



Diary Dates

**Monday 28th
October**

Governing Council
Meeting 7pm

**Wednesday 30th
October**

Parents & Friends
Meeting 9am
Staff Room

**Thursday 31st
October**

Assembly 2.25pm
Julie Burchells class

**Thursday 31st
October & Friday 1st
November**

Jump Rope Days



**Saturday 2nd
November**

Bunnings Sausage
Sizzle Fundraiser for
SAKG

**Monday 11th
November**

Footsteps Year 6/7

**Thursday 14th
November**

Pupil Free Day
Staff T&D

**Friday 15th
November**

LPS Student &
Community Art Show
3.30pm to 7pm

Is our School **Bushfire** Ready?

The bushfires in NSW over the past week remind us that we need to be prepared for bushfire at our school. This article informs parents about what will happen at our school on Code Red Catastrophic Days. Next newsletter will remind parents of the processes if our school is affected by bushfire.

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:

- 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.)
- You will be sent a text message to your mobile phone. The school has installed a Red Oxygen 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".

- 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.)
- The red 'School Closed' signs will be placed on the fence at the front of the school and the preschool (see photos).
- As the fire season starts, DECS places a list of schools to be closed on their website: www.decs.sa.gov.au.

3. Test text messages: In the next week the school will be sending out test text messages via our Red Oxygen messaging system to all school and preschool families. This is our means of contacting you should the school be closed for the day. If you have not received this text message please contact Debbie Jackson on 8391 1194 to update your contact details. Thank you.



Information on class placements for 2014 inside....

Will your child be leaving the school in 2014? Please inform us as soon as possible so that we can complete our class structure planning for 2014.

Do you have a 3 or 4 year old who will commence Preschool in 2014? Please enrol them as soon as possible.



Bushfire Ready cont.....

4. 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 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.

What will I do with my children 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.

A DECD brochure is included with this newsletter for further



What is this beautiful book?? Stay tuned...

Garden Snippets

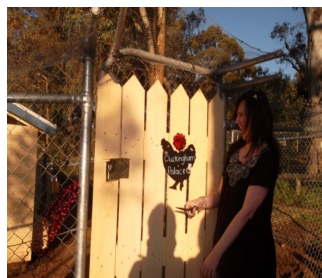
Spring is upon us and the garden has come alive with some warm days followed by rain. Much of our summer crops will now be planted – the big glut of zucchinis coming up!

Last term we did some creative recycling using an old pallet and made a bed for our lettuce. Also the youth environment council representatives from our school (Caleb Miels, Georgina Calderwood, Riley McCune and Marni Banks) came back with a wonderful idea about making "insect hotels." This is novel and fun way to introduce diversity within the garden sure to appease all those up and coming entomologist! These will soon be displayed in the main garden and we plan to make some more. We planted a tree up in the main garden which should provide some lovely summer shade as it grows – not too big we hope! Ms Claridge has identified it as a Chinese Elm. With the help of many children and volunteers, we have gathered many wonderful rocks from next door which we have placed in the native garden and also along the fence line to make lizard homes. Our raspberry patch has been loosely defined up near the orchard.

In the holidays I was fortunate to meet with our very own hills dweller Sophie Thompson from ABC Gardening Australia at a composting workshop. Compost is the gold standard when wanting to build up good healthy soil that will become alive with millions of beneficial bacteria and nutrients.



Thank you to Pam for donating a mushroom farm for us to try out, Lisa for our shredded paper, Jack for binder twine and manure, Kerry for Aloe Vera plants, Sharon for mint plants, Jo and Jordan for the beautiful tiles and Grounds For Coffee – Mount Barker for donating chamomile tea for our up and coming lesson on making herbal teas. Mitchell Kohlhagen also found a little time to help in the garden during the holidays. We would like donations of small to medium pots. Old shirts/clothes suitable for making a scarecrow. Bags of manure and pea straw always welcome! Also any excess produce that we could add to our weekly market stall, held each Thursday. At the end of last term we had the big launch of our chicken coop – Cluckingham Palace was officially opened by Shelley Rowan who was part of a productive craft group along with Bev Rosenbauer. Together they raised \$1000 towards getting the chicken coop up and running. I don't think the chickens knew what all the fuss was about but a fun time was had by all.



