As parents and teachers we are concerned with ensuring that each child achieves to their maximum potential as they grow to become adults who believe in their own ability and make a difference for society. Empowering young children to have a belief in themselves and their ability, combined with the need to temper this with realistic perceptions can often be a challenging task. Yet we persevere because our kids count!

The Every Child Is Important Program run by the Australian Childhood Foundation is a website that offers easy to understand parenting information that supports parents to build positive relationships and communication with their children. This is one of the most important steps we can make as adults to our children. The program is run with the support of the Australian Government and can be accessed through www.kidscount.com.au. This website is easy to use. You are able to read and in some cases view from a list of interesting parenting topics; a few being, Understanding children's experiences, Every child is different, Shaping children’s behaviour and Responding to children. The more we can understand our children, the more we can help them grow and develop to their full potential.

As a school the physical health of all our children is also of most importance. Since the first outbreak of swine flu in South Australia the school has received continuous updates from the Government of South Australia relating to the swine flu. We are following closely the guidelines given to us by the health department. Please read the information below carefully and we request that all families follow the government's guidelines. If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to call the school.

Kind Regards
Michelle Meyles

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN RELATION TO THE POSSIBLILITY OF HUMAN SWINE INFLUENZA (H1N1)

Over the weekend (24/25 May 2009) the National Pandemic Emergency Committee advised further measures to help contain the possible spread of the virus within Australia.

1. Any staff or student presenting with flu like symptoms are expected to be kept away from school. Definition for suspected Human Swine Influenza is ‘a person with an acute febrile (a temperature of 38C or above) respiratory illness; the symptoms of which are fever, coughing and/or shortness of breath.’

2. As a school we are encouraging our children to take extra care with their hygiene practices. As parents if you could encourage the same practices of washing hands frequently, covering their noses and mouth with coughing or sneezing and washing hands afterwards this would be great.

3. If concerned you should consult your GP about the advisability of having a seasonal influenza vaccination.

4. South Australian schools, preschools and childcare centres are now asked to request that children returning or arriving from overseas locations where H1N1 is widespread stay home for seven days. This applies whether or not the child has any illness or symptoms.

The List of countries of concern can be found on the Department of Health and Aging website –www.healthemergency.gov.au. As of today, the list of countries includes Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan and Panama.

Decisions about the need to close any education sites is made in consultation with the South Australian health authorities and you will be advised of this as soon as possible if this should occur at Prescott Southern.

As parents if you need any particular advice you may contact the school or call the National Swine Influenza hotline on 1802007.
COMING EVENTS

New Receptions
Tomorrow you will see a group of very excited 5 year olds who are starting school for the first time in our new Reception class. They will be meeting in the Library. We welcome them and their families to Prescott. There will be a morning tea in the Staff Room for the new parents.

Pupil Free Day
Please note that Friday of next week, June 5, is a Pupil Free Day. OSHC will be operating, but bookings are essential.

Science Week
Science Week is coming up in Week 9. How are you going with your science projects? These are due on Monday, June 22, so get your thinking caps on! Don’t forget to start designing your costume for the Costume Parade on Thursday, June 25 at 11.00am. Also if you are planning to attend the Family Science Quiz Night on Thursday, June 25, please complete and return the registration form. Good luck to everyone!

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Book Club
The latest Book Club catalogues are enclosed. All orders and payment must be returned to school no later than Tuesday, June 9. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. Cheques are to be made payable to Prescott Primary Southern not Scholastic. Credit card payments are made direct to Scholastic, please follow the instructions on the back page.

Stationery for Fiji
We have had a great response to our Stationery Drive for our sister school in Fiji. Please keep your donations coming, so we can send a fantastic supply to the children in Fiji. Suitable items include coloured pens & pencils, textas, coloured card & paper, chalk, stickers, etc. Thank you for your support.

Vacation Care
The Vacation Care program for the next school holidays is enclosed. Bookings are essential, so please complete the booking form and any relevant excursion consent forms and return to school ASAP. Places fill fast so get your bookings in now.

FUNDRAISING

Entertainment Books
To those parents who have yet to return their Entertainment Book or the money, please do so immediately. Thank you to all those who have supported this fundraiser. Once all payments and books have been returned we will then be able to let you know how much we were able to raise.

