PRINCIPAL’S COLUMN

27 August 2015

Half way through the term and it has been nothing but action packed.

Volleyball Success

Let me open by offering my sincere congratulations to the coaches and players of the Paralowie Volleyball program. Several weeks ago Paralowie competed in the South Australian Volleyball Schools Cup, a 3 day tournament event. I managed to get along on the weekend to see some of our teams complete and again I was left with a feeling of immense pride for the way in which our students conduct themselves both on and off the court.

In one example, our team convincingly won the first set, and then we were soundly beaten in the second set. In the third set they started slowly, being down at the beginning of the set but fought back strongly to take the lead only to have a couple of decisions impact negatively on their forward progress. They did not drop their heads or throw in the towel, but rather listened to their coach and followed the game plan, supported each other to function as a unified team with one goal in mind and demonstrated real resilience and “grit” to take out the set giving them a match win.

These are the personal traits our coaches work to develop in their players and I see evidence this time and time again. Overall we finished with 3 gold medals; the Open Boys division one; Under 16 Boys division one and Under 15 Girls division two. In addition to this the Open girls won the pool B State-Wide Knockout Volleyball making them this year’s pool B State Champions. An outstanding effort by all players and coaches.

Amazing Wakakirri

It is not only in the sporting arena that Paralowie R-12 School is making its mark. On Friday 21/8/2015 I attended the Paralowie heat of the Wakakirri and was again treated to a very slick and polished performance by our R-6 students. Their performance highlighting the importance of good oral hygiene was a real show stopper, showcasing the range of talented young performers we have attending our school.

However, it is not only on the stage that our students excelled. They were also the recipients of the Teamwork Award, an award presented to the team who demonstrated outstanding teamwork, behaviour and community spirit over the entire day of the performance. Congratulations to all Wakakirri performers, supporting staff and parents with a special mention to Kim Copeland and Carlee Decelis whose energy, passion and commitment of time make this a standout event for our school.

Science Week

Last week was Science Week with a theme of “Making Waves – The Science of Light” prevailing through a range of science based activities during lessons and at lunchtime. I attended the primary sessions held in our secondary science laboratories where primary students were able to try their hand at a number of related science practical activities. By far the most popular were the making of sherbet and the demonstration of making “Elephants Toothpaste”. A big thank you to Mary Agrios and her team of secondary science staff for making these opportunities available to our students.

Book Week

As I write this article we are just beginning our celebration of book week. The theme for this year is “Books Light up my World”. As with science week there are a range of activities and displays to engage students with books and demonstrate the joy of reading. The resource centre has been particularly busy in putting up displays and Jane Pears the 7-12 English Coordinator has had students and staff document their recommendation for a read and we have them on display in the resource centre. Mine is Ernest Hemingway’s, “The Old Man and The Sea”. Why you may ask, well it is about catching a big fish, a marlin, and as a keen fisherman who would not want to read about that!

The end of the week will be the highlight for our primary students, the book parade, a chance to dress up as your favourite book character. The fun is not just limited to our students as I know there are a number of staff who are looking forward to showing off their creations which celebrate the theme “Books Light up my World”.

Subject Selection time

This time of the year is also of particular significance to our secondary students. Year 8 to 11 students will be making selections about their subjects for next year. While at all year levels there are a number of compulsory subjects that must be studied, there is also the opportunity to start choosing subjects based on future post school directions or areas of interest. I would encourage all parents to take an active role in this process and engage in conversation with your child about what they are choosing and why. Home group teachers, year level managers and student counsellors are all good sources of
information and advice so if you are struggling with what subjects would make most sense for your child, I would encourage you to make an appointment to discuss the matter before the actual subject selection day on Wednesday 9 September 2015.

PETER MCKAY
PRINCIPAL

‘Finding Your Voice’ Debate Squad Update

This term has seen Paralowie’s Debate Squad compete in two more rounds of the 2015 NASSSSA Debating Competition with incredible results.

In Week 2 we faced Salisbury High School on the topic “That graffiti is art”. Both debates demonstrated the hard work and time the squad has put into their arguments and presentation practice. Paralowie beat Salisbury in both debates with strong definitions and logical arguments.

In round four the students debated the topic “That teenagers need better role models” against teams from Craigmore. In this round the moral arguments won the debate for Paralowie A and although having solid arguments the Paralowie B team missed the win by one point.

