



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

# 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



Week 6, Term 2, 9th June, 2016

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## DIARY DATES

Fri 10/6—Pupil Free Day

Mon 13/6—Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Tues 14/5—Preschool Science Workshop

Wed 15/5—School Science Workshops

Fri 17/6—Lapathon

Mon 20/6 7.00pm Governing Council Meeting

Mon 4/7—Pupil Free Day

Fri 8/7—End of Term 2  
2.20 Early dismissal

View the newsletter on our website at  
[www.echungaps.sa.edu.au](http://www.echungaps.sa.edu.au)

## REMINDER

Tomorrow, Friday 10th June, is  
A Pupil Free Day.  
The School and OSHC  
will be closed.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### PUPIL FREE DAY

Governing Council has approved our third Pupil Free Day on the last Monday of this term, July 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be a day devoted to Maths teaching and learning run by a consultant who took a session earlier in the year. This is part of her ongoing consultancy and we will be joining with Callington Primary at Callington. It will cover developing number fluency, base 10, differentiation and programming.

### PERMA

At our Positive Education (Pos Ed) assemblies every second week on Mondays, we talk about a range of different topics around this subject. This term we have been focussing on PERMA, what that means and its connection to all that we have been talking about in the past. PERMA is an acronym for Positive Emotions, Engagement, Relationships (positive), Meaning and Achievement. The message that we are giving is that if the students experience these elements in their lives they will flourish as people. That is, they will feel good about themselves and life, and be more able to ride the down times that all of us experience at times.

We have talked about experiencing positive emotions by "filling other peoples' emotional buckets". This is achieved by doing things for others, saying nice things to others, helping other students in the yard, including them in their games etc. By doing these things our own bucket gets filled. We can also experience positive emotions through joy, gratitude and awe.

We talked about engagement and the concept of being totally immersed in what we are doing at the time. Another name for this is mindfulness. We have also covered positive relationships and the importance of getting along with others as well as the things we can do to promote this (filling buckets again).

Over the next weeks we will be looking at Meaning (the importance of "we, not I", and being a part of something bigger than just us) and we will finish off by talking about Achievement and the feelings you get from achieving. Achievement is derived from effort, persistence and resilience.

Early next term I will be running a series of parent/carer workshops on Pos Ed for those new to the school, for those who might have missed out last time or even those who might like a refresher. Look out for the fliers early next term.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week (week 5) aims to celebrate and build upon the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. With the theme for 2016 “Our History, Our Story, Our Future” we reflected on our national identity, through looking at the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and rights in our nation’s story.



We were lucky enough to have the knowledge and expertise of David, a local Performing Aboriginal Artist come into our school on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.

David came in and shared artefacts of tools, weapons and implements with us, talking about the different roles of men and women and the tools they used to hunt and gather food. He shared with us information about local bush tucker, and the different uses of plants and trees (with a friendly reminder it’s not always safe to eat “bush tucker” these days with sprays etc being sprayed). David talked about hunting and how each tool was used in a way that saved energy and how the relationship they shared with the land, respected the animals and plants. David went on to share with us music from his didgeridoo, and told a story of a young boy learning about the butterfly, by taking the time to stop and observe. He then showed us how that story transformed into a dance.

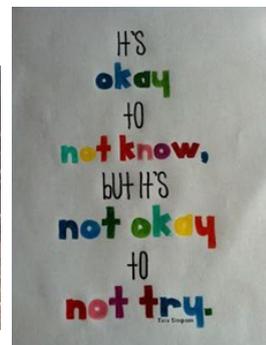


We thank David for his time and sharing his culture and his story with us.

## IBIS NEWS

This term in the Ibis Room we have placed strong focus on learning about Aboriginal Culture to coincide with events and important dates this term. In Week 4 children put on a great performance sharing some Aboriginal Language, counting and naming animals in Kurna. We continue to look at different dreamtime stories, and symbols of representation, with students having a go at the time consuming, requiring great attention and focus, dot painting. Students were asked to dot paint a symbol that represented something important to them. We also incorporated with our design and technology curriculum, building shelters “humpies” with students working in groups to construct their shelter. This task required good team work, good communication and the ability to problem solve – it was great to see the different variations and ideas that arose, with some using trees for a foundation, and others using sticks and bark.

**PRACTICE**  
makes  
**PROGRESS,**  
**NOT**  
**PERFECT.**



With Term 2 well under way, it is great to see so many striving and pushing themselves to do well. We hope this enthusiasm (particularly with home reading and home spelling practice) continues.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## PASTORAL CARE WORKER

Hello!

I'm so excited to be able to join the Echunga Primary School Community as the new Pastoral Care Worker. Thanks so much for the friendly welcome I have received so far and I have loved meeting a few of you at drop off and pick up times.

