From the Principal’s Desk…

The school has settled down into our regular routines and learning has become a focus in the classroom. It is very pleasing to see students focussed on their work and their learning. Our Open Night on Monday 23rd February will give parents a chance to see what is happening in the classrooms and I encourage you to come along and talk with your child’s teacher about the learning program.

School Values

As I described in the last newsletter, our aim is to have our students understand and finally live our school values. We will be persistent in working on these and so it will become an expectation that every student can talk about and understands what it means to live our values. The first value in focus was the one of RESPECT. I need to make it very clear that the school will not tolerate any form of physical violence. We hold a no tolerance policy to that and our consequences for students who engage in it to solve problems or conflicts will be severe. Please talk with your child/ren and reinforce that physical violence is not an acceptable way to deal with emotions or problems that we encounter in our daily lives. We need to get this message across as quickly as possible to all students and our school community.

Annual General Meeting

The Governing Council Annual General Meeting is to be held on Monday 2nd March at 5:30pm in the Community Library Board room. We have pre nomination forms available from the Front Office and you can indicate your interest in being on the Governing Council or one of the sub committees. This is a great way to be involved even if you are unable to make it to the AGM. In most cases, people will nominate for a two year tenure on the Governing Council and so we have continuity across years with some people staying on and some people completing their tenure. Please think seriously about being part of the decision making structure of the school. We are faced with a range of challenges as we deliver the best possible education here at Coober Pedy and your input to that would be appreciated.

School Reviews

As part of the quality assurance process in DECD, each school will undergo an external review every 4 years. The review will be very thorough and will have student learning and achievement as one of the main areas to be considered. Following the review a series of recommendations will be made that will shape the directions for the school’s improvement agenda. We are to be one of the first schools in the state to undergo the new review process. Our review will happen early next term and the review team will be based here at the school for a few days as they gather evidence and look at what and how we do it. This will be a terrific basis for the next few years as we will have clearly identified areas we need to work on and what needs to happen for us to move forward. There will be more details about this review as we get closer to it.

Meet the Teacher Open Night...

Our annual Meet the Teacher Night is planned for Monday 23rd February. Classrooms will be open from 4:30pm - 6:00pm. Please come along and check out how your child or children are going at school. It is a wonderful opportunity to see their work and ask any questions you may have. Formal parent teacher interviews are scheduled for week 9 of this term.

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Meet the Teacher Open Night Monday 23rd February
ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

One of the key areas that affects student learning is attendance. If you are not here at school and not participating in a learning program, then you are at a disadvantage straight away. This disadvantage continues to grow at a rapid rate if you have frequent absences and very soon you are finding that school is a real challenge as you can no longer keep up or understand what is happening in classes. You then start to feel more isolated within the classroom and soon you choose not to come any more and you start to limit your future opportunities because you are not switched on to formal learning at all. It is very important that we understand this cycle and are aware of the severe impact it has on student achievement at school. Please make every effort to have students at school each day so that the absence cycle doesn’t form and absenteeism doesn’t become a way of life for your child.

Mark Ireland
Principal

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, Julia Chamberlain, Richard Narrier and Gary Crombie who are School Attendance Supervisors, and Cheryl Brown, Nikki Gardiner, Samantha Hayes, Francine Hoani, Kris Davies, Alinta Wonga and David Gilbey 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.

The Multicultural Forum wish to put a float in the Opal Festival Parade highlighting the multicultural community of Coober Pedy. They are looking for people to take part in their float. If you are not committed already to a float and have a national costume to wear or have a costume you would like to lend out please contact the Multicultural Forum Tuesday to Thursday between the hours of 10:00am—2:00pm on 86723299. They would like a mixture of adults and children. If you don’t have a costume but would like to participate please contact them.
We have had an excellent start to the school year and have enjoyed getting to know each other.

We have been looking at our school value of **Respect**. Here are some ways we show respect.

**We respect ourselves**
- Eat Healthy Foods
- Keep yourself clean
- Help other people
- Be a good listener

**We respect other people**
- Get lots of sleep

**We respect places**
- Pack things away
- Keep our things clean
- Pick up rubbish

**We respect our things**
- Put things back where you found them
- Use things properly
School Values

Congratulations to students who were awarded with certificates at this week’s assembly for living the school values. Classroom displays about our school value of Respect are looking fantastic. The Year 6/7 class has a wall full of pictures showing how they demonstrate respect and use their manners.

Attendance

At each assembly the RSAS team will be acknowledging some of the students who have made a real effort to attend school regularly. This week Charmaine, Richard, Diandra, Krista, Brad and Sammy (pictured below) received attendance awards.

Student Incentive Programs

The Mini Blues reward lesson this week was a movie. When the weather cools down, we are looking forward to offering a range of fun reward lesson activities. We have just received the wonderful news that OzMinerals will be sponsoring the Year 8 –10 Reward Camp to Adelaide again this year.

Geri Prizzi and Daniel Botten
School Counsellors