From the Principal's Desk…

WELCOME BACK TO TERM 2

We have already settled in to the routines for Term 2 and classes are’ back to business’ and getting ready for the demands of this term. The first of these demands will be NAPLAN testing next week for students in Years 3,5,7 and 9. The testing will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and most sessions will start at the beginning of the day. Please make sure that children arrive on time on these days so that they can sit the test. The testing is done under exam conditions and so once the session has started, it is not possible for late comers to join in. Our tests will be collected on Friday and so there are not many windows for catch up testing for students who were late or away.

STUDENT FREE DAY

The next Student Free Day for our school is on Thursday 21 May. The staff will be involved in a range of activities on the day. The Primary years will be looking at the teaching of Maths and getting some information on an approach called ‘Natural Maths’ from the person who has developed the approach. The secondary staff will be working on SACE and getting more information on the Australian Curriculum. Other schools will be joining us on the day. Students are not required to be at school on this day.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

We have had some of our secondary students who have been leaving the school grounds during the school day without permission. This is a problem for us in that we have duty of care for students during the school day and so we need to know where they are. We have spoken to students about the consequences of being caught off the site. Parents / Caregivers will be notified if students are caught off site. We will be running a 3 strikes policy. If students are off site on 2 occasions parents will be notified and asked for support. On the 3rd occasion, parents will need to come in to the school and discuss the situation as clearly the student is not following the school expectations and there is putting their enrolment here at risk.

EXTERNAL SCHOOL REVIEW

There will be two external reviewers in the school on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 May. They are looking at our improvement agenda and will provide information on where they see us up to in our work to keep up continuous improvement here at Coober Pedy. This is part of a quality control mechanism that DECD has started this year. We are one of the first schools to undergo this review process but all schools will go through it over the next few years. The recommendations from the review will be published in a future newsletter and then will form part of our Site Learning Improvement Plan. This Plan is a public statement of what we are working on and how we intend to get there.

Upcoming Dates to Remember…

Whole school assembly– Wednesday 20th May
Student free day –Thursday 21st May
NAPLAN test- 12,13,14th May

UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY
Respect ◆ Inclusivity ◆ Integrity ◆ Commitment & Responsibility ◆ Excellence
VICE REGAL VISIT

His Excellency, the Governor of South Australia, will be visiting the school on Tuesday 12 May. The Governor is in Coober Pedy for a few days and the school has been put on his visiting schedule. We are looking forward to an opportunity to show off some of our facilities and some of our achievements. He will be visiting some of the classes during his time at the school. It will be very exciting for us to have such important visitors here. We have a number of students who will perform some musical items at a ceremony on Monday that the Governor will attend as well.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPORT

Our Governing Council met this week. One of our agenda items related to our school run bus service. We are revising some aspects of the Bus Run and will be documenting the expectations of users of this service. There will also be some details around consequences for students who are not meeting these expectations. There is always a question around child restraint provisions on buses and our investigations show us that when a vehicle meets the conditions of being a bus, they are not required to provide child restraint seating. The Governing Council discussed the pros and cons of us being declared a ‘bus’ and have decided to work on us getting full bus accreditation. As such, we will not be putting in specific child restraints but will be using the seatbelts that are fitted. There will be more details and expectations circulated later once they have been prepared.

The Governing Council have also agreed to develop a smart phone application (both for Apple and Android) that will give users fast and efficient access to details about the school and the school day. As such, we will no longer publish parts of our newsletter in the Coober Pedy Times. This may impact other members of the school community who have been getting information from the Coober Pedy Times but they will be able to access the smart phone app for free from the various app stores.

STAFF CHANGES

We welcome Mr Ainslie Smith to the staff as our Years 8 -10 Maths teacher. Ainslie started this term and will be with us until the end of the year. We hope he settles well and enjoys his time here at the school. Maurice Saah has started in his role as Aboriginal Education Co-ordinator.

We have Deb Marsland covering our Year 4/5 class at present whilst we organise a long term replacement for this class following the transfer of Megan to Adelaide. We are hopeful of keeping Deb here until a long term solution is found. Deb is a statewide Permanent Relieving Teacher and so her placement is often based on which school has the highest priority need.

We welcome Angela Ratcliff back from leave as well this term. Anthony Prizzi has taken some leave to start the term as well.

Mark Ireland
Principal

Is your child’s information up to date?

E.g Medical conditions, phone numbers, address and emergency contacts.

Please contact the front office if there has been any changes.

Are you eligible for a school card?

Application forms are available at the front office.
Umoona Opal Mine Excursion

Last term Miss Rose’s 1/2’s and Miss Walsh’s 2/3s visited the Umoona Opal Mine to learn about Coober Pedy’s history. We found the museum fascinating and enjoyed investigating the history of our town.

A very big Thank you to the lovely staff at the Umoona Opal Mine for having us and showing us around the old mine.

Goodbye Miss Walsh....... Hello Mrs Gniel

In the holidays Miss Walsh got married to Jamie Gniel. Before she left the children in Miss Rose’s and Miss Walsh’s class decided to make her a wedding dress. We worked in groups to design and make her the most beautiful wedding dress and flower bouquet all out of newspaper.
My Name is Maurice Saah and have been teaching in Coober Pedy since January 2011. For the rest of the year I will be working as the Aboriginal Education Coordinator and I am looking forward to continue to work with students and their families.
Australian Early Development Census

Playing our part to build a national picture of child health

What is the AEDC?

In early 2015, our school, along with thousands of others across the country will begin preparations for the third Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). The AEDC measures five key areas of development in children during their first year of full-time school to build a national picture of health and wellbeing. Since 2009, the census results have helped communities, schools and governments plan services and target support for children and families.

Teachers are trained to assess each child and answer questions. Children don’t need to be present so no class time is missed, and parents/carers don’t need to supply schools with any new information for the census. Teachers’ individual assessments are then analysed by the AEDC and reported as anonymous groups of children in the final report.

In other communities across the country, census results have helped communities to plan new playgrounds and parental services; schools are seeing improved student performance through new literacy programmes; and governments are using the results as evidence to develop better policies for children.

Teachers have also noticed practical benefits in the classroom. Some said in previous years that completing the assessments made them more aware of the needs of individual children and the class as a whole. Others reported that the census results are useful in planning for transitions to school and for developing class programmes.

Participation in the AEDC is voluntary. Parents/carers don’t need to take any action unless they choose not to include their children in the census.

To find out more about the census and how communities are using the data to help children and families visit the AEDC website.