Newspaper Recycling
Each family will be given a black tote bag to bring your old newspapers to school to place in the collection bins. These are located at the back of Classroom 8. Rather than placing your used newspapers in the bin at home, just place these papers in the bag and bring the full bag to school. All funds raised go directly to the school. See enclosed flyer for a list of which paper is suitable. Thank you for helping us with this project.

10c Recyclables
Also, don’t forget to keep bringing in your 10c refundable cans, bottles and cartons. Place them in the orange bin near the Staff Room door. Please remove lids from bottles before placing them into the bin. Thank you.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Watoto Children’s Choir
This choir of 18 Ugandan children rescued from a destitute life sing and dance as they perform a live concert of hope. Come and be truly amazed by Watoto’s children at Edge Church South, Old South Road, Reynella on Saturday, June 6 at 7.00pm. Admission is free.

Wirreanda High School
Tours of the school will be conducted on Tuesday, June 2 and Thursday, June 4 from 9.15—10.45am. Following the tour parents and caregivers will have the opportunity to join the Principal for morning tea. To book a place in one of the tours please contact Sue Bogumil on 8329 7259.

Government House Open Day
Sunday, May 31 from 10.00am—4.00pm
Entry is free. Come and see specially set up displays and memorabilia of historic significance. See the State dining table set with silver and crystal. Art works will be on loan from the State Gallery. Garden tours will be provided. For more information, please call 8203 0988.
WORLD VISION GLOBAL LEADERSHIP DAY

“On 25th May, Rachel Richardson, Maddie Caines, Karan Sabharwal and I, Tyler Franklin, went to Global Leadership Day with Lili. We heard people’s stories and saw them in photos too. We did some activities. First we had a quiz about knowledge, next about personalities and then we had a hard activity. We made bags out of newspaper to get corn but some of us got ‘diseases’ and we couldn’t work. It was fun but also sad because other people actually do this for a living. After that we played a game then we had to make posters about leadership saying what makes a good leader. After that we said thanks to the people who ran it and then got in the car and drove back to school, after stopping at McDonalds! It was a memorable day I will hopefully never forget.” by Tyler

On Monday, May 25 we went to school at 7.30am to go to AAMI Stadium. Lili took us there in her little blue car. When we arrived we registered and all got different stickers. The colours were Red, Blue and Green. At the beginning the Red people got treated the best, Blues were the average people in the world and Green were the worthless. After morning tea we had a long speech then an activity that involved making paper bags and getting corn. Once we had finished we heard a speech from Alex who was from Kenya. After lunch another speech from a girl who had gone overseas and helped people. We all got badges and keyrings. On the way home Lili got us McDonalds. YAY! It was a really good day.” by Rachel

“We got there and were separated into groups—Red, Green & Blue. Red represented the rich people of the world. They sat on posh tables and got juice and donuts. Blue represented the average people of the world. They sat on chairs. Green represented the poor people. They sat on the floor. Red was treated really good, Blue was treated OK and Green was treated badly.

I swapped from Blue to Green because I felt bad. While we were in those groups they made up a leadership test. Red got advantages in the test. Blue had normal testing conditions. Green were disadvantaged. Then we had morning tea and were told why we were separated into those groups. We were then all treated equally.” by Maddie

“After we found out that the groupings were just an exercise, Alex the special guest for Kenya decided it was a time for a chat. He explained that his life was hard. Whenever the livestock had eaten all the grass Alex and his family had to go to a new patch of land and rebuild. He only had two glasses of milk a day and that was all he lived on. During Alex’s adulthood he was offered a job as an intern for World Vision, that changed his life. He had decided to help people in his district and to educate children all through Australia. After his story it was time for a little ‘Question & Answer’. It was then lunchtime and we ate it in the Grand Stands, then we finished off the quiz to get our badges.” by Karan
The Wednesday Lunchtime Knitting club has been popular, with a large group of students (both boys and girls) participating. The children have made great progress in learning the skill of knitting. Their enthusiasm in being part of this program is exciting to see.

Thank you for the donations of wool and needles but we could always use more. The wool is to be 8ply and needles Size 8 (4mm). This can be left with the Classroom teacher or at Student Reception.

If you would like to join our efforts then you are most welcome to knit (plain stitch) 25cm x 25cm squares. If you would like to assist teaching children to knit then contact the office for details. The finished articles will be sent to orphan children in other countries.