Echunga Primary School

Together we will strive for academic, social, emotional and personal achievement, working within a positive culture that promotes the pursuit of excellence and the understanding of others.

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**DIARY DATES**

Wed 11th/Thurs 12th Nov—Whole School Camp at Woodhouse
Fri 13th Nov—Sports Day
Fri 27th Nov-9:15 Premier’s Reading Challenge Award presentation
Mon 30th Nov—7.00pm Special Governing Council Meeting to approve M&S Charge for 2016. All welcome.
Wed 9th Dec—Year 7 Graduation Dinner
Thurs 10th Dec—Community Assembly/Graduations/Shared Tea
Fri 11th Dec—End of Term 4 2.20 Early dismissal

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

**Keep Positive**

Positive emotions give us a protective shield and can repair damage done by negative emotions. It is therefore important to experience and let your children experience as much positive emotion as possible. This sometimes means that we need to search our day for anything positive and acknowledge it. We sometimes call this Panning for Gold. Sometimes we will find specks of gold and other times we will find nuggets. Often if we are feeling negative about life we think that there is nothing positive happening when in fact, if we search for it, we will find something that might have happened that is positive. There is research to suggest that the ten most frequently experienced emotions are: Joy, Pride, Interest, Awe, Inspiration, Gratitude, Amusement, Hope, Love and Serenity. How many of these have you experienced lately? If not many then maybe you could actively pursue them. Laugh with someone. Be grateful for what you have rather than pine for the things you haven’t got. Look for something new or different to draw your attention to. Build up those positive experiences.

I remind you of the story of an old Cherokee telling his grandson of a battle that goes on inside people. He said:

“The battle is between two wolves inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.

After thinking about it for a minute the grandson asked, “Which wolf wins?” The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

**Uniforms**

After many requests sent home about students wearing school uniforms we are still finding a number are consistently ignoring our requests. We understand “one offs” - Clothes getting washed for instance, accidents etc but we’re not sure why some students would consistently not wear their uniform or only parts of it. Please write a note if there is an issue with your child’s school uniform. If there is no note, a form will be sent home explaining why your child’s clothes are inconsistent with our uniform code and/or inappropriate.

**MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGE 2016**

As per the letter and Watermarked Notice that was emailed out to families on the 29th October, all families are invited to attend the Governing Council Meeting on the 30th November to make enquiries about the charge. The meeting will be held at 7.00pm in the Staff Room.

If you are unable to attend the Council meeting you may express your concerns in writing to the Chairperson, Penny O’Neil, and leave your letter at the Front Office to be passed on.
SCHOOL NEWS

ADVANCE NOTICE:
ECHUNGA PRIMARY STUDENTS AT THE
COMMUNITY CAROLS NIGHT

Each year, students from Echunga Primary School are invited to participate in the Community Carols Night as guest artists. This is held in the Echunga Institute annually on the first Sunday of December.

Because it is held outside school hours (7pm Sunday 6th December) students’ participation is voluntary.

All students from R-7 have the opportunity to learn these songs, regardless of their involvement on the night. Instrumental rehearsals have already begun!

This year, we will be singing:
♦ The Spanish-based Christmas song “Feliz Navidad”
♦ “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas” - made famous by Bing Crosby
♦ The traditional carol “Good King Wenceslas” - with a few upbeat alterations
♦ A song with a theme of world peace.

A note will be sent after camp to help work out numbers of students participating and give final details. I hope this advance notice helps with your planning for this busy time of year.

Lynn Bonython

OUTSTANDING FEES

Thank you to the families who have paid all outstanding school fees, preschool fees, excursion and camp fees for the year.

Camp payments are due to be paid by tomorrow please.

If you still have outstanding payments for school and preschool fees could you please finalise these payments.

LOST PROPERTY

The lost property bin, in the passage of the red brick building, is overflowing.

If your child/ren are missing any jumpers, containers etc could you please check the bin.

Any items that have not been reclaimed in the next couple of weeks will be sent to a second-hand store for resale.

CUTLERY

If any families have spare cutlery (that may have once belonged in the Kitchen/Art Room), could it please be returned.

If you have any spare cutlery that you no longer require we would appreciate any donations. This will ensure that we have enough for each child when we are doing cooking with classes.
NUDE FOOD DAY

Nude Food Lunch was a successful event which had the children and staff from school and Kindy eating together at tables set up under the OSHC verandah.

The majority of children across the school made a huge effort to bring wrapper free food and congratulations to Lorikeet who were 100% nude foodies on the day.

The event was organised as part of on-going conversations and learning in all classes about sustainability and about citizenship and the responsibilities that come with being part of a local and global community.

Lunch was followed by a community assembly where students and families shared their active commitments to helping reduce, reuse and recycle waste; from using an old water tank as a wicking bed, to growing their own vegetables, the ideas were simple, useful and practical.

