



Term 1, Week 3

14/2/2014

Two Wells Primary School Newsletter



General Information

From the Principal

Two Wells Primary School is now part of the Gawler Partnerships Portfolio (previously known as Barossa Region) which includes 50 other schools. Our Educational Director (previously known as a Regional Director) is Kathryn Bruggemann who is based at Phoenix Plaza in Gawler. Our local partnership is called Greater Gawler and is made up of 15 sites including primary schools, preschools and Gawler District College. On the 3rd and 4th of March all school leaders across the state will attend a conference entitled Building Effective Preschool and School Partnerships. This will provide more insight into the new structure of DECD but at the moment it is business as usual.

It is expected that all teachers will plan and assess students using the Australian Curriculum in English, Maths, Science, History and Geography this year, as well as familiarising themselves with Humanities and Social Science (Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business) and The Arts. Teachers will continue to use SACSAP for Health and PE, and Technologies until 2015. Extra Pupil Free Days have been allocated to all schools to support training (additional two). Governing Council has approved Pupil Free Days for term 1, 2 & 3 with our first day being on Tuesday 11th March (straight after the Adelaide Cup Day public holiday). Teachers will attend Professional Development whilst students get an extra long weekend. The date for the Pupil Free Day in term four has yet to be decided.

Most of the Maintenance Grant funds we received last year have now been spent on toilet floors, window coverings, gym roof, plumbing, lights etc. The hall will be revamped after it has been used for voting for the upcoming State Election on the 15th March. We plan to carpet the floor (with a small section covered in lino) and put up large cloth pinup boards for display purposes as well as sound absorption.

A parent recently contacted me about our Asbestos buildings and noted that paint was peeling from the panels that sit off the building walls, near classroom doors and windows. There are many layers of paint on these panels and they are peeling away back to the asbestos. However, I have since had the panels inspected by DPTI Building Management and Asbestos Services and they have assured me that there is no risk to students at all. Although the paint is peeling away there is no damage to the asbestos panels underneath. We are currently having all the panels repainted.

On Wednesday we had our first Governing Council meeting for the year. Concerns were raised through council about the parent car park. Yet again there are issues with speeding and smoking. All DECD property including the parent car park is a smoke free zone so please consider the health of our students and their families. There is also a speed limit of 10kmph so again, please consider the safety of our students and their families at pick up and drop off times. The car park will be monitored and as per legislation, registration numbers will be recorded and provided to SAPOL.

The Governing Council Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th March at 6.45pm in the staffroom followed by training from 7.30-9.30pm. This training is for existing members as well as new members appointed at the AGM. Please fill out the Nomination Slip at the back of this newsletter if you would like to be a Governing Council member.

The first Whole School Assembly is scheduled for Friday 21st February, however due to unforeseen commitments the assembly will now be held on Thursday 20th February at 9.00am in the gym. Apologies for the inconvenience this may cause some families.

Acquaintance Night, despite the heat, was well attended. I hope families found this a useful way to meet teachers and learn about classroom organisation, routines etc. The lucky winner of the \$50 voucher is Jesse Owen, Room 5. The voucher can be collected by an adult from the front office next week.

A reminder to parents that we have the Skoolbag app that can be installed on an iPhone or android. If you already have the app, don't forget to go into 'setup' and change your child/children's classroom from last year so you can receive classroom information as well as newsletters. We are in the process of working with staff to install relevant 2014 classroom information.

Enjoy the cooler weather!

Lynda Fitzpatrick-Brown

From the Counsellor

If you are interested in being a new volunteer at our school, you will need to follow the process below:

1. See front office staff for a Child-related Employment Screening application (previously known as Criminal History check). The school are happy to cover the cost of your application if you plan on REGULARLY volunteering in our school.
2. Notification of application needs to be handed to front office staff once it is approved.
3. Attend the new volunteers meeting being run by the Counsellor, Zoe, on Tuesday 25th of February at 1:30pm in the parent room.

This session will involve an informal meet and greet to discuss the role of a volunteer as well as online Mandated Notification training that needs to be completed before any volunteer can begin working with students. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to call or drop in and see me at school.

Zoe Evans

From the Deputy

We have had several reports lately of students not behaving safely at the bus stops. As stated in the bus travel application form signed by parents, **"Parents / caregivers are responsible for their children at bus stops. The school has a duty of care whilst children are on the bus only. Safe, sensible behaviour is expected on the bus and while children are boarding and alighting the bus"**. You can help keep children safe by:

1. Making sure children arrive 5 minutes before the bus is due so children are not rushing to get on/off the bus.
2. Waiting with your child at the bus stop and being there on time to pick them up. Park in a safe position and meet your child AT the stop so they are not crossing the road or walking in front / behind the bus alone.
3. Ensuring that children stand a safe distance from where the bus pulls in until it comes to a complete stop / departs.
4. Not exceeding 25km/hr passing a stationary bus.