I currently work at Murray Bridge North Primary School which has about 570 students from Reception to Year 7 and I have worked there for 5 years as the Pastoral Care Worker. I also work at Murray Bridge South Primary School where I have worked for a year as the Pastoral Care Worker and has about 350 students. I am currently working at Echunga Primary on Fridays and this will increase in days next term. It's lovely to be part of a small community and I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone well.

I have given notice from my Murray Bridge Schools and someone new will be appointed in term 3 allowing me more time to be at Echunga. Our family is moving back to the Adelaide Hills to Mt Barker in 2 weeks so it's a full term working at 3 schools and moving house!

I have been married to Nathan for 20 years and I have 2 children, Brianna who is 11 and Jayden who is 10. They go to school at Tyndale in Strathalbyn and are in Year 6 and Year 4. They love reading and always have a book in their hands, playing board games and cards as a family, cooking, watching Myth Busters and our 2 cats Smudge and Stripey. Jayden loves driving his green machine around our house and working out how he can go faster with each lap that he does through the obstacles he makes. He loves riding his bike and playing drums. He's been playing since he was 3. Brianna loves reading, singing, playing piano and board and card games.

We are involved in C3 Church in Hahndorf and are involved in leadership running impact – community projects which we are just starting. Our family loves playing board games and card games together – Splendour, Bonanza, Saboteur and Castles of Burgundy are some of our favourites. We love hiking, having fun and talking.

I love walking along the beach, cooking, having people over for dinner, spending time with my family and beautiful walks. I love supporting families to be the best they can be and look forward to helping any way that I can.

As the Pastoral Care Worker I am employed through Schools Ministry Group and am in the school on behalf of the local Christian churches who along with the government also support my role. I am available for all staff, students and families regardless of beliefs and am non-judgemental in my approach.

My role is to care for staff, students and families, refer to local services and let people know what's around in the way of services and be a person with resources for different topics. I support staff in wellbeing for students and work with the principal, teachers and parents to support the community in any way I can.

So far at Echunga I have taken out various activities at lunchtime which the students have been loving. Dress ups, chalk to draw, card games, drawing and stickers. The students have been very creative dressing up in all sorts of fun things and also we've had fun playing Sleeping Queens with some students which is another fun card game I love. If you are having a wardrobe cleanout consider donating any shirts or dresses for dress ups.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## PASTORAL CARE WORKER (cont'd)

I have visited classrooms to say hi and caught up with some parents and students to support how I can. My passion is for local community and schools working together so I am planning on establishing a parent hub where we can get together to bless our community and have fun together. I have lots of plans I will start getting together next term as this one is a busy one. I am available Fridays to talk to and am getting together resources from the local community. If you would like to chat about any topic or would like me to support your child or family leave a message at the front office or with the classroom teacher. Thanks so much.



*Narelle Chester*  
*Pastoral Care Worker*

## TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Firstly, a huge apology for missing the last newsletter deadline.

On Friday the 20th May, the following students travelled to the State Primary Schools Final of Mixed Table Tennis held in Woodville: Georgina, Foster, Renee, Liam, Kita, William, Jacob and Ricky.



All students did our school proud and we finished equal 6th.

Another highlight of the day was the visit to the Krispy Kreme doughnut venue on the way home!!

A huge thank you to parents, Ali Kelman and Penny O'Neil for providing transport, supervision and umpiring on the day. Without their assistance the event could not have been attended.

*Peter Moore*

## SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to all families who have paid this year's school fees.

The school fees were due to be paid by the end of Term 1 so are now overdue. Statements have been sent home to those families who still owe fees. It would be appreciated if fees owed could be paid as soon as possible. Speak to Merridee if you would like to set up an instalment plan.

# OSHC NEWS

## OSHC Awards Term 2 2016

And the OSHC Awards go to...

3. Evie
4. Savannah
5. Joseph
6. Chiara

## Pupil Free Day

Due to insufficient bookings we will be closed on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June (week 6).

## July Vacation Care Program

We have finished the July program and it will be emailed out shortly.

## Give away Couch

We are still trying to giving away the black steel frame futon in the OSHC room. Please see Jodie if you are interested.

## OSHC Fee Increase from July 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

As per the budget recommendations and as ratified by Governing Council all our fees will go up as follows from July 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 (the first day of the July Holidays). This is for both Preschool and School age children.

	Current Fee	Fee from 11/07/16	New Fee with Child Care Rebate
BSC	\$14.50	\$14.50	\$7.25
ASC	\$24.00	\$24.50	\$12.25
VAC	\$50.50	\$51.00	\$25.50

## OSHC Philosophy and Sunsmart Policy

We are currently reviewing the OSHC Philosophy and Sunsmart Policy. If there are any changes or recommendation you would like to contribute, please feel free to drop into see Jodie at OSHC.