The commitment to reduce waste at school stemmed from a waste audit that had been conducted by years R/1/2 last year when we realised that a large amount of food and other waste was being thrown out. After 1 day, 22 ziplock bags had been discarded, and after a week, we counted 278 food wrappers, 109 pieces of cling wrap, 18 juice boxes, 3.15 kilograms of food, 86 pieces of paper and 80 plastic containers in the rubbish bins. We are now pleased to say that there is a huge reduction in single use rubbish such as food wrappers, food scraps now go to the chooks or compost for the garden and ziplock bags and other plastic go home to be reused or recycled.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

We are pleased to announce Ms Isobel Redmond MP will once again be presenting our students with their Premier’s Reading Challenge Awards.

The special assembly in the Alluvial Hall will take place on Friday 27th November at 9:15am.

We invite all parents, friends and caregivers to attend.
PARENTING SA VIDEOS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS AND PRE-TEENS

Parenting SA has recently developed four short videos to give parents and carers tips and strategies for living with teens and pre-teens. Topics include: helping teenagers stay safe online; teenagers and feelings; managing conflict with teenagers; and living with teenagers. To watch the videos, go to the Parenting SA website www.parenting.sa.gov.au/videos.htm

OSHC NEWS

OSHC Awards Term 4
And the OSHC Awards go to…
3.  Laela B
4.  Evie S

Vacation Care December 2015 /January 2016 Program
We are in the process of finishing our program now and will email it out in Week 6. It will be jam packed full of fun, activities and excursions.

We have a booking sheet for Gingerbread House Day already in the OSHC room. For families who use us on a permanent basis you are welcome to book in now, or next week, before the program is published and emailed out.

We will be going to see a pantomime “Cinderella” at the Stirling Theatre. We will be going bowling at Murray Bridge and to the park for a big play as well as going to Meadows OSHC for a disco. At the movies we will be seeing the new Disney/Pixar Movie “The Good Dinosaur”.

We will be making a Claymation movie using the iPad, as well as making a Hobbits Den or Fairy Glen.

School Camp
We have had a lot of enquiries about the school camp next week. OSHC cannot transport children to and from the school camp. Families will need to make their own arrangements for dropping off and picking up their children from camp.

Last day of term early finish legal requirements
To comply with Child Care Benefit requirements on the last day of term, we have changed our service operating hours. OSHC will open at 2:20pm and close at 5:30pm.

Glass jars
We are looking for the bigger baby food jars to use for Christmas decorations and craft. If you have any we would love as many as we can get.
COMMUNITY NEWS

FAMILY FUN NIGHT
SEEKING STALL HOLDERS

Perfect Petting Parties together with sails @ Clayton bay are hosting a twilight fun night on January 15th from 5.00pm-7.30pm at sails @ Clayton bay Island View Drive, Clayton Bay.

For $25 per child they get to have fun with, petting zoo; bouncy castle; face paint; plaster to paint; spray tattoo; slushie plus games & prizes including egg & spoon race, sack race, musical statues & more; a colouring in competition with the winner drawn that night; raffle with some amazing prizes.

Bookings are essential. Keep up to date on our event page (linked to Perfect Petting Parties fun page) or inbox or call Stacey Neale from Perfect Petting Parties for your booking form!

Are you a small business that may want a stall? We want to hear from you!

MOUNT BARKER UNITED SOCCER CLUB

The Mount Barker United Soccer Club is seeking expressions of interest from players aged in the “under 12” age bracket to compete in their Junior Premier League (JPL) team for the 2016 season.

All players are encouraged to attend the upcoming trial session as it is a great opportunity to see what the soccer club can offer, meet the coaching team and to ask any questions that may arise.

The details of the trials are as following:

- Sunday November 8th from 10:00am-12:00pm at Morella Oval (Back Oval), Cornerstone College, 68 Adelaide Road, Mount Barker.

In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the U12 coach, Enrico Iasiello by email organicmeats2u@bigpond.com or phone 0418892872.

ECHUNGA UNITING CHURCH NEWS

Bush Street Party, 64 Pocock Road, Echunga, Saturday 21st November, 6pm start. Invite your friends and don’t forget your hat and boots. Bring your own table, chairs, food and drinks. BBQs and tea and coffee provided.

This Month @ Echunga Uniting Church: Youth Group, MOPS, Messy Church, Beach Picnic, Men’s Coffee, Sunday Services, Small Groups, Craft’n’Cuppa’n’Cards, Bush Street Party. For more information head to the Events Calendar on our website—www.echunga.unitingchurchsa.org.au

Operation Santa—Echunga & Meadows Youth Group: Join us in the city shopping for Christmas gifts for children in need 5:30-10:30pm next Friday 13th November. Meet and pickup at Wandeen. Cost $5 donation plus $ for supper. Contact Narelle for more information on 0409754298. Find us on Facebook—www.facebook.com/hillsyouthgroup