Mr Mark Ireland
Principal

From the Principal’s Desk...
The year has started off quite well with amazing weather and a steady start to our school studies. I thank you for the warm welcome that I have had from students and parents I have met so far. There is much for me to learn about the school and community and I am working hard to come up to speed on how things operate here. I am very grateful to have such a strong and supportive leadership team and staff within the school. I look forward to meeting all parents and to be working with you to make Coober Pedy Area School and even better place to educate our children. Please feel free to come in and meet me should you be passing.

TRADE TRAINING CENTRE
We look to take up our classes in the new Trade Training Centre shortly. The official handover is soon and classes are very keen to use the new space and determine how we can use it to advance our skills and understandings. It will allow us to spread out a bit more and to reclaim a number of spaces around the school that have had to alter function to accommodate lessons whilst the building took place.

STARTING STATS
At the first census, we have 235 students on our books for 2015. This is slightly down on our expectations and we need to monitor this quite closely as it has funding implications. All schools are funded on a per head basis as the major part of the funding process. The more students, the more funding. Clearly our educational programs and curriculum offerings are dependent on our funding and so if we attract less funding due to reduced numbers of students, then we can offer less to the students who are there. It is always a balancing act as to how to we manage the funds we have access to. To maintain our programs and then to create new initiatives, we need to have sufficient funds available to us. As such, we will be monitoring our enrolments and funding very closely.

SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL POLICE CLEARANCES
The Education Department has become quite insistent around all volunteers and helpers in environments that have children present, that a current Police Clearance is required. There are a couple of different types of Police Clearance statements but the Education Department will only accept one from the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion. If you plan on being able to assist at the school at any time then please come in and collect an application form from us at the Front Office and the school will pay for the clearance as a volunteer. The reason for the very strong stance is based around ensuring that every effort is made to protect our children whilst they are in the care of schools and pre schools. The clearances are taking up to 3 months to get done so it is better to be prepared and have a clearance done so that you are ready and able to support events and happenings here at any time. Please consider this carefully and come in and start the process of having a clearance application lodged.

Upcoming Dates to Remember...
Meet the Teacher Open Night
Swimming Carnival Friday 13th February
GOVERNING COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Governing Council is a local body made up of parents, staff and local community bodies who oversee the direction that the school is going in. They work under the guidelines set down by DECD and they work within a constitution. Each year we hold an AGM to elect new members to the Governing Council. Generally it is for a two year term and the Council meets around twice per term to hear reports on how the school is going and to look at any policy matters that may need input. It is a great way to be involved in the school and to help shape the directions that the school goes in. Please consider taking on this role and becoming involved with the school at a decision making level. We would welcome your involvement. If you are interested in a position on Governing Council or just want more information about the role then please contact the school and we can talk it through.

SCHOOL VALUES

I have a very strong belief that school values should be more than words on a page and so we will be focussing on them right across the year. Our first few weeks of the school year have seen our focus on the value of RESPECT. We are looking at how you interact with others, how you use manners and show courtesy to those around you. We are looking at what footprint you leave on the environment near you. My belief is that all students should be so familiar with our school values and what they mean, that they start “living the values” in their daily lives. As such, you will be hearing a lot more about what the values mean, what they look like, (what we will see people doing) and what they sound like (what we will hear people saying.) You can support this push from home too and reinforce these values. Please help us to make the values very much a part of Coober Pedy Area School expectations.

SECURITY FENCING

The next tender to be contracted by the Education Department will be for the security fencing around the school. This will be a major project that will change the face of the school quite dramatically. The decision has been taken to do this fencing due to the high costs of vandalism after hours. The security fencing is designed to reduce access to the site after school hours. Access to shared community facilities, School Community Library and Pool, will still be possible but will be controlled and general access to the school site will be greatly reduced. More details once the contract has been allocated and a timeframe for completion has been agreed upon.

SMOKING

All school sites are smoke free zones by law. There can be no smoking on the premises, both the yard and the buildings. We believe that some students have been smoking on school grounds recently and we will be actioning this with consequences in the future. Students will be spoken with regarding this and we will be working on ‘suspicion of smoking’ as we do not always see the actual act take place. Parents will be contacted and informed prior to consequences being applied so there is a chance to assist and reinforce that the school is a smoke free zone at all times.

Just a friendly reminder

Coober Pedy Area School is a NUT FREE School. Foods that contain nuts are also not allow at the school e.g. Peanut butter and Nutella.

Noodles that require a teacher to use boiling water to cook are not allowed at the school as it becomes a burning hazard, however already cooked noodles that require reheating are allowed.
2015 Choir and Recorder lessons

This year there will be a range of different Music Ensembles for students to join. These ensembles are open to all students from Reception to Year 9.

Recorder lessons are on again this year and will be run before school and after school. Students will be grouped into different Year Levels, please see timetable attached for more information regarding times and classes.

Festival choir is open for students from Year 4 to 7. Rehearsals for this ensemble will be in Lesson 6 on Monday.

A new choir is forming for those students in Years 7-9 who would like to continue to develop their skills. There are two rehearsals for this ensemble, Thursday Lesson 5 for those students in Year 8 and 9 and a combined rehearsal on Monday afternoons for Year 7-9 from 3:15 – 3:45pm.

If students would like to participate in an ensemble they need to fill out a commitment contract, which they can get from their class teachers or myself. The contract needs to be completed and signed by both student and parent before a child can begin in their chosen ensemble.

There is no cost to participate in these ensembles. There is a small cost involved for Recorder students to purchase their instrument and recorder book. Recorders are $10 and books are $8. These can be purchased from the school.

If you have any queries please contact me on 8672 5077

Recorder Ensemble Timetable

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<td>Advanced Recorder</td>
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SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. Dental care is FREE for most children.

SA Dental Service participates in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

All dental care provided is FREE for preschool children.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, please visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au
School Counselling

It has been a fantastic start to the year and we are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead. The school counselling service is provided by the two school counsellors, Mr Botten and Ms Prizzi. The counselling service offers:

- Help to manage relationships with family, teachers and peers
- Support to manage areas of concern
- Referrals to other support agencies
- Support to encourage attendance and learning at school

The counsellors are currently located in the Primary Unit. In the next few weeks, C-Space will reopen and Ms Prizzi will be based there. C-Space is the counselling centre located between the Home Ec centre and the Music Room.

School Values

This term all classes are focusing on the school value of Respect. It has been wonderful to see students living the school values. We have particularly noticed that when visiting classes students have been very welcoming and respectful. Students have been working on their classroom displays about Respect and we look forward to sharing some of these in the next newsletter.

Attendance

The attendance rate for Week 1 was 67.5%. We continue to work with the Remote Schools Attendance Strategy Team this year to support and encourage school attendance.

Students Working Actively Together

The SWAT (Students Working Actively Together) Team have completed their first project. The short film featuring students will be shown at the Attendance Forum next week. A number of SWAT teams will start later this term focusing on areas including fundraising, kitchen garden, and lunch activities.

Geri Prizzi and Daniel Botten

School Counsellors