FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This week the children have been given their first amount of homework for the school year. Homework is often a controversial issue, with some people seeing the value while others see it as futile. As a school we have a Homework Policy that encourages parents to be involved in their child’s learning. We have endeavoured to place children on their appropriate levels and are keen for children to find their work easy and enjoyable. 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.

During this week we had a visit from some members of the Block Grant Authority. This body is responsible for the dispersing of grants for building projects to non-Government schools. We have made application for funds to construct a further two classrooms so that we are able to discontinue the use of the transportable classrooms. This building would take place in 2009 if funds were made available.

Yesterday was a significant day in the history of the nation as Kevin Rudd took the stand in bringing healing to our nation. The principle of reconciliation is significant to us all as we endeavour to live in harmony as a nation. Within the school community we are privileged to have a number of indigenous children and as a school we have developed curriculum to assist all children in understanding the uniqueness of our heritage and the strengths of our background as a nation. As Christians I believe God wants each of us to show that acceptance of difference and celebrate our cultural heritage. My prayer is that God will help each of us to show this attitude in our daily interactions.

Have a great week and I look forward to meeting with you on Monday evening at the Information Night.

Christine Clark

CALENDAR

Monday
February 18
Welcome Back BBQ at 6.30pm
Parent Info Night 7.30 & 8.00pm

Tuesday
February 26
Listening to Children Read Program
9.00am
Classroom 11

Wednesday
February 27
OSHC Committee
9.00am

Thursday
February 28
Fundraising Committee
7.30pm

Friday
February 29
Schools Clean Up Australia Day

Tuesday
March 4
School Council
7.30pm

Wednesday
March 5
Volunteer Parents Meeting 9.00am in Library

Friday
March 7
Pupil Free Day
OSHC operating
COMING EVENTS

BBQ & Parent Info Night
Monday, February 18
We would love you to join the staff and other school families for a BBQ tea on Monday, February 18 at 6.30pm. Please bring your own meat/vegetarian items to BBQ and the school will provide the rest—bread, salads, sauce, BBQ’s etc. You may also like to bring along your fold-up chairs. Cans of drink and ice creams will be available for sale on the night.

Following this there will be a Parent Information Evening with the classroom teachers.
7.30pm—Classroom 1, 2, 4, 5, 10
8.00pm—Classroom 3, 6, 7, 8

Parent Information Session
Listening to Children Read
Tuesday, February 26 in Classroom 11 at 9.00am. Mrs Street will be holding an information session for those parents who would like to learn more about how to support their children in reading, to assist them in developing good reading skills.

Reference Committees
Thank you to those parents who have indicated that they would like to be involved in one of our Reference Committees. Please note the following dates for Committee meetings:
OSHSC Committee
Wednesday, February 27 9.00am
Fundraising Committee
Thursday, February 28 7.30pm
(Please note change of date)
OHSW Committee
Thursday, February 28 9.30am
G & T Committee
Wednesday, March 26 7.30pm
Property Development
Wednesday, April 2 7.30pm

The next meeting of the School Council will be held on Tuesday, March 4 at 7.30pm in the Staff Room.

Clean Up Australia Day
The students will be involved in the Clean Up Australia Day campaign on Friday, February 29 by clearing rubbish and tidying up around the school grounds. It would be appreciated if each student could bring their own plastic bag and gloves.

Volunteer Training Session
A training session for those people who wish to volunteer their time at the school will be held on Wednesday, March 5. This will commence at 9.00am in the Library. If you have previously completed this training it is not necessary to attend again. If you are unable to attend on this date, please leave a message at the front office. Another session will be held later in the year.

Pupil Free Day
Please mark on your calendars that Friday, March 7 will be a Pupil Free Day. OSHC will be operating and bookings are essential.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
Wednesday, March 12
Parents who wish to meet with their child’s teacher will have the opportunity to do so on Wednesday, March 12. If you wish to make an appointment, please complete the enclosed form with your preferred time and return it to school no later than Monday, February 25. Some time slots are very popular and requests cannot always be accommodated, but we will do our best. An appointment card, with your appointed time, will be enclosed in the next newsletter.

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 ASAP. There are still a few families who have not returned their forms, if you could do so immediately it would be greatly appreciated.

School Card Application Forms
If you qualify for School Card, please ensure that you have completed the relevant form and return it to the front office ASAP. Thank you.

School Starting Time
Just a reminder that school begins at 8.45am. Teachers will be opening their classrooms at 8.30am. We would encourage all parents to ensure their children arrive on time. If children are late, they need to collect a late pass from student reception.
Canteen Price List
A Canteen Price List from Reynella South Canteen was sent home in the last newsletter. The canteen is under new management and there have been a few minor changes to the lunch list. Please disregard the green price list. Make sure you use the enclosed orange list when ordering your lunch. Please remember that there are no lunch orders on Tuesdays. Thank you.

Kids Canteen
There have been some healthier changes to the menu in the Kids Canteen. Items available are:
- Rice Wheels 80c per packet
- Sun Rice—Rice cakes 80c per packet
- Sakata Minis 80c per packet
- Ice creams $1.00 each
- Fruit Smoothie Iceblocks 50c each
- Noodles (Chicken or Beef) $1.50 per cup

Book Club
Enclosed are catalogues from Scholastic Book Club. There is a catalogue for each age group with great bargains on a wide range of books. All orders earn points for the school to obtain books and resources for the library and classrooms.

