From the Principal

The much anticipated annual school concert and presentation night is now history. The School’s preparation and practice resulted in a presentation that reflected the importance our community places on this event. What wonderful performances for all involved. Congratulations to students, staff and community members on what was a wonderful celebration of a year of achievement. With term four activities including school camp, budget preparations, school reports and Athletics Day everyone has been rather busy (or is it that we are getting a little older?). However, as our School realises significant progress in the completion of the various facilities projects around the school, observes students choreographing dance routines at lunchtime or witnesses positive play at recess, I am reminded of just how lucky our community is to have such a wonderful school. November’s Remembrance Day service reminds us all of how fortunate we are to live in Australia. While many students may not fully understand the significance of this day each understands its importance in terms of our national identity.

As we prepare for the 2015 school year it is pleasing to report the gains our students have made in critical areas of literacy and numeracy. Staff has reviewed data in relation to our Site Improvement Plan and will be concentrating attention on the key area of numeracy as next year unfolds. Numeracy will also be the focus of our Tatiara Wrattonbully Partnership Group. As you know, success only results from a combination of key factors including working cooperatively together, targeted teaching resources, parental support and students willing and confident to persist in their learning. When each party is accountable, students are more willing to actively engage in learning opportunities, further deeper understandings of key curricula, understand and more fully appreciate that success is only achieved through endeavour. Research clearly demonstrates that student learning is driven by students taking responsibility for their learning, teachers supporting that learning with innovative learning opportunities and parent/teacher support provided through open questioning. This process develops student resilience, confidence and skill acquisition. We all want our children to have the capacity and willingness to attempt problem solving that life experience presents. As adults we know only too well the importance of engaging in this skill!

Anna Young, former principal of both Padthaway Primary School and Naracoorte South Primary School has announced her retirement effective from the end of the school year. Anna has been a friend, mentor and consummate school leader for many years and will be sadly missed in her professional capacity by all. A function in Anna’s honour will be held at the Naracoorte South Primary School on Thursday 11th December from 5.00 pm. If you and your family would like to attend this event please contact Naracoorte South Primary School.

Facilities
Recent visitors to the school will have noticed that significant progress has been made towards the completion of several facilities projects. These projects include the courtyard area between the main building and the Junior Primary classroom and the play area located between the bus stop area and the shelter shed. We thank Will Franklin, our Facilities Manager, for driving completion of these projects on our behalf. With the projects rapidly reaching completion, no doubt our gardening guru, Tammy Mathews, will be organising working bees to beautify and make full use of these areas. Anticipate further information from Tammy on how you may assist this process. The School would also like to thank David Charlick for providing the necessary skill and manpower to install the boundary fence posts to the area adjacent the Junior Primary and main buildings.
Softball
The rain we experienced last Thursday did more than upset harvest planning. It postponed our regular softball schedule. Fortunately, class teachers agreed to allow the missed games to be played on Tuesday afternoon. The close competition between the three teams means that it is unlikely that we will know who will play in the grand final scheduled for the last day of term this year until the last minor round game is completed. Softball supporters are very welcome to attend the grand final game that should start shortly after 11.30 am on the school oval.

Cricket
Our school cricket team played two one-day matches against Penola Primary with each team recording a win in very entertaining games. One of these matches was played at the Western Flat Oval, a first for this competition and indicative of the important links our community has with Western Flat.

Our school hosted Shelley Nitschke, SACA Development Officer, last week. She demonstrated to both the Junior and Middle Primary classes some of the wide variety of activities that make up the In2Cricket program. Our local In2Cricket program will be launched on Friday of week one, term one next year with George Verco as the program coordinator.

Music
Several of our students have recently participated in district music recitals. We congratulate Maddi Bryson, Stacey Hayes and Poppy Moyle-Read for their dedication to practice and their musical success. I was also informed of the wonderful progress Annabel Hicks has made with her singing lessons. It was wonderful to see the collective musical talents of these students displayed at our concert!

Staffing
Our community would be aware that five of our students transition to High School next year. Our Reception intake of ten will ensure a slight increase in student numbers from the beginning of the year. This information provides certainty regarding classes for the 2015 school year. Once again, we will have four classrooms: a Preschool class, a Reception to Year 2 class, a Year 2 to Year 4 class and a Year 5 to Year 7 class.

For 2015, Michelle Lampard will once again teach our Preschool students, Ashlea Owen (M/T/W), returning from Parenting Leave, and Hannah Davey (Th/F) will share teaching responsibilities for Years R/1/2. Pam Steer will once again teach Years 2/3/4 while Olivia Martin will teach Years 5/6/7. Shirley Dickson and Kieron Hicks will each share non-instruction time (NIT) responsibilities one day a week. Student Support Officer (SSO) allocations will unlikely be finalised until the start of the new school year.

On Wednesday, we will introduce the school to Hannah, a newly graduated teacher about to embark on her exciting journey as a teacher, when she visits Padthaway to participate in the School’s Transition Day. Hannah will also be teaching at Naracoorte Primary School next year.

The School wishes the very best to Tristan Taylor and Peta Fraser who provided wonderful teaching support to our students through the year. No doubt, we will see both around the school from time to time in the future. In news just to hand, Jessie Cope has been appointed to the teaching staff of Mount Gambier North Primary School for 2015. As well, Stephen Edwards’ appointment as our School’s CPSW has been secured for term one and an application for his continued employment after term one to this position has been submitted.