Ann-Marie Ellis

Reading at Home



Literacy is everyone's business. One of the easiest things you can do with a child whose literacy level is low is just to listen to them read. Therefore, it is important for a child's literacy development to read at home.

This could take several forms:

1. Being read to by parents and/or older siblings,
2. Reading out loud to younger sisters and brothers,
3. Silent reading, and
4. Seeing others in the family reading.

Studies show that regularly reading out loud to children will produce significant gains in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and the decoding of words.

Other things you can do to develop a desire to read independently are:

1. Surround your children with reading material.
2. Set aside a regular time to read to your children every day.
3. Have a family reading time.
4. Encourage a wide variety of reading activities.
5. Develop the library habit.
6. Use a variety of aids to help your children.
7. Show enthusiasm for your children's reading.

<http://school.familyeducation.com/top-10-ways/improve-reading-skills>

Premier's Reading Challenge

Once again the school will be participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge this year. We are again aiming to have 100% participation. The PRC forms will be available next week, so now is the time to get started.

Volunteers



What a lovely group of volunteers we have - they sort, stamp, staple, 'sleeve' and slip books when and where needed. They are a small band of very conscientious people and we thank them most sincerely for their time and expertise.

There is no doubt, though, that we can always do with more helpers.

Quiz Question

First student to come and tell Mrs White the answer to the Quiz Question has his/her name written in the Quiz Question Book for a prize drawing at the end of the year.



Last year's winner was

Jack Harris – CONGRATULATIONS JACK

What trilogy did JRR Tolkien write?

'YOU CANNOT OPEN A BOOK WITHOUT LEARNING SOMETHING'

- Confucius

Anna CTM White - Teacher/Librarian

Gawler Hockey Club

RECRUITING NOW
Junior & Senior Players
No experience necessary

First Training and Come'n'Try Evening:

Wed 5th March 2014 5pm onwards at our home ground:

Karbeethan Reserve
Angle Vale Road, Evanston Gardens

For more info Please visit our website (Google Gawler Hockey Club)
or contact Lisa Johnson 0419 110 725.

School Dental Service

A new children's dental benefits schedule for 2 – 17 year olds started in January 2014. It is called the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider and welcomes babies, children and young people under 18 years.

Dental care is FREE for most children and the School Dental Service will bulk-bill Medicare.

Children who do not qualify for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule can still attend – a small fee may apply for each course of general dental care provided.

There are no waiting times at the School Dental Service. To keep your children's teeth and gums healthy we encourage them to attend the School Dental Service.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic, and for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

Gawler BMX Club

Gawler BMX Club are holding a **Come and Try Day on Sunday 23rd February 10am at the Gawler BMX Track**, Gawler River Rd, Willaston adjacent Willaston Football Club

Free introductory coaching session with accredited coaches.

Giveaways for participants

Boys and girls welcome – from 4 years old.

We have some loan bikes, helmets and gloves available, but please bring your own bike and helmet if you have one.

Please wear long pants, long sleeves and covered shoes.

Hope to see you there!

For any more info please like us on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/GawlerBMX>

Web: <http://gawler.bmx.com.au>

Email: gawlerbmx@gmail.com

Phone: 0412810634

Parents & Friends AGM

Parents & Friends would like to invite any interested families to their Annual General Meeting on Monday March 3rd 9am in room 5A. Parents & Friends meets on the first Monday of the month during school terms.
New Members Always Welcome

Active After School Sport

We are currently preparing an application to access Active After School Sport funding. Active After School Sports means activities will be run outside school hours to involve local school kids promoting healthy lifestyles. Before we submit our application we would like to measure the level of interest from our families. Activities would occur weekly throughout the school term, straight after school 3-15pm to 4.15pm. Activities provided will be FREE of charge and supervised by our school staff. Students participating would need to be picked up promptly at 4.15pm from school.

If you would like your child/children to be involved in the program, please fill in the tear off slip below and return to the front office as soon as possible.

Thankyou

Leigh Russell

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Active After School Sport Reply Slip

Name: _____

Year Level _____

Teacher _____

✂-----

AGM Nomination Slip

If you are interested in being a part of the Governing Council please use this tear off slip and hand it back to the front office as soon as possible.

Name: _____

Contact Details: _____