If you wish to place an order, please complete the order form on the back page of the catalogue and return to school with payment enclosed. Please note that payment can be made by cash (correct money please), or by cheque made payable to Prescott Primary Southern (not Scholastic) or by credit card (by following the instructions on the coupon on the back page). Any queries about ordering, please contact Mitsy Bullas in student reception. All orders must be returned no later than Wednesday, February 20. Thank you for your support.

ICAS Competitions
Once again the students have the opportunity to test their skills through the ICAS competitions (eg. maths, computing, science etc.). If you would like your child to participate you will need to return your completed registration form, which is enclosed, no later than Friday, March 7.

This year we are offering a different competition which is a Tasmanian research based project. Students (Yr 5-7) will complete this project as part of their homework, which is done online at home. For further information and sample questions please visit www.GiantClassroom.com.au and click on Primary Research Project.

Art Therapy
Do you have any spare “crafty bits” such as pipe cleaners, buttons, beads, feathers, lace or wool? If so, we would greatly appreciate them for our art classes. Any items you can donate can be left at the front office or student reception marked “Attention Sue Norman”. Thank you.

Food for Animals
The Science Room Rabbit and Guinea Pig would appreciate any food scraps you can send. Most fruit and vegetables are suitable except for white vegetables like potato, onion, cauliflower. Brown bread is suitable too. Thank you for your help to satisfy our appetites.

School Photos
Wednesday, March 26
This year school photos are being taken in Term 1 with students in summer uniform. Photos have been taken in winter uniform for the past 3 years while the girls summer dresses were changing from the old style to the new style. Now that all girls are in the new dress we can have photos taken in summer uniform.

Enclosed you will find a photo envelope for each child. For those with more than one child, a family envelope has also been included. If you wish to purchase school photos, please complete the envelope and return to school (with payment enclosed) by Friday, March 14.

Please take the time to read all the relevant information on the envelopes and check the spelling of names and make changes before returning the envelope. Payment can be made by cash (correct money please as no change is given) or by cheque (cheques made payable to Master School Portraits) or by credit card (credit card payment slips are available at the front office). Payment for all your children can be placed in one envelope, but remember all children must have their own envelope for photo day. Do not seal envelopes inside each other.

Don’t forget to return envelopes by Friday, March 14. No envelope-No photo! Thank you for your cooperation to ensure a smooth running photo day.
School Hats
As a Sun Smart school our policy is No Hat No Play. Please ensure your child has their hat each day to wear while outside. A lot of children are coming to student reception every day to borrow hats because they don’t have their own hat. Please encourage your child to take care of their hat. Names on hats and other uniform items will assist us in returning lost items to their owners.

Volunteer Cinema Day 2008
National Volunteer Week will be celebrated from 12-18 May. The theme for the week is “Volunteers Change our World”. The work of volunteers makes a difference in so many ways. To recognise and celebrate the essential role of volunteers, the City of Onkaparinga is hosting a Cinema Day for volunteers on Monday, May 12 at Wallis Noarlunga Cinemas.

Movies will be screened at 10.00am, 12.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm & 8.30pm. Tickets are free for volunteers who regularly provide service to our school community (one ticket per volunteer only). If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please leave a message at the front office with your name and preferred session time by Monday, March 10. Your ticket and a movie guide will be sent to you before the movie day.

FUNDRAISING

Spring Bulbs
To get our fundraising program started for the year, you will find a Spring Bulb catalogue and order form enclosed. You have the opportunity to collect orders for Garden Express Spring Bulbs, so you can look forward to a beautiful display of flowers in spring.

There will be a prize basket for the 2 families who raise the most money. All orders and money must be returned to school no later than Thursday, March 20. Thank you for your support.

Recyclables
We are still collecting 5c refundable bottles, cans, cartons etc. Please leave your refundable containers in the orange bin at the rear of the office. Every bit helps. Thank you.

No More Used Stamps
Many thanks to those who have collected their used stamps for fundraising over the past few years. Unfortunately we are unable to continue with this project, therefore we don’t need you to collect and send in your used stamps anymore.

Eat well be active

Tips for Getting Kids to Eat Breakfast
Eating breakfast is important for kids as it fuels their bodies and brains for their daily activities. Brekkie gives kids bodies the nutrients they need to grow and develop, and the energy to play, concentrate and learn. Breakfast can include almost any type of food—bread, cereals, vegies, fruit, reduced fat dairy products and lean meats. Try offering a variety of different foods to see what your child likes.

Some ideas could be:
Pancakes or pikelets
Grilled cheese on toast cut into “fingers”
Tinned or fresh fruit salad in natural juice with reduced fat yoghurt
Weetbix drizzled with a bit of honey
For kids who don't have much of an appetite in the morning, a fruit smoothie (fruit, low fat yoghurt and juice blended together) or an Egg Flip (low fat milk, fruit juice and an egg mixed together) are yummy alternatives that will help fill them up!

Involve your child in planning and preparing breakfast as well as making good choices while you’re doing the shopping.

Set a good example. Sit down and eat breakfast with your child. Kids are great imitators!