From the Principal

Our school year has begun at a fast pace! This morning we had a visit by a delegation of members from the Non-Government Schools Registration Board. They spent a number of hours in the school ensuring that the school is meeting the requirements in regards to duty of care for students and providing an appropriate curriculum. We are pleased to advise that the group were very pleased with the level of organisation and planning that has been done within the school by administration and staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work in being ready for this visit in just week 3 of the school term. I know it has been a lot of work for the staff but they are to be commended on the outcome.

Yesterday morning we all enjoyed breakfast in the hall, compliments of Sanitarium. A big thank you to Sanitarium as well as Andrew Fabijan, Wayne Holmseby and Elizabeth Peterson - parents of our school who are employed by Sanitarium - who helped organise this event for our school.

This week the children have been given their first amount of homework for the school year. Homework has been a topic that has been in the news of late, with some schools choosing to abandon homework for their students. However as staff we have chosen to continue with Homework but would encourage parents to limit the time children are spending on tasks. It is not expected that all children are able to complete all assigned tasks as children have varying rates of working. If your child has spent the amount of time required for their grade level, then please sign the place allocated on the homework regardless of whether all work has been completed. This is important for your child to know that a brief homework time is all that is required. In addition, it is helpful if you provide a block of uninterrupted time for homework when your child is excused from other tasks. For children who attend OSHC, homework would usually be completed at the centre, though children in the upper grades may need to spend further time when at home. Remember that homework is the beginning of your child learning to take ownership of and pride in his or her own work and working independently.

All the best for Homework in 2005!!

Have a great week.

Christine Clark

Calendar of coming events

**Friday, 25 February**
Volunteer Training Session
9.00am in Library

**Friday, 4 March**
Clean Up Schools Day

**Tuesday, 8 March**
OSHC Committee
2.14pm in Staff room

**Wednesday, 9 March**
OHS&W Committee
11.30am in Staff room

**Monday, 28 February**
School Council Meeting
7.30pm in Staff room

**Monday, 7 March**
G&T Committee
7.30pm in Staff room

**Tuesday, 8 March**
Property Development Committee – 7.30pm

**Wednesday, 9 March**
Fundraising Committee
7.30pm in Staff room
COMING EVENTS

Volunteer Training Session
Just a reminder that all parents and friends who wish to volunteer within the school will be required to attend a Volunteer Training Session. This will take place on Friday, February 25 at 9.00am in the Library. If you plan to attend, please make sure your name has been registered with office staff. Another training session will be held later in the term.

School Council
The first meeting for the year of the School Council will be held on Monday, February 28 at 7.30pm in the Staff room.

Reference Committees
Thank you to those people who have volunteered to participate in one of our Reference Committees. Meetings will be held on the following dates and we look forward to seeing you there.

Gifted & Talented: March 7 – 7.30pm
Out of School Hours Care: March 8 – 2.15pm
Property Development: March 8 – 7.30pm
OHS&W: March 9 - 11.30am
Fundraising: March 9 – 7.30pm

Sports Day
Sports Day will be held in Week 7 on Wednesday, 16 March. This is a great day to come and be part of your children’s sport activities and we encourage this to happen. To make sports day a success we need parent helpers between 10.30 and 12.30 on the day. It would be good if we could have enough volunteers to allow those at events to take a break to see their own child participating. If you are willing to be part of the team please fill in the return slip. We appreciate the support that parents are able to give, as without the involvement of parents we would not be able to operate the program we do.

Timetable for Assembly
Mondays 9am in the Church
Week 4  Full School  Classroom 7
Week 5  Junior  Classroom 3
Week 6  Full School  Classroom 4
Week 7  Junior  Classroom 9
Week 8  Full School  Classroom 6
Week 9  EASTER
Week 10  Full School  Classroom 5
Week 11  Junior  Classroom 2

Clean Up Australia
The students will be involved in the Clean Up Australia Day campaign by clearing rubbish and tidying up around the school grounds on Friday, 4 March. It would be great if they could bring their own plastic bag and gloves.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Fill-in Forms
Thank you to those parents who have returned their completed fill-in forms, it is important that we have this information promptly. There are still a few families who have not returned their forms, if you could do so immediately it would be greatly appreciated.

Stationery Drive
So far we have collected quite a lot of stationery items to send to a school in one of the tsunami affected areas. The box is not quite full yet, so if you are able to make a donation of a stationery item, it will be put to good use. Please have all donations in the box by the end of February. Thank you for supporting your children in making a difference for others.

No Lunch Orders – March 8
Please note that the Reynella South Canteen will be closed on Tuesday, March 8, so you will not be able to order lunch on that day. Please make sure your child brings their own lunch just for that day.

