thank you.

Parents are invited to the Year 7-8 Parent Information on Tuesday 4th December 7pm

MUSIC LESSONS 2013



Parents who would like their child to commence piano/ keyboard or guitar lessons in Term 1 2013 should contact Peter Beeby on 0431 151 104.

These lessons are provided during school hours at a cost of \$24 for a 30 minute individual lesson. These lessons are very popular and limited vacancies are available.

Vacancies are also available for students who would like to participate in instrumental tuition during the school holidays. Peter Beeby is a qualified piano/ keyboard and guitar teacher who currently teaches at Littlehampton school. During the school holidays Peter is offering individual lessons at his Hawthorndene studio at a cost of \$20 for a 30 minute lesson. Anyone who is interested can contact Peter on 0431 151 104 for further details.

VACSWIM 2013

Enrol your children in the 2013 SA Water VACSWIM. Enrol either on line now on www.vacswimsa.com.au or site enrolments are coming up on the 1st December 2012 for Metro areas and 29th December 2012 for regional areas.

