Term 3 Issue No 3
26 September 2014

Principal's Corner

As Term 3 draws to a close, the phrase that comes to my mind over and over again is ‘strength in adversity’.

One might wonder what has happened to feel that this phrase is in any way relevant at this point.

As I look back on the term, I reflect on the change that children have had to undertake and their ability to accept the changes for what they are, remain positive, and be resilient. This term our children have experienced change in the significant adults with whom they interact.

Staff changes have included Mrs Kaylene Burgess from Year 4KB taking Long Service Leave, replaced by Mrs Jo Hirst. Later in the term Miss Rachael Adams took maternity leave and replaced by Mr Karl Cuthbert. Shortly afterwards Mrs Megan Colmer resigned for the birth of her second child and we welcomed Mrs Kelly Warren. Then there were some unexpected absences, with the unfortunate illness of Ms Nicky Fereday, replaced firstly by Mrs Gail Simmonds and then by Ms Gemma D’Angelo. This was followed, again through illness, when Mrs Kel Pittman was replaced by Mrs Bek Jarrett. In addition, Mr Huw Bowen who unfortunately severely injured his foot, had to undergo emergency surgery, and was replaced by Mrs Erica Wadham.

I am delighted to watch our children thrive, despite all of the personnel changes they have endured; what strength.

Strength is also evidenced through the amazing performances at this year’s Wakakiri competitions, Tournament of Minds, Oliphant Science, and the most memorable ‘Aladdin Trouble’. Of course, one cannot forget our outstanding athletes who again won the South West District Shield and have competed successfully at State level. Furthermore there has been participation and success in the IPSHA Poetry Recitals, and engagement in our most challenging outdoor education/camp experiences including our Year 2s.

These outdoor education experiences challenge our students to build resilience and independence, and to show their growing strength and sense of wellbeing; in fact, this demonstrates their ability to manage change in their environment.

When commenting on school camps, the particular example of student strength was demonstrated by our Year 4s when faced with the shock news that their camp had been postponed. Their level of acceptance of this decision and their ability to focus on the positive message that an alternative would be found, was most pleasing. I am delighted now to announce that plans for the rescheduled camp have been made.

Finally, our ongoing strength is demonstrated through the announcement of the Year 6 and 7 Centre to commence in 2015. This initiative, that will provide the very best in adolescent education for Middle School aged students, has challenged the staff and School Council of SPW to overcome disappointment in relation to Year 8s and 9s, and transfer our energies into an irresistible Year 6 and 7 offering.

Until next time,
Christopher Prance
From the Chaplain

Term 3 is a time of incredible change in the world around us. We returned to school in the depths of winter and have slowly seen the earth come back to life with the beautiful blossom and returning leaves on the deciduous trees. In the northern hemisphere this is the season in which Easter is celebrated. Much of the Easter imagery connects with the Springtime symbolism of new life.

This message of new life and hope has permeated out of Chapel Services for the term. Starting our term with the themes Kindness is Contagious and International Friendship Day helped set the tone. The Year 5 classes led us well through the theme Overcoming Obstacles. Part of their Unit of Inquiry on this topic dealt with the Gold Rush period and I had a lot of fun playing the bushranger during their Gold Rush re-enactment. The Year 6 classes explored the theme of Faith in Art and on that day we met some famous artists like Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Margaret Preston and Reg Mombasa as they discussed their works with us. The Year 1 classes stunned us with their confident portrayal of the Jonah story for their Journeys to Special Places Chapel Service. They re-imagined the journey story with great humour and acting ability.

Another special aspect of this term has been the training of our Year 5 cohort as Peer Support Leaders in the School. The term started with a training day led by myself and Mr Theel, and the Year 5 students have been working in pairs as leaders of a group of 6-8 Junior Primary students. They meet fortnightly with their group and run a series of social skills activities with them. This experience is great preparation for the Year 5 students preparing to enter Upper Primary years and the leadership opportunities that await them there.

