DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY
6   Parents & Friends Meeting 10.00am
16  Governing Council Meeting 7.30pm
27  Biggest Morning Tea 10.00am
26  Fun4Youth at Nildottie
29  Pedal Prix at Victoria Park

JUNE
3   Live band ‘Fortè at Swan Reach Hall
13  Queen’s Birthday
20  Governing Council Meeting 7.30pm

SWAN REACH PLAYGROUP
Tuesdays - 10.00am in the Kindy.
All children from birth to age 5 are most welcome.
Bring a piece of fruit to share.
Ring Trish - 8570 1080 - for more information.

Occasional Care for children 2 years and over
Friday mornings 8.45am - 11.45am
Held in conjunction with the Kindergarten
For bookings, phone: 8570 2032 Wednesday or Friday

MID MURRAY IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME
10.30am - 11.00am
at the Swan Reach Area School/Community Library
3rd Tuesday of each month except December.
FREE Pneumococcal Vaccination is available for infants up to 2 years
Please book through the Cambrai Council office on 8564 6020

Steven and Andrew playing chess with the new outdoor chess set purchased by the school. Thank you to Phil Carter for marking out the squares.
John Hattie

Last Thursday I had the privilege of attending a lecture by Professor John Hattie who, in brief terms, analysed hundreds of papers of what other researchers had found that affected student academic achievement. He talked in terms of Effect Size, a negative measure indicated a negative effect on learning and positive has a positive effect on achievement, and any measure greater than 0.4 was significant. Some found his style confronting, others found it confirming. I acknowledge my own bias however there were some very interesting results (of the 138 categories) namely:

Moving schools (-0.34) and significant Television watching (-0.18) had negative effects on achievement.

Multiple age grouping structure (0.04) and class size (0.21) had limited effects.

Good quality feedback has a highly significant effect on student achievement (0.73). This includes feedback on how well a task has been accomplished, feedback on the student’s learning processes and feedback on the student’s ability to self evaluate. However, of note, was that praise does not count as quality feedback as it relates specifically to the person not the event/task at hand eg “Good girl”.

The most significant effect size was that of students understanding the expectations of them (1.44). If students know where to aim, what good work looks like and what it will look like when they finish then their achievement can be almost two years ahead of those who work without the end in mind.

The summary of the day was that a lot of time is spent on what in itself has little effect on student achievement but that the quality of the teachers work is the largest factor that a school can influence. This is in line with our 2011 Site Improvement Plan goals of improving teacher quality through...
These items are now available for viewing in the Swan Reach Community Library. All orders and money must be in by Friday 20th May before 10.00am. Delivery will be the following week.

reviewing our Performance Management and Induction strategies, reviewing our reporting processes and implementing the Australian Curriculum in 2012. If you have any constructive feedback for the school please let us hear it!

**Whole School Literacy Agreement**

Staff have been working on a Whole School Literacy Agreement which outlines what can be expected by students and staff in terms of literacy. The core section of this agreement is included in this newsletter.

**Interschool Sport**

Over the coming weeks there are many opportunities for our Middle and Senior School students to take part in Interschool sport including netball, volleyball, soccer, football and badminton. These usually incur a small fee for entry or travel. Please be aware that students who are deemed to not be up to date in their studies or having displayed inappropriate behaviour at school will not be allowed to represent the school, this may mean that teams will be withdrawn if necessary.

**International Competitions and Assessments for Schools - ICT**

Next week all students in Years 3-10 and some of the Year 11&12s will be taking part in the ICAS ICT test. Age appropriate questions are asked and they enable the school to determine student progress in an area that is not formally assessed. Topics and skills that are being assessed include: common operating systems and hardware, word processing, graphics and multimedia, spreadsheets and databases, internet and email, and programming and scripting (Year 9/10 only).

Have a great fortnight!

*Kylie Eggers*

Principal
At Swan Reach Area School, Literacy is:

This term the Rec - Yr 7s are involved with Jump Rope for Heart. We will be holding a Jump Off in Week 7. This is a great way to help raise funds for the Heart Foundation as well as increase the skipping skills of the children. After only two days I can see progress being made by the younger children. Extra information and sponsorship forms will be given out to each child soon.

Have a good fortnight.
Anne Wilksch
Where does the time go? It just seems like yesterday that we were getting ready for holidays and here it is already Week 3 of a new term! It appears that everyone had a great holiday but unfortunately many children since have come down with colds.

If your child seems listless, with a temperature and a runny nose, please keep him/her home. We try to practice good hygiene habits here, such as washing hands regularly, not sneezing on others, but it doesn’t keep all the bugs away! Although we supply tissues in the classroom it is a good idea to send some to school with your child so they are readily accessible.

At the end of Term 1 the Junior School held a very successful disco. The children who attended looked fabulous dressed in their dancing outfits and their behavior was excellent. Supper was enjoyed by all and the 2 hours passed by very quickly. Our classrooms are looking brighter and cleaner due to the recent purchase of new cupboards and tray units. These replaced the existing 35 year old units. They certainly have made a difference to our rooms.

Last week the Yr 3 and 5 classes sat the NAPLAN test. The results of this won’t be known until later in the year. Whilst the tests are quite daunting to the children Sarah and I are very proud of the way they all did their best and didn’t give up.

Welcome to Cody Flannigan who has come from Mannum. Cody is in Yr 5 and has already settled in well.

