This week is Brain Awareness Week and it was established in 1997 to advance public awareness about the critical research on the brain so that there could develop an understanding of the brain and how it works within everyday society. While scientists continue their research into the brain, teachers continually hope to gain further insights into the workings of the brain so they are able to adopt their strategies to enhance learning.

As stated by John Joseph .... Brain research presents an unprecedented opportunity to reflect on the vast array of practices that make up learning, teaching and of course parenting, and to determine what actually benefits our kids in classrooms and at home.

I have enclosed in this newsletter a series of handouts Parenting with the Brain in Mind – the Primary School Years. I trust you will find them informative and help you to understand just how children’s brains are developing in these crucial years.

Each child’s brain is unique and it is through their life’s experiences their brains can be moulded to respond in various ways which may not always result in the best outcome for them as individuals. As parents we can get lost along the way as we focus on the academic achievement of the child rather than the whole development and the importance of values and principles that govern all aspects of their lives. Jesus encourages all to learn from Him and follow His example in living a life of sharing, caring and loving others, and as we encourage each child to develop their own inner values we are supporting them to this end. My prayer is that God will help each of us, as adults involved in the lives of children, assist them in making good choices, yet at the same time show them as children that we value their uniqueness and individuality.

Have a good week

Christine Clark
COMING EVENTS

School Photos
School Photo day is coming up soon, on Wednesday, March 26. Please make sure that your child is dressed in complete, clean and correct summer uniform. For those students who participate in After School Sports, please make sure you are in school uniform NOT sports uniform.

The deadline for returning photo envelopes is TOMORROW, Friday March 14. If you wish to purchase school photos, envelopes with payment enclosed, must be handed in by tomorrow.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Vacation Care
The Vacation Care program for the next holidays is enclosed. Booking forms and excursion consent forms are included. These need to be completed and returned to secure your child a place at Vacation Care. When booking, please make sure there is a parent signature on the booking form or the booking will not be accepted.

This year when a child is booked into Vacation Care, you will receive one of two confirmation notes. Either one that says your child is booked into all days requested or one that says they are booked into some but not all. Children will be placed on a waiting list for those days which are booked out. You will be notified and offered a position as soon as a cancellation is made. If you are not notified by OSHC your child CANNOT come to OSHC on that day. This includes excursion days. No staff are available to stay behind at OSHC to look after the waiting list children while the rest are on excursion. Please make sure your booking is confirmed before bringing your child to Vacation Care. Thank you.

Premiers Reading Challenge
In the last newsletter you would have found a fill-in form to complete for the Premiers Reading Challenge. If your child wishes to participate, please return the fill-in form ASAP, so Mrs Street can send home a reading record sheet.

This program is an initiative of the State Government to encourage students to read more and experience new things through reading. Students who wish to participate are required to read from a PRC booklist as well as some books of their own choice. Students are able to visit the school library and receive assistance in choosing appropriate books.

Camp Fees
It would be appreciated if all camp fees are paid before your child leaves for their camp this term. Thank you for your cooperation.

Book Club
The latest Book Club catalogues have been enclosed. All orders need to be returned to school by next Thursday, March 20. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to Prescott Primary Southern, not Scholastic. If paying by credit card, please follow the instructions on the coupon on the back page of the catalogue. Thank you for your support.

Please note: The next newsletter will be distributed in Week 10. This will be the last one for the term.

EdAlive Computer Software Offer
In the last newsletter there were leaflets about the Last Ever $10 Community Software Plan (CSP) from EdAlive. Visit www.edalive.com for demos. The closing date for orders is TOMORROW, March 14. Our school will receive a free software licence and other EdAlive product offers due to the parent support of this program.

FUNDRAISING

Spring Bulbs
Just a reminder that all orders for the Spring Bulbs must be returned by next Thursday, March 20. There is a prize basket for the 2 families who raise the most money, so get your orders in.

5c Refundables
Keep collecting your 5c refundable bottles, cans, cartons etc. and leave them in the orange bin at the rear of the office. Please remember to remove lids from bottles before placing them in the bin.

Entertainment Books
Enclosed is a flyer with an offer to purchase an Entertainment Book. The books have many great offers and discounts and only costs $65 and you will be helping our fundraising program at the same time. If you are interested in purchasing one of these books, please complete the section on the bottom of the flyer and return to school.

Mothers Day Donations
Thank you to those who have already donated items for the upcoming Mothers Day stall. If you have anything that you could donate, please leave it at the front office before the end of term.
Mrs Janine Buckley has joined our staff as the Reception teacher for Fridays, as well as some relief teaching. She is also a school mum with two children, Yasmin and Henry, attending the school.

You may guess from her accent that Janine was not born in Australia. In fact she was born in Rhyl, North Wales and grew up in a small village called Gresford. She attended All Saints school in Gresford. Janine says that she loved school and especially remembers the pretend wedding they had in Reception class, the fun at concert times and the many friends she made.

Janine once had ambitions of becoming a Crime Investigator, before becoming a teacher. Other jobs she has had include Commercial Banker, Stockbroker and Fraud Specialist. Among her interests she lists netball, tennis, shopping and playing with her kids.

Her favourite colour is red and her favourite food is pasta. Janine says, “I love living in Australia and find all the people here really friendly and helpful. Thanks!” We are happy to welcome her to the Prescott team.