Another important thing about this term has been the group of Upper Primary students preparing for Confirmation. Seven students attended a joint Anglican Schools Confirmation preparation day in the Cathedral. This was a great time to reflect on our faith and the meaning of Confirmation. The Archbishop of Adelaide, The Most Reverend Dr Jeffrey Driver visited the school on

From the Chaplain cont

Thursday 18 September to officiate at our Confirmation Service. We congratulate Georgia B and Imogen W who were baptised in the Service and then Confirmed, and also Isabella A, Thomas T, Freya Y, Caitlyn G, Hannah R and staff member, Mrs Lisa Lambourne, who were confirmed. May God’s Holy Spirit strengthen and inspire them always.

Father Andrew Mintern
Chaplain

Tournament of Minds

On Sunday 14 September, the Tournament of Minds State Final was held at Flinders University.

SPW entered three teams, comprised of students from Years 6 and 7. The Tournament has two parts: a long term challenge, in which groups must solve a particular problem within a six week period. The group then has ten minutes to present their response in a creative way. Two of our teams entered the same challenge category of Applied Technology. As part of this challenge, each group needed to create an item of technology which will solve a future problem. They then needed to film an infomercial to sell the object, whilst also performing live to the audience.

Our third team competed in the Social Sciences category, where they had to argue for and against the benefits of moving the Leaning Tower of Pisa to New Zealand. This team received Tournament Honours for their presentation.

It was a fantastic effort from all our students over a long period of time. This tournament relies on excellence across a wide range of skill areas. We hope that we continue our high involvement and success next year. My great thanks go to Mrs Ramsay and Ms Saunderson for all the time and energy they dedicated to their teams.

David Whitehead
Tournament of Minds Coordinator
Upper Primary Grandparents and Special Friends Day

There was truly a buzz around the Upper Primary classes on this special morning. Upon reflection, it’s only when we look back that we truly appreciate the beauty of grandparents. I look at my own parents and see the joy of life and of family as they have that sense of enjoyment and fun in watching, nurturing, and supporting their grandchildren.

As parents, we are learning on the go with our own children, but there’s something ‘different’ about our grandparents. There are not the same worries; they’ve lived through these with us, their children. They made their mistakes and learned from them, as we will do. They can enjoy their children’s children… and hand them back having possibly spoiled them in the time spent together. As grandparents they are allowed to do that – no questions asked.

From the reflections below we can see all of the above come to life.

“I thought this year’s Grandparents Day was brilliant. All of the Year 7 students ran the Chapel Service; whether it was reading a prayer, writing a poem, constructing a Wordle, or acting in a play. I thought the Grandparents Day Service was a great success. After the Service, our grandparents came back to our classrooms. We showed them our house block for our current Unit of Inquiry. We asked them about their past houses and we talked about common environmental features in houses. It was heaps of fun to be able to share with them what we’ve done in our school work too. During recess the grandparents and special friends were able to enjoy a lovely Devonshire Tea in Nutter Thomas Dinning Room.” Lucy 7KR

“I really enjoyed being able to have my grandparents at school and being able to show some of the most important people in my life some of schoolwork.” Cooper 7KR

Sports News

This year SPW sent fifty one athletes to compete against thirteen other schools in the South West District Competition held at Santos Stadium on 28 August. Our School competed superbly, with all students supporting each other in their events and striving to do their best that they could. We were very proud of their attitude and the support given by the Athletics Captains, Macy N and Sam L. SPW won the competition for the third year straight, with strong performances in all areas. Glenelg Primary School were second and Westminster School third, just to mention the top three places.

Individual wins;
- Rosa T, Tessa K (800m), Macy N (100m, Long Jump and 200m), Nathaniel D (200m and 100m), Alex M, Portia W, Sam L all in High Jump, Will E, Zach S, Aldo P (Shot Put).
- The 11yo boys, 13yo boys and 12yo girls also won their relay events spectacularly. The students mentioned above all competed in State Day on 23 September including Noah G, Charlie Y and Lauren W who also competed in the relays.

