PRINCIPAL’S COLUMN

We have now settled into term 1 with all classes fully staffed and students back into their “school routines” and I hope a positive start to the year.

SAFETY AT SCHOOL

I am asking for your support in addressing one persistent issue; that is water balloons. Despite constant warnings and clear statements in our daily communication bulletin, some students are persisting in bringing water balloons to school and engaging in “water fights”.

While I will acknowledge that in the right environment and if carried out in a sensible way this can be a lot of fun but school is not the place for this. When students engage in this activity in a crowded hard play area there is always the risk of serious injury. Students not wanting to be part of the activity can be accidently or purposely hit causing conflict issues which can result in escalated physical or verbal harassment. It is not comfortable to sit in a classroom if you are wet and this will often mean a less engaged approach to learning.

Also, excess water on our indoor surfaces may cause them to become very slippery again significantly increasing the risk of injury.

“Water Fights” and the throwing of water balloons is clearly against our school code of conduct. Being in possession of water balloons is interpreted by the school as the intent to participate in this activity and also provides a temptation for the student to engage in the activity. Leave the water balloons at home.

I am asking that our parent community supports us in providing a safe environment at school where students can come to school and not have to worry about being intentionally or accidently caught up in a water balloon event. Please discuss this with your child and if necessary check to see that water balloons are not being brought to school.

R-6 VALUES ASSEMBLY

Our R-6 values assembly in week 4 gave each class the opportunity to share what they had discussed in class around our school values. We were treated to a variety of items such as a song with the theme of respect, very colourful art displays of our values and role playing of what the values look like in classrooms. We look forward to reflecting on our values throughout the year with our values awards and class lead activities.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to Chau Khuc who has been awarded a University of Adelaide Principal’s Scholarship acknowledging her significant contribution to the school and wider community, and her outstanding academic achievement.

The 7-12 Athletics Carnival has again been a real success with many students taking the opportunity to participate in a variety of track and field events. It was fantastic to see so many students getting into the spirit of the day through dressing up in team colours and application of liberal amounts of team coloured sun protection. The relays created a real air of excitement as just prior to the running of the relays total scores were very close. However at the end of the day blue took out the prize. I would like to acknowledge the many hours of work that the H&PE staff put into organising the day and a special mention to Kyra Stuart who leads that team. A special thank you to all our 7-12 staff who assisted on the day with a large number of them reporting to school at 6:00am to assist with the setting up. This commitment to providing learning opportunities for our students is typical of the staff at Paralowie.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Congratulations to our newly elected Governing Council for 2015, chaired by Sarah Caldwell again this year. We welcome our new members and look forward to a stimulating and productive year. We also welcome Graham Reynolds, elected member from the City of Salisbury.

Peter McKay – Principal
Sarah Caldwell – Chairperson
Tania Huckstepp – Deputy Chair
Kathryn Wall – Treasurer
Salman Ali
Margy Baluch
Roqia Karemi
Fatima Hameed
Brynja Svenna
Abud Koroma
Abdul Hameed
Angela Osborne

Staff reps:

Michelle Lennox
Peter Groves
The process for using Literacy Pro involves the following:

1. Each term students from Year 3 to Year 10 complete a computer-adaptive reading assessment called the LitPro Test to identify individual reading levels reported in Lexile® measures from BR to 1500.

2. Students then select a Wider Reading text based on their Lexile measure, which incorporates individual reading and comprehension skills, as well as interests.

3. When a novel/book is finished, students will complete a computerised Book Quiz that will assess whether the book was completed and the level of comprehension.

What are the benefits of using Literacy Pro?

When students read at an appropriate reading comprehension level they read with confidence and control; the individualised text is challenging, without being frustrating or boring. This encourages students to read more, which is critical to academic success. (Australia, Scholastic, 2013)

If you would like to find out more about Literacy Pro at Paralowie, please don’t hesitate to talk with your child’s English teacher, or contact us.

Jane Pears
Year 7-12 English/
EALD/Literacy
Coordinator

Carlee Decelis
R-6 Coordinator/
Special Ed
Teacher

R-6 NEWS

R-6 Explore School Values

All of our classes have spent the first two weeks on a social skill program to get students ready for learning. Each class has worked collaboratively on a task looking at how the school’s values impact on their classroom. Classes were asked to present their values at an R-6 assembly. Students showcased the work they have been doing with a range of presentations. It was fabulous to see how each class used the school values of Honesty, Safety, Integrity and Respect to design their own class set.

http://vimeo.com/122053807

Moderating Australian Curriculum With Burton Primary School

Towards the end of 2014 we began building a working relationship with Burton Primary School. Working together to investigate the learning that is occurring across the two sites in Mathematics was a fabulous exercise. Teachers shared ideas and resources to engage students and build understanding around how students learn. Teachers participated in professional learning with Margo Leatch our Primary Australian Curriculum Implementation Officer building an understanding of a growth mindset and Australian Curriculum.
This term we continued our learning and sharing of ideas. Teachers then looked at a sample of students work to come to a consensus around the assessment grade the student would be given. This process provided teachers an opportunity to ensure consistency of marking against the achievement Standards found in the Australian Curriculum. There was a lot of deep discussion around the tasks that had been presented to the student and what the grade would be. We will be continuing our work with Burton Primary each term to deepen our understandings and share practice across the sites.

**New R-6 Playground Open**

We have been very excited about the installation of our new Junior Primary playground. Located next to the COLA the playground offers a range of equipment choices to engage our reception to year 2 students. Constructed by Forepark, the playground is bright and has multiple entry and exit points.

With the new playground we have been able to alter the use of the other two playgrounds. Year 3/4 students now play on the playground next to the community centre and Year 5/6 students on the equipment near the front office.

