From the Principal

Next week will see the beginning of homework and morning reading for the students in the junior primary classes.

We appreciate the work of the many parents who give of their time to listen to children read on a regular basis. This will begin again next week, and if you have registered to volunteer for reading, your name will be given to the classroom teacher. All parents who wish to be involved with the school as volunteers need to participate in the volunteer training session and have a police clearance. Our first volunteer training session for this year will be held on Thursday morning March 1. If you are unable to attend this session, and would like to volunteer within the school, please notify me and we may be able to arrange some alternative training sessions.

As a school we do see homework as an important process in developing positive work habits and providing opportunity for drill and revision. However we also know that the demands of life mean that many families are struggling to find the time to spend quality time as a family unit and we would not want homework to get in the way of this. Consequently homework has been altered this year in order to accommodate the changing needs of families within the school. Reading and Spelling homework will be sent home each week as previously. However Maths and Language activities will be sent home for children in Grades 1-7 in a booklet and be kept at home for the term. Parents may then work with their children over the term and allocate the time they can manage based on their own family pressures. All answers are in the books, so parents can check off work with the child as they are completed. We trust this new system will assist families in managing the demands of life and at the same time give them the flexibility to decide on the amount of homework their child completes.

We look forward to meeting with you on the Parent Information Night next week. This will be an opportunity to meet with your classroom teacher as you learn about the routines and expectations for your child.

Have a great week

Christine Clark
COMING EVENTS

BBQ & Parent Info Night—Wed, February 21
Join the staff and other school families for a BBQ tea at 6.30pm. Please bring your own meat or savouries and a chair to sit on. The BBQ’s are provided along with bread, sauce, salads and plates. Drinks and Ice creams will be available for purchase from the Kids Canteen. Following this there will be a Parent Information Evening with the classroom teachers.
7.30pm—Classroom 1, 2, 4, 5, 10
8.00pm—Classroom 3, 6, 7, 11

Volunteer Training Session
A training session for those people who wish to volunteer their time at the school will be held on Thursday, March 1. This will commence at 9.00am in the Library. If you have previously completed this training it is not necessary to attend again. If you are unable to attend on this date, please leave a message at the front office. Another session will be held later in the year.

Clean Up Australia Day
The students will be involved in the Clean Up Australia Day campaign on Friday, March 2 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.

Sports Day
Our annual Sports Day will be held on Thursday, March 22 at the Bowker Street Oval, Brighton. Parents who are able are encouraged to come along and be part of their children’s sport activities.
To make Sports Day a success we need parent helpers between 10.30am and 12.30pm on the day. It would be good to have enough volunteers to allow those at events to take a break to see their own child participating. If you are willing to be part of the team, please fill in the enclosed form. We also need volunteers to help cook the sausage sizzle for lunch time. Please see fill-in form.

All parents please complete the section regarding travel arrangements so we know how many children will need to travel by bus. We appreciate the involvement of parents and your willingness to help make it a great day.

In preparation for Sports Day we will be measuring each child’s weight and height. If any parent has a problem with this, please see your child’s classroom teacher.

FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Fill-in Forms
Thank you to those parents who have returned their completed fill-in forms. It is important that we have this information ASAP. There are still a few families who have not returned their forms, if you could do so immediately it would be greatly appreciated.

School Card Application Forms
If you qualify for School Card, please ensure that you have completed the relevant form and return it to the front office ASAP. Thank you.

After School Sports
For those students who are participating in the After School Sports programs, you are allowed to wear sports uniform to school for that day.

Drop Off & Pick Up Times
Parents are reminded that children are not to be dropped off at school before 8.30am. A staff member will be on duty from 8.30am. Children are to be dropped off at OSHC if they arrive before 8.30am. In the afternoons, children who have not been collected from the waiting tree by 3.45pm will be taken to OSHC, and need to be collected from there. Thank you for your cooperation.

