Tuesday was a great day with the children bringing their coins to make coin lines in the quadrangle with all proceeds going to the victims of the Victorian bushfires. Due to the world of technology it is very difficult to hide the reality of disaster from children, yet we are also aware that for some children it becomes quite distressing as they feel quite helpless in being able to help those in need. Michael Grose, a leading expert in parent education suggests that when children are confronted with the reality of disasters we need to help children find a legitimate course of action. “Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, …can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.” It was great to the see the children actively involved and we trust it has assisted them in dealing with the events of the past few weeks.

Next Tuesday the staff will be running a sausage sizzle with the proceeds to assist the Pascoe family, who have tragically lost their house in a fire. Staff will be giving up their lunchtime to cook for the children. We would appreciate your support on the day. Children will not need to place an order before the day, but just bring the money on the day and give to their classroom teachers.

Making a contribution is a value we wish to teach our children and it is important for us as adults to give children the opportunity to contribute in as many aspects of their lives as they can. It is a learning process as children develop the skills to make ongoing input into the lives of their family. At school we also encourage a growth in independence as children move through the grades so that by the time the children finish the primary school years they have developed responsibility for their learning. A handout in today’s newsletter gives some tips on helping children make a contribution to the family.

Christ encourages all of us to make a contribution to the world. No matter what our skills we can use them for the good of others. I trust God will be with each of you as you focus on your talents and support your children in developing a positive attitude in taking responsibility and contributing towards their families and learning.

Have a great week

Christine Clark
**COMING EVENTS**

**Clean Up Australia Day**
Just a reminder that students will be participating in the Clean Up Australia Day campaign TOMORROW 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.

**Pupil Free Day—Friday, March 6**
Please note that Friday, March 6 will be a Pupil Free Day. OSHC will be operating and bookings are essential. And don’t forget that the following Monday, March 9 is a public holiday—extra long weekend!

**FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE**

**Book Club**
The next Book Club catalogues have arrived and are enclosed with this newsletter. 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 (follow the instructions on the coupon on the back page). All orders must be returned no later than **Friday, March 13**. Thank you for your support.

**Volunteers Cinema Day 2009**
Each year the City of Onkaparinga host a cinema day for volunteers who contribute their time to their communities. This year the cinema day will be held on Monday, May 11 at Wallis Noarlunga Cinemas. Movies will be screened at 10.00am, 12.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm & 8.30pm.

If you regularly volunteer and would like to take advantage of this offer (one free ticket per volunteer only), please leave a message at the front office with your name and preferred session time. Requests for ticket must be received by **Monday, March 2**.

**Attention Grades 5—7**
Enclosed you will find the consent form and information for your Mt Gambier camp. The consent form must be returned by the end of next week, **Thursday March 5**.

**Student Achievement**
Congratulations to Karan Sabharwal in Classroom 5. He has earned the right to compete in the Junior Swimming Sprints State Finals. This competition will be held on March 28 at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre. Good luck for the finals, Karan, and we look forward to hearing how you went.

**Bushfire Appeal Money Raised**

**Student Helping Hands Activity**
Congratulations everyone—as a result of the Coin Line donations that were brought in on Tuesday, we were able to raise $700 for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. Classroom 5 were the winners with the longest line of coins, but only just! What a fantastic effort.

**Sausage Sizzle Lunch Tuesday, March 3**

**Teachers Helping Hands Activity**
Next Tuesday, the teachers will be cooking a sausage sizzle for lunch. Students will be able to purchase a sausage in bread for $1.50. There won’t be order forms, as we usually have, the students just order in the morning with their classroom teacher. All proceeds will go to assist the Pascoe family.

**FUNDRAISING**

**Spring Bulbs**
Thank you to those who have already returned orders for the Spring Bulb fundraiser. Don’t miss your opportunity to have a beautiful garden in spring and share this opportunity with your family and friends. There is a prize basket for the 2 families who raise the most money. All orders and money must be returned to school no later than Friday, March 13.

**5c Refundables**
Please keep collecting your 5c refundable bottles, cans, cartons etc and leave them in the orange bin at the rear of the office. Please be sure to remove the lids from any bottles before placing them in the bin. Thank you.

**Mothers Day Donations**
We are planning to have our annual Mothers Day Stall again this year. If you have any items that you could donate, that would be suitable to sell at the Mothers Day Stall, please leave them at the front office before the end of term. Thank you.
**The Education Tax Refund—Get 50% back**

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to $750 for primary students and $1500 for secondary students. This means you could receive a refund each year of up to $375 for each primary and $750 for each secondary school student in your care.

