Dear parents and carers

Public Education and NAPLAN

Earlier this week I attended a presentation by Professor Alan Reid on the importance of promoting and growing public education in Australia. Professor Alan Reid is Professor Emeritus of Education at the University of South Australia and gave a brief history on public education and in particular the funding of it versus funding of private schools. He pointed out the proven high quality of public education we have in this country despite the politically motivated, selective use of data by some (see below). We need to recognise and celebrate the many advantages of public schools and we need only look at our self to see one of our great assets – that we serve our local community and everyone who lives in it. One of the attributes of Paringa Park that I love is the ‘community’ feel we have and the ownership our local community feels for the school. We see that everyday within the school as our students look out for each other. Public schooling is relatively inexpensive and is a democracy where any parent is encouraged to have a say and take part in decision making in a variety of ways including our Governing Council. Professor Reid’s paper is an interesting read and I have a copy if you’d like to borrow it.

Alan referenced renowned American educator Dianne Ravitch (previously U.S. assistant Secretary of Education) who bemoans the direction education is taking in America in regards to standardised testing. “Education (in America) has lost its way, lost its purpose, lost its definition. Where once it was about enlightening and empowering young minds with knowledge, exploring new worlds, learning about science and history, and unleashing the imagination of each child, it has become a scripted process of producing test scores that can supply data.”

Saturday week ago the Advertiser printed a top 100 ‘league table’ of NAPLAN results from schools across the state. While we acknowledge that NAPLAN testing has its place to give us information about single test results for our students and more importantly data of our students’ growth, lumping all the test marks together to give a random number then judging a school’s worth based on this number is very misleading.

What NAPLAN doesn’t assess is what makes your child special and unique. They do not know that your child plays a musical instrument, kicked the winning goal, joined the choir, grew from a ‘C’ to a ‘B’ in Maths, is kind and respectful, challenged themselves to try something for the first time or created beautiful artwork.

The undue attention given to using NAPLAN results in this way by some politicians and media loses sight of the importance of the multitude of skills and dispositions that, along with being Literate and Numerate, will put our students in good stead for the future.

As an example, please read these extracts from exceptional pieces of writing from two of our Year 7 students. They are taken from a historical recount of Douglas Mawson with the goal of using metaphors and descriptive language to paint a vivid picture. I’m sure you’ll agree they’ve done a great job. No NAPLAN test will assess these.

‘Disaster struck - 500 kilometres away from base, Mawson heard a crack and a yell and saw Ninnis plunge into a deep, forbidding glacier. It felt as if time had slowed; this terrible calamity was incomprehensible. Adrenaline racing through them, Mawson and Mertz raced to the edge of the crevasse; they yelled and shouted into the menacing void of darkness, waiting for a reply. The terrible silence that followed felt as though it had lasted a millennium. Their overwhelming sadness was like a flood of despair. Six huskies had fallen, along with Ninnis and most of the food supplies. With an immense sense of loss they travelled on, with heavy hearts and sickening grief.’

Nic

With only 160 kilometres to go, Mawson sliced his sledge in half. He did not want it to be too heavy otherwise it would be too hard to pull. Mawson also tied himself to his brown, wooden sledge by a thin rope, and was now pulling it, weakening by the second, with no food and little chance of survival. Suddenly Mawson heard a crack, the ground disappeared underneath his feet. He felt himself falling, he thought that this could be the end because he was falling down a crevasse! Luckily, he was saved by the rope tied to his sledge. Mawson was too weak to climb up, he felt as helpless as a newborn baby. He swung there for hours wondering if he would ever get up. But a little voice in his head told him that he could do it. So, he swung up and continued on with his journey.

