**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

**SCHOOL WEBSITE**
We are pleased to announce that finally the new school website is up and running. On the home page is a Twitter feed on which various messages/reminders will be displayed. If you have forgotten about an event or were wondering if it is today or tomorrow or the next day, it will most likely be there on Twitter. So follow us on Twitter@echungaps or check the website regularly. Information will continue to be sent home via email of course.

**AGM**
Our AGM will be conducted next Wednesday, February 25th at 7:00 PM in the Alluvial Hall. Nomination forms and the agenda were attached with the last newsletter. Please consider joining the Governing Council for 2015 as we have some vacancies for both 1 Year and 2 year tenures.

**FUN DAY**
What a great time we had last Friday. It was casual day followed by our water fun time. Everyone had a wonderful time and it was great to have a day where we had some fun just for the sake of it. I noticed that near home time (no-one heard the bell by the way – we were having so much fun) parents couldn’t help themselves and joined in. We had water pistols, water balloons, water squirts, sprinklers and even water balloon sling shots. Teachers and students got wet.

**RUBBISH**
Thankyou to those of you (a great many I might add) who have embraced our “Don’t bring rubbish to school or take it home” concept. Rubbish around the school has been greatly diminished and we are seeing many children bring their food in recyclable containers.

**FROZEN BERRIES**
Echunga Primary School and Preschool don’t use frozen berries in their cooking programmes. We use the fresh produce from our garden. Echunga OSHC also doesn’t use frozen berries.
SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB/BOOK FAIR

Thanks to the great response to Issue 1 our school has earned $106.00 towards books for the Library. Your orders should be at school next week.

This term we have a Book Fair to be held on Friday 27th March and Monday 30th March. The fair will be held in the Alluvial Hall and will be open before and after school on both days. Your children will have a chance to preview the fair on the Thursday.

Please note we will not send home Issue 2 as it will coincide with the Fair.

If anyone is interested in helping with the fair, please come and see Marina in the Library.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

It’s that time of the year again. Reading Challenge sheets have been issued to classes and you should see them appear at home very soon.

The aim of the challenge is to read 12 books between now and September. All details are on the reverse of the form.

Last year all students completed the challenge, apart from students who started late in the year, so let’s do it again! The first class to finish will receive the Bookworm cake to celebrate. Miss Teena’s class have won it the last two years, so the challenge is to the other classes to beat them.

AQUATICS FOR YEARS 6 AND 7

This year aquatics will be held at the Murraylands Aquatic Centre at Murray Bridge on Friday 6th March. Information, consent forms and invoices were sent home Wednesday. Please return consent forms and payment by Wednesday 4th March. Please speak to Merridee if you did not receive this information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Free workshop for parents & carers of children with autism, 4th March in Mount Barker. Register your place: positivepartnerships.com.au

COME AND TRY MESSY CHURCH – TOMORROW 5PM

Messy Church has moved to a Friday evening, and your family is invited! Our second event for the year will run tomorrow night 5:00-6:30pm featuring activities, celebration time and a meal. It will run again in a fortnight - Friday March 6th. All ages are welcome. Messy Church meets in Wandeen (Echunga Uniting Church). For more information contact Matthew Carratt on 83888847.

MOPS - JUST FOR MUMS

Are you a mother of preschool aged children? A MOPS group has now been started in Echunga just for you. A typical MOPS session begins by dropping off your children to be cared for in the MOPPETS program, where they remain for the rest of the morning. You then join other mums for morning tea and real coffee before settling to hear from a guest speaker on a relevant topic. There is opportunity for discussion and then to complete a simple but fun craft project. At MOPS every mum is welcomed, accepted and challenged to reach her potential + recognise her influence amongst her family & her world. MOPS runs fortnightly, gathering next week: 9:30-11:30am Thursday Feb 26th

Topic: The 5 Love Languages; Cost: $5 (first session is free); More details at www.echunga.unitingchurchsa.org.au/MOPS
OSHC Fees from 2014

Thank you to all our families for paying their OSHC fees every week or fortnight in 2014. We appreciate it very much.

All outstanding fees from 2014 will need to be paid in full by **Friday February 27th, 2015 (Week 5)**.

Families who have not paid their fees in full by this time will have their OSHC place suspended until their fee is paid in full. You may pay by instalment plans after this date, but your place at OSHC will be suspended until your outstanding debt is paid in full.

**Vacation Care April**

We are in the middle of working on the next program for April now. We always welcome ideas and suggestions for our program, so if you have any please feel free to let Jodie or Alex know.

**OSHC Awards Term 1 2015**

And the OSHC Awards go to…

3. Liam D
4. Austin R

**Hats**

It is that time of year that we need our hats at After School Care. As most children are required to keep their hats in their tray at school, we encourage you to provide another hat for your child at OSHC.

**Thank you**

Thank you to Jo Hayhurst who continuously donates art and craft bits and pieces for us to use at OSHC. We appreciate it very much!

**Programming**

We were very busy making chocolates and gift tags last week for Valentine’s day. This week we have been making owls using recycled materials, drawing treasure maps to find hidden treasure around the school and creating our program for the next 3 weeks. We are still continuing to change and develop our portfolios and profiles too.