Thankyou to those who attended.

Janelle Robinson

BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE FUNDRAISER



As part of our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden fundraising efforts we will be holding an all day BBQ Sausage Sizzle fundraiser on Saturday 2nd November at Bunnings. We need helpers to help run the stall during the day.

The time slots are approximately for 2 hours in length with at least 3 people needing to be there at one time.

We are also looking for any donations of sausages, various sauces, cans of drinks, paper napkins, bags of onions or bread. Also any willing people to help cut up many kilos of onions to freeze, prior to the day! We also require at least 2 large esky/coolers. If you are able to help out with any of these requests please contact Janelle on 0410 396 856 or ring the school and leave your name with the front office ladies.

Classes for 2014

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

This means creating a group of students in a class which has a gender balance, a range of learning abilities and a range of behavioral and social needs. Optimal learning groups is our goal!

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 decisions based on good educational reasons.

It is school policy that teachers ask children for a list of 5 friends, and we undertake to place children in class with a friend from this list. If we are not able to do this, we ring parents.

We consider that each child will benefit from having each teacher. During the course of their time at Littlehampton, parents can expect that their children will have any of our teachers. 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.

Parent Requests

Littlehampton Primary School has made a focus of developing consistent quality practice in curriculum content and in methodology and we've been commended for this in school reviews. We value the high quality teachers in this school and requests for or against specific teachers will not be favorably received. 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, 8 November, and mark the envelope "Confidential"**. Please address your concerns in terms of educational needs of your children.

Note that this year, we will not be attaching teachers names to the classes until the process is complete. Even teachers will not know which class they are taking until the class placement process is complete.

Due to the complexity of the process, it is 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 2014 class placement?

This year we aim to inform parents of class placements in Week 9, and we plan that students will have the opportunity to meet with their new class and teacher before the end of the year.

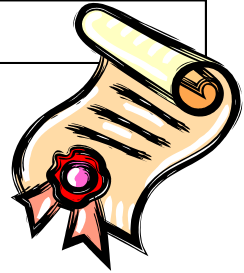
Class Structure 2014

Each year at this time, I usually outline a proposed class structure that we are considering for the following year. For the last 5 years, the early advertised class structure is not the one finally adopted, because as parents inform us that their children will be leaving, and new students enrol for the following year, the structure must be adjusted to accommodate numbers.

We are currently considering two different class structures, one with 15 classes, and one with 16 classes. The final structure will be chosen in Week 5, when we begin allocating the students to classes. The best information that I can give at this time is that there will be some straight year levels, and some composite classes with two different year levels in the one class. Some parents might consider their child would be best suited to a straight year level, or at the bottom of a composite grouping, or the top of composite grouping (eg as a Year 3 in a 3/4 class or a Year 4 in a Year 3/4 class. Parents may outline their reasons and request this, and this will be considered in the class placement exercise.

Term 4 Principals Awards

At our Week 10 Assembly the following students received Principal's Awards. Well done to all students:



Respect: Carmelo Pollifrone, Olivia Stone

Including Others: Ava Roach, Sithuki Kaulgarla, Brandon Simpson

Valuing Others: Dylan Hopgood, Marlee Curnow-Harold, Sarah Culp, Poppy Montague

Fairness: Harry Taplin-Barton, Aedden Rees, Jeremy Shepherd

Kindness: Aiyesha Fletcher, Georgia Amos, Jamison Henke

Positive Attitude: Oliver Palmer, Nicky Paech, Molly Passmore, Zara McCauley, Megan Galettis, Peter Kelecinski, Caspian Prokopowicz, Ben Gautier, Brianna Fimmano, Archie Hinks, Finn Roach, Zabien Parker-Boers, Lily Hageman, Arielle Marks, Angus Schmidt, Olivia Mankowski, Ethan Roberts, Emily Bands

Trustworthy: Luke Brady, Liam Lucas, Darcy Bald, Emily Bishop.

Mt Barker Community Forum (SAPOL)

People who work or reside in the Mount Barker and are interested in the community, in relation to law and order, are invited to attend a community forum run by SAPOL.

