In week 2 of this term our preschool was assessed against the seven areas of the National Quality Standards. The seven areas are: Educational Program and Practice, Children’s Health and Safety, Physical Environment, Staffing Arrangements, Relationships with Children, Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities and Leadership and Service Management. Our overall rating was “Exceeding NQS”. This is testament to the wonderful work the preschool team do there. The rating levels that are possible are: Exceeding NQS, Meeting NQS, Working towards NQS and Significant improvement required. As you can see we achieved the top level. The assessor was impressed with our curriculum, how each child contributes to the programme, how opportunities for learning are maximised, how children’s learning is documented, how children are supported and how children are enabled to make choices and decisions and influence what they do. She was also impressed with the reflective way in which the programme was delivered. We exceeded in promoting healthy food and physical activity and the way in which the physical environment was used to promote learning. Our staffing arrangements were exemplary as were the relationships with children. Staff knew the children well, and were “attuned to the children’s thoughts and feelings”. The assessor described a strong sense of wellbeing. She also noted how the children were supported to work well together and how Program Achieve was embedded in the programme. The preschool’s relationships with families was highlighted and “It was evident that educators and families value each other’s knowledge, communicate actively and share decision making at the service”. The way in which our preschool is run also rated above what is required with our professional learning community, commitment to continuous improvement and effective administrative systems.

A great result all round. Well done to the team.

Canberra

Students from our school have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $60 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.
It was a great trip. The students were wonderful and we had many, many comments from guides who reflected this sentiment. Many were impressed with the students’ introductions and all of our students did a great job. Many people commented positively on the special Canberra tops that our students were wearing with the itinerary on their backs. It was also pleasing to see our students explore each area at various institutions thoroughly before moving to the next area rather than skimming the surface so they could move on to see what was next. The laying of the wreath was a highlight. We initially thought that we were just watching the ceremony, not actually participating in it. Charlotte and Liam did a great job. There were a good thousand people there and it was very moving. One of our students said that it was the most that he was moved in his life. We were also lucky enough to have met the federal member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie, and then see her ask her first question ever in parliament.

NAPLAN
NAPLAN results have been distributed this week. It’s pleasing to see that we have an over representation in high progress in reading and numeracy in years 5 and 7. This data shows student progress between tests in 2014 and 2016. In other words many students’ progress in NAPLAN between year 3 and Year 5 was high when compared with the rest of the nation. It must be noted that 71% of our year 7 students achieved high progress in numeracy between tests. The standard is 25%.

The average for year 7 is above the national average in all areas and for year 5 most of the areas are above the national average. Our year threes are below the national average in all areas but improved in their mean scores in all areas when compared to last year.

Staffing
Unfortunately we will be losing Katrina as our grounds person. Health reasons have forced her hand. She will still be in the school supporting students as an SSO (3 hours a week this term and 8 next term). This of course means that we will be going through the process of finding another grounds person. We will also gain Josie Cooper (who currently is working in the preschool and OSHC) who will be supporting children 11 hours a week starting immediately, and Tracey Mezzino in a similar role for 15 hours a week starting at the beginning of term 4.

Student Voice
I am meeting with groups of students fortnightly over a sausage sizzle to get their opinions on various aspects of the school. I ask them if they like the school, what we do well and what we can do better. It has been very interesting and over time the information will be collated and examined. All students, in the end will have this opportunity.
IBIS NEWS

In exciting news – notes have gone home about our excursion in Term 4 to the Maritime Museum, please keep returning consents and payment. If you are interested in Volunteering on the day, please let Kayla know ASAP.

In other rather exciting and proud news, we have completed this term’s reading tests. We had some reading results sky-rocket, and some results that didn’t really move much, but the thing I am proud of the most is the children’s sense of responsibility towards their reading and learning – with some now eager to read more as they can see how close they are to achieving their reading goal for the year.

