It was fantastic to see so many families attending our Literacy and Numeracy Open Morning. The students really enjoy sharing their learning with you and having you walking through their classrooms.

The key literacy points presented on the day were:

Your child should be reading at home *most* nights. I encourage you to make reading one of your nightly routines as it is just too important to miss.

The home reader is absolutely for the **practice of reading**. It will be 1-2 level easier than the instructional level they are reading at school so they can read it without making too many errors.

**“The most important thing for young readers is that they believe they can read”**  (Stephen Graham).

Reading strategies we use at Risdon Park include Jolly Phonics (R-2) and Guided Reading (R-7).

In Jolly Phonics students learn a sound a day in a fun and multi-sensory way. Students are taught to blend sounds to read words from very early on. They then build on this throughout year 1 and 2 learning alternative spellings of sounds.

In Guided Reading students are explicit taught the skills and strategies of reading. This usually happens in small groups based on children's reading needs and may look different across R-7.

With the holidays fast approaching it is really important that your child/ren continue to practise reading at home. Tips for keeping up with reading in the holidays:

- read a book to your child every night and talk about the story,
- get your child to read a chapter to you (if they can),
- take some books with you in the car when you are travelling (books with read along CDs are also great for travelling),
- get them to read signs/ labels when you are shopping, read recipes and cook together, play board/ computer games where your child/ren can read the instructions, reread favourite books, and/or visit the public library.
- Remember to have fun with books and try and choose things to read that interest your child.

Shellee Harradine
Literacy Coordinator
TEACHERS LEARNING - DELVING DEEPLY INTO DATA

Last Friday at our Pupil Free day teachers were getting “down and dirty” with data that we have collected over the school year about students’ learning progress and achievement.

Teachers collect data on your child’s learning every single day and at times it feels as if they are swimming in the data. This can make it very difficult to hone in on what’s most important for individual students, a class and even at year level.

Last Friday provided teachers with an opportunity to look intensely at the data that they have gathered during the year (mainly focussed on Literacy and Numeracy), to share their data with other teachers, map students’ achievement levels and set clear, achievable goals for the learning of students within year levels for 2013.

Our day was a focussed one, and although required deep concentration it was also full with lots of talk and sharing of practice. All in all a very productive and successful day!

Carolyn Clinton

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY RELEASED

The Department of Education and Children’s Services (DECD) has released a social media policy and guidelines, providing practical advice about how schools and preschools can use and manage social media.

This advice covers protecting student and staff privacy, and defining the boundaries for staff in their interactions with students when using social networking sites such as Facebook.

A number of schools in South Australia recently reported social media sites using their school’s name and/or logo. Some of these sites included material considered offensive, including defamatory comments about students, staff and others in the school community.

The department’s social media website www.decd.sa.gov.au/socialmedia provides guidance on how to go about reporting offensive social media sites.

Risdon Park Primary School is in the process of setting up a Facebook account to keep parents and the local community informed of our exciting activities, programs and whole school events.

To find out more about the new DECD Social Media Policy and Guidelines plus useful support resources, go to www.decd.sa.gov.au/socialmedia.
INFORMING US OF CHILDREN’S ABSENCES

School: 8632 2226
Mobile: 0409 097 059 (TEXT)

- Name of your child
- Class teacher or room number
- Day/s he or she will be away
- Reason for his or her absence

Risdon Park Primary School has been invited to participate this year again to perform an item at the Memorial Park Christmas Carols Concert which is on the 9th of December between 6.45 and 7.30pm.

If any mums, dads or grandparents would like to be involved in helping the students put together their performance please contact Emma Lynn at the school on 86322226 if Emma is unavailable please leave your name and number and she will call you back.

Practices will be either Monday & Wednesday lunch time which is between 1.10 and 1.40 in weeks 8 and 9.
Students who are in years 4/5/6 this year are eligible for free lessons on the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet or trombone in 2013. 1/2 hour small group.

Lessons are free of charge and take place each Tuesday at John Pirie SS (it is the responsibility of parents to transport their child to and from school and hire/buy an instrument).

A note has been sent home with information about the music lessons - any students who missed out can collect one from the school front office.

Lynn Sheridan & Joanne Bosch
Instructors/Instructors Music Teachers

**Sports Fusion Clinics** (our 14th Year)
Coaching Clinics for students aged 8-14 years
At Prince Alfred College, Dennebille Tce, Kent Town
During the January School Holidays

**ONE CLINIC ONLY**
Mon Jan 7 – Thur 10, 2013
Choose from: Tennis / Cricket / Basketball / Soccer / Compa

**Fuscos in an all-developmental and all-female partnership. We want all students significantly better equipped to play and pursue sports for many years to come. Love presented with a smile, encouragement of enjoyment, experience and technical skills coaching.**

**Spa Asian** - Waterfall, hot and cool pools and spa play special "tea party".
Cost of Entry 4 day clinic is $10 per day (5 nights) or $80pp.
Family Discounts available
For details and enrolments: 82455050, Phone: 0411 519912

Well Womens Clinic
Port Pirie Regional Health Service
10 Year Anniversary
You are invited to celebrate at a
Women’s Health Evening
Lighthouse Church Hall The Terrace
29th of November 7:30pm -10pm

Speakers include:
Dr Katrina Allen Shine SA
Obstetrician & Gynaecologist Dr Kedias Jackson
Continence Nurse Pat Duhring
Well Women’s Clinic Nurse Lee-Anne Francis
Entertainment: Goddess Within Belly Dancers
Supper provided

Please donate your unwanted household items to Port Pirie Scouts for a fundraising garage sale.

Donations can be dropped off at the Scout Hall, Mary Elie St on Friday evenings 6:30-8pm

or for collection of large items please contact Ricky on 0411 519912

The garage sale will be held at the Scout Hall, Mary Elie St on Sunday December 9th.

Thank You!