The Forum will be held: 6th November from 7pm to 9pm at the Mount Barker Library on Dumas Street Mount Barker.

Last term a team of staff and parents from our school attended training in KidsMatter. KidsMatter is a national mental health initiative, funded by the federal Department of Health and Ageing.

Over the two days we became really enthusiastic about what this Framework could offer to our school community. We learned that by working together, the school and the community can make a positive difference to children's mental health and wellbeing. *Research has found that 14% of Australian children have mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and behaviour problems.*

The aim of KidsMatter is to build on what schools already do to support children's mental health. At Littlehampton Primary School this includes Wellbeing sessions, Student Peer Forum groups, Buddy classes, and courses run by Kate such as *What's The Buzz?*

The idea is that by building upon all students' positive mental health, and by strengthening links within our school community, we can reduce the number of students experiencing mental health difficulties.

The Framework provides information for families, and develops links with local mental health services.

The four components of the program are:

1. A positive school community
2. Social and emotional learning for students
3. Parenting support and education
4. Early intervention for students who are experiencing mental health difficulties.

We are seeking information from our parent community to help us with the directions that we will take in 2014.

Included in this week's newsletter, you will find a parent survey about this program. We would really appreciate if you could take the time to complete the survey, either on paper (and returned to the front office), or online at the address above. It should take about 10 minutes to complete the survey.

Stay tuned for an information session early next year. We look forward to working with you, because our Kids Matter!

KidsMatter Action Team

Margie Sarre, Alison Bishop, Kate Oglanby and Kelli Schmidt.

Bully Audit results from Term 3

Last term all students completed the Bully Audit in week 7. We continue to find the Bully Audit a good way to help us identify issues between children we would not otherwise know about, and to be proactive in helping them gain the skills to get along. The results are very close to Term 2 results:

- % of students who reported no bullying in yard= 85%
- % of students who reported no bullying in class= 93%

On Thursday 8th August 15 boys from Littlehampton Primary School travelled to Pasadena Basketball Stadium to compete in the SAPSASA Basketball Knockout Competition. The Year 6/7 team consisting of Liam Lucas, Sebastian Bald, Joshua Hogben, Joshua Thompson, Dylan Hopgood, Joel Parker-Boers and Denis Henke had a successful day winning 4 out of their 6 games. Thank you to James Rattus for giving up his time to train and coach the boys.

The Year 5/6 team consisting of Tom Harvey, Charlie Wotton, Cooper Hough, Lachlan Warhurst, Thomas Roberts, Alex Houlahan, Christian Bald and Bryce Colotti had a very successful day going through undefeated to win 6 out of 6 games. As a result of winning all the games they progressed through to Grand Final Day on Thursday 19th September at Morphett Vale. Although this team didn't win the Grand Final they played well, displaying good sportsmanship and good skills. Thank you to Jason Warhurst (parent) for giving up his time to coach the boys. A special thanks to parents also who were able to help out with transport, scoring and supporting the boys on the day.

Account Reminders

A reminder to families that all accounts need to be finalised at the latest by 31/10/13. Currently invoices for the Preschool and Term 4 new students are due. If you think you will qualify for Government Assistance for School Fees an application needs to be completed and returned to the finance office before the end of next week.

Payment for the 2014 Canberra trip deposit is due by 28/11/13.

Payment for Year 6/7 dance sport - Footsteps is due now and 3 classes have excursions coming up which need to be finalised A.S.A.P. The payment of all outstanding amounts is requested by the end of this month.

2014 Materials & Services fees of \$280 will be discussed during the first part of the Governing Council Meeting on Monday 28 October and you are invited to attend this part of the meeting if you are interested.

Active After School Dance & Fitness

Get fit to music! There are spaces available for students in Years 3 to 7 to attend the Active After School Dance & Fitness class. Classes are held each Tuesday starting at 3.45pm to 4.45pm in the gymnasium, at no cost. If you are interested in joining please let the office know.

Nikola is also starting an evening class at \$10 per student in our gym on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, and an adult class at 6:30 for \$15. Ring Nikola 0434841931 for more details, or just show up!