Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I’m confident in making that statement based on my experience as a Principal in a range of schools throughout SA. The circumstances in which I’ve taken over the role are unfortunate and we wish Carolyn all the best during her illness and treatment. Carolyn and I have been staying in touch—she is feeling strong and is quite positive and upbeat. We look forward to her being back at work when she is well.

In the meantime, my role is to ensure that the school’s learning programs, routines and procedures are maintained so that the focus remains on quality learning. This is certainly made easier by the high standard of organisation throughout the school, the professionalism and competency of the staff and the standard operating procedures for all DECD schools—one of the strengths of our system.

As you may be aware, we have been experiencing a high number of student absences because of illness. The main symptoms described to us by parents/carers are high temperatures, sore throats, chest infections and headaches. As a school, we have put in place a range of infection control procedures. We have also appreciated the cooperation of parents/carers by keeping unwell students at home until they have recovered and by taking students home when they have become ill at school. Like many infections, this one will run its course and we look forward to all of our students being well so that they can get on with their learning at school and so that families are able to enjoy any activities planned for Easter.

When starting out at a new school I always like to meet and have a chat with as many parents as I can. A great opportunity was provided last week with the AGM of the Governing Council. The new Council has now been elected and is as follows.

Chairperson    Kelly Smith
Secretary       Mel Maywald
Treasurer       Susan Gates
Councillors     Mary Nitz, Jessica Jedyn, Nadiyah Atiya, Kathryn Gregory and Hayley Broadfoot
Staff Reps      Magdy Jagiello and Teagan Sargent

These people will have a significant role in the governance of the school which includes: developing and monitoring strategic plans, determining policies for the welfare of students, determining and monitoring financial resources, providing a forum for the involvement of parents and ascertaining the attitude of the community to educational developments at RPPS.

Thank you to these people for your input and thank you also to retiring members of the previous Council, Christine Carman, Rick Olsen and Lynne Cooke.

Chris Heading
Principal

Risdon Park News
28 Kingston Rd Pt Pirie, 5540. Ph 86322226, email: dl.0685.info@schools.sa.edu.au
Mobile for absence txt messages only 0409097059

28th March 2013

What a Great School!
Influenza

A parent has informed us today that her child has been diagnosed as having the Influenza B virus (Flu). Information provided by the Department of Health is as follows:

Influenza is spread when infected airborne droplets, produced by coughing or sneezing by someone with influenza, come into contact with the mucous membrane lining the nose and mouth. Infection may also be spread by contact with hands, tissues and other articles soiled by infected nose and throat discharges.

Incubation period
*(time between becoming infected and developing symptoms)*
1 – 3 days.

Infectious period
*(time during which an infected person can infect others)*
1 day before the onset of symptoms and 3 – 5 days after the onset of symptoms in adults; up to 21 days in young children.

Treatment
Specific antiviral therapy is available but is effective only if commenced shortly after the onset of illness (within 48 hours). Antiviral therapy may also be used to prevent infection in close contacts of people with influenza, such as vulnerable household contacts and residents of institutions, especially aged care facilities. This preventive treatment also needs to be given shortly after exposure to an infectious person (within 48 hours).

Paracetamol should be used for the relief of pain and fever.

Control of spread

> A person with suspected or confirmed influenza should be excluded from child care, preschool, school or work until they feel well. People who work in aged care or similar facilities should be excluded from work for five days after the onset of symptoms.

> Wash hands as soon as possible after sneezing or coughing and after contact with nose and throat discharges or articles soiled by these.

> Wipe down all frequently touched surfaces regularly with a cleaning cloth dampened with detergent.

> Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue or your arm, not with your hand. Drop used tissues immediately into a rubbish bin, then wash your hands.

Influenza vaccines are available and reduce the risk of getting influenza. The influenza virus is constantly changing and each year the influenza vaccines are altered to provide protection against currently circulating strains of the virus, therefore vaccination is required every year. Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for anyone aged six months or older who wishes to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza.

Contrary to the report in the Recorder we did not send 140 students home. Only a few students have gone home during the day because they became sick during the day.

Many parents have notified us that their children were ill with colds, flu, fever and other viruses over the last 2 weeks and have kept their children home until they had recovered resulting in high numbers of absence.

Please continue to notify the school of your child’s absence by phone, txt, or absentee slip. Thank you.

Hookin2Hockey

Registration Night on **Tuesday 9th April** between **6pm to 7pm** at the **Hockey clubrooms** (Drage Street, Port Pirie) for involvement in a seven week come and try hockey program that will commence on **Friday 10th May 4.30pm – 5.15pm**. Age group is 5 – 10 year old children.