State Day results;
- Rosa T—800m Gold medal & State Champion
- Nathaniel D—200m Gold medal & State Champion / 100m Silver medal / 4x100m Relay Gold medal
- William E—Shot Putt Gold medal & State Champion
- Macy N—Long Jump Bronze medal
- Alex M—High Jump Bronze medal / 4x100m Relay Gold medal
- Alana—100m and 200m Gold medal & State Champ / Long Jump Bronze medal

There were many superb efforts on the day and not all have not been mentioned, however they all led to a wonderful team result. Sincere thanks to all the parents and staff who selflessly trained and supported the students before and on the day, with a very special thank you to Mr Bowen, get well soon.

Simon Theel
Head of Primary

Bryan Fletcher
Year 7 Teacher

Grandparents Day & Special Friends Day Thursday 7 August

Athletics Captains with the SW District Competition Shield
Aladdin Trouble
A Musical and Book Week Production
This year for the first time, Music and Book Week combined to produce a Musical on the Book Week theme of Connect to Reading.

Two hundred and twelve Reception to Year 3 students worked together to perform Aladdin Trouble in Week 5 of Term 3. Aladdin Trouble is based on the Arabian Nights stories which Scheherazade told to avoid getting her head chopped off. One of the tales she told was of Aladdin and his love story with Jasmine.

The Year 3 students took the lead parts and were brilliantly supported by the Reception to Year 2 students in an all-singing, all-dancing colourful spectacular.

This was a massive team effort with the whole School community supporting the production. Those who came to see the children perform would agree that the effort was well worth it. The skills learned and the joy expressed made it a memorable experience for everyone involved. The children’s ability to memorise their lines and all the songs, proved that it is important to set our expectations high for our student body. The reading and listening, the acting and the performance skills, will be utilised in many ways.

Mark DeLaine, The Arts Coordinator and Jenny Richardson, Librarian
Engaging in The Arts

Wakakirri 2014
At the Going Down of the Sun
On Wednesday 13 August seventy one students from Year 6 and 7 participated in the Wakakirri Story Dance Challenge. The Year 6 and 7 students participating put in a lot of hard work and dedication with an amazing result.

Our entry told the story of our Year 7 students visiting the War Memorial in Canberra. While looking at a painting of a digger, suddenly it comes to life and we are back on a farm watching as a young man leaves his family to fight in World War 1. The soldier fights bravely but is sadly killed. The postman delivers the news to his family but we will never forget the fallen. The piece ended with an amazing poppy ballet. The quality of the set, costumes and choreography was amazing. A huge thank you to the expertise of our staff who led the Wakakirri and the parents who helped in many different ways.

I could not be prouder as the Arts Coordinator at SPW of what was achieved and the stunning performance of our team. What the team created had heart, and was an important story to tell. We proudly represented and honoured our fallen heroes from World War 1.

The quote below sums up what I think of the 2014 Wakakirri Team and staff – you are all CHAMPIONS!

“Champions are not the ones who always win races - champions are the ones who get out there and try. And try harder the next time. And even harder the next time. ‘Champion’ is a state of mind. They are devoted. They compete to best themselves as much if not more than they compete to best others. Champions are not just athletes.” Simon Sinek

Mark DeLaine
The Arts Coordinator

From The Pines

At the beginning of Term 3 we welcomed many new faces to The Pines and witnessed the transition of children from Playgroup to Toddler, Toddler to Preschool and a group of nineteen children into the Preparatory class.

The Playgroup families have been enjoying time outside where the children have the opportunity to develop their gross motor skills. They have been encouraged to climb, swing, dig in the sand pit, slide and balance along the wooden planks.

The Toddler classes have been involved in a variety of cooking experiences; pikelets, damper, sausages and popcorn to name a few. The children have been involved in all aspects of measuring, counting correct amounts of ingredients and of course, everyone’s favourite...... tasting the final product. These cooking experiences encouraged many discussions about why there was steam coming from the sausages, what made the popping noise and, how to keep safe near hot kitchen appliances.

During Term 3, the Preparatory and Preschool children began the Unit of Inquiry Living and Non-living things surround us. The children explored the concept of living and non-living through a variety of experiences such as learning new information from listening to non-fiction books, seed planting, observing the life cycle of Monarch butterfly caterpillars and tending our plants growing in the School garden. The children have also been involved in vegetable printing, sensory rocks, plant puzzles, playdough creatures and still life painting..... to name a few. These learning experiences have provided children the opportunity to question, investigate their ideas and draw conclusions from their new discoveries.