Millah

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Diary Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>Monday 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15</td>
<td>Foolsteps Years 3/4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz Night Meeting 6.00pm</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th>Tuesday 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bike Ed Years 4/5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 4</th>
<th>Wednesday 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAPSASA Soccer Carnival 6/7</td>
<td>Marine Discovery Centre over 3 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upcoming Events

| Last day of Term 1 Casual Day Early dismissal 2.05pm |
| Pupil Free Day Saturday 25 June |

SMS Number for Absences

0427 016 460

Term Dates For 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Feb</td>
<td>02 May</td>
<td>25 Jul</td>
<td>17 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Apr</td>
<td>08 Jul</td>
<td>30 Sep</td>
<td>16 Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Values

| Bravery | Care | Challenge | Trust |

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Millah
Phil’s news continued

Sports Day
We had a terrific day with students competing eagerly while showing great support for each other. I think it’s the best attendance by parents and relatives I’ve seen for many years which gave a great atmosphere. A big thanks to all those who helped out leading up to and on the day and especially Michelle Burton who once again organised a smooth, well run day. Our cake stall raised $1117 which will go towards fundraising projects. The results of the older student races in the afternoon will select our team for district day and I hesitate to report that the parents won the staff/student/parent tunnel ball relay (about time).

The final scores for the day were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brighton (yellow)</td>
<td>1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warradale (Blue)</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerton (green)</td>
<td>1651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hove (red)</td>
<td>1563</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A big thanks to parent Brett Sheridan from ‘Blue Razoo’ photographs for taking loads of photos for us. We are just working out the best way for you to access these and will let you know early next term.

Safety concerns
We continue to have concerns about the safety of our students in Margaret Avenue before and after school. We have been in regular contact with local council and SAPOL who have supported us in various ways re driver speed. One of the issues is when students arrive well before 8.30 and are hanging around on the footpath/on scooters etc. Please don’t send your children before 8.30 as it is causing a congestion problem. While on the topic of scooters and skateboards, there are a few students who continue to skate/scoot in the yard before and after school which is a safety concern for other students and parents with toddlers. The Student Voice Executive (SVE) has recommended that as a consequence, the first instance will be a warning and the second will be removal of the scooter/skateboard which the parent will need to collect. If your child rides one of these to school please discuss this with them. Thanks

Children’s University
The students from Years 3-5 saw a presentation from Children’s University on Tuesday and if they would like to be involved this year please collect an information sheet from the front office with payment of $25 for the year. Check out their website for a list of possible activities.

Library News
Premier’s Reading Challenge
Congratulations to the following students who have completed the challenge this fortnight and have placed their meerkats on the paddleboat race. Congratulations to LA 1-5 who is currently leading the race significantly. Teachers are likely to read a lot in the holidays so look out for the pandas appearing to drive the boats soon plus an extra boat for SSOs and non-classroom staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sebbie J</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>Jet H</td>
<td>Taylor A</td>
<td>Lucille T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley D</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>Harper D</td>
<td>1-1</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millie W</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>Theo F</td>
<td>Spencer HB</td>
<td>Freya L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>1-5 E</td>
<td>1-11 E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie B</td>
<td>1-1 E</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>E=electronic submission – saving paper!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The student digital form can be downloaded here for those who want to get reading in the holidays. When forms are complete they can be sent to the library via the special email address libraryprc698@schools.sa.edu.au

Looking forward in Term 2
Book Fair and National Simultaneous Storytelling – Hold onto your Hats
We will be holding a Book Fair in the Library from the end of Week 3 and through Week 4 (May 19-26) with the fantastic event of the National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) as part of the event on May 25. The “HAT” theme we will follow for NSS connects with the story we will read on the day “I Got This Hat...”. There is also a free app that can be downloaded to both android and apple devices where you can create your own ‘hats’ from the text.

Outstanding books – while we are encouraging reading across the holidays and are happy for children to borrow for holiday reading, we are still tracing books that are outstanding from 2015. Books not yet returned from 2015 will be invoiced to families at the end of term. We would certainly prefer that they are returned so that others may enjoy them once more. Thanks for your cooperation,

Judy and Anne.

School banking – update

PLEASE NOTE
As of term two, all school banking books need to be handed in to the front office either via the school pouches or directly to the office Monday – Thursday. Books handed in on Friday cannot be guaranteed to be processed. Thank you for your assistance with this and congratulations to all our school bankers on your great efforts to save!!