Late to School Procedures
Thank you for your cooperation in signing in at the front office if your child is late or is out of uniform. This has greatly assisted us in monitoring these areas of our school operation.
It is great to see most children are adhering to our uniform code of dress and anticipate that all children will have the required items within a short space of time.

Brain Food
Just a reminder to send along fresh fruit and vegetables and/or slices/sticks of cheese for your child’s brain food time. Children eat these foods in the classroom and often when they are continuing to work, so it is important that the foods are easy to handle and only require minimum preparation by the teacher. Thanks for your cooperation in this, especially in not sending along pre-packaged foods e.g. Le snack cheese and biscuits or fruit in syrup. The children are welcome to have these types of items for their lunch or afternoon recess.
Canteen Price List
Please note that there is a new Canteen Price List enclosed. There have been a couple of changes, so please make sure you use this bright yellow list when ordering your lunch. Thank you.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Sale
If you are interesting in a guitar footstool for only $10, please call Michelle on 8381 2225.

Seaford Recreation Centre
Monday: Junior Netball, Ladies Evening Netball, Men’s 5-a-side Soccer
Tuesday: Casual Badminton
Wednesday: Junior Basketball, Women’s 5-a-side Soccer, Men’s 7-a-side Soccer
Thursday: Junior Volleyball
Friday: Junior Soccer
Sunday: Men’s 7-a-side Soccer
New mixed Netball. Also gym and fitness classes. We are always looking for junior & senior umpires. For further information phone 8327 1555.

Babysitter Available
A former Prescott Southern student, who has now left school, is available for babysitting. Has experience with school aged children. References available. $8.00 per hour, available most nights and weekends. Please phone Janelle on 0403 329 066.

Uniforms for Kenya
Thank you to those who have given their old style summer dresses to send to the orphanage in Kenya. It is still not too late to donate your old uniforms. If you have any that are suitable, please leave them at the front office marked “Uniforms for Kenya” by next Friday, February 23. Thank you.

Baby News
Just letting you know that our Room 6 teacher from last year, Bradley Thwaites and his wife, Peggy are now the proud parents of a baby girl. She was born on February 1st, weighing in at 8lb 90z. Her name is Caitlyn Rose, a sister for Nathan.

Also, Mrs Newbold has announced that she and her husband are expecting a baby in August. She will still be around until the middle of the year.

STAFF PROFILE
This year we have welcomed 5 new teachers to the Prescott Southern staff. To help you get to know them a little better we will feature a staff profile on each of them over the next few weeks. Today we introduce Mr David Warman.

Mr Warman has taken charge of Classroom 6. He is an Adelaide lad, born in Woodville and growing up mainly in Brighton. He attended Brighton and Tonsley Park Primary schools. One of his favourite memories of primary school is kicking 8 goals for his team, 4 of them check-side (for those sports enthusiasts among you!). He also participated in singing in the Festival Choir. Maybe he can give our choir some pointers!

When asked what his favourite colour is, his response was “the colour of a sunset”. His favourite foods include anything spicy. He lists among his interests sport, Shakespeare and sleeping (in that order!)

The journey to becoming a teacher has been a long one he says, with a wide variety of jobs along the way, but we are glad to have him as part of the Prescott team.

Dreams are not something to wait for, they are something to work for.
During January we were privileged to have the company of 12 children from Korea on a 3-week study tour. At first they were attending English classes in the Library, under the instruction of Mrs Nicole Newbold. Then they joined the regular classes of school for the remainder of their time here. Among some of the activities and sightseeing they enjoyed were a visit to Birdwood Motor Museum, Big Rocking Horse at Gumeracha, Urrumbilla Wildlife Sanctuary near Victor Harbour, Dundee’s Wildlife Park and Puzzle Park. The children thoroughly enjoyed their experience in Australia. Some of them even said they didn’t want to go home! They enjoyed trying Australian food, some favourites included lamingtons and tomato sauce! Many thanks to the host families who provided accommodation for these children in a friendly, family atmosphere. A special welcome to those Korean students who will be staying with us for this term or for the entire year.