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- Veterans Children Education Scheme
- A scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- An Australian Postgraduate Award

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- Laptops, home computers and associated costs—e.g. internet and paper
- Educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- Stationery and art supplies
- School textbooks and associated learning materials
- Trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade course

Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009. Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim. If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

**STAFF PROFILE**

We would like to welcome Miss Candace Ace to the Prescott Southern team. You will find her with the Year 5/6’s in Classroom 7. Miss Ace was born in Coffs Harbour, NSW but grew up on the beautiful Sunshine Coast in Queensland. She attended the Burnside State Primary School and she has two very distinct memories—one good and one not-so-good. She has fond memories of her Year 7 teacher and some really funny skipping games at lunchtime as well as handball. Her worst memory is of a swarm of wasps that flew down the back of her uniform and stung all of her back.

During the early years of high school she had aspirations of being a marine biologist so she could swim with the dolphins. But later decided to become a teacher. Too bad for the dolphins, but lucky for us!

Her favourite colour is green. Favourite food is chocolate and favourite fruit is mango (of course, a Queenslander would say that!). Other jobs that Miss Ace has had include working at Gloria Jeans, Avondale College cafeteria and as a waitress. She lists her interests as reading, going to the beach, shopping and spending time with friends.

Welcome to South Australia and we trust you will enjoy your time with us at Prescott Southern.

“Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated; you can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.”

David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Morphett Vale Church
Seminar, March 14
Topic—Anxiety, Worry, Fear & Panic
On Saturday, March 14 the Morphett Vale Adventist Church is sponsoring a seminar on Anxiety with a special guest speaker. There are 3 sessions between 10.00am and 3.30pm with lunch provided. Please see enclosed flyer for details.

Woodcroft Children’s Centre Open Day
Sunday, March 1 from 2.00—4.00pm
If you have a child nearing Kindy age and would like some information please come along and have a chat to us. Staff will be in attendance to answer your questions and show you around our centre.

Feel Good Fitness Program
The Seaford Recreation Centre has expanded its fitness initiatives to incorporate exercise programs specifically for children & adolescents. “Feel Good” is a fitness program providing 12-16 year-olds access to our fitness centre through a safe, fully supervised program. Feel Good operates on Monday between 4.15-5.00pm. For further information please contact Chris Dimond on 8327 1555.

South Australian Rugby League
Stars from the National Rugby League Cronulla Sharks will be at a special clinic where students who attend will receive a free promotional football, a free pass to the upcoming NRL Sharks v North Qld game at Hindmarsh Stadium plus free coaching. Anyone who signs up will also receive a free International football as well.
Details on the Have a Look at Rugby League Clinic are as follows:
Date: Monday, March 2
Time: 5.00-6.30pm
Venue: Hackham Sports and Social Club, Doctors Road, Hackham
For more information contact Wayne Sellars on 0419 853 601.

Gifted & Talented Children’s Association
A Parent Evening is to be held on Monday, March 23 from 7.30—9.30pm at the Bradley Forum, Hawke Building, UniSA City West Campus. The speaker will be Francoys Gagne, Professor of Psychology, University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada. Come and listen to Francoys Gagne discuss why parents should learn the art of advocacy. Find out the relevant nature/nurture information you need to defend your child’s special needs. For more information contact Wendy Stewart on 8365 4800 or visit www.gtcasa.asn.au.

Does your child experience anxiety or stress?
The Flinders University Psychology Clinic provides treatment for children and adolescents who are experiencing anxiety or stress. We also offer assessment and treatment of behaviour problems in children. For more information please call 8210 2311 or refer to our website: www.socsci.flinders.edu.au/psych-clinic.

URGENT IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Today we received the shocking news that the Pascoe family’s home burnt down during the night. This means that they have lost everything. We would like to support them in every way possible at this time and are asking if anyone has some clothes, toys, books or anything they would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Children’s clothes in Size 6 Boys and Size 10/12 Girls would be most useful. Anything that you would like to share can be left at Student Reception and it will be passed on to them. Your generous support is appreciated.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Kristina, Jake and their family at this time and we trust that we can be of support through this difficult experience. Don’t forget to support the Sausage Sizzle lunch next Tuesday, March 3 with proceeds to assist the Pascoe family.