Learning, Caring, Sharing; the Future is in Our Hands

New Staff Members

and returning Staff Members

Issue 1: Thursday 28th January 2008, Term 1, Week 1
I would like to extend a 'very warm' welcome to everyone associated with our school.

Welcome to a new school year! I hope that you have all had a restful time over the holiday break and are ready to tackle 2009 with energy and optimism. We can only hope that this hot spell breaks a little earlier than they predict.

I would particularly like to welcome students, and their families, who are new to Moonta Area School. This is a school characterized by positive relationships between families and staff, and I hope that we can work together to provide opportunities for your child(ren) to enjoy success in their studies.

We also welcome several new staff members to our school this year; Nicola Adams, Kris Strauss-Scott, Margaret Pope, Jane McCauley who will be working in both Ms Strauss Scott and Mrs. Pope’s classes, Margie Hancock (Year 7), Megan Bussenschutt (SSO) and Miss Sarah Knight who is our Sport & Rec trainee for 2009.

Nicola Adams has been teaching at Maitland for the last 5 years and is a former student of this school. Nicola also spent a term here teaching in 2003. Nicola will be teaching a 1/2 class this year.

Margie Hancock has had 26 years of teaching experience, including Port Augusta School of the Air. More recently Margie has been at Quorn Area School where she has had the role as Middle School Coordinator. We are very please to add Margie’s experience to our Middle School Staff.

Kris Strauss-Scott has been teaching for 23 years, most recently at Kadina Primary School where she was the school counsellor. Kris is also a trained teacher librarian. Kris is looking forward to working in an Area School for the first time and getting to know her 4/5 class. Kris spent last year travelling with her husband Bob who is the principal of Bute Primary School.

Margaret Pope has spent time previously at Moonta Area working in our 3-7 class. She has 32 years of teaching experience including teaching in Jakarta for 3 years. Margaret will be taking the year 6 class this year.

Both Kris and Margaret will be working 4 days per week, and Jane McCauley will taking their respective classes on the days they are not there. Jane has had many years of teaching experience most recently at Kadina Primary where she taught Physical education.

Meagan Bussenschutt is a new SSO to our school, coming from KMHS where she has spent considerable years working with individual students on specific targeted programs, as well as working in an ‘alternative education’ setting.

Sarah Knight is our new Sport & Rec trainee for 2009. Sarah, who will be starting her nursing studies in 2010 and resides at Sunnyvale at her parents’ farm.

We wish all our new staff the very best for the 2009 teaching year and ask all our school community to make them feel welcome.

Returning to us for 2009 are Hayley Spaans (middle school), Ron Watson (5/6), Chelsea Balnaves (0.4) working with Judy Van Galen’s class and Kerry Crosby (0.6) primary NIT. It is great to have these quality people back with us for 2009.

The first few days and weeks of any school year are extremely important as we re-establish and introduce new routines and expectations with the intention of starting the school year in a positive manner. This week, all students will be spoken to about the importance we place on them striving to do their best. We expect them to engage in activities, to make the most of their opportunities at this school so that their chances for the future are maximised. Other things we will talk about include:

Appropriate behaviour: Harassment, physical violence, disrupting others learning, any form of substance abuse cannot be tolerated in a school setting. Teachers and students have a right to concentrate on Learning, Caring, Sharing environment.

Appearances: including the ways the grounds, buildings and classrooms are cared for are important. There seems to be an absence of graffiti and rubbish in our surrounds; certainly the school looks great today. It is something I have acknowledged and expect to continue.

Students wearing uniform is very important. It sets work apart from the weekend or after school activity. We believe it helps to build identity and pride; it is a discipline that I think helps create a better learning environment. I ask parents to support the school in this regard.
From the Principal's Desk

(continued)

Punctuality/Attendance  All students need to be at school and to their lessons on time. Continual lateness and/or non attendance has a dramatic affect on students' learning. Support from parents here is critical especially in the years where students are reliant on parents to make this happen.