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2015**

The 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) has started across the school. All students up to Year 9 are required to participate in the challenge. Students from Year 10 to Year 12 are encouraged to participate. We strongly encourage all students at all year levels to complete the challenge.

At Paralowie, we’ve had a 5% increase each year over the past 4 years in students completing the challenge in the secondary school. Well done to those students who have completed the challenge so far. Research indicates that the more students read, the better their literacy levels and the more successful they are at school and in activities outside of school.

In the Junior School, students are supported by Janet Cassidy (Junior School Teacher Librarian) and their classroom teacher. Middle and Senior Secondary School students are supported by Liz Eckert and Bec Siney (Secondary School Teacher Librarians), Home Group and English teachers.

The Challenge can be used in the Year 10 Personal Learning Plan in showing student’s perseverance when completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge over a number of years.

Students are required to read 12 books from 27 January 2015 to 4 September 2015. Depending on their year level, students are required to read different books from the PRC list. R – 7 students need to read 8 books from the list as well as four extra free choice books, totally 12 books. Year 8 & 9 students need to read 4 books from the list and 8 free choice books to total 12 books. Year 10 – 12 students are expected to read 12 books at an appropriate level which do not have to be from the PRC list. Books in another language can be read in the student free choice books and be included in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

An Information Brochure has also been written in 25 languages and is available on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website:

http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au/prc/pages/home

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Please encourage your child to complete the Challenge this year.

**Resource Centre Staff**

**SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS**

**Success For Past Student, Snezana Semak**

Congratulations to Snezana Semak, one of our 2013 year 12 students who has been accepted into Medicine at Adelaide University.

Last year Snezana studied a Bachelor of Science – Biomedical Science, achieving outstanding results, which allowed her to transfer into medicine this year. Snezana has a great work ethic and a determination to succeed. She is thrilled at the opportunity and challenges ahead of her.

On behalf of the entire Paralowie R-12 community, we congratulate her on this outstanding accomplishment, and wish her all the best in her studies.
Chau Khuc Receives University Scholarship

Chau Khuc, one of our 2014 year 12 students at Paralowie R-12 School has been awarded a University of Adelaide Principal’s Scholarship.

The scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding academic and community involvement.

The aim is to assist them and help with study and living costs during their undergraduate studies at the university.

Last year Chau studied Specialist Maths, Mathematical Studies, Physics, English as a Second Language Studies and the Research Project.

Chau worked hard all year in a committed and focussed way to achieve entry into the University of Adelaide, studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) – Software.

Chau has always been a fantastic role model within the school and is thrilled to receive this scholarship. She is very much looking forward to starting her university studies this year.

We congratulate her on the scholarship, which was well deserved. We wish her all the best in her studies and her university life.

**Derek Slater**  
Yr 12  
Coordinator

**Sandy Stuart**  
Assistant Principal  
Senior School

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**BRIGHT BLUE DAY FOR 2015 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

Congratulations to all students who participated in events during our Athletics Day. The day was filled with plenty of energy and bright colours as students supported their Houses and participated in a range of Athletics events. For the first time, students were given the opportunity to compete in Javelin on the day with outstanding results.

Results were very close on the day with Blue coming out on top with 1667 points followed closely by Green on 1606 in second place.

A big congratulations must go to our highly skilled Athletes of the Year:

- Year 7: Laitiah Huynyh and Fred Okot  
- Year 8: Paige Lindsell and Mitchell Slater  
- Year 9: Brooke Valenza and Nathan Farrah  
- Year 10: Kayla Huet and Zarac Mata  
- Senior: Florence Olweny and Ryan Horm

Lastly, thank you to all staff involved in the preparation and management on the day, especially the HPE team who worked tirelessly to ensure the day ran smoothly.

**Krya Stuart**  
HPE Coordinator

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**TIRKANDI NEWS**

**From the Aboriginal Education Team**

Welcome back to all our families.

**PIZZA NIGHT**

Thanks to everyone who came to this event. It was a great opportunity to meet with parents, and to share some information about what’s coming up this term. Selia Mrkic from the Community Centre spoke about some programs for parents and we will be following up ideas and suggestions shortly.

**AIME**

Permission slips for students from year 9-12 have gone home. Please send them back ASAP as AIME starts in May. Notices will go out early next term.

**STAFF FOR 2015:**

- Margy Baluch, ASETO (fulltime)  
- Cheryl, AET (fulltime)  
- Steven Newchurch, ACEO - 2 days (Wednesday and Thursday)  
- Donald Tanner, ACEO – 3 days (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Please feel free to contact us.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Free Online Seminar For Parents And Carers Of Children Aged 10–15 Years Keeping Teens And Pre-Teens Safe**

Parenting SA is providing a free seminar for parents and carers of children and young people aged 10–15 years. Internet safety experts and a child and adolescent psychologist will discuss how teens connect online, how to talk about safety, make agreements and set limits, and how to deal with cyberbullying.

The event will be held on **Tuesday, 17 March** from 7–9pm in the Panorama Room, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide.

For more information contact Senior Health Promotion Officer, Parenting SA, Dorian Marsland-Smith, phone 8161 7159.
Volunteers Needed

Burton Community Centre is currently looking for fun-loving and responsible people to supervise our Klub Burton Discos which run once a month.

If you are interested, please contact Jack Nadar or Melissa Gray on 8280 8843.

Girl Soccer Players Wanted

Para Hills United Soccer Club
No experience necessary
Phone: Wendy 8262 4233

Salisbury West Sports Club

Footy Players required for grades U6 – U16
At Westies “it’s all about the kids”

• Please contact Natasha Miller 0435 073 154
• Fees $100 for first child, then $5 reduction per child after.