## 'Physical Activity & Nutrition in Out of School Hours Care' study

Echunga Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Centre has been chosen to take part in the '*Physical Activity & Nutrition in Out of School Hours Care*' study being jointly run by the University of South Australia and Flinders University. The Chief Investigators are Dr Carol Maher (University of SA) and Dr Lucy Lewis (Flinders University). Out of school hours care is the fastest growing childcare service in Australia in the last decade. The time that primary school-aged children spend at OSHC is important, as the before and after school time periods have been identified as 'critical windows' for nutrition and physical activity. They are conducting this study as they are interested in finding out more about children's physical activity and nutrition at after school care programs in metropolitan Adelaide.

### ***What is involved?***

Their researchers will visit Echunga OSHC during the after school period during snack time and play time. Researchers will record information such as how much time groups of children are engaging in different physical activities and the types of food and drinks they consume. Children's names will not be recorded and all data pertaining to the individual OSHC Centre will be de-identified. All researchers have current National Police checks and will be observing only (the researchers will not be directly interacting or communicating with the children). Each child's participation in the study is voluntary. All data arising from the study will be stored either in a locked filing cabinet or on a password protected computer at the University of South Australia or Flinders University. Data will be kept for a period of seven years.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

## Free one day workshop for parents and carers

**Workshop:** 16-17SAPC3

**Location:** Mt Barker SA

Like all school-aged students, young people on the autism spectrum benefit from strong, positive relationships between home and school. Positive Partnerships use evidence based materials and practical resources to help support these relationships by facilitating workshops for parents and carers.

This workshop is suitable for parents, full time carers and grandparents.

### What will you gain?

The Positive Partnerships parent/carer workshop intends to:

- Increase understanding of the impact of autism on learning
- Introduce a planning tool that can be used to share an understanding of your child
- Explore ways to work in partnership with your school
- Share information about how to access support both inside and outside of school
- Provide an opportunity to network and share strategies with other parents/carers

### Workshop details

**Venue:** Mt Barker – Hahndorf Golf Club  
435 Bald Hills Road  
Mt Barker SA 5251

**When:** One day workshop – Wednesday 27 July 2016  
9.15 am – 3.00 pm (Registration from 8.30 am)

Online registrations open on Wednesday 15 June 2016 and close two days prior to the workshop.

If you have an email address and access to a computer please register directly through our secure website [www.positivepartnerships.com.au](http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au).

*You will receive a confirmation email of your registration.*

If you have any enquiries phone the Positive Partnerships Infoline 1300 881 971 or email [parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au](mailto:parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au).

The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Helping Children with Autism package.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Department of Education and Training.



## COMMUNITY NEWS



# Come 'n Try

**Come 'n Try is fast approaching and we would love your child to be involved!**

**Come 'n Try is an initiative of the Adelaide City Council, presented by Life. Be in it. The program seeks to encourage 5 to 16 year olds to get active and try a fun and exciting new sport or recreational activity in the holidays!**

**It will take place during the first week of the July School holidays (11/07/2016 – 15/07/2016). The Come 'n Try sessions are held in the Adelaide CBD and parklands.**

**All information can be found at [www.cometry.com.au](http://www.cometry.com.au)**

**Hope to see you there!**

### ECHUNGA UNITING CHURCH EVENTS

#### FOR ECHUNGA FAMILIES

Initiatives of Echunga Uniting Church. Meet at Wandeen (next to church) for all events.

For further information visit [www.echunga.unitingchurchsa.org.au](http://www.echunga.unitingchurchsa.org.au) or contact Rev Matthew Carratt on 8388 8847.

#### MESSY CHURCH FRIDAY!

What better way to kick start your long weekend than bringing the family to Messy Church!

4-6pm tomorrow (Friday) for craft & activity, story & song and a hearty meal to top it all off.

All ages welcome. Find us on Facebook: 'Echunga Messy Church'.



#### MOPS - 'DARE TO DREAM!'

Guest speaker Jenni Bailey will encourage and inspire all mothers of preschoolers.

9:30-11:30am Thursday June 16

For a Term 2 newsletter and program visit [www.echuga.unitingchurchsa.org.au/MOPS](http://www.echuga.unitingchurchsa.org.au/MOPS)

#### YOUTH - LIVE LIFE LOUD!

A regional Hills youth event featuring BBQ, bouncy castle, music and inspiration.

Held in Mt Barker, meet at Wandeen. Bring \$5 for BBQ.

Find us on Facebook: 'Echunga & Meadows Youth'

## A Night of Prayer & Healing

At Echunga Uniting Church

Sunday 19th June - 7:00pm

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us". (1 John 5:14)

More information contact  
Rev Matthew Carratt - 8388 8847