I am aware that sometimes people are inclined to air grievance/concerns through gossip in the local community. This is damaging to the school and the morale of those who work and support it. If you have an issue you'd like addressed, speak with your child's teacher or the person concerned. I know staff at this school will listen and attempt to help where possible. If all else fails and you are dissatisfied speak to Assistant Principals Di Daulby, Bruce Schmidt, or myself. We cannot always respond as you would like but we will listen and help where possible.

Positive community gossip is great and I encourage this as much as possible. It will help build our image, strengthen the school, help build school pride within our students, and improve the quality of their future outcomes.

In basic terms, if you are not happy, tell us. If you are, tell everyone else.

The year ahead promises to be busy yet exciting, I am already looking forward to sports day, meeting the new student voice and further improvements in areas such as Literacy & Numeracy projects, Information Technology, Vocation & Education, and much more.

Kind regards

Dean

Calendar

Week 2

Monday 2nd – Friday 6th February
Year 4-7 Swimming
Monday 2nd February
DMC meeting 7 p.m.
Tuesday 3rd February
Year 12 Parent / Student Night

Week 3

Monday 9th – Friday 13th February
Year 4-7 Swimming
Tuesday 10th February
Welcome Night R-11

Welcome to our New Students

Welcome to our new Receptions:
★ Drayson Smith
★ Rex Leach
★ Ashton Warmington
★ Danny Hobbs
★ Keely Matthews
★ Lucy Ey

Welcome to our new students:
★ Kamarhyn Borclace from Point Pearce Aboriginal School.
★ Samantha Breward from Maitland Area School.
★ Jarred Feutrill from Maitland Area School.
★ Callum Gibson from Golden Grove Primary School.
★ Chloe Jones-Sansbury from Maitland Area School.
★ Harley Litchfield from Harvest Christian School.
★ Matthew Madden from Harvest Christian School.
★ Jack McCauley from Maitland Area School.
★ James, Matthew, Michael and Steven Mitchell from Wallaroo Mines Primary School.
★ Will Northeast from Kalori Catholic School.
★ Tamika and Tianna Sansbury from Modbury West Primary School.
★ Bec and Jen Tasker from Wallaroo Mines Primary School.
★ Malcolm and Trevor Karpany from Modbury West Primary School and Karuna Plains School.
★ Chris Lane from Oakbank Area School.
★ Nikki Alford from Wudinna Area School.
Our school has procedures in place to manage the safety of all people on site in the event of a Bushfire. We are required to remind you of the procedures at regular intervals in term 1 and term 4.

When the evacuation siren sounds students and staff from both the school and Kindergarten will move in an orderly manner to the Gymnasium which is our nominated Safe Refuge. Teachers will organise students to take their bags and water bottles with them. All other adults on site have the option of moving to the Gymnasium or vacating the school site.

Once everyone is in the Gymnasium the Emergency Response Committee will inform those present what needs to happen. The current members of the Emergency Response Committee are Dean Angus, Bruce Schmidt, Jan Ritchie, Neil Hackett, Frank Camporeale, Alan Gordon/Bill Saunders and Louise Hanrahan.

Should you wish for further information about our procedures please contact me at school.

Bruce Schmidt
Alongside the Kindergarten there is a new area for parents to drop-off/pick-up students and/or park if they need to stay. Parents need to enter this area from the access road to the school oval and exit onto Blanche Terrace. Parents dropping students off can stop on the left of the new "road" into the new parking area and quickly drop off students and move on. There is to be no stopping in this area for parents to come into the school. Students can then walk through the opening in the fence down to the single access gate alongside the new gates. The new double gates will remain closed at all times to create a safe zone for students without the dangerous situations which have previously existed on this road.

All of this has been done to make picking up and dropping off our younger students a much safer exercise. It has been done at the request of the Governing Council and the Kindergarten. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the District Council in supporting this by providing the land for parking, cleaning the area up and allowing the school to close off the road between the Kindy and the school. Later on we will spend time further landscaping the new parking/drop-off area.

In addition, again at the request of Governing Council, there will be a coded pad on the little access gate by the back of the staff room limiting access to staff only. This is being done to make it safer in the area around the staff and community library car park.