In other news NAPLAN results have come out, and once again I am proud of all students who sat this test. The scores each child got doesn’t tell us everything about your child, and for most these scores don’t reflect the learning and how much some have improved on things they once found difficult. It doesn’t entirely reflect what I get to see each day – and that is your child be who they are – some academically minded, some sporty, some social and all kind and caring. One thing I know is your child did their best on that day – and for that we are proud, and we know where we can continue to support and guide their learning. So when discussing results, be sure to tell your child how proud we are of their efforts.

With Term 3 coming to an end, Ms B and I would like to offer parent teacher interviews for any families interested. If you wish to book an interview please email the class email (Ibis.eps489@schools.sa.edu.au) and we will arrange a time to suit.

LOST PROPERTY

I have emptied the Lost Property Box. There were 8 blue jumpers/jackets from size 8 to size 12.

We can’t return them to their owners, as some had names of former students, and others had no distinguishable name on them.

For the next fortnight, if you think they may be your child’s, they will be held in the Front Office for you to check.

If not claimed, they will be offered free to any parent who would like them.

Lynn Bonython
Online Safety Presentation
Presented by Sonya Ryan, Director
Wednesday 21st September
7.00pm
Heathfield High School
99 Longwood Road, Heathfield
Held in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC)
Hosted by Heathfield High School in conjunction with the Adelaide Hills Council
Gold coin donation

The presentation will explore
- Social networking
- Sharing your information online
- Protecting your privacy
- Sexting
- GPS enabled devices
- iPads and adolescents
- Online gaming
- Cyber bullying
- Mobile phone apps

Additional Information & resources
This session is suitable for parents with students in Years 6 – 9
To book go to www.trybooking.com/222194
www.carlyryanfoundation.com
Creating a positive experience online for all Australian families

PRIVATE TUTORING NOW AVAILABLE
Jacqui Irvine-Creaser (Mrs I-C) is available to all students for tutoring from next week (Tuesday 20th September).

If you would like your son or daughter to gain confidence in a particular subject before they advance to the next year level, then please take advantage of this introductory offer!

Your child will be tutored at the school, so there’s no running around after school and it doesn’t make it an even longer day for them! Jacqui can also liaise with your child’s teacher so that problem areas can be specifically targeted.

30 minute session = $35 or 45 minute session = $45.

Bookings will be made in blocks of 4 weeks and will be allocated on a first in first booked basis. To make a booking please text/phone Jacqui directly on her mobile 0457789658.
COMMUNITY NEWS

ECHUNGA CRICKET CLUB
The Echunga Cricket Club are having their first Junior training for the 2016/17 season on Thursday 22nd September, 4.30pm at the Echunga nets. New and existing players for U10’s, U12’s, U14’s and U16’s are all welcome (Boys and Girls).

Milo In2Cricket will also be available from Term 4 (please see Milo In2Cricket website for more details).

For any further information please contact Ben Hull 0428 762 359.

MOUNT BARKER AND DISTRICTS LITTLE ATHLETICS
Free Family Fun Day on Sunday 16th October, 11-2, Mt Barker High School Oval, Mt Barker. Ages 3-17 years.
Season begins Friday 21st October, 2016 @ 4.30pm. Go to www.mbdlac.org.au or email info@mbdlac.org.au

ECHUNGA UNITING CHURCH NEWS
‘HIGH TEA’ & MOPS
MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets 9:30-11:30am next Thursday (Sept 22) in Wandeen (Echunga Uniting Church) for a special High Tea. Enjoy the party as a few mums share stories from their life journey. More details at www.echunga.unitingchurchsa.org.au/MOPS

ECHUNGA & MEADOWS YOUTH—MOVIE NIGHT
6:30-9:30pm Friday Sept 23rd. Meet at Wandeen. Get out your onesie or wear PJ’s, ugg boots, trackies—relax and keep warm. Cost $3. Find us on Facebook—www.facebook.com/hillsyouthgroup

SPECIAL SERVICES @ ECHUNGA UNITING CHURCH
5:00pm Sunday 18th—youth-led service, ‘young guns’ sharing + shared tea.
10:00am Sunday 25th—‘Heroes’ all-age service.