FROM THE PRINCIPAL

M for Meaning in PERMA
As you are aware, at the beginning of each second week, we start with an assembly which focusses on Positive Education. Last term these assemblies highlighted Character Strengths. We talked about bravery, persistence, integrity and zest and focussed on these over the following fortnight. This term, we have started by focussing on Meaning. Meaning relates to Positive Purpose. Those with Positive Purpose report greater overall happiness and life satisfaction, they report to being physically and emotionally healthier, being more resilient and feel that they have greater control over their lives. It’s about being part of something greater than ourselves and engaging in activities that have benefits for others. Maybe you could encourage your children to see that they are also part of your family and they can do things to benefit it.

At the last assembly I talked about children being part of the class and doing things for the class that will benefit others. I talked about being part of the Echunga (or another) community and once again engaging in activities that could benefit the community, and I talked about the fact that they are also part of this world and how we can benefit the world by reducing the rubbish that we create. This was highlighted by a YouTube video that was played entitled “Destroying Planet Earth”. You might like to see it some time if you haven’t already. It is an environmental report televised by Good Morning America.

Meaning gives life purpose and doing things that benefit others also engenders positive emotions.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed to benefiting our school: Governing Council members, fundraisers, teacher support, grounds support, cooking support and general help. By doing this you are acknowledging that you are part of a bigger system and are engaging in activities that have benefits for others as well as modelling this behaviour to your children.

Reminder
The bell goes just before nine, and then at nine, to start the school day. It is important that students are at school by this time as they can touch base with friends before school starts, find out the routine of the day, touch base with their teacher and of course not interrupt lessons or procedures that may have started. If they come late they miss out on valuable lesson time and may miss some important learning. On a regular basis this missed learning time builds up.

Please note that if your child is going to be late or away, please ring the office by 9:00 AM. If they are late they need to check into the office before they go to the classroom.
NEW HOURS FOR JADE BROOK

To contact Jade Brook, the Pastoral Care Worker, please ring the Front Office on 83888306 and Merridee will pass on a message and get her to return your call as soon as possible.

She is available:
- Mondays 9.00am-2.00pm
- Tuesdays 9.00am-2.00pm (working in the Preschool)
- Wednesdays 9.00am-2.00pm

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following students who have finished the Premier’s Reading Challenge:


OVERDUE BOOKS

A big thank you to the parents who have been following up on their children’s overdue books. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. We even have had instances where books have been brought back to the Library but not scanned and placed back on the shelf. These books will remain as overdue until they are scanned.

In most cases the books turn up even if they live under beds for a period of time!

BOOK DONATIONS

From time to time we have families who donate books to the Library which they no longer require. We happily accept these books. Sometimes we may have the book or for some reason it is unsuitable, in which case we pass them on to charities.

We acknowledge the donated books with a special label in the front of the book.

PRESCHOOL FAMILIES 2016

While it may seem like a long way off, we are already starting to plan for next year’s group of Preschool children.

If you have a child who will turn 4 from the 1st May, 2015 to 30th April, 2016 they are eligible to attend Preschool in 2016.

Enrolment forms are available from Merridee in the Front Office, just call in or phone to have them sent (83888306). Upon completion of forms, families need to attend an interview with Alex Ponury (Principal).

We will start contacting enrolled families from Term 3 of this year to arrange some familiarisation visits which will happen in Term 4.

Could you please pass this information on to any friends, family or neighbours who may be interested.
COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. Dental care is FREE for most school-aged children and ALL preschool children.

SA Dental Service participates in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, please phone 8222 8222 or visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

PRACTICE YOUR SPANISH BY HOSTING A SPANISH CHILD

Capture the spirit of family and friendship—Host a Spanish Cultural Immersion Student

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer host families for our Cultural Immersion students from Spain.

Students arrive in July 2015 for 10 weeks and can be placed anywhere in South Australia. You do not need to have children of your own or the same age to enjoy this experience.

All students are carefully selected, will attend a local high school, have their own spending money and can bring your family to life!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE Jenny ON (08) 83230973
EMAIL : jeh1313@bigpond.net.au

ECHUNGA NETBALL CLUB NET SET GO

For information on the 2015 Net Set Go Programme for 5-8 year olds please contact Jo Hayhurst at echunganetball@internode.on.net.

ROCKIT PERFORMING ARTS


ECHUNGA UNITING CHURCH EVENTS

Messy Church, Friday 4.00-600pm; MOPS 9.30-11.30 Thursday 14th May; Youth Group Hike & Pizza Friday 15th May 6.30-9.30pm $5. Contact Matt or Narelle on 83888847 for more information.
**VACANCIES AT OSHC**

We have quite a few vacancies at OSHC at the moment for casual and permanent positions, including Preschool before and after care.

As our numbers have reduced this year we will be running single staff. This means that on Mondays and Tuesdays we have 10 places available and Wednesday to Friday we have 12 places available for both before and after school care.

**VACATION CARE APRIL**

We had so much fun and such nice weather in the holidays. We did a lot of cooking, we spent a lot of time outside and in the sandpit, and played lots of different games. We also went to the movies to see Cinderella.

**VACATION CARE JULY**

Here are the dates for July:

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**OSHC AWARDS TERM 2**

And the OSHC Awards go to…

1. Clint R
2. Ruby T

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to Mrs Mitchel who dropped off boxes full of recycled things for us to make with.

**PROGRAMMING**

The children have decided to paint a Dinosaur Mural next. They are in the process of planning the background scene and which dinosaurs to paint.

We are experimenting with coloured sands and plaster hand prints and making plaster volcanoes this week.

We have also been inspired by Disney India and we are making 3D shark fins in water.