A very special mention needs to go to both Gareth Bailey (Paralowie B) and Katelynn Wiseman (Paralowie A) for winning the best speaker awards for both of their debates in both rounds. They both received very positive feedback from the adjudicator about their performances and Katelynn was commended on her ability to think outside the box.

Following the Round 4 debate at Craigmore, the Debating Squad put on a very special showcase for three Year 5/6 classes. They ran a full debate on the topic “That teenagers need better role models” and our host, Liam Welsh introduced each role and explained the process clearly. The 5/6 classes were given time to ask questions about the debate and the Debating Squad were excellent in the detail of their responses. We look forward to having the 5/6 students joining into debating in the coming years.

Earlier in Week 5 the Debating Squad also attended a private tour of Adelaide University to learn more about the options for the future pathways. After the tour, the students were able to use the Barr Smith Library to research topics relating to their next debate and learn more about the day-to-day life of a university student.

Our next round in Week 9, Term 3 will see both Paralowie teams face teams from Para Hills and Parafied Gardens High Schools on home soil on the topic “That stronger discipline is needed in schools.” We know the time and effort they put in will result in more excellent debating.

Alana Attwood
Debate Squad Mentor

Members of the Debate Squad:

Paralowie A: Liam Welsh, Katelynn Wiseman, Alison Crase, Luke Bradley
Paralowie B: Gareth Bailey, Chansovann Lem, Shaona Imaru, Rachael Morrissey, Rayme Truong

Science News

Science Week ‘Making Waves - The Science of Light’

There was an overdrive of fun, action and learning all during Science week. The whole school community was involved.

The Brain Break morning tea kicked off the week by challenging the staff to a quiz. Primary school students enjoyed two days of science activities held during the Lunch time Science show. They had the opportunity to explore, taste, question and find answers with the help of our awesome science teachers and Guest scientists Chris Pietsch (Physicist) and Giuseppina Dall Armi – Stoks (Research Scientist) from DSTO.

Students participated in the Science Education Perfect Championships. Year eight students visited the Adelaide Zoo and more students had a stellar experience and discovered about the Universe when Sky Watch Dome landed. The Sky Watch Dome uses the latest digital technology to excite and motivate students about Astronomy.

We celebrated the end of science week with a school BBQ and music for the students.

Mary Agrios
Science Coordinator
S.A.P.S.A.S.A. News

Term 3 has been a busy term for the year 5-7 students, competing in 6 different SAPSASA events around Adelaide.

Football: The term kicked off with our boys competing in the SAPSASA football competition in Week 3. All the boys who went on the day did a great job and even though we didn’t have great luck with the result all our boys showed great sportsmanship and did Paralowie proud.

Netball: On the same day the girls competed in a netball competition at Golden Grove. We were lucky enough to take two teams and both teams did a great job and proudly represented our school. But it was our year 5/6 team who managed to finish the day undefeated and take home the top prize for their division.

Badminton: Over the next two Fridays our year 5/6 students went to both girls and boys badminton SAPSASA. Considering the tough completion both groups did an amazing job. One of the boys’ teams managed to take out 4th place and one of the girls teams took 3rd place. These are our best results for badminton so far and we are so impressed with how far the student’s skills have come in such a short time.

Boys Soccer: The boys were playing in quite a high division and would be facing some very tough competition. But to their credit they played extremely well all day and managed to finish in 4th spot.

Girls Football: The Girls 5/6/7 Football team competed in the top division. The majority of this group of girls had never played football before but that didn’t stop them, with the girls playing some excellent football and they finished undefeated for the day and taking home the top prize.

All of the students who represented Paralowie in the recent carnivals showed excellent sportsmanship, determination and team work and we can’t wait to do it all again next year.

Kim Copeland and Duncan Brown
Paralowie R-6 PE teachers

Congratulations to Our Fantastic Wakakirri Team!

Wakakirri - ‘A Sweet Trooth!’

60 R-6 students and 8 staff members participated in the Wakakirri Story Dance Competition at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre on Friday 21st August. Our students were exceptionally well behaved all day and performed like superstars! Students engaged so well with the story theme:

Lewis is a young boy who loves to eat bad food. The story starts with him choosing a toffee apple over a chicken salad for lunch. When he goes home that night his mother asks him to brush his teeth, but he ignores it. Lewis has a nightmare that bad food comes and attacks his teeth. The tooth defenders come and save the day with their toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and mouth wash and teach Lewis the importance of keeping his teeth clean. When he wakes up the first thing he reaches for is his tooth brush!

