**FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK**

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope everyone had a wonderful break over the Easter/Anzac Day Holiday and enjoyed the last of the Autumn weather.

As you can see from the draft Term 2 planner, the term is shaping up to be very busy for both students and staff.

We welcome a number of new students and their families to our school community. New Reception students are Mikayla Bellinger, Jasmine Cunneen, Grace Gubbin and Addison Swan. Also new to the Junior School are Cyprus Busbridge and Tyreece O’Loughlin-Gunter. Tuakan Wharerau and Freedom Hetaraka are new students to the Middle School.

As many of you know Katrina Hood, Junior School Manager, took ill towards the end of Term 1. During the holidays Katrina had surgery. She will be away all of this term. We wish Katrina all the best and a speedy recovery.

While on leave Mrs Wendy Starling will be picking up leadership work with the Junior School staff. Ms Mercedes Puyo will be back-filling teaching commitments. Ms Margaret Hart is on leave. Ms Carly Wilarowsky is taking her class for the term. We welcome her to the school community.

**NAPLAN**

As was advised in the end of Term 1 Newsletters, National Literacy and Numeracy Testing for students across Australia takes place for students in Years 3, 5, 7, & 9 next week. The tests are scheduled for the mornings of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with catch up sessions arranged throughout the week for students who may be absent. As a site the data that NAPLAN tests gives us is regarded as most important in our work with students and the development of strategies to best support them. We seek parent support in ensuring your child/children are at school and on time.

**3-WAY INTERVIEWS**

Middle and Senior School reports were sent home at the end of last term. As a follow up to reports many teachers have requested interviews with parents/caregivers. These are currently being arranged and a letter will be posted home early next week giving you an interview time. Please confirm your attendance so that adjustments can be made. Where possible we make every effort to put all family interviews on the one night. To get the most out of the interview, it is important for the student to attend as well. We seek parental support in this.

**ATTENDANCE and LATENESS**

In the last newsletter of Term 1 I wrote about the importance of daily attendance at school and the impact on learning over time. This term our focus is on improving both attendance and lateness. A number of strategies are being implemented to improve the data. One strategy is to publish the daily records of both lateness and attendance in the newsletter, as you can see in the table below. Regular and prompt communication with parents and caregivers will continue to occur, as is a requirement of DECS. The target is to have all students arrive on time daily, and reduce the number of students who are absent on a daily basis.

![Student Absentees Week 1 - Term 2 2011](image)

Monica Williams
SA PUBLIC TEACHING
AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the inaugural SA Public Teaching Awards.

Don’t miss your chance to nominate an outstanding education professional of the South Australian public education system.

The SA Public Teaching Awards aim to recognise and reward dedicated teachers, education leaders and support staff who have made an inspirational contribution to young South Australians.

To nominate a member of your school go to: www.decs.sa.gov.au/teacherawards

Nominations close 5.00 pm Friday 3 June 2011

For further information contact Virginia Barter on 8226 3079 or email virginia.barter@sa.gov.au

PARENTING CHILDREN
WITH ECZEMA

ARE YOU CHALLENGED BY YOUR CHILD’S ECZEMA?

The University of Queensland is conducting research into parenting children with eczema. Parenting a child with eczema presents many challenges (everything from the daily application of creams and avoiding eczema triggers, to more general parenting tasks). The aim of this study is to understand the factors that make the management of childhood eczema particularly difficult, and to use this information to develop strategies that might assist parents in managing their child’s eczema.

If you are a parent of a 3 to 10-year-old child with eczema, we would love to hear from you!

By sharing your experiences (confidentially), you will be making a valuable contribution to the development of much-needed childhood eczema management strategies for parents. Results of this study will be made available to all participants.

To complete the online survey, please log on to: http://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/eczema

For further information about the project or to request a survey to be posted to you, please email Katie Sillar (katie.sillar@uqconnect.edu.au) or phone Amy Mitchell (07 3365 7305) at the Parenting and Family Support Centre in the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD 4072 (Fax: 07 3365 6724).

Thank you for your time and participation.

Alina Morawska, Amy Mitchell and Katie Sillar
UQ Parenting and Family Support Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 29 April 2011

Council Supports Its Young Achievers

The Coorong District Council, at its April meeting, increased grant funding provisions for the youth community who are representatives at state, national or international level in any sporting or cultural related activities. Director Corporate & Community Nat Traeger said “Council is keen to recognize and encourage the achievements of the youth in the area with the provision of financial support.”

Nat said that “in reviewing its Individual Sport & Cultural Grants Policy, Council appreciated that there are significant cost implications for families whose children wished to pursue sporting or cultural activities at an elite level and that from time to time some financial assistance is required to enable further development of these opportunities.” The funding program is available to Coorong Council residents who are under 18 years of age, still attending school and are representing South Australia at State, National or International level in their chosen field.

Further details and full eligibility criteria are available by contacting Council or visiting www.coorong.sa.gov.au

Contact

Nat Traeger
Director Corporate & Community
8572 3611
0400 441 875
ntraeger@coorong.sa.gov.au