From the Principal’s Desk...

Term 4 is already half way through as we rush towards the end of the school year. As predicted, the term is a busy and full on one with lots happening as we plan for 2016 and as we conclude 2015. The next major focus for the school is around written reports. Teachers are currently working on these as we collect information and data around what students can do. Our written reports are based around the new Australian Curriculum and in particular, the Achievement Standards for each year level in each area. Teachers collect evidence of what students can do in relation to that Achievement Standard right across the year and then this report gives details of the achievements right across the year.

We have some students who are not working at their year level and so it would be unfair to grade them according to year level when they are not even working on the materials for that year level. As such, we will have students who have “Modified Program” written on their report. In this case, they have not been working to year level and so we are making statements about their achievements in relation to the modified program they have been working on.

Presentation Day

Our whole school Presentation Day is approaching on Wednesday 18 November. Please try and keep this day free and attend the celebrations if you can. It is always good to be able to celebrate student success and to give recognition to our students for their efforts. This event will be held in the Gym from 10:55 am.

Class Placements

The class placement process for 2016 continues and we will release information around placement with student written reports later in the term. The placement process is always a bit challenging as we try to determine which of the 16 placement factors should take priority for each student. Sometimes parent requests can overlap and so the school has to make hard decisions around the placement of students. For example, it is not uncommon for one parent to request a placement with another student because the families are friends. It is also not uncommon for the other family to feel that the children are together often enough out of school so they would like a break from being together in class. The two families don’t have this conversation together and so the school is seen as the one making the changes without following parent requests. It is never easy to meet everyone’s requests, needs or desires. Class teachers are the last ones assigned to classes and in some cases, we still do not have the names of teachers who will be new to the school. We are currently working on trying to finalise our staffing for next year but it may not be completed until January 2016.

Rewards Camps

This week we have had the Years 8 – 10 away on Rewards Camp in Adelaide. Rewards Camp is based around students who have lived the school values right across the year and have achieved the required percentage in each of our values as judged by staff at various points across the year. It is a reward for having done the right thing over a longer period of time.

Next week our Year 6/7 class head off on their Rewards Camp too. It is good to be able to recognise and celebrate the efforts of students across the year.

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Presentation Day

Wednesday, 18th November  at 10:55 in the gym
From the Principal's Desk...

Testing time for Senior School

We wish our Year 11 and 12 students success in up coming exams and in finalising their assignments for the year. The process of ‘moderation’ has started for our Year 12 students too. Moderation is where our student’s work is compared to other students across the state to ensure that a grade given here is the same as a grade given in any other school. Moderation can see a student’s final grade go up or down according to how hard or soft we have been marking their work throughout the year. For our older students, the grades in their school reports are subject to change according to how the moderation process sees their work.

Our Year 12 students will have their Graduation Dinner on Friday 13 November. It will be a nice way to farewell the students who have been our role models for the year.

Bus Timetables

We have had major dramas in setting up a consistent bus timetable as was our plan for this term. The Rewards Camps and the like have meant that at times we have not had buses here and we have been using the RSAS (Orange Mob) vehicles that do not have the same capacity. The other factor in play has been the swimming pool and a number of students have been going to the pool after school and by passing the bus anyway so runs have been changed to manage that and times have not been consistent. We still plan to get a consistent set of times out and some set runs so that we can reduce the amount of time that students are held at school whilst they wait for buses in the evenings and so that you know roughly when your pick up is in the morning.

Student Free Day—Review and Planning

At our recent Student Free Day on 26 October, much of our time was spent looking at the findings of the External Review that we had in May. The findings have been put into 7 directives that the school must address in the future. The initial part of that plan is the first 12 months and we have been asked to provide a clear and concise statement of what our aims, goals and actions will be to address the concerns raised from the Review. We will have a longer term strategic plan too that takes in the next 3 to 5 years. DECD have agreed to Review us again in early 2017 to see how we are going against our 1 year plan. Our Education Director, Mr Robin Harkin, will have a role too in supporting us to meet the aims of the 1 year plan. A copy of the External Review will go on our website shortly and once the short and longer term plans are completed, they too will be able to be accessed from the website.

Hats on—Please Help Us Out!!

Just a reminder that we are pushing for our “Hats On” policy to develop good habits around sun protection. This is a clear direction from our Governing Council. For this initiative to be successful we will need the support of all parents and care givers. Please ensure that your child /ren have a hat that they can wear at school. If it has a name in it there is a much greater chance that it can be returned to you if left after a lesson in another room or lost somewhere around the school.

Mark Ireland
Year 2-3 Science/Biology
Ms Johansen/Mrs Marsland

A Cross curricular study in Science/Math/English/Geography

Students are looking and graphing growth and change in simple plants and meal worms.

The plants and meal worms are watered or fed every school day.

Students then compare and record their findings on how much they have grown on to graphs.
Year 8, 9 and 10 Reward Camp 2015