FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK...

SEMESTER 1 ENDS

Our first semester comes to an end this week. Next week we start the second semester and there are always some timetable changes associated with the change of semester. It will take a little while for people to adjust to the new semester but we expect that everyone will be settled by the start of next term. There are some staff changes associated with the new semester too. We welcome Sarah Turner to the Year 4/5 class in the Unit and Sarah will be the long term teacher for this class. We thank Deb Marsland for her contribution to this class following the departure of Megan Winen at the end of last term.

We are expecting a new teacher, Belinda Jenkins, to start in the class behind Chanelle Rose in Term 3. Mr Steve Riley will be the class teacher until the end of term. Chanelle has taken on the Early Years Senior Leader role for the remainder of the year.

Students who have been working from the Deadly Centre will now return to mainstream classes and we are looking at using that salary to support an intervention program based around students in Years 1, 2 and 3 to establish stronger literacy and numeracy skills.

WRITTEN REPORTS

At the end of this term we will be sending home student reports. These reports will be sent home by post and will be focussed on the work done in Semester 1. The written report is based around the new Australian Curriculum and will be graded according to a 5 point scale. The details of this scale will be included with the reports. Students who are new to the school will get a modified report detailing how they are settling in and students who have poor attendance records will get a single page report based around the what they have achieved in their time at school.

As I have written about previously, student achievement is great impacted by attendance at school. Where there has been limited attendance generally there is limited achievement in the report. We have included details of the number of absences in the reports and ask that you consider the report in relation to the number of days that children attended. Our own research has shown us that where students are at school 3 days a week they have a good chance of learning basic skills. Where they attend more than 3 days a week, their chances of achieving academic success really start kick in.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

Next week on Tuesday we will hold a special assembly at 9 am in the Gym. We are hosting a special visitor from Canberra from the Remote School Attendance Strategy, Mr Mike Fordham, who is making a presentation to the school. The RSAS Project is supplying the school with a number of resources that can be used to support the curriculum and to support students with engagement to their studies. Most sections of the school will be getting resources from this project and we are certainly looking forward to the chance to use the resources as part of our programs.

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

PJ Day– Thursday 25th of June
Marla Sports Day– Friday 26th of June
Primary Assembly– Wednesday 1st of July
SAASTA POWER CUP WINNERS

Our SAASTA members recently played in a series of games in the lead up to the Port Adelaide/ Western Bulldogs game at Adelaide Oval. Our team is comprised of Coober Pedy and Oceanview players. We played in the curtain raiser which was the Grand final of the Power Cup and our team was the overall winner of the carnival. This is a very big achievement and we are certainly very proud of the efforts of the SAASTA group.

SECURITY FENCING

It is believed that our security fence will start to go up during the upcoming holidays. There will be a work crew here and the big fence will start to go up around our boundary. The aim of this fence is to reduce vandalism out of school hours and it will give us a chance to establish some garden and special areas around the school. We are looking forward to the chance to make our school more visually attractive.

ROAD SAFETY

At our Governing Council meeting this week, we had some discussions around the safety of the road crossing on Cameron Drive. We will ask the Police to look at some patrols around the school at pick up and drop off times to try and remind drivers of the need to travel at 25 km when students are present. Recently we have had some near misses as drivers speed past the school. Please be very careful at pick up and drop off times as our young people do not always appreciate the safety implications of crossing the road.

Mark Ireland
Principal

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Aboriginal Education Wangka (talk)

The Deadliest ACEO Award goes to **Pearl Austin** from Coober Pedy Area School.

From 547 km away Pearl can still take the time to go out and engage with the community to track down a student living in Stirling North. Thankyou Pearl! You remind me of why ACEOs are such a vital and important part of our schools.

From
Kimberly Marden
Aboriginal Services Engagement Officer from Port Augusta.

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**NAIDOC YOUTH BALL**

Do you want to be involved in the organisation of the Youth Ball?

*Have your say!*

Come to the Youth Shed on Wednesday 24th
at 3:30pm

*Any enquiries please contact Sophie Reynolds on 0427 264 969 or Sonia Mazzoni 8672 5605*
Counsellors' Corner

Attendance

Last week’s attendance rate was 75%. It’s fantastic to see our attendance improving over the last three weeks. It has also been great to see that when students have been absent, many families have been calling the school or sending a note to let us know why their child is absent.

SWAT Team

The mosaic and mural Students Working Actively Together Team are currently working on the mosaic flags. We have been making mosaic flags that represent the diversity of nationalities in our school community. These will be part of the ‘Unity Through Diversity’ mural in the school yard.

Karen and Ban working on the Aboriginal Flag                  Clydine and Anoshua making the Italian flag

PJ Day

PJ day is on Thursday 25th June and is being organised by the Events and Fundraising SWAT Team. Staff and students are invited to come to school in their comfy pyjamas. Please bring a gold coin donation as we are raising money to help support the local kangaroo orphanage.

Geri Savill and Daniel Botten

School Counsellors