PRINCIPAL’S COLUMN

Term 1 is coming to an end and as usual it has been both a busy and productive term. Educational theatre productions to reinforce the anti-bullying message, the 7-12 Athletics Day, Harmony week activities, the Secondary School Northern Zone Athletics Carnival and the SANTOS Secondary Schools Athletics Carnival are just a sample of the activities outside of our usual business that have filled our days this term. In addition to this staff have been involved in a range of professional learning activities centred around developing more engaging strategies for delivering numeracy and literacy improvement, building capacity in the delivery of and the assessment of the Australian Curriculum, developing classroom practice and meeting with colleagues from other sites to share ideas and moderate student work have been just a few of the focus areas for our own learning.

Term 1 reports

Information outlining the process for the distribution of term 1 student achievement reports and Parent Teacher Interview processes has been sent home. These reports with their feedback about your child’s work and progress will provide the foundation for discussions at the parent/teacher interviews to held on Thursday 9th April 2015. The information gathered through the written report and verbal discussion should provide the basis for some family conversations about how your child can improve and complete the year successfully. For most students good results occur “easily” in those subjects which they like, because just like adults, they will spend more time on the things they really enjoy. To be our best, to reach our potential, we must be prepared to persevere, “tough it out” especially in those areas which we really do not enjoy.

Aiming High

Some interesting research with high level performers shows that the difference between the very good and the expert practitioner is not natural talent, socio economic status, or the like, but the amount of quality focussed practice which is completed. I know that at times the repetition of practice becomes tedious, the constructive criticism of teachers annoying, and at times the seeming lack of immediate improvement frustrating but those who follow through will achieve their goals.

All of our students now have the remainder of the year to put in a real effort to achieve the highest result possible.

UNICEF Fundraising

Paralowie has again received some fantastic feedback about the efforts of our students. If you can cast your mind back to the end of 2014 we had several classes of primary students work with UNICEF to raise money for their educational programs. Overall the school donated $2425.06, an amazing achievement in anyone’s terms and then raised nearly $5000.00 for UNICEF through its school fete. I have received a letter from the Australian UNICEF Youth Participation Officer acknowledging the work of our students. Well done to all of our school community who supported the students and staff as they worked to achieve this outcome.

Term 2 Staffing

There will be some staffing adjustments for the beginning of term 2. I will be taking leave for the first 6 weeks to attend to some family matters. Peter Groves will be acting Principal and Derek Slater will be backfilling as the Deputy Principal. There will be a number of other adjustments to accommodate the “ripple effect” through our timetable.

As this will be our last newsletter for term 1 I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their continued dedication to providing the very best opportunities for student learning and to wish our students and their families a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

PETER McKay
PRINCIPAL

R-6 NEWS

Harmony Day 2015

Everybody belongs at Paralowie

During week 8 students from the R-6 school were engaged in several different activities to celebrate Harmony Week.

Students took an in depth look into what it means to be harmonious in our multicultural school community and the world around them. They did this through in-class and lunchtime activities, a whole school assembly and a celebratory disco.

All students had a great time and did a fantastic job of immersing with this year’s theme of “Everybody belongs”.

9 April 2015
Beach Volleyball

In week eight, 65 very excited students went down to Glenelg to compete in a SAPSASA Beach Volleyball tournament. Fourteen teams from Paralowie, ranging from Year 4 to 7 competed against a variety of teams from around South Australia.

On what was a beautiful and sunny day, our students played four games displaying some excellent volleyball skills, sportsmanship and determination and did an excellent job of representing Paralowie. We were fortunate enough to have three teams make the semi-finals, a year 4/5 boys team and two year 6 girls teams. The 4/5 boys and one of the year 6 girls teams won their first final and progressed to the quarterfinals before both narrowly missing a berth in the grand final.

Although we didn’t bring home any medals this year, all the kids had an excellent day as did the teachers who went with them.

A big thank you to all the students for their excellent behaviour and efforts on the day, to the parents who came and supported our students and to Kim Copeland and Peter De Leonards for their help and support both on the day and in the lead up to the day.

DUNCAN BROWN
R-6 PE TEACHER

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools

During terms 2 and 3, Paralowie R-12 School is giving students from Years 2-12 the opportunity to participate in a range of international tests. ICAS is the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools and offers tests in Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics. These are voluntary tests and there is a fee associated with each test. Please see table below for 2015 sitting dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>School Year level</th>
<th>Official Sitting Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>3rd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3-12</td>
<td>15-19th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>3-7</td>
<td>16th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>28th July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>11th August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like your child to participate in one or more tests or would like more information please contact Carlee Decelis either at school or via email on Carlee.Decelis171@schools.sa.edu.au.

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Diversity Group

We are inviting parents from different cultural groups to come along and join in the group on Wednesday mornings in the Community Centre. Learn more about what happens here at school, join in our cooking sessions and hear from a range of staff and teachers across the school. This term the group has visited the School’s Communal Garden and explored the wide range of edible plants and fruit trees. Also, Selia delighted the group with a cooking demonstration of her vegetarian noodle dish. Everyone wanted the recipe!