Prescott College Scholarships
Just a reminder to Year 7 students who wish to sit the ACEP scholarship exam, that applications must be in at the college by next Monday, February 21. Refer to the flyer sent home earlier this week for details or contact Prescott College on 8269 1655.

Newsletter Online
From next week onwards the Prescott Primary Southern Newsletter will be available online. You will still receive your usual copy with all the enclosures in your Newsletter folder each Thursday fortnight. However, if you misplace your copy of the Newsletter or accidentally throw it out then you are still able to obtain the information by going online. The web address is: www.prescottsouthern.sa.edu.au

Music Tuition
Due to the great response for music tuition at school, parents are advised that the guitar teacher and the drum teacher cannot take any more students.
FUNDRAISING

Spring Bulbs
Enclosed with this newsletter you will find our first fundraiser for the year – Spring Bulbs. You can have a wonderful display of flowers in spring and help the school raise money. The school receives 48% profit so try to get grandparents, friends, neighbours, workmates etc. to place orders.

We have 2 wonderful baskets of donated goodies for the 2 families who raise the most money. The 1st prize basket includes a watch, $40 Kennards hire voucher, model kit, bath items, lollies & lots more. The 2nd prize basket includes $40 Kennards hire, bath items, motorcycle model kit and lots more. McDonalds Reynella have kindly donated encouragement awards (entitling a cheeseburger and small coke) for the 25 families who raise the most money.

Extra order forms are available from the office. All money and orders need to be returned to the front office by Friday, March 11.

Recycling
Please bring your 5c refundables and place them in the orange bin outside the Staff room. Every bit helps!

Kids Kanteen
Mrs Meyles’ class is again running Kids Kanteen. Items are on sale at the start of recess and lunch. Orders for noodles and soup are taken from your child’s classroom first thing in the morning.

Items for Sale (Term 1)
- Bottle Water $1.00
- Fruit Box $1.00
- Can Lemonade/Lemon $1.00
- Ice Blocks (eg Zooper Dooper) 50c
- Ice Creams (various types including yoghurt) $1.00
- Bowl of Maggi Noodles (chicken/beef) $1.00
- Soup $1.50
- Chips 50c

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southern Districts Cricket Club
Milo Have-A-Go Cricket is starting again at Southern Districts Cricket Club. This is a pre-competition program for boys and girls from Reception to Year 2. The program incorporates high participation with skill development and modified games to provide both a learning and fun environment.

Your closest Have-A-Go centre is at Southern Districts Cricket Club.
Sessions begin on Friday, February 18 from 4.30-5.30pm at Bice Oval. Cost is $30.
For further information please contact Gianni Petrucci on 0414 649 965.

Singing And Dancing Opportunities in 2005
Do you have a child who was born to perform? Did your children delight you with their spontaneous concerts during the holidays? Perhaps they sing when they think you’re not listening. Maybe they have friends who enjoy performing with them.

The Australian Youth Choir and The National Youth Dance Theatre can help to develop their interest and their skills. It’s not too late to enrol for 2005. Our qualified choral and dance staff are available to audition boys and girls aged 7 and above at one of our rehearsal venues close to your school. We have some great activities and concerts planned for our 30th Anniversary year in 2005. For further information regarding tuition fees and to make an audition appointment phone 8271 5421.

Strengthening Families Program
The City of Onkaparinga are once again offering programs for families in the community. Topics include “Working Mums Health”, “Literacy and Your Under 5 Year Old”, “The Dad Factor” and many more.

For further information about “Strengthening Families” please contact Tanya Dunn Brown, Project Officer-Children and Families on 8384 0739 or go online to www.onkaparingafamily.com
**STAFF PROFILE**

Mrs Nicole Newbold has joined our staff this year as the Grade 4/5 teacher. Nicole was born here in Adelaide and grew up in Naracoorte and Murray Bridge.

She attended the Naracoorte South Primary School where she particularly remembers her Reception teacher, Mrs Baker.

Prior to teaching, Nicole worked as a Receptionist. After 3 years she decided she needed a more challenging job. Do you think she has found it?!? Other jobs she has had include an assistant for a Wool Classer.

Her favourite colours are blue and yellow. Her favourite food is gourmet pizza as well as baked potatoes. Among her interests are reading, scrapbooking, shopping and going out with friends.

We welcome Nicole to our school community and trust that she will enjoy her time here.

**TEACHERS AT WORK**

A teacher’s day does not end when the bell goes at 3.15pm as you can imagine. Among the other things that teachers do outside of school hours, they regularly attend professional development programs so they are better equipped to make improvements in their classroom programs.

On Tuesday, February 8, staff completed the training for the program – Future Problem Solving. Future Problem Solving is a world-wide program where children gain experience in critical, creative and futuristic thinking. Children are taught a 6 step process which in turn is used to solve a given futuristic problem. Teachers benefited from learning the processes involved in implementing the program into their class.