From the Principal

A great day was had yesterday at our Sports Day. It was wonderful to see family and friends supporting the children in their efforts. It can be a challenging day for some children who find physical activity difficult, or those who struggle with not winning their events. However it is only through continual exposure to these types of activities that children learn to lose gracefully and recognize that their best is all that is required of them as individuals. The day was well supported and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the many people who helped out in the various activities. A special thank you to our coordinators, Mrs Enid Street and Mrs Jacqui Goding and also to Mrs Meredith Dittrich for her coordination of the Canteen.

In Week 10 of the term you will have the opportunity to meet with your child’s class teacher to discuss their adjustment and progress in school in 2005. Change is often a challenge for both adults and children, and school is one of those places where each year children are exposed to various changes. As parents we can support our children in various ways, and it is always good to communicate with the classroom teacher to discuss any concerns that you may have. I trust that a number of you will be able to make yourselves available for interviews, especially if you feel concerns for your child’s adjustment to the new classroom.

As many of you are aware there have been some discussions in regards to the possibility of commencing secondary education at Prescott Southern in 2006. At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Australia), a decision was made not to go ahead with Year 8 for 2006. This decision was based on the need to further investigate funding options and policy requirements. We realize some of the Grade 7 families had been hoping for a positive outcome but it is important to be well-prepared prior to making the decision to embark upon such a change for our school.

Have a great week.

Christine Clark

Calendar of coming events

Monday, 21 March
Property Development Committee – 7.30pm

Wednesday, 23 March
Special Easter Assembly
9.00am in the Church

Friday, 25 March
Good Friday Holiday

Monday, 28 March
Easter Monday Holiday

Wednesday, 6 April
Parent Teacher Interviews
3.30 – 8.00pm

Monday, 11 April
School Council
7.30pm in Staff Room
COMING EVENTS

Endless Praise Concert
Just a reminder that you are invited to a free concert this Saturday night, March 19 at the Morphett Vale Adventist Church, commencing at 7.30pm. The concert will feature Endless Praise, one of Australia’s leading Christian vocal group. Supper will be served following the concert. Hope to see you there.

Special Easter Assembly
Easter is just around the corner. To celebrate the Easter story there will be a special Assembly held on Wednesday, 23 March in the Church at 9.00am. The Junior Choir will be presenting a special item “Ten Yummy Easter Eggs” and the Recorder Group will be presenting an item “Hot Cross Buns”. All parents and friends are invited to attend.

Parent Teacher Interviews
On Wednesday, 6 April (Week 10) parents have the opportunity to make an appointment for an interview with their child’s teacher to discuss their child’s progress. If you wish to make an appointment, please complete the enclosed form with your preferred time and return to school no later than Tuesday, 29 March. Every effort will be made to accommodate your preferred time request, however some timeslots are very popular! An appointment card will be enclosed in the next newsletter in Week 9.

School Council
The next meeting of the Prescott Primary Southern School Council will be held on Monday, 11 March at 7.30pm in the Staff Room.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Data Collection
Children in Grades 3, 5 & 7 will find enclosed a flyer and form that is needed to be completed as part of the Benchmarking Assessment Program that all schools are required to participate in. Please feel free to contact Christine Clark if you have any concerns regarding the forms.
Please note the deadline for these forms is April 1.

Premiers Reading Challenge
If your child still wishes to enter, please let Mrs Street know ASAP, and she will forward the list and student form.

Return of Readers
Thank you to those who have returned readers found at home. Almost 100 readers have been returned since the holidays. Please continue to return those found at home as it keeps the reading boxes stocked and encourages the children to value school property.

High School Proposal
As you may be aware, there has been considerable discussion regarding the possibility of commencing secondary education at Prescott Southern in 2006. At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of Seventh-day Adventist Schools in South Australia, a decision was made not to go ahead with Year 8 for 2006. This decision was based on the need to further investigate funding options and policy requirements. We will keep you informed of any progress when it comes to hand.

New Item on Lunch Order Menu
Just letting you know that a new item (suitable for vegetarians) is now available on the Lunch Order list: Vege Nuggets at 40c each.

Head Lice Information
The incidence of head lice is a problem seen in school communities at various times. The City of Onkaparinga have produced an information sheet which is available to the community to keep parents informed of ways to help reduce the incidence of head lice. This information sheet is enclosed and you are encouraged to take the time to view the information for use in your family.
You are reminded that it is school policy that girls with hair longer than shoulder length are asked to tie back (pony tails, plaits etc.) their hair to minimise contact between students. Thank you for your support of this prevention program.