Inga Dow
The Pines Early Learning and Care Centre Coordinator

Observing the life cycle of Monarch butterfly caterpillars

Wakakirri At the Going Down of the Sun
Year 5 Camp

Roonka Camp Reflections
On Wednesday 10 September 2014 the Year 5 classes went to Roonka on the Murray River for their school camp.

Here are some of the children’s reflections:
For dinner at base camp we had yummy pasta and salad and for dessert we had delicious apple crumble with ice cream. Chanel

In raft making my team used eight pieces of wood and four barrels. We put the barrels on the bottom because we thought it would float better. Then we put the wood on as the top deck. We used as much rope as we wanted to keep it together. Then we raced them. When ours got in the water it just sank so we had to pull it all the way across the lagoon. Louella

When we were canoeing we went on a lagoon first and later the Murray River. In the lagoon we got to play games like water polo but in canoes. On the river we paddled around this little island and then back. The canoeing was very enjoyable. Jonathan

I cooked ravioli on a trangia. It was delicious but it was hard to clean. After cleaning we had a relaxing camp fire and watched the stars. Darby

It was exciting on the bus, we listened to lots of songs I loved and we sang all the time. I think the view on the trip was beautiful. The plants were healthy and green and I saw some pine trees on the way. I loved all the different plants. Marley

We watched Russ put up a tent first, then with our group we had to put up our tent at base camp and again later at bush camp. At base camp we found it hard to put up our tent, it just didn’t like us or something. At bush camp we had our tent up before you could count to three. Jordyn

At camp we had a camp fire. We had to collect sticks, leaves and paper. We only had one match to light the fire; we did it. Together we gathered around the fire and toasted marshmallows and told scary stories. Hudson

Year 6 Camp

Year 6 students travelled to Melrose in the Flinders Ranges for their outdoor education experience. Once at Camp Willochra, students began their first activities with one group heading off for their expedition night in tents. Other students went bush walking, orienteering and mountain biking, as well as learning about the local history with a guided tour.

The students learnt and practised many skills including cooking for themselves on a trangia, putting up tents, navigating with a compass, mountain biking, effective communication, critical thinking and working as a team to achieve shared goals.

I really enjoyed the walk at Alligator Gorge. It was really beautiful and interesting seeing the patterns on the rocks and knowing that millions of years ago this land was on the bottom of the ocean. India

I loved Mountain Bike riding because we went through all of the mud puddles and rode on awesome tracks. They were challenging but so much fun. Oliver

I loved sleeping in the tents and cooking on the trangias. Waking up and hearing the birds outside was beautiful. All the bush camp experiences were awesome. Louella

Year 7 Camp

Year 7 Camp at Hindmarsh Island
From 9—12 September the Year 7 students embarked on a 3-night and 4-day camp based on Hindmarsh Island. This is the third year of our School partnering with Wilderness Escape for camps, but was the second time Year 7 had been involved. Each student experienced two nights at the base camp sleeping in dormitories and one night in a tent while on expedition.

Activities on camp included a water based Save the Skier group session, surfing, kayaking, survival skills and the Great Southern Ocean Cultural Walk.

Some brief samples of student feedback are included:
Year 7 Camp cont.

**I enjoyed**
- surfing because I’ve never done it before. Mitchell
- playing games at night around the camp fire. Aisha
- kayaking on the Murray River with my friends. Nick

**I was challenged by**
- kayaking as it was hard work for me to paddle against strong winds, but I thought it was a good experience. Jahara
- keeping my clothes, belongings and sleeping bag all together. Georgia

Andrew Woodhouse
Year 7 Key Teacher

Year 2 Sleepover cont.

Thank you to the PFA, students, teachers, staff and parents who assisted in making the Year 2 sleep over camp such an amazing success.

David Kennedy
Year 2 Teacher

Year 2 Sleepover

We really liked … sleeping in our sleeping bags, singing with Mr Mesecke and the games inside and outside. Lucinda, Olivia and Molly (Year 2 students).
And that sums up our amazing Year 2 sleep over camp … an amazing experience.