Cost is $15 registration or $35 for registration and stick pack. If you can’t register on the 9th April, but would like to participate please contact Jo-anne Ferme on 8636 5086.

Thank you on behalf of the Port Pirie & District Hockey Association

Jo-anne Ferme
Director of Junior Development PP&DHA
**WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN 2013**

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school—and all we need you to do is shop for you groceries at Woolworths.

From Monday 8th April to Sunday 9th June, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Points onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and when it’s complete, the Points Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here at the school or at your local store.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students—including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you’d like to know more visit Woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn.

Last year we received approximately $5,000 worth of books for our reading room, the library and lego for Science & Technology.

**PALS Program**

PALs means “Play At Lunchtimes”. On Tuesday some of the year six and seven students participated in PALS training. We were taught games, PALs virtues and to have fun. We were also able to practise teaching these games to each other as well as some younger students at lunchtime. Now that we have become PALS leaders we will set games up during lunchtimes throughout the year that students from reception to year seven can play and enjoy.

Dale, Jess, Anton.

**Young Leaders’ Day**

On Monday 18th of March, Anton, Dale, Georgia and Jess went to Adelaide on a bus with other students from different Pt Pirie Schools. We travelled to the Adelaide Entertainment Centre to listen to people speak about what they think it means to be a good leader. The gust speakers were Mike Martin, Creel Price, Commissioner Gary Burns, Natalie Von Bertouch and Ruben Meerman. Some of the key messages were that anybody can be a leader, you have to have self belief and you have to set goals to get anywhere in life. Overall the day was fun and we learnt many things about being a leader and will be able to use the things we learnt to be good and positive leaders at Risdon Park Primary School.

Jess, Dale & Anton
Last Thursday 21st March Risdon Park Primary School students and staff celebrated Harmony Day. Harmony Day is “a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home—from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it”.

To celebrate this day the Kids Co organized and ran a number of different activities throughout the day including a Casual Clothes Day where students were asked to come to school wearing orange (colour that represents Harmony Day). The canteen had a variety of orange foods available, activities were run by Year 6 & 7 students during recess and lunch times, including face painting and teachers presented different Harmony Day activities in their classrooms. A whole school assembly was also held, during which time a whole school game of Piccadilly Circus was completed, bringing the school together working as one, reflecting some the key values of Harmony Day.

Overall the students enjoyed the day and the message of bringing everyone together was made clear and well reflected through large student and staff participation in all of the day’s activities.

Carly Pavy

AIRDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL TRASH AND TREASURE SALE
Sunday 30th June 2013 at 11:00am

WANTED
FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, SUNDRIES, ELECTRICAL, DVDS, BOOKS, CRAFTS, BUILDING MATERIALS etc

Donate now or sell your own (Car boot sale) for a $10 entry fee
Sausage sizzle, canteen facilities, face painting
Donations can be made to Airdale Primary every Thursday between 9 a.m-12 noon
Larger donations can be picked up by arrangement
LIONS FOOTBALL CLUB

Junior Registration Day Sunday 7th April at 11am at the Lions Clubrooms (Mary-Elie St)
11am Registration and Individual photos
12pm Activity with coaches followed by a sausage sizzle
Training for Under 9, Under 11 and Under 13 will commence:
Thursday 11th April 4-5pm
Under 9 coach Wayne Shultze
Under 11 coach Ben Cumming
Under 13 coach Matt Giles

Training for Under 15
Monday 4:30pm-5:30pm Memorial Oval, coach David Wyatt

Enquiries contact Kylie Wyatt, Junior Chairperson 0459 540 047

RISDON SOCCER REGISTRATION

The recent spate of illness at school has affected the school’s registration on Wednesday 27th March (yesterday).
So many students being absent meant that many children did not receive notice of the registration until the day before.
To rectify this problem another registration day has been organised for Thursday 11th April from 3pm-5pm in the school hall.
Students in Year 1 and above are eligible to play competitive soccer for the school.

R.S.L. Music, Movies, Quiz Night,
Saturday 13th April 7:30pm
Quiz Master Haydn Madigan
Door Prize NEW 10” Leader Tablet from Tell Technology.
Range of questions for the 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, 90’s, 2000’s onwards.
Make up a Table Maximum of 10.
BYO supper
Prizes for Winners and Runner up. All welcome, book early. Ph RSL for Bookings 86331448
$10 per person
Proceeds to the Helicopter Project

PUPIL FREE DAY
Monday 29th April (term 2) for all Pt Pirie Government Schools

SCHOOL FEES
MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGES
Reminder that school fees are due.
If you wish to apply for school card please obtain a form from the office.
If you wish to make regular payments please see our finance officer Michelle Beyer.

A Learning Community that Values: Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, Caring