Volunteers Cinema Day 2005
The City of Onkaparinga are once again hosting a Volunteer Cinema Day on Monday, May 9 at the Wallis Noarlunga Cinema Centre. Session times are 9.30am, 12.30pm, 4.00pm, 7.00pm or 9.00pm. Five different films will be screened at each session, details of which films yet to be advised.
If you regularly volunteer at the school and would like to take advantage of this offer, please leave a message at the front office with your name and preferred session time by next Thursday, 24 March. Your tickets will be forwarded to you in April.
FROM THE REFERENCE COMMITTEES

Library Reference Committee
Thanks to the initiative of Anne Clark – a great library volunteer – a decision has been made by the Prescott School Council to establish a Library Reference Committee. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact the front office.

Gifted & Talented Committee
For your information the members for this year are: Richard Forbes (Chair) Peter Thomas Valerie Caines Cathy Marchiori Beverley Bishop Michelle Meyles Deidre Le Maistre
If you have any suggestions or agenda items for future meetings, please feel free to contact one of these committee members.

Other Committees
Our other Reference Committees have been meeting over the past couple of weeks and we appreciate the time and commitment parents are giving to this aspect of school life. Just a reminder that the Property Development Committee meets this Monday evening, 21 March, at 7.30pm in the Staff Room.

SPORTS DAY
Many thanks to the great parents who volunteered their time to help with canteen and events. It was pleasing to have your services to make the day run smoothly.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Software Plan
Enclosed you will find an information leaflet about the 2005 Back to School Community Software Plan. The Plan includes the new “Typing Tournament”, a powerful typing tutor for all the family, and the new Ultimate Maths invader – the new generation, curriculum-based, motivational space attack maths game that drills number facts and tables from R-7 and beyond. There are also 17 other titles from top quality educational publishers. All titles are heavily discounted.

Please return your orders to school by Tuesday, 29 March (payment options are outlined in the leaflet – do not send cash). Further information and downloadable demos are available from www.edalive.com

Interested in Soccer?
Vacancies are available for interested players wishing to join a team at Reynella South.
Under 7’s (5-7yrs old) – 5 positions available. You do not need experience but need to be under 7 from 1st January. There is no training and each week we play at difference schools or the home ground which is Reynella South Primary. First 30 mins is training with the other school and then next 30 mins is a scratch match against them for fun.
Under 9 – 5 positions to fill
Under 11 – 3 positions to fill
Seniors – 2 positions to fill
Training is held once a week. First match starts 7th May. Shirts are supplied, need to supply blue soccer shorts (available from Sportscene Reynella), shin pads, soccer boots, water bottle. Fees will be sent out with other information closer to first match.
To register please phone Jenny on 8382 1368 or 0409 800 501 after 6.30pm before April 3. Positions will be filled on a first in first served basis.

Beachhouse for Rent
Holiday Beachhouse–Carrickalinga (Normanville) Modern 3 bedroom (sleeps 8) with all the comforts of home. 5 min walk to beach. Big screen TV/DVD/stereo, microwave/oven, 2 fridges, 6 burner BBQ & weber, table tennis, airconditioning & heating. Phone Michelle on 8381 2225 for further details, or to book weekends/school holidays etc.
**FUNDRAISING**
The Fundraising Committee have planned a program for 2005 and would ask you to keep a couple of dates free in your diary to support our major fundraising programs.

Please note the following:
- Mothers Day Stall: Week 1 of Term 2
- Family Portraits: Date to be confirmed
- Family Quiz Nite: June 25
- Fathers Day Stall: Week 6 of Term 3
- Grandparents Day/Art Sale: November 8

We will also have the usual lunches once a week in Terms 2 & 3 which will be organised by the various classroom teachers. We look forward to the support of the whole school to maximize the fundraising profits for these events.

Our goals for the year are additional readers for both Homework and Guided Reading and Hands on Maths Equipment for the classrooms. We know that they are very much essential tools to maximize the children’s learning and look forward to your support.

**Donations for Stall**
The fundraising committee are seeking donations of new items or sample products that would be suitable gifts to sell at the school’s Mother’s Day Stall in May. We would greatly appreciate any items being left at the front office to enable us to gift wrap.

**Gift Wrapping Helpers**
If you are able to spare some time on Monday, April 11 to assist the committee wrap and prepare gifts, please leave your name and phone number at the front office. Thank you.

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**KIDS GET ACTIVE**
On Sunday, March 13 several Prescott Primary Southern students joined kids of all ages to participate in the South Aussie Kids TRY-athlon sponsored by Sanitarium Health Foods. Kids (and their ‘supporters’) met at Brebner Drive, West Lakes to compete in a 100m swim, 2.9km cycle and a 0.5km run. Every child received a medal for their enthusiastic participation. Among those that competed were Alex and Daniel Hill, Rachel and Adam Ganczarczyk, Jake and Todd Holmesby and Theodore Fabijan. This is what Alex had to say, “It was really tough, but I got through it, even after having to get up at 6.15am.”