On Friday 12 September the Year 2 students had an opportunity to be involved in their first SPW camp in Baddams Hall and Nutter Thomas. It was all hands on deck from the 5.30pm arrival time where students were responsible for setting up their air mattress, bedding and bag with the support of their family. At 6.00pm all students kissed their family good-bye and moved straight into team games, problem solving activities and singing fun until 7.30pm. They then changed into PJs and had an opportunity to relax, reflect and watch a movie while snacking and having a hot milo. At 9.30pm all students made their way to bed to read, relax and be ready for lights out at 10.00pm. After a big day and an exciting night it wasn’t long before the snoring started from students and teachers.

After an early start, students and their families were treated to a bacon and egg breakfast thanks to the PFA, with some 250 rolls being consumed. What an awesome community event.

Year 3 Camp

The Year 3 camp was held at Woodhouse again this year.

All of the children enjoyed putting up the tents ready for the sleep out. Half of them slept in the tents and the other half on the bunkhouse. The children in the tents settled down exceptionally well, only to have their sleep interrupted by a storm front passing through. A quick evacuation into the dining shed saw everyone safe and sound for the rest of the night.

On Tuesday the children completed Challenge Hill, Billy Cart Making, Orienteering and Rock Wall Climbing. Unfortunately the weather turned on us during the afternoon causing everyone to sleep in the bunkhouse for the night.

The children enjoyed all the food especially the chocolate fondue. Packing up was very easy on Wednesday and the children arrived back at lunchtime to feast on BBQ sausages cooked by the Year 3 mums.
Parents and Friends News

The PFA have donated a total of $25,000.00 this term to The Hub, JP Sports equipment and Soccer Goals.

The Fundraising events held this term were; The Soiree Winter Wonderland
A great night of dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions, car racing, a delicious lolly bar and of course great company! We raised approximately $6000.00.

Guest Speaker Mark Le Messurier
Those who attended and heard Mark talk about parenting styles, I believe left feeling inspired and confident to continue to build a great relationship with their children. We look forward to next terms guest speaker, Madhavi Nawana Parker.

Father’s Day Breakfast
A morning for the dad’s, grandfathers and children to have a delicious breakfast, purchase baked goodies as well as participate in craft and sporting activities. We raised $1000.00 from the morning.

SPW Wine Dozen and Wine and Cheese Night
The Wine and Cheese night provided an opportunity to taste the SPW Wine Dozen put together by our School families involved in the wine industry. We had delicious Tucker’s crackers and BD Farm cheeses. The red, white and mixed dozens will be available for purchase from www.winedirect.com.au/spw-pfa throughout Term 4. Please share with family and friends to help with our PFA fundraising efforts.

Beachouse Lock-In
What a great way for the children to end the term by going to the Beachouse for an exclusive SPW Lock-In. Rides, slides, games and more.

Monday and Saturday Sports BBQs
The Sports BBQs were a great success for PFA fundraising and the money (approximately $2000.00) has gone straight back into purchasing sports equipment. We are now raising money for House team sports flags, so please visit the Shelter Shed on a Monday after school to buy a sausage in bread.

The PFA Executive would like to thank all those parents who have been involved by donating, helping out or simply attending an event, it is very much appreciated.

Many hands make light work.

IPSHA Poetry Recital Competition

Our students did us proud once again, representing SPW in the 2014 Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA) Poetry Recital Competition. This year, the event was held at Woodcroft College and was attended by independent schools from all over Adelaide. Ben N (Year 4), Aiden D (Year 5), Sienna R (Year 6) and Gracie R (Year 7) were our 2014 year level representatives.

These students were already winners before attending the main competition, as they had already won their class poetry recital heat, followed by their year level heat. All four SPW students did extremely well, all being highly praised by the adjudicators.

However, special mention must be made of Sienna R, who gained third place in the Year 6 event and Aiden D who took home the first place shield in the Year 5 event.

Congratulations to all four students.

Nicola Pitt
Event Administrator

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