From the Principal...

Making a Difference..
This term our theme for the school is “Plug In . . . and Power Up” - Making Good Choices and children have been encouraged to think about the way they can make good choices for themselves and the people and world around them.

This Friday as a group the Primary school students will be doing their bit to make a difference in the local area by participating in Clean Up Australia Schools Day. Each year thousands of children across Australia participate in Schools Clean Up Day to create a healthier environment for Australia. As part of that process often children will chart the rubbish collected and make a tally of the items we collected as a school. We have a number of areas around our school which are public places, which we can clean up. As a school we wish to support the children in making good choices about rubbish disposal and Clean Up Australia Schools Day is one way for them to see for themselves the impact of careless rubbish disposal on the environment.

Being on Time…it does matter
As we have settled in to the school year we would like to remind families of the importance of being at school on time in the mornings. The school day begins at 8.45am and we would like all children to be on the premises and ready to enter class at this time. It is important for children to get in the habit of being prompt…and coming to school on time is a good way to begin learning this important behaviour.

Building Works Update
The second building for the Middle School has been completed. There is still a few weeks wait on the pavers, but this will not present an issue with the use of the classrooms. Students will move into the second building on Friday afternoon ready for classes from Monday.

A number of parents have asked if they are able to view the new buildings...which parents are most welcome to do at the beginning or end of school over the next couple of weeks. I am sure the Middle School students would be happy to show you around.

In Concluding:
We read in Luke 12:6 “Are not two sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?” In Christ’s day two sparrows were worth one farthing and for two farthings one could buy five sparrows. In short a sparrow was an almost worthless creature. Yet God’s love is big enough to include even the sparrow. Are we sometimes tempted to think that God’s love just couldn’t be big enough for us? “Fear not we are of more value than sparrows” Luke 12:7.

Christine Clark
Pupil Free Day
Please remember that Friday, March 9 will be a Pupil Free Day. OSHC will be operating, but bookings are essential. This will make it an extra long weekend as the following Monday (March 12) is the Adelaide Cup Public Holiday.

School Photos
Wednesday, March 21
This year school photos are being taken in Week 8 of this term in summer uniform. If your boys have the blue shirts, it would appreciated if they could wear those and not the old white shirts.

A photo envelope for each child is being sent home in their homework bags. If you wish to purchase school photos, please complete the envelope and return to school (with payment enclosed) by Friday, March 16.

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 as no change is given) or by cheque (made payable to Master School Portraits) or by credit card (credit card payment slips are available at the front office). Payment for all 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 16. Students need to be dressed in clean and correct summer uniform. For those participating in After School Sports, don’t forget to wear your summer uniform and bring your sports uniform to change into later. Thank you for your cooperation to ensure a smooth running photo day.

Reference Committees
Thank you to those people who have indicated they are willing to be on our Reference Committees for this year. Please note the following meeting dates:

- Property Development: 20th March, 7.30pm
- Gifted & Talented: 20th March, 7.30pm
- OHSW Committee: 22nd March, 9.00am
- Fundraising Committee: 27th March, 7.30pm
- OSHC Committee: 29th March, 9.00am
- Library Committee: 4th April, 8.45am

Premiers Reading Challenge
This program is an initiative of the State Govt to encourage students from Reception to Year 9 to read more and experience new things through reading. Why not visit the website at www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au for more information and to find the booklist. Students are required to read from a PRC booklist as well as some books of their own choice. Borrowing from the school library will be possible, but you are also encouraged to source books from others places as well such as public libraries.

If your child wishes to participate, please complete the enclosed form and return it ASAP to Mrs Street. Your child will then receive a student reading record. Please note that reading must end by September 7.

Safety Within the School
The safety of all students in the school is paramount to us and we ask that all parents follow the school procedures when they enter the school property. Between the hours of 8.45-9.15am we know a number of parents are working in the classrooms and listening to children read and also at the end of the day, from 3.00pm, we know that many families are going to classrooms to collect their children. However if you need to attend the school for whatever reason outside of these hours, you are required to sign in at the school front office. We ask parents to notify the office staff and sign the visitor’s book so we are aware you are on the property. This way we know you are at the school and can include you in our emergency plans should it be required. Thank you for working with us in this matter.

Commonwealth Bank School Banking Program
An exciting new Rewards Program has been designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular savings. Every time students make a deposit at school they receive a Dollarmites token which can be redeemed for a range of exciting reward items in recognition of their regular savings.

Our current volunteer is leaving so to keep the program we need another volunteer parent or grandparent to be the School Banking Coordinator. This only takes a small amount of your time one day a week. Your help with the program will greatly benefit students as they develop vital saving skills and also help our school with fundraising. If you can help, please leave a message at the front office indicating your availability. Thank you.
Volunteers
We appreciate the work of volunteers within the school and know that many things would not eventuate without your support. Please remember that all volunteers are required to obtain a police clearance prior to working within the school. If you need support in completing these forms please see staff at the front office who will be most happy to assist you with this.

Uniform Clarification
It is great to see students wearing the correct uniform. There are just a couple of points that need clarification. Children are required to wear ankle socks with their regular uniform, grey for boys and white for girls. However on Sports day Tuesday (Middle School) and Thursday (Primary School) students are able to wear anklet socks with their sports shoes. We would encourage children to wear proper sports shoes that support their feet rather than the canvas shoes that are readily available at the moment.