We had many positive comments from other schools and at the end of the night Paralowie R-12 was awarded with the ‘Best teamwork Award’ for the day! Now we wait and see if we were lucky enough to win any of the major story awards for the competition. Stay tuned!
**Tirkandi News**

**Pizza Night:** This term we are having a pizza night which will be on Wednesday September 2nd at 4.00 - 5:30 pm. Please come along and meet other families and the Aboriginal Education Team. Students must be accompanied with a parent.

**Us Salisbury Mob:** Every second Wednesday night Us Salisbury Mob have a get together for dinner, games and activities. You and your kids can come along and talk about any issue you may have about your child’s learning. The next meetings are on 12th, 16th and 30th of September. If you would like to know more, please ring Paralowie R-12 School (8182 7222) and ask for one of the Aboriginal Education Team.

**Literacy /Numeracy:** The Deadly Group which happens every Thursday for a group of Year 8 students, is going along fantastically well. Students are really enjoying the program and are on track.

We also have a program called Planting the Seed that students from years 8 - 12 are currently involved in.

If you would like any information about these programs, please contact our Aboriginal Education Team on 81827222.

**Contact Numbers for Financial Assistance:** NMAC has closed down but we have some numbers you can contact for help with providing food, bedding, financial help, prescriptions and other things:

- Anglicare (weekdays) - Phone 1800773277 (a free call)
- SALT - Phone 852 20077 or 852 20070
- Salisbury Uniting Church – Phone 8258 2675

Please feel free to contact any member of our team. Aboriginal Education Team: Cheryl, Margy, Steve and Donald

**Volleyball News**

**Knock Out Volleyball – Open Success**

Our Open Boys and Girls volleyball teams recently competed in the finals of the State-wide Knockout Competition. The girls played great volleyball all day to come away with the State Title for Pool B, a first for any of our girls teams at Paralowie R-12. The Boys played high intensity volleyball all day, finishing in 4th place in the prestigious Pool A competition. Both teams showed great signs as they continue their development towards the Melbourne championships later in the year.

A fantastic job by all involved.

**Mr Slater**

**Success at SA Volleyball Schools Cup**

Our six volleyball teams have just competed in the South Australian Volleyball Schools Cup over three consecutive days and nights at various venues across Adelaide. This event serves as our major “hit out” prior to the National Championships in Melbourne late in term four. We achieved some fantastic results with excellent volleyball played and many things learnt which will hold us in good stead heading forward. Results were as follows:

- Open Boys – Gold Medal
- Under 16 Boys – Gold Medal
- Under 15 Girls #2 – Gold medal
- Open Girls – 4th place
- Under 17 Boys – 3rd place
- Under 15 Girls #1 – 9th place

A big thank you to all students and to the parents and families we had supporting us over the weekend and to all staff and volunteers for devoting their time.

**Derek Slater**

**WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN**

We are participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn Promotion this term. When you shop at Woolworths you can collect Earn and Learn Stickers from the checkout operator and place them on a Earn and Learn Sticker Sheet. Once completed simply bring your card or stickers to the Front Office to be placed in our Collection Box.

**Commonwealth Bank School Banking Update – Please Read**

Concerns have been raised about the ‘Cosmic Light Beam Torch’ reward item, due to the inclusion of four button batteries that can be accessed by unscrewing the back of the torch.

*Parents/Guardians are requested to dispose of any “Cosmic Light Beam Torches”*

Whilst this reward has been independently tested and deemed to meet relevant product standards the Commonwealth Bank have made the decision to proactively withdraw this item from the School Banking Rewards Program.

Students who have previously received a “Cosmic Light Beam Torch” are welcome to redeem an alternative reward item.
Why not grow your own fruit?
Come along and learn how at workshops run by the City of Salisbury.
Details on the attached flyer.

SCHOOL HATS
As part of our Sun Safe Policy, school hats are compulsory from Reception to Year 6.
School hats can be purchased from the front office.
Cost: $10.00

SCHOOL TIMES
School commences: 8.40am
Recess: 11.05 – 11.25am
Lunch: 12.55 - 1.35pm
School dismissed: 3.00pm

Please ring the direct Absentee Number when telephoning the school to notify absences:
8182 7281

“Growing for Gold” is a FREE school holiday program for children aged 3-16 years.
The program is run by the City of Salisbury and offers a range of different activities.
Booking details are on the flyer.
Please check here for details

Road Safety Newsletter, published by SAPOL.
View the newsletter for the latest safety news