Thankyou Kristy Colicchio and Deb Hooper

Thanks for your ongoing support this term, once again it’s been busy and productive and I hope you have a great holiday break with your family
Sports News
WESTMINSTER PRIMARY SCHOOL CHALLENGE
Last Saturday 8 students from year 7 competed in the Annual Primary School Challenge held at the Westminster School's Fun Fair. The challenge was an obstacle course where the students had to jump over a stack of high jump mats, manoeuvre through an army camouflage net, slide along a large slip-and-slide, weave through hay bales and balance along slippery benches. The team had 2 heats of the obstacle course and were competing against 7 other schools. Each heat was timed and the top 2 teams went through to the final. Our best time put us in 4th place which was a great effort against some fierce competition! Their efforts won the school $100, which the team will decide how to spend on sports equipment.
Well done to our team of Danielle, Amy, Alex, Poppy, Finn, Owen, Jack and Chris. They had a lot of fun and competed very strongly throughout the day. I’m pretty sure they loved the very slippery slip-and-slide the most!

French
What a great night it was on Thursday April 7 at the SA French Teachers' Association (SAFTA) Pétanque competition!
This year we had two teams representing Paringa Park Primary School.
Team 1 comprised Ava, Bella, Charlotte, Liam and William. Team 2 was made up of Imogen, Jordan, Kalani, Lucy A and Poppy. The venue was the Unley Park Sporting Club, where volunteers from the club and from SAFTA gave up their time to ensure a well-run evening.
Each team played rounds of about 10 minutes, with the winning scores added up throughout the night. There were lots of good skills shown, team discussions on strategies and delicious sausages eaten throughout the evening! What a great atmosphere, with teams from all the schools showing good sportsmanship!
Well done to both of the Paringa Park teams for their wonderful efforts. The team of Ava, Bella, Charlotte, Liam and William got into the grand final where they played against Trinity College. It was a gripping contest, with Trinity eventually winning a well fought final.
Thank you so much to the family members who supported the players on the night, and who helped me with the organisation of the teams. It was very much appreciated, and it was great to have them all there! Thanks also to Mr. Reid for coming along to support the teams.
Amitiés, (Regards)
Lea Garrett

Finance News
Qkr IS HERE!!!
We are excited to announce Qkr is ready for you to use! This versatile new app is now ready for you to download to your phone, tablet or laptop and you can begin making payments for Canteen lunch orders, buying school uniform and making payments on your school fees.
Lunch orders can be ordered in advance, however, there is a cut off time of 8:30 am for an order to be placed on the day required. If you need to cancel a lunch order – no problem! You will receive a refund stamp on your screen and when you next order the money paid will automatically go towards your next purchase. This option is only available for Canteen orders.
Cut down the time you take waiting for uniforms – you can now order from the selection online, pay and your order will be filled out and sent home with your child.
Manage your school fees easily and from the convenience of your home, just choose the school payments option and follow the prompts.
Early in term 2 we will be expanding the options for payments to include excursions and camps. The option to sign a permission slip along with making a payment will make it so much easier for busy families to manage these activities.
A “how to” guide is included in this newsletter so please download and begin using this convenient time saving tool to manage your school payments. Once you have registered your details you are ready to begin – it’s that simple!
So get on board and download or scan the QR code shown on the guide.
Susan Mott
Business Manager

Scooter Cage
We have noticed that people have been placing their bike’s in the scooter cage. The scooter cage is a place for scooters not bikes. It would be deeply appreciated if you put your bikes in the bike racks just next to the lunch time borrowing shed.
Many thanks, The SVE Team😊
LA 1-5 and 1-6 Excursion to Kingston Park

Last Friday 50 children and several intrepid parents left school to catch the train to Kingston Park for the day. It was part of our unit on the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. Their Dreaming Story (Tjilbruke) is centred around the spring at Kingston Park.