I would remind all parents/caregivers that the community library car park is NOT a place for you to drop off or pick up students. There are a number of parents who consistently ignore this. Can you please rethink your decisions to ignore our request about this?

If you have any issues/concerns/comments about any of this information please see me.

Bruce Schmidt

Are you interested in studying in 2009?

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We are able to provide access to over 90 Stage 1 and Stage 2 subjects

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www.openaccess.edu.au

***Correction***

Date on cover should read:

Issue 1: Thursday 29th January, 2009, Term 1, Week 1
Our after school program will commence in week 3.

**Monday 9th February:**
- Circus/Multi-skills – R-7

**Tuesday 10th February:**
- Indoor Soccer – Years 4-7

The sessions begin at 3 p.m., children are to meet at the area next to Mrs Hutchins classroom for a healthy snack. They will then participate in their chosen activity from 3:15 – 4:15 pm. Children need to be collected promptly.

There are only 25 vacancies in each session. Forms will be sent home soon and I encourage you to return your forms asap. Those children who miss out will be given a note to let parents know and will be encouraged to try again next term.

Lisa Daddow
1. All children feel nervous about the new school year, whether they are starting a new school or returning to the same school but at a new level. Be positive and optimistic about the new year but also be sensitive to your child’s genuine fears. Bullying, lack of friends, low grades, and lack of confidence are among the factors that contribute to nerves or even outright resistance. Seek help if your child seems truly scared about going to school.

2. Make sure your child has the acceptable clothes or the right uniform. Children hate being the odd one out. Try to outfit your child in the same clothes their peer group is wearing. The middle years can be made much easier if students are equipped with the right clothing, shoes and school bag. Don’t mock your child’s choices even if you think the fashion is ridiculous or you value non-conformity. Fitting in is very important to young people and will help them start school feeling happier.

3. If your child is very shy, suggest they might be able to look out for another shy student and help them settle in. This will give your child the confidence that you believe they are socially competent.

4. Show enthusiasm for your child’s new teachers rather than harking back to last year’s teachers. Always speak positively about teachers. If there are problems, speak directly to the school rather than your child.

5. Children benefit when both parents take an interest in school. Boys especially value the involvement of their fathers.

6. Encourage your child to make new friends by making them welcome in your home and allowing sensible use of the telephone and emails. Try not to be over-anxious if your children don’t make friends quickly. Let them take their own time. However, do encourage them to become involved in sports, clubs and other activities both at school and out of school.

7. Try to arrange for an adult to be at home when your children arrive after school. Unsupervised children of any age are more prone to getting into trouble. They can also feel lonely or even scared at home alone. It’s a good time to have a chat and discuss the day. If you cannot arrange for someone to be in your home, perhaps your child could go to someone else’s house where there is a caring adult at home.

8. Try to keep the pressure off in the first stressful weeks but do talk about goals for the year, even with young children. Having achievable goals gives a sense of purpose. Goals can include getting books read, joining a team, learning a new skill or a musical instrument, or getting better grades in a subject. Encourage them, give them positive feedback, be their cheerleader and have confidence in them to do their best for a successful year.

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**Year 7 to 8 Transition – Applications for the Ignite Program**

The Ignite Program for highly gifted students is funded by the South Australian Department of Education and Children's Services.

Three secondary schools, Aberfoyle Park High School, Glenunga International High School and The Heights School, operate as a consortium in delivering this program. These schools have been provided with resources to specifically cater for the needs of highly gifted students.

Applications for the 2010 program close on 13 February 2009. Primary school Year 7 students that want to apply for the program will need to contact the relevant school as per their details below to obtain an application package.