Farewell to Maddie Williams who is now at Blanchetown Primary and to Gracey Jones who will be leaving soon. It’s been a pleasure teaching both these girls and we wish them well at their new schools.
MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

The Year 8 and 9 students are lucky to have Mark from ‘A.C. Care’ and Simone from ‘Headspace’ (Murray Bridge) for their Pastoral Care lessons on Friday afternoons. In this time, the girls and the boys are split into two groups where they undertake self-confidence activities which cater to the different genders. I have heard nothing but positive feedback from the students who are enjoying lessons conducted by adults other than their teachers! This, so far, has been such a positive experience for all that I hope Mark and Simone can continue to run programs with the students at SRAS in the future. Mark and Simone are not new to the school; they both ran sessions with the Year 11 students throughout first term.

This term there are lots of sporting events being held including football, netball and soccer. The boys and girls are off to Karoonda today (Thursday) for 9-a-side footy and on Wednesday of week 6, the 8/9 girls are playing netball at Kapunda. Can the parents of those girls involved please ensure that the notes (with payment) are returned to the front office as soon as possible so that transport can be arranged? This is a great opportunity for students to build upon their team skills in a friendly, stress-free environment. The 8/9 girls look forward to “taking on” the Year 10-12 girls in training sessions at recess and lunch times!

This week sees the beginning of a new rotation - already! Thirteen weeks of school have already passed us by! Students rotate each thirteen weeks between Home Economics with Mr Yamamoto, Tech Studies with Mr Martinson and Art with Miss Hoffmann. A BIG WELCOME to Miss Hoffmann. We look forward to having her as part of Middle School and SRAS as a whole. She brings with her many fresh ideas and we look forward to the amazing displays which I’m sure will be appearing in the Front Office.

SA Public Teaching Awards

Celebrating inspiring teaching

Nominations are now open for the inaugural SA Public Teaching Awards.

Don’t miss your chance to nominate an outstanding education professional of the South Australian public education system.

The SA Public Teaching Awards aim to recognise and reward dedicated teachers, education leaders and support staff who have made an inspirational contribution to young South Australians.

To nominate a member of your school go to: www.decs.sa.gov.au/teacherawards

Nominations close 5.00pm Friday 3 June 2011.

For further information contact Virginia Barter on 08 8226 3079 or

CYBER SAFETY

Do you know that it is illegal for any child under 13 to have a Facebook page?

Are you aware of what your child is doing on the internet?

Please take the time to check on your child’s access and whether they are using it appropriately and whether they have protection against unknown people accessing photos and information.

SORRY……..

Due to the ridiculous price rise in consumables, the Snap Lab Photo Shop in the Community Library will now have to charge 70c for photo printing.

The Fun 4 Youth van will be at Nildottie on Thursday 26th
3.00pm to 7.30pm
It was decided that this term would be about Family, Farms and Fun happenings at Kindy. We are collecting immediate family photos to count the number of people living together and the break down of males and females. Self and family portraits, the jobs family members have and the different animals that are on properties in the district are some of our activities in the future.

Our letter of the month/term is naturally “F” so we will have lots of words to talk about.

“Wowie Bear” will start going to homes for visits again so we can read about the exciting adventures he has while staying with the children.

On the last day of first term Kindy staff and 4 school staff attended Fire Extinguisher training to renew our skills in how to use them and for which type of fire. We thank Mick and Trev from the local CFS for giving us their time and imparting their knowledge to us.

Last week the children made Japanese “Koinobori” flags with Hiro. They made very colourful fish which were attached to a wooden rod.

We are all glad to be back at Kindy to play, learn and have Fun together.

Very soon the centre will be switching to a new Early Years Administration package planned for all DECS preschool services. It is an updated program for the management of the preschool, making it easier to generate attendance lists, reports and data collection processes through a range of new templates.

Claire, Dorothee and Terry.

Funny moment of the fortnight – I had the pleasure of taking the Year 9 class for Tech Studies last Thursday afternoon with Phil Carter. The girls decided that it would be a good idea to hide in Mr Martinson’s big boxes (which I presume/hope were for the rubbish). This was quite hilarious to watch. I’m still trying to work out why they felt the need to do this! Innocent fun!

Lots of staff and students are getting sick at the moment with the introduction of the cold weather. I recommend that if your child is not feeling well, please keep them at home so that they can recover at a faster rate and not pass their germs onto the other students.

Miss Amelia Bolt
Middle School Coordinator

CANCER COUNCIL
BIGGEST MORNING TEA

May 27th
10.00am in the Community Library
Gold coin donation.
Please bring a plate of food to share.
Tea cup & saucer competition.
All Welcome

A huge thank you to all those who turned up for the Busy Bee at Nildottie last Sunday. A lot of work was achieved because of the effort put in by willing workers.
PEDAL PRiX

The first race of the season is on **Sunday 29th of May** at the **Victoria Park Racecourse**. The Pedal Prix series has 3 races, the others are on the 31st July at Victoria Park and the last one at Murray Bridge on the 17th and 18th of September at the Sturt Reserve.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by Phil Carter, Aaren Barker and the rest of the team to reconstruct the body of the racing bike which is almost complete. It will be ready for the first race but will not be painted till the second race in July.

Competitors are expected to be at the Victoria Park Racecourse by 9.00am with the race starting at 10.00am and finishing at 4.00pm. Our Pit number is 122, which is roughly where we were last year. Helmets and glasses are compulsory which most students have already.

I am assuming that all team members will be present, even if not racing on the day as only 10 riders can race. This year we have three rookies in the team and we have guaranteed them a ride in the 24 hour race and at least one other race during the season.

We will be going by private transport and would appreciate help with transport for some of the team.

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Friday Night Live Band

**Forte**

Friday June 3rd 2011

7.30pm Swan Reach Town Hall

$10.00 per ticket, nibbles provided, byo drinks.

For more information and tickets, visit the Swan Reach General Store or call 8570 2036. Tickets also available at the door.