**Who’s the King of the Jungle?**

Kid’s Church, this Saturday at Morphett Vale Church starting at 11.30am

All kids are invited to come to church and enjoy a special program just for them with drama, music, animals fun facts and there will be a storytime for adults. So you can bring your parents along too.

Don’t miss out on the fun! See you there!

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Child & Adolescent Sleep Clinic**

Does your child have a sleep problem? The Child & Adolescent Sleep Clinic in the School of Psychology at Flinders University is providing treatment for children and adolescents (aged 7 to 18 years) who are experiencing at least one of the following:

- having trouble falling asleep
- waking up and cannot get back to sleep
- having trouble waking up or getting out of bed in the morning
- often sleeping in parent’s bed or bedroom

For more information please call 8210 7587.

**Wirreanda High School**

**Specialist Sport Course Info Night**

*Tuesday, April 1*

The school would like to invite interested students in Year 5-7 and their parents to attend an information evening in the school’s new gymnasium. Come and see the rock climbing wall, 3 volleyball courts, 7 badminton courts and a full size basketball court. There will be practical demonstrations of some specialist sports. An information package, which will contain an enrolment form, will be available on the night. For further information please call the Sports Office on 8329 7230.

**Free Mediation Services**

Community Mediation Services provide free, no obligation and confidential assistance to all residents throughout the metropolitan areas of Adelaide to resolve neighbourhood disputes without the need for legal action. Disputes include a wide range of issues such as fences, trees, animals, noise etc. Our staff are highly skilled, qualified mediators with extensive experience in the field of mediation. Office hours are 9am-5pm, after hours appointments can be arranged. To make an appointment or for further information phone 8384 5222 or 8350 0376 or visit www.scjc.com.au.

**KidsAreFirst Program by Anglicare**

Banana Splitz Groups—Join us for fun, food and laughter. For kids living with parental separation. Children’s group sessions run in the Adelaide Metropolitan area. Cost is $10 per child. For further information please call Felicity on 8301 4200.
WORLD MATHS DAY
Some parents may have been surprised recently when their child came home and couldn’t wait to do homework! In fact our school participated in the World Maths Day challenge which involves students from all over the world playing against each other in real-time battles of mental arithmetic. Students have 60 seconds to answer as many mental arithmetic questions as possible, but 3 mistakes and you’re out!

Here’s what some of the students had to say about this event:
“ I really loved World Maths Day. It was the best ever! I thought … more maths! But when you got on it, it was fun.”  Alesha Brown

“I didn’t mind World Maths Day, it was kind of fun. I enjoyed doing that more than normal maths. It was fun to go online and compete against other people from different schools and countries. I got over 500 correct answers.”  Madeleine Caines

“I liked World Maths Day heaps. It was so much fun and we were also getting an education as well as having fun!”  Austin Smith

“I think World Maths Day was great! It was fun (and I beat someone from China). It was a great experience.”  Melanie Clark

“I found out that Chinese people are good at maths!”  Toby Ackland

“It made maths fun and I achieved a lot by going on the site for about 2 hours. It was quite a long time but I enjoyed it.”  Ashley Montero

“I loved World Maths Day because it is a really good way to learn (and practice) maths. Another reason is you learn lots more than just addition. You also learn multiplication, subtraction and division and this is why I love World Maths Day, so I think everyone should try it.”  Tiah Smith

A message from the organisers:
Many thanks for participating in World Maths Day 2008. It was an outstanding achievement from students from 164 countries to correctly answer 182,455,169 questions during the event and set a new World Record. Students showed an average improvement of over 30% in mental arithmetic speed.

Over the 48 hours of the event, we had 5,172,844 sign ins. Unfortunately, this overloaded the system, and not everyone was able to participate. We apologise for this, and have therefore extended access to the World Maths Day website until Sunday, 16 March. Your students can sign back in using your existing passwords.

YOUNG LEADERS DAY
Each year students in Year 7 are given the opportunity to attend The National Young Leaders Day program and hear presentations from various community leaders. The purpose is to have a positive impact in the lives of student leaders so they in turn will be more able to make a positive impact in the lives of their fellow students and whole school community. Some comments from among those students who attended:
“ The Leadership day was exciting and interesting in the way that we got to listen to lots of leaders including Mike Martin and Jane Reilly. All the speakers were very motivational and the Leadership day taught me a lot of things.”  Daniel Makary

“I enjoyed Young Leaders Day because I enjoyed the speakers and they showed me how to be a leader. I learned that leadership isn’t just about leading, it is respecting others and listening to them.”  Nicole Klinck

“Leadership Day was a great way to learn how to be a more efficient leader.”  Tyson Brennan

“Leadership Day was a very inspiring day. My favourite speaker was Natalie Cook, she is a beach volleyball Olympian. Thanks to Mrs Meyles and Mr Thomas for taking us to Leaders Day.”

Contact Details
Prescott Primary Southern
140 Pimpala Road, Morphett Vale, SA 5162
Phone: (08) 8381 4290 Fax: (08) 8387 3170
Email: office@prescottsouthern.sa.edu.au
Newsletter online: www.prescottsouthern.sa.edu.au
Newsletter Editor: Mitsy Bullas, please direct all enquiries to the editor.