During the day we sat around an old campfire, pretended to be emus and kangaroos and acted out the story of Tjulbruke’s journey down the coast, creating fresh water springs with his tears.

After a play on the beach, we came back to school and participated in lots of activities: making a reconciliation nest, bark painting, painting on boomerangs, dancing and painting the Aboriginal Flag with hand prints. After our BBQ tea, the children were picked up at 7pm, exhausted but happy!!

A huge thank you to all the parents who helped on the day. Sue and Nanette

On Friday we went to Kingston Park. First we had to walk to the train. When we got off the train we had to walk all the way to Kingston Park. When we got there we read the Tjilbruke story and we walked down to read the next part. We had recess and played on the playground and looked at the spring. We acted out the story and we had lunch. We went down to the beach and I made a sink hole. We got down to water. Kai and I had to dig all the way down and it was time to come up from the beach. We washed our feet. It was time to go back and when we were going back we had an ice block. When we got back we had afternoon tea and we did activities. We painted on bark. We did boomerangs. We did flags. We did dancing. We had a bbq tea. After that we had ice-cream and watch a video and it was home time. My favourite thing was going down to the beach. It was fun! Recount by Joshua T
For quicker, hassle-free canteen and school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced ‘quicker’) by MasterCard: the easy-to-use phone app that gives you the flexibility to place orders at a time and place that suits you. Qkr!:

- Saves you time by letting you order and pay for school items directly from your phone;
- Reduces the need for your child to bring cash to school;
- Reduces the time school staff spend on administrative tasks

Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

**Step 1** Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app

**Step 2** Register

Select your Country of Residence as ‘Australia’ and follow the steps to register

**Step 3** Find our school

Scan the QR code or search for our school name. Our school will also appear in “Locations Nearby” if you are within 4kms of the school

**Step 4** Register your children

When first accessing your school menu, you will be prompted to register your child. This allows you to make school orders on their behalf.

Now you’re ready to order and pay for meals and other items...
Manage your children’s details

Order meals

Save time & re-order

Add multiple payment cards

Pay with any scheme credit, debit or pre-paid card accepted by the school. At checkout, you can select from any of your registered cards.

Safe and Secure MasterCard Technology

We want your feedback!

Please send your comments or suggestions on how the Qkr! service could be improved to the school office.
HOLIDAY
TENNIS SPECIAL

Professional Qualified Coaches
Fun, Games and Activities
Match Play

We are providing affordable and exciting holiday clinics for children of all ages from beginners to advanced players offering an opportunity to improve their tennis skills and have fun!

Under the guidance of Jack Reader (ATP tour coach) we have created a program that will give kids a solid foundation while encouraging them to participate and have a positive attitude towards sport and all physical activities which in turn will give the child confidence to develop their own unique goals, interests and strengths.

Wednesday 27th April – Friday 29th April 2016

Somerton Park Tennis Club
Wilton Ave, Somerton Park, SA 5044

3 Day Package - 9am - 1pm (BBQ included) ......$120
Single Session - 9am - 1pm (BBQ included) ......$45

Mobile: 0406 756 515 (Miguel Antunes)
E-mail: foundationtennis@hotmail.com

adidas
SPORTSPower
Wilson
Sign-ups for Paringa’s Got Talent opened last week on Friday and I had a steady stream of students lining up to put their names down. I was pleasantly surprised by the number of upper primary entries this year – it’s going to be a good show.

Auditions will be held at lunch times under the COLA, next to the gym, throughout term 2 with the grand finale to be held at the end of term, in front of the whole school. Only 4 junior primary acts and 4 primary acts get through to the grand final so make sure your audition is the best it can be!

On Friday, last day of term, I will be sending home a sheet to each student which will tell them when their audition is. It will also remind them of some important information:

- Acts are limited to 2mins
- Make sure you bring whatever you need, music, costumes, props etc.
- Students will be judged by a panel of staff judges
- Students will be notified on whether they made it through to the final once all students from their age group have auditioned

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me

Nerida Menzel
Pastoral Care Worker
nerida.menzel57@schools.sa.edu.au