We welcome new parents. Please contact Mary Jo Bellew or Selia Mrkic for more information.

Computing skills for adults

Have you visited the Community Centre lately? Did you know we have computing classes for adults? Why not call in and see how we can help you update your skills. New classes will be starting next term. You don’t need any computing experience, so come along, join in and have some fun too!

Contact Mary Jo or Selia in the Community Centre for more information.
**Parents & Friends News**

**Term 1 Fundraising**

Thank you to all the families who supported our Lolly Fundraiser this term. We were delighted with the response and really appreciate the effort a number of families made in getting significant orders to support the fundraiser. We will be making some special presentations at the next R-6 Assembly.

All fundraising goes towards improving our school environment for our students.

**New Parent Initiatives**

The Parents & Friends Group has been successful in gaining a 2015 Parent Initiatives in Education (PIE) Grant. The funding is specifically intended to encourage and promote greater participation of parents and caregivers, and will enable us to create some new opportunities for parents to get involved. We look forward to working with our parents through the Community Centre to get some innovative projects happening.

**SANTOS STADIUM SCHOOL ATHLETICS DAY**

Congratulations to all of the Paralowie Athletes who completed in the recent Northern Zone Athletics competition held at SANTOS.

Students were selected from their outstanding results from our sports day to represent our school and compete against a range of other schools from across the North and North Eastern suburbs.

Our school competed in the challenging A grade competition this year which ensured all athletes were competing at an extremely high level.

All students involved should be very proud of how well they represented our school and showing excellent sportsmanship through-out the day. Good luck to those athletes selected to compete again in the state wide competition!

**TIRKANDI NEWS**

*From the Aboriginal Education Team*

**Chloe wins scholarship**

Congratulations to Year 10 student, Chloe Webb who has won a scholarship with AIME. Chloe was successful after being nominated for the ‘Outward Bound Camp Scholarship’ and will be going to Canberra to join a leadership team with other Aboriginal students from around Australia.

**Monty Prior**

On March 12 we were fortunate to have the company of Monty Prior, Aboriginal comedian and author. Monty spent some time with our Year 7, 8 and 9 students who had lots of fun and laughed through the whole presentation.

Please feel free to contact us.

*Margy Baluch, AETO  
Cheryl, AET  
Steven Newchurch, ACEO  
Donald Tanner, ACEO*

**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 is $10.00

**SCIENCE NEWS - TERM ONE**

This term has been busy with many extra activities embedded within the program to enrich our science curriculum. This has helped create an excitement in science encouraging students to become better engaged in learning.

**Education Perfect**

This is an online learning, revision and assessment tool accessible 24/7 by our students from any computer with internet access at home and school. Paralowie students have shown great success in learning more about science through becoming actively engaged in using e-learning as a learning tool. The students use this program as a platform to increase motivation and extend their learning. Content is built to follow the Australian National curriculum so students are learning content relevant to them. Homework tasks have been set by their teacher and students receive immediate feedback on questions and have been provided summaries of their progress through the particular topics. Every question has an in-depth explanation of the concept being taught.

**Professional Development**

Adelaide science teachers and those from other curriculum areas were invited to Paralowie R-12 School for an evening of Professional Development where our science faculty shared and showcased one of our best teaching practices. Presenters...
included Alex Lubransky, SA Education Perfect Manager, and Dr Shane Smith who built the software behind Education. Teachers enjoyed the evening which was fun and engaging.

Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools Program

This is a CSIRO partnership program which we are part of, and Chris Pietsch who is a Physicist from DSTO has joined our science faculty team to mentor and inspire our students.

NASSSA STEM Engagement Program

Year 10 boys from our school were selected to participate in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths program at Uni SA Mawson Lakes. The day helped them to make connections with the University, inspiring them to achieve their future goals and to aim higher. The boys worked with other like-minded students where they engaged in fun activities such as, conducting experiments using ultrasonic sensors and infrared waves and highly accurate timers. The students worked in teams, using various mathematical formulas to come up with some excellent data. All students enjoyed the program.

Year 8 students spent time developing various practical skills: setting up apparatus, lighting Bunsen burners, recording and analysing data accurately.

MARY AGRIOS
SCIENCE COORDINATOR

Saturday Morning School Football starts in Term 2

All games are played at Ridley Road Oval, Elizabeth. Interested players from years 2-7 can register now. Forms are available in the Community Centre, or from class teachers.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SALISBURY INTER JUNIOR GIRLS SOCCER 2015

FFSA Under 9s Competition

Training Wednesdays 5:30pm - 6:30pm
18th March - September
2 x 30 minute halves
COST: $150 includes shirt, shorts and socks

For more information contact Bianca
bis@hhb.com.au or call on 0421069961
Salisbury Inter Soccer Club
Nagpie Road Salisbury North

MINI ROOS – SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINCS

for boys and girls aged 4 – 9.


Clinics are held at Burton Park Football Centre on Waterloo Cr Rd Burton from 20th – 24th April from 10 – 11am, cost is $70. For more information please call 8340 3088.