FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK...

As we approach the half way mark in the term, it is perhaps timely to look at the fact that we will have a semester change over at the end of Week 8. Our written reports will come home to parents near the end of term but they will be focussed on the first semester of the year. There will be more details around our reports and how they are written as we get closer to the end of term. They will report against all of the work students have done in the first semester.

RECONCILIATION WEEK

Our school will join with a number of other agencies in the town to celebrate Reconciliation Week on Friday 29 May. We are very pleased to be combining with a number of other agencies as we look at the underlying thoughts and concepts associated with Reconciliation Week. The idea that everyone belongs and works together to achieve a future in harmony certainly fits beautifully within our school values too.

EXTERNAL SCHOOL REVIEW

Our review was held a few weeks ago and I would like to thank a large number of people who all provided the Review Panel with an insight in to how we think about our school and what we think could be worked on to achieve even more. The final review findings are a long way from arriving back in the school but the general feel from the panel was that we have many good things happening across the school but it is not consistent in every room. They have asked us to work on the good practises and to work towards making it consistent right across the school. They have described us as a ‘unique school’ with lots of positives that we can work on to become a stand out school. We will take these ideas and start to prepare a plan with both short and longer term goals, that we can use to guide our work over the next few years.

KINDY STARTING TIMES

Just a reminder that our Kindy starts at 8.45 am. We have a few children who are arriving well before that time and staff are not able to set up the Kindy ready for the day as they have started to look after children. The kindy door will not be open until 8.45 and staff will not be able to provide supervision for children before that time. Please help the staff to make sure that they are fully ready for the fun and exciting sessions.

LANGUAGE IN THE YARD

At our last whole school assembly we spoke about the increased use of inappropriate language in the yard. We want students to practise their ‘respect’ skills by on using acceptable language to each other here at school. Please take the time to speak with your child/ren around the correct language to be used at school. Our school needs to be a safe place and so we expect that our language is safe and respectful too.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our school photos were held this week and it was terrific to see so many of our students in school uniform. It was great to see students taking pride in the school and the uniform that represents us. Thanks to parents for their efforts for the photos and I encourage you to keep this up so that students feel proud of their school at all times.

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Wednesday the 3rd of June-Golf Pro Day
Monday the 8th of June-Public Holiday
STUDENT FREE DAY

Our Student Free Day last week was packed with new and interesting things for staff to work on. The Primary staff worked with a Maths person, Anne Baker, who challenged our thinking on how to teach Maths and how successful we have been to date with our teaching. This week we have been trialling many of her ideas as we check on what our students know. She will be coming back to visit us again this year and helping us make the next leap in our thinking. You may see and hear students talking about Maths in a different way as they engage with the games and activities that make up Anne’s approach to Maths. She has a website and a range of materials that support her ideas.

The Secondary staff looked at the new Australian Curriculum with a focus on the types of assessment tasks that we use with our students. Our aim was to get more understanding how we can assist students to show us the depth of their thinking and not just how good they are at recalling facts and information. The second part of the day was based around our SACE achievements at Years 11 and 12. Our focus was on what we can learn from the data that the SACE board give us about how our students went. We examined the results and looked at how we can support students further to achieve SACE by monitoring their work across the year more closely.

STAFF CHANGES

We say farewell next week to Kayleen Patterson who has been supporting our classes this year. We wish Kayleen well on her new career path into nursing. She will be missed by students and staff here at the school.

We are not far from farewelling Adele Kenny from her role as Senior Leader Early Years as she embarks on her role as a new mum. We are all very excited about the birth of Baby Kenny and we hope that all goes well. We will certainly notice not having Adele around the school with her positive and support approach to all that she does.

SICKNESS

We have had a lot of flu like colds and sniffles over the last two weeks. Lots of children and staff have had the symptoms and have needed time off to speed up the recovery. Please be on the watch for symptoms and give children a chance to catch up from the cold/flu. It seems to be taking a lot out of students and they are flat for a few days.

GOLF DAY

Next week we have a Golf Skills Day on Wednesday and students are quite excited by the chance to learn and use their golf skills.

Mark Ireland
Principal

“YourGolfPro is such a fun program. We got to meet professional golfers and learn more techniques for playing golf. It would be awesome to do this again so I hope there is another program like this.” – Jen (Year 11) 2014

Learn Free Golf and meet PGA Golf Professionals
Where: Coober Pedy Golf Club
When: June 3rd, 2015
Cost: FREE
The Year 6/7’s have been working on writing interesting narratives using descriptive noun groups, interesting verbs and adverbs, similes, personification and suspense like the author Paul Jennings. Here is a selection of paragraphs to show you some of the great work students have been doing.

Opening paragraph from ‘New Life Begins’
As the final tears of frozen ice melted away and once again became one with the earth and its creatures, the suns illuminating rays baptised the dark lifeless memories of the bitter season. New life blossomed and bloomed like florets and buds of ocean blue, lilac, vermillion, yellow and rose. Luscious green grass grew upon the ground, as the newborn foal took its first step.

Brilyanz Mance

Opening paragraph from ‘The Beach’
Wow! Multi-coloured rays of the sunrise appeared from the horizon. Different shades of rainbow started to reflect on the water. The aqua blue water was shining bright as a diamond. As the sun was coming up, the birds were flying across the sky. The gentle waves touched the sand of the beach.

Tehreem Ghufran

Extract from ‘The Dead Circus’
When Jay entered the maze he saw something. In a blink of an eye it was gone. The warmth in his body disappeared. Jay’s eyes were wide open. His mind raced. He was terrified.

Cheyla Smith

Opening paragraph from ‘The Mysterious Library’
Thump! A cloud of dust arose from all the old mystic books. Rows and rows of different stories filled the shelves. Colourful pictures of books hung from the ceiling creating interest and wonder. Silence crept through the hallways as the only sound was made by the ticking clock.

Shenelle Perera
Opening paragraph from ‘The Walk’
As the beautiful golden sunset gazed upon the bright green gum leaves, drops of crystals gently trickled down. The cool breeze rustled the blossoming flower bushes.
“What a lovely evening it is!” April joyfully exclaimed.
“Yes it is,” May replied. “It’s astonishing!”
As April and May wandered around the garden their ears strained to hear any sounds in their strange surroundings.
Snap! A twig fractured into two. Weird sounds approached closer and closer.

Amber McDonald

Max’s stomach tightened. His chest swelled with fear. Trembling in fright he cowered against the pure gold wall. He opened the shiny bright orange door.

Max Aulich

Opening paragraph from ‘The Grave Walkers’
Bang! The gate slammed shut as Joe and Miranda stepped into the graveyard.
In the dim light of the moon and Joe’s dingy torch they saw some old gravestones. As Miranda started walking at a slow pace, Joe followed behind. Cold sweat ran down their faces. Joe’s heart was thumping out of his chest. Miranda’s senses where on red alert.

Raffaella Crisa