General Information

From the Principal

The last two weeks have certainly brought home the realities of living and working in a semi-rural community and the need for decisive action when emergencies arise.

Last week we had a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating which resulted in the bus runs being cancelled. Unfortunately, we also had no power so we struggled to get the information to parents. As a result I sent home a letter indicating that emergency information will continue to be sent home to parents via the Skoolbag app as this is the quickest way to communicate to families or by text message for those who do not have a smartphone. Parents were asked to fill out a return slip to the front office. I want all families to disregard this return slip and fill out the one attached to this newsletter. I apologise for the inconvenience, but after Wednesday it has become apparent that some families are unclear about how we communicate in an emergency situation.

Wednesday the weather conditions were extremely dangerous. We had two fires burning near Two Wells, one at Pinery/Mallala and another at Penfield (Curtis Rd/Heaslip Rd). I made the decision to send students’ home because of road closures, high winds etc. Messages were sent out via the Skoolbag app and by text for bus students. A significant number of parents did not have the Skoolbag app and/or did not receive the bulk text messages sent to the parents of bus students. We need all parents who have a smartphone to download the Skoolbag app as soon as possible. We have had the Skoolbag app now for two years and clearly need everyone to be using it. If your phone does not support this technology please provide us with a mobile number. The mobile number must be a designated contact person that can immediately respond to the message received. Please do not respond to the Skoolbag notifications or text messages by ringing the school, we just need families to act.

Students left at school will remain under the supervision of staff and evacuation procedures will be followed as per the Bushfire Information 2015/2016 pamphlet. This means students and staff, on advice from the CFS and SAPOL, may evacuate to the hall, and if necessary to the Two Wells Community Centre.

As previously mentioned, the Skoolbag app is the quickest way to communicate to families. Sending text messages takes far too long, especially if the line is congested. Please, as a matter of urgency, fill out the attached slip and return it to the school ASAP. We need to make sure as many families as possible have the Skoolbag app to improve our communication in case of an emergency. Also attached to this newsletter are the instructions for downloading the Skoolbag app to your mobile phone. The safety of our students is paramount so I thank you for your support in returning information to the office promptly.

The bushfires have been devastating and worrying for so many families in the mid north. I am mindful that the reporting of this in the media could impact on your child’s sense of safety and security particularly if you or your extended family live in bushfire risk areas or have loved ones affected by this recent large scale bushfire.

We have attached a document to help you support your child with any worries they may be having and it includes the contact details for services that may be helpful.

DECD Crisis Management has confirmed that when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is declared for the Mid North, our buses will NOT run, but the school will still open. Information is usually provided on TV Weather reports, CFS and/or radio. The school will make every attempt to notify bus users. It is parents’ responsibility to supervise children at bus stops. If you are not able to supervise your child please make alternative arrangements so children are not left at the roadside in case of bus cancellation or any other emergency.
At this stage we expect to start the 2016 school year on 325 students, which means we will have 13 classes. As in previous years, class lists will be posted on the front of the hall from Wednesday 27th January 2016. As we cannot confirm all of our staffing until well into the New Year, it is better to display the class lists once we know who the teachers are going to be. We will be moving a wall in the middle primary unit to create three above average size classrooms and moving Japanese and The Arts into room 15/16. Mr Martin will move into the middle primary unit.

The End of Year Carols is fast approaching (next Tuesday 1st December) with flyers sent home to families yesterday. All classes will be performing. It should be a great night.

Lynda Fitzpatrick-Brown

**From the School Uniform Shop**

I would like to thank all students who returned the feedback form regarding the sports skirts. The majority of students liked them and as a result we will be selling the skirts for $17. The skirts are in stock now in sizes 4 to 16.

**Shave for a Cure**

http://sa.cancerfocuser.org.au/alanjamesford

Alan, 12 and James 10 have had more than their fair share of grief due to cancer. They have lost their Poppy to prostate cancer in 2007, then their Aunty Gail to ovarian cancer in 2010 and lastly their Grandma in 2013 to bowel cancer.

When they started to grow their hair, a decision was made to let it grow until the beginning of summer and try to raise some money for cancer research.

It has been organised to have the “shaving” completed at 5.30pm on Tuesday 1st December 2015 just before the start of the Carols Night.

**Missing Jacket from Sports Day**

Have you seen it?

At Sports Day Mrs Mace has lost her special **Black Nike sports jacket**.

This jacket was special to Mrs Mace as it was a gift from her children for Mother’s Day.

If you found one and didn’t know who owned it, or know someone who found it could you please drop it into the school office for Mrs Mace.

**SA Water VACSWIM**

SA Water VACSWIM is a program to waterproof the confidence in young South Australians, in and around the water. It is a South Australian Government supported initiative to provide children aged 5 to 13 years with opportunities to develop a range of skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures.

These skills are delivered at over 130 pools, beaches and lakes throughout South Australia by one of three primary program providers – Royal Life Saving Society, Surf Life Saving and YMCA – who engage qualified instructors to teach the children of South Australia.

The majority of programs take place from Monday 4th to Tuesday 12th January 2016; they run for 45 minutes a day for 7 days.
Urgent – Emergency Contact Information

Student\s:
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
____________________________

Please indicate with a tick in the boxes provided:
A smartphone is either an iPhone or an android device which can access emails and apps.

☐ I have downloaded the Skoolbag app

☐ My phone is not a smartphone so I need a text message.
I understand that the message may be delayed due to phone congestion or circumstances beyond the school’s control. The designated mobile number is:

Thank you