



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK....

Dear Parents and Carers,

With only just over two weeks of term left to go we are very busy with activities and learning experiences for our students. The Musician in residence program last week was a huge success with many students gaining valuable access to our Musician, Andrew Wiering. Huge thanks to Nichole Runge for her organisation and her work with the concert on Saturday Afternoon. This is one of the many excellent learning experiences available at Coober Pedy Area School and we are always looking to ensure that our students are exposed to quality learning beyond the normal classroom.

An excursion to Mt Barry Station on Friday of this week is yet another outdoor educational experience for our senior primary students.

Parent teacher interviews this week were well attended and are a useful part of our reporting to parents' process.

WHOOPING COUGH

We have had a confirmed case of whooping cough been reported within our school community. Please refer to the attached fact sheet from the department of health for information on whooping cough, including symptoms, diagnosis, infectious periods and treatment. If your child presents with the described symptoms, please seek medical advice before your child returns to school or preschool. Immunisations with vaccines that protect against whooping cough are effective in reducing the likelihood of illness and complications from the disease. Children within the school community who have received the recommended number of doses of whooping cough vaccine are much less likely to become infected with the disease. If your child is not immunised, it is recommended that you contact your local doctor for more advice regarding preventative measures.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Please be aware that school will finish 1 hour early at 2:00pm on the last day of term Friday September 30th. All buses will run accordingly.

HEAD LICE

We have had a few cases of Head Lice in the school of late. Please check your child's hair on a regular basis and treat where required. There are a number of products available for Head Lice treatment from the local pharmacy. A recommended method is to apply a liberal amount of conditioner to the hair and obtain a quality 'Nit Comb' (a very fine toothed comb) from the pharmacy. Comb the hair thoroughly and remove any lice. Repeat this process every second day and you will soon find that you have broken the breeding cycle and eradicated the lice. Please make sure you regularly wash all bedding and headwear during this process. **Head lice are quite easily transmitted from one person to the next which means we all need to be vigilant with our children's hair and work towards eradicating this issue in our school.**

NAPLAN RESULTS

All families should now have received their child's 2016 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results. Please take the time to have a look at where your child sits in relation to the Coober Pedy Area School Average and the National Average. If you did not get to parent teacher interviews and would like to talk to your child's teacher about the results please arrange a time to meet with them. It is important to note that the NAPLAN results are a snapshot of where your child is on that particular day. On occasions there are anomalies with results and a discussion with your child's teacher about this can be useful. I will be attending a review meeting early in term 4 where our results will be compared to all other schools in the Far North partnership. Whilst we have made some progress, we still have a long way to go in ensuring all students in years 3,5,7 and 9 participate in the NAPLAN testing. It is pleasing that we are showing signs of improvement which reflects our Growth Mindset approach to teaching and learning.

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Crossroad music festival– 20th to 23rd Sept

End of Term– 2pm dismissal 30th Sept

UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY

Respect ♦ Inclusivity ♦ Integrity ♦ Commitment & Responsibility ♦ Excellence



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

ATTENDANCE

In my very first newsletter I talked about the importance of attending school. I am disappointed that our attendance rates have decreased during 2016 and I urge all families to ensure that they send their children to school. The RSAS team have been working hard to ensure transport is made available to families to make the job of getting to school that much easier. The RSAS team also run a very popular breakfast program that ensures all children can have a good breakfast before school which helps them with their concentration and learning.

WORKING BEE

The school working bee saw a good number of people attending and we were able to plant around 200 trees and shrubs. I am sure that they will look fantastic and improve our school environment when they grow. Huge thanks to Lelia Kamphorst, Community Engagement Officer from the Naturals Resources Management group for providing the trees and the tree guards and her assistance on the day. Well done to all concerned a great team effort. We were fortunate to have a number of Elders from our community visit during the morning and they afforded valuable advice on plant identification. They also agreed to take some students out for some Bush Tucker outdoor education lessons during term 4.

MIRIMBA CONCERT

As mentioned earlier we were treated to a fantastic concert on Saturday afternoon with a large number of students performing with Andrew Wiering. It was great to see the instruments put to such good use and terrific that so many people were able to attend. All proceeds from the afternoon will go to bringing Andrew back to Coober Pedy in term 4. Many thanks to Bob Pryce who was the MC for the afternoon and huge thanks to the Greek Hall management for the use of their facility.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Last week saw our year 10 students undertaking their work experience and this could not happen without the very generous assistance of many of our local business houses and organisations. From all reports the students went well and gained valuable experience towards choosing the right career path for them.

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.