FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

It is hard to believe that we are now well and truly half way through Term 2 and approaching the end of Semester 1. The next few weeks are looking very busy with a whole range of events and of course student end of assessment responsibilities. Along with this the build up to the school production is in full swing with major cast members in Year 6 and 7 learning their lines and getting into character. Junior classes are learning their songs and the actions that accompany them, and props and sets are being prepared.

Some work began on the school Gym last holidays as has been communicated in newsletters. We are currently in negotiations between the builders and DECS with regard to the use of the Gym. In the meantime we have developed an alternative plan whereby we will use the Tailem Bend Hall. We are still hopeful that the school gym can be used, but will notify you with all alternative dates and arrangements as soon as this is resolved.

BELL CHANGES

Two bells will signal the end of lunch time. The first bell will sound at 1.40pm. This bell tells students it is time to stop play and get ready for class. This means that it is the time to go to the toilet, and get a drink as well as be ready for class to start when the next bell sounds at 1.45pm.

The reason for this change, is to make the afternoon session a more efficient and productive use of time. In addition the canteen will close at 1.30pm, so that students are not eating food late in the lunch break. All students are encouraged to order their lunches in the morning through the class lunch order process.

STUDENT FREE DAY

The District Director has approved Governing Councils endorsed application for a Student Free day on Friday 11th June. The purpose is to enable all teaching, support staff, bus drivers and relief teachers to complete an update of First Aid. This is a requirement of all teaching and support staff. Without this certificate, excursions, camps and sporting events cannot proceed. As with all courses the certificate only last for so long, and needs to be redone every three years. Red Cross will run this eight and a half hour session which will include training around Asthma and the use of an EpiPen.

PANADOL AND OTHER MEDICATIONS

It has come to our attention that several students are carrying Panadol/paracetamol in their school bags to use when needed. It is school policy that all student medication is to be kept at the front office, and when a student needs to take it, their parent will be notified for approval. Please support the school by ensuring that this happens.

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN went well last week as had been programmed. The results should be in schools by the end of October. These results provide valuable information that is used to inform the teaching and learning of Literacy and Numeracy across the school. The AEU action was not against the NAPLAN testing as such but the potential use of data through the “My Schools” website that could be translated into league tables. Due to the threat of industrial action, the Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard has agreed to review the web site and its use of data.
A school closure has been approved by DECS on Friday 11th June. This school closure is to allow all school staff to update their BELS First Aid training. This day coincides with the Queens Birthday Bank Holiday on Monday 14th June.

Healthy Drinks for Students

Energy and Caffeinated soft drinks have no place in our school. In a school setting “Energy” and ‘Caffeine’ drinks may lead to reduced or negative learning ability and concentration in the school setting and a reduced feeling of general well-being. These drinks can also be additive and cause anxiety and irritability and may lead to headaches and high blood pressure.

These drinks contain very high levels of sugar and are low in nutritional value and high in kilojoules. The healthiest drink of choice is water with nothing added to it. Plain water is the best way to rehydrate the body.

We ask parents to support us in this matter and encourage your child to choose a healthy drink option. Soft drinks are not to be brought to school.

German News

Liebe Eltern (Dear Parents),

We are continuing with some more useful number words.

sechs = 6
sieben = 7
acht = 8
neun = 9
zehn = 10
elf = 11
zwölf = 12

You can practise these by playing a game of dice with your child, using two dice at a time. The person who throws the dice says the combined number showing on the dice, eg:

‘Ich habe acht.’ (‘I have eight.’) ‘Du bist dran.’ (‘Your turn.’)

Viel Spaß!

Bis bald (See you later),

Veruschka Crichton

Brain Science for Families

www.changingbrains.com is a site with information on how parents and caregivers can support the learning of children, and the difference that simple activities, such as, talking and listening to children can make. It has a series of short videos, 2 – 12 minutes long, with some of the critical information scientists have learnt about the development of children’s brains and the way that experiences shape or build a child’s brain. The videos show both how a child’s brain may develop, and how this can be changed to increase a child’s life-long learning.

Photographic Competition

Congratulations Tim Eckert as multi award recipient at the National Emergency Management Volunteers Photographic Competition.

At the invitation of the Attorney General’s Department Tim attended an Awards Presentation at the High Court of Australia in Canberra on Monday 10th May.

Tim won the State/Territory Award for South Australia in the Secondary Student Category for his wonderful photo ‘Heroes of the Bush’. This Award was presented by Mr David Place, Chief Executive, South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission, with the Hon. Robert McClelland MP and Senator, the Hon. Ursula Stephens MP.

Tim was also the National Winner of the Secondary Student Category and was presented his Award by the federal Attorney-General, the Hon. Robert McClelland MP and Senator, the Hon. Ursula Stephens MP.

Tim took this photo at 11.30pm on New years Eve 2009. “This was the meeting and recovery place for the CFS that night after a fire had been started by a lightning strike and burnt 3,000 acres of land. there were roughly 20 trucks and over 100 CFS volunteers there.”

Well done Tim!

‘Heroes of the Bush’ Tim Eckert's Award Winning Photograph
CARNIVAL BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair last week was very popular with our students, raising quite a bit of excitement. It was rewarding to see children wanting books and choosing to spend their pocket money in this way, when there are so many other diversions. The sales raised $152 worth of free books for the school, which we spent on some Zac Power titles, some fabulous picture books, some more CLASH titles and Oceanology, one of several in a series of interactive books which have been very popular with students. Parents who did give feedback commented that the quality of the selection was high, and they were glad to see an absence of the “junk” novelty items present at other fairs.

BABY BOUNCE

Baby Bounce is held each Thursday and was attended by 8 mums and their 9 babies this week. Singing nursery rhymes and children’s songs is a great way for babies to learn language and rhythm. The mums also took advantage of the toy library, CD’s and DVD’s before they went home for a well earned rest, perhaps via a coffee venue.

Margaret Clarke, Librarian

FUTURE LEADERS CAMP - YR 10

Eleven Yr 10 students recently braved the elements to experience camping in the Adelaide Hills in May!

The Future Leaders camp, funded by Active 8 and run by Scouts & Guides, gave students the opportunity to meet other Active 8 participants from as far away as Whyalla and Keith, as well as many Adelaide schools.

After setting up camp we made a banner to identify our school and community which hung proudly in the largest pine tree on the site. Tea was made over an open coal fire and enjoyed by all!

Karaoke was the 3rd challenge in the evening but after a slow start the girls (and Richie) did a great job.

Friday was filled with cooperation and teamwork games and activities, putting some people a little out of their comfort zone at times.

The day was closed by celebrating the 10th and final Future Leaders Camp.

We would like to thank Margie Berlemon from Guides SA for her amazing commitment to Future Leaders and the Active 8 programme over the past 10 years.

Denice Mason (Active 8 Teacher)

MURRAYLANDS CAREERS EXPO

Yesterday students from Years 10 and 11 were given the opportunity to attend the Murraylands Careers Expo which for the first time was held at the Murray Bridge Racecourse.

The students, who were accompanied by teachers Denice Mason and Vic Woolston, used the day to gain information on careers they may be interested in pursuing.

Amy displaying her hair dressing skills on Hannah at the Murraylands Careers Expo