



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK....

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week very clearly demonstrated to me what a great team of Staff and Community Members we have here at Coober Pedy Area School. As you will read below, we had a very busy week with the Variety Club Bash group in town and the Race meeting over the weekend. It was a very affirmative demonstration of team work and community involvement.

RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE TESTING

The South Australian Health Medical Research Institute are conducting testing for Rheumatic Heart Disease as part of a research project. The team will be in Coober Pedy on Tuesday August 23rd and Wednesday August 24th. Notes seeking parental consent to take part in the screening have been sent home. This is a very important piece of research as some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in Australia continue to experience amongst the highest rates of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease (RHD) in the world. An RHD prevalence study has been conducted across northern Australia, but little is known about the rates of RHD in southern parts of Australia. The project aims to provide in-school screening for approximately 2000 South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 5 years and above. Screening is conducted using portable echocardiogram machines. If you have any questions about the screening please contact the school.

SPORTS DAY

This Friday is our annual Sports Day which will be held at the Town Oval. Students have been practicing events and we are looking forward to a great day with maximum participation. Sausage rolls will be on sale at the sports day and a note has been sent home for orders. I am certainly looking forward to the Sports Day and trust that everyone will enjoy taking part.

NAPLAN RESULTS

The 2016 NAPLAN results have arrived at school and copy of your child's results will be sent home this week. If you have any queries regarding the 2016 results please speak with your child's teacher.

I am happy to say that the school made improvements in 18 out of 20 areas from years 3 – 9 compared to the 2015 results. This is a reflection of the work teachers are doing in the Literacy and Numeracy areas of the curriculum and with challenging students to have a growth mindset.

VARIETY CLUB BASH AT COOBER PEDY AREA SCHOOL

Last Friday I was able to see first-hand the very positive community spirit and staff team work that is evident here at Coober Pedy Area School. The school was responsible for around 250 meals for the Victorian Variety Club Bash participants. Despite some hiccups with the cars being late due to breakdowns the team here at school did an absolutely fantastic job in catering for the large numbers of participants. The Music students performed for the group and had glowing reports from our visitors about their performance. Huge thanks to the staff members who rallied together and converted the gym into a very well presented large dining area complete with table decorations and souvenir place mats. The food was expertly prepared by a team of staff, students and volunteer community members and it was all hands on deck with preparation and clean up at the end of the evening. Over all a very impressive team effort and a very affirming function for me to be involved in as the new Principal. An evening such as this would not have been possible without the hard work of many staff and community members. I will not list individuals for fear of missing some people, but what I will say is ... Congratulations on a very successful evening and Well done to all involved!

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Sports Day—19th August

Art Camp- 22nd to 26th August

Science Camp— 27th to 29th August

COOBER PEDY RACES

Last weekend saw the Coober Pedy Amateur Race Club Annual Race Event take place over the two days and I must say I was impressed with whole weekend. Coober Pedy Area School was well represented in the organisational area and in the participation. The Staff put together a formidable Tug O War team which faired very well and there were lots of our students who participated very enthusiastically and skilfully in many of the events.

BACK CARPARK CLOSED

The back car park of the school adjacent to the Child Parent Centre will be closed until further notice. The car park is now a construction site as work commences on the building of our new Pre School. This is really exciting news and I am sure the new Pre School will be a fantastic new addition to our facilities. Building work is expected to commence within a week or two and we are hoping to move in at the end of the year.

Kind regards,

Steve Marshall

REMOTE SCHOOLS ATTENDANCE STRATEGY

The Strategy is funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the focus is raising attendance rates for all students at school. Many children in remote communities are not going to school every day, with attendance in some communities very low. It is just as important for children living in remote Australia to go to school every day as it is for those in the city. We need to increase attendance rates in remote schools so all children get a good education. Those students who miss one day a week can miss up to 40 days of school a year!

The attendance team is made up of Linley Belford Manager/Mentor, Peter Brown, Francine Hoani and Cheryl Walker who are School Attendance Supervisors, Nikki Gardiner, Monique Highfold, David Gilbey, Cherie Smith, Alan O'Toole and Jaeden Calyun who are the School Attendance Officers.

We feel that we are highly visible to the school community and the general community by our signature black and orange tops. We can be contacted via the Complete Personnel office or direct on mobile: 0428966637.

We are working with the School, families and students to assist in improving attendance rates. There are many and different reasons for students to be absent from school and our team can help support families. The Team work to increase school attendance through a variety of measures, including walking or driving children to school, helping with breakfast and can assist with some school lunches and organizing uniforms through the School.

There is a Red Cross Breakfast Club that runs from 7:00am until 8:45am each school weekday and all students are welcome to come along and have breakfast and then can participate in indoor or outdoor activities before the School Bell! Our team assist with the running of the Club and the activities.

All children dream big about what they want out of life when they grow up and getting an education will help those dreams.

Have your details changed?

Please let the front office staff or your child/ren's Teacher know if you have changed your address, changed your contact phone number or changed your emergency contact phone number.