**Aberfoyle Park High School**
Taylors Road East
Aberfoyle Park SA 5159
Phone: 08 8270 4455
Fax: 08 8370 5819
E-mail: info@aphs.sa.edu.au
Web: www.aphs.sa.edu.au

**Glenunga International High School**
99 L’Estrange Street
Glenunga SA 5064
Phone: 08 8379 5629
Fax: 08 8338 2518
E-mail: info@gihs.sa.edu.au
Web: www.gihs.sa.edu.au

**The Heights School**
Brunel Drive
Modbury Heights SA 5092
Phone: 08 8263 6244
Fax: 08 8263 6072
E-mail: contact@theheights.sa.edu.au
Web: www.theheights.sa.edu.au
Mothers and Daughters Coaching Clinics
Football Federation SA are providing a chance for mothers (female parental figure) and daughters (5yrs and above) to come and learn to play football (soccer) together over six sessions from Sunday Mornings: Feb 15 – March 22 2009, at 10 – 11:15 a.m. All participants will receive instruction from our highly accredited coaching staff. Participants 15yrs and older will be given the option to complete a Grassroots Coaching Course FREE OF CHARGE after the program (Valued at $25).
More information available from the Front Office.

Public Notices

Junior Staff Member required for ‘The Cornish Kitchen’, Saturdays and School Holidays. Come and see Ben or Peta if interested.

Moonta Football Club – Senior Colts training: Tuesday 3rd February. 5:30 p.m. sharp at South Beach Carpark, Port Hughes. All existing players and new players welcome. Please bring sandals, drink bottle and towel. “Bring on 09!” Northa.

Moonta Basketball Club – Committee meeting this Thursday night, 29th January, 7:30 p.m. Cornwall Hotel Meeting room. All coaches and committee members urged to attend. Apologies to Secretary, Shelley on 0417863661.

Canteen News

Volunteer Roster – Weeks 1 & 2:
Thursday 29th January: Pam Clarke, Jo Phillips 9 – 11:30, Barb Hartley 11:30 – 2, Ryan Starick 10:45 – 1
Friday 30th January: Kiara Madden, Kelly Madden, Tanya Holman, Ryan Starick 10:45 – 1
Monday 2nd February: Di Arnold, Pam Clarke 9 – 11:30, Lesley Scott 11:30 – 2
Tuesday 3rd February: David Lodge, **2 volunteers needed
Wednesday 4th February: Sonia Steele, **1 volunteer needed, Renate Paulson 10:30 – 1:30

Menu and prices from Term 4 last year are still current. New menus with price increases will be sent out next week.

Regional Recharge –
Arthurton Oval on Sunday 8th February 12 noon – 5 p.m.
Regional Recharge is an expo of community services, local businesses and information for rural families. The Expo will feature community information stalls and interesting and informative speakers who will address issues pertaining to farming, small businesses, surviving adversity and maintaining mental health. The “Billy T” band will entertain the crowd with music from the Johnny Cash Tribute show and MC Comedian Dale Elliot will be hosting the event.
Admission to this family event is free and everyone is welcome to enjoy a free BBQ under the marquee or in the air-conditioned sports clubrooms.
Tony Rose (ATO) will reveal how small businesses and primary producers can minimize expenditure and maximize returns under the taxation system.
Derrick McManus will explain why he considers being shot 14 times with a high powered rifle is one of the best things that have ever happened to him.
Judy Wilkinson (PIRSA). We all hope to retire some day, Judy will provide some practical advice on how farming families can develop a succession plan that will take the worry and stress out of this transition.
Ro Forgan (RASA) is a counsellor with a wealth of experience in diverse fields. Acknowledging a problem is the first step towards solving it. Ro will talk about why it is difficult for many people to admit that they are not coping with a situation and why this is often especially so for very competent people.
Kym Fromm and Warren Martin. Kym is a South Australian farmer who will share his story of what it was like experiencing clinical depression and how he managed to recognize this and take the first step of seeking help. He will be joined by counsellor Warren Martin who has supported him on this journey and will talk about his experience accompanying Kym on his road to recovery.
The intended purpose of the expo is to raise community capacity and awareness in these challenging times when rural people are dealing with the difficulty of drought, climate change and the global financial crisis. We would like to get information to reach as many people on Yorke Peninsula as possible.
We hope to get as many people as possible to come along, enjoy the music, have fun and take home some information that WILL be useful.
Please contact Tracey Dagnall on 08 8821 4066 if you would like more information.