Request from Classroom 3
In a couple of weeks we are going to be making insect dioramas in Classroom 3. Does anyone have empty Smiths Chips boxes that we could use? (The multipack boxes with the 2 opening flaps on one side) Please send to Classroom 3. Thank you.

School Camps
Our School Camps this year for the Primary School are all scheduled in the one week. Therefore it is very important that you complete the necessary forms indicating whether your child will be attending school or not. Relief staff will only be employed for the numbers of children who have indicated they will be attending school. Thanks for assisting us in this area.

A number of parents have indicated their willingness to attend camps. Please note that only those parents with a police clearance will be permitted to attend camp. This is a significant policy that we as a school fully enforce with no exceptions being made.

Wakakirri—Message from Mrs Crowe
If your child is involved in Wakakirri, watch out for the Character Cast List that your child will be given. Please note that students are only required to be at rehearsal on their allocated week, which is determined by the part they are playing.

Student Achievement
Congratulations to Imogen Dwyer from Room 8 who recently auditioned for a position in the “LIL FLAVAS” Performance Dance Crew. It would appear that years of dance class and many hours of practice have paid off as Imogen has been offered a position. She will be travelling interstate for competitions, as well as participating in performances around Adelaide. Well done, Imogen.

Laptops
Children have been issued their laptops this week, and these are available for lease from the school for children in Year 7 & 8. You will find with this newsletter details of the agreement and costs involved if you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity. Please note this is not compulsory and children are able to work on their home computers and their laptop at school if this is your preferred option. All work will be saved through Mediasphere and so children will have access to their work no matter which computer they are working on provided it has internet access.

Swimming Carnival and Sports Day
Students in the Middle School will be joining Prescott College (Prospect) for their Swimming Carnival and Sports Day this year. Due to our smaller numbers we thought it would be positive for the students to participate in a combined event. The swimming carnival will be held on Wednesday, March 14 at Burnside Swimming Centre. The address is Corner of Greenhill Road and Howard Tce, Hazelwood Park. Parents are invited to attend. Children will be travelling to the venue by bus. Please find enclosed a consent form to be completed for your child to attend the Swimming Carnival.

The Sports Day will be held on Wednesday, May 9 at Santos Stadium.

As a school we will have our own recorders for the above events, so we are able to allocate our own awards at the close of the year for sports achievement.

Uniforms
Just letting parents know that the Middle School blazers and woollen jumpers are now available in the Uniform Shop. Sports Uniform will be available shortly. We will send SMS advising of availability and possible extra opening hours of the Uniform Shop. Thank you for your patience.
From the Chaplain...

A note from your friendly neighbourhood Chaplain
On Wednesday, I celebrated my ninth birthday. It wasn’t that long ago I was 7: that was a good time. We pioneered pancake making on one of those barbecues in parks, with the enormous hotplate and a hole in the centre. The first few pancakes were not high quality but we laughed a lot. That was the year I was given a canary – who remained completely silent for months. (I suspect our BBQ pancake antics offended him?)

The photo of me at my second birthday makes me laugh: my smile beams out over mum’s homemade cake, iced with my name in chocolate cream. I’m quite glad no permanent damage was done by the intensity of my excitement.

For those of you who don’t know, I was born on the 29th of February – a magical date in the calendar which mysteriously disappears for three out of four years. In regular years, I make the 28th my day and often stretch celebrations out for several days either side – just to make sure I don’t miss anything. But it’s really not quite the same as having the actual day.

I wonder if God is like the Leap Year. If the calendar can skip a whole day for three years, maybe it’s not that important after all? Maybe I can go without God in my life and be ok. How do you know the 29th of February is really there? Days are a measure of time that humans invented to organise themselves, right? Maybe God is another way humans have tried to organise their thoughts or emotions, but which can’t be really proved? When I say I’m 8 and three quarters (as I did in 2011), people give me a puzzled look, they laugh politely when I say I’m turning 9. Maybe God is a bit puzzling – because we can’t understand him or his ways.

But like the 29th of February, God keeps turning up: regularly and with a sense of the unexpected around him. I can’t explain how thrilling having a 29th is to me, just like I would struggle to put into clear words how thrilling it is knowing there is an all-powerful universe creator who loves me unconditionally. And he loves you too! There’s nothing quite like having the real thing – real true deep love. I hope you can come to know God’s love yourself! God bless your family!

Lili Panazzo, PCS Chaplain

PS. Email me on lpanazzo@prescottsouthern.sa.edu.au if you have questions or thoughts!

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 16.

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 Student Reception before the end of the term. Thank you.

Community Announcements...

Singing and Dancing Opportunities in 2012
The Australian Youth Choir and the Australian Youth Dance Theatre not only give young people the opportunity to develop their skills within the Performing arts under expert guidance, but the chance to make new friends and perform in exciting concerts. Out kids work as a team, develop life long friendships and have great fun. Visit our website to find out more about our programs www.niupaa.com.au.

Rugby League Come’n’Try
The local club South Adelaide rugby League and ARL Development are conducting a special clinic where students who attend will receive a free promotional pack including a free promo football plus free coaching. Anyone who signs up to play will also receive a free football. Details on the clinic:
Date: Wednesday, March 7
Time: 5.00-6.00pm
Venue: Hackham Sport & Social Club, Doctors Road, Hackham
For more information contact Wayne Sellars on 0419 853 601 at South Adelaide Junior Rugby League Club or check the website on www.sarugbyleague.com.au.