Criminal History Screening
New requirements regarding criminal history checks must now be implemented by all South Australian schools. These new regulations require the School to ensure a wide range of volunteer school support members including Governing Council members, coaches, LAP mentors, and regular visitors undergo criminal history checks. Please contact the school at your earliest convenience to access an application. There is no cost to volunteers for this process and your early attention to this matter will ensure the support mechanisms our School has always enjoyed are not compromised.

Universal Access
It is with both pleasure and a sense of relief that Michelle and I are able to announce the continuation of the fifteen hours per week Preschool program. As a result the program providing support for our preschoolers will remain the same length each week as that enjoyed throughout 2014.

And Finally
Helen and I take this opportunity to thank the entire school community for their ongoing support for our School throughout 2014. Our school provides one of the critical foundation stones that guarantee a vibrant community. As we work together to ensure this important role in providing cohesion to our community’s wellbeing continues, so too do we grow as a community. May your Christmas holiday season be a joyful one!

Harry

Christian Outreach
On Thursday this week the local Christian community will present a Christian Christmas story written by Heather Edwards called “Christmas in the Bus.” If you do not wish your child or children to attend please contact the principal so other alternatives can be arranged.

Stephen Edwards
Christian Pastoral Support Worker
SRC President Report

I’d like to thank the students of Padthaway Primary School for giving me the privilege to be their SRC President for 2014, the people that supported me in this role, as well as the SRC members for all their hard work. I have certainly learnt a lot from the experience.

Fundraising for 2014 was kicked off with Pancake Day in Term 1, raising $327.98 for Uniting Care.

Tuck Days in Terms 2, 3 and 4 raised a total of $656.44, Hot Chocolates with Marshmallows raised $51.50. $1504.70 was raised for the Heart Foundation by participating in ‘Jump Rope for Heart’. $217.00 was raised by selling off no longer required furniture from the old CPC room. Selling drinks at the School Sports Day raised $170.94.

This means the SRC fundraising profit comes to a grand total of $1095.88 for the year.

The cubby house that was purchased at the end of last year as part of the 2013 SRC fundraising efforts was put up early in 2014 and now stands proudly for the younger students to enjoy and is a central part to a great new area.

The current SRC have decided to use this year’s funds raised to purchase a joint basketball/netball ring to be placed under the shelter.

I once again thank everyone for their support and hard work during 2014 and the opportunity to be SRC President. I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas break.

Tom Moyle-Read
President

School Concert 2014

It was a joyful concert filled with excitement and wonder. Each class, dance group, pianist and soloist shone as we came together to show off our school pride. The audience viewed each act with anticipation as to what was coming next and I thank you for your positive feedback.

Congratulations to the teachers and staff who helped make this night come alive with songs and plays as we move closer towards Christmas.

Thank you to Daniel Hayes for setting up the sound system at the Hall. Thank you to those who donated materials to help make our props, and the wonderful 5/6/7 Concert Committee who helped set up chairs, floor mats and decorated the hall – it looked great.

Steph Key

A big thank you to Mr Luke Leddy, our talented photographer, who took the wonderful photos of our school concert, Athletics Day and softball matches. The staff and students appreciate the terrific photos.

Pam Steer

Library Stocktake

There are a number of books missing from the School Library.

Can you please assist by checking your book shelves at home and returning any Padthaway Primary School books?

Books which have been borrowed by students should also be returned to the Library, please.

Thank you
Sandi

Tuck Day

27th January (Week 1)
Pies, Pasties, Sausage Rolls
Helper
Kathy Hayes
[Muffins – Kirilie Turner]

Priscilla Lamb-Hollis, phone 0499 058 489
Glenda Hughes, phone 0435 472 882
Tuck Day Coordinators

CPSW Spot

How did a rather portly gentleman dressed in red become the popular figure of Christmas? The Junior Primary Class was looking at this last week and it seems he originated out of a man called Nicholas who was born during the third century in the village of Patara, which is now part of the southern coast of Turkey. My research shows that he had wealthy parents who raised him to be a devout Christian but both died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young.

Nicholas used his whole inheritance to help the needy, sick and the suffering and dedicated his life to this end. He became the Bishop of Myra while still a young man and became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children and his concern for sailors and ships. I guess living on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea must have influenced this.

Many believe the inspiration for our jolly friend in red comes from St Nicholas although some might question as to how Santa helps the needy and encourages simple gift giving. One way to help is to give a small gift to needy children either at home or overseas. A story from ‘The Christmas Bowl Appeal’ states that a donation of $58 (less than $2 each from 30 of us) can supply a nutritious meal every day for a child in a refugee camp on the Burma/Thailand border.

Some of our students have already done a similar thing through the ‘Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox’ which will bring huge smiles to the faces of children who receive them.

This Thursday local church folk will present the Christmas story in an unusual way. The play is called “Christmas in the bus” telling of a bus trip which goes a bit haywire on the way to Alice Springs. It ends with goodwill all around as all Christmas stories should.

My role next year is secured as CPSW for at least term 1, and I am sure it will extend well beyond that, possibly secure for at least the term of the current federal government. At the moment all students and staff have Friday on their mind (for those old enough that’s the title of a song by The Easybeats!) as the school concert rapidly approaches.

Cheers
Stephen
**Persistence**
One student of this school and his father gave us a wonderful example of persistence recently. Tom Orton, fully seven years of age, and his dad Sid rode their bikes from Keppoch to Nora Creina, a distance of 130 km in one day and 2 hours. The first day they rode 110 km to camp alongside the Bray Hall, completing their journey early next morning to be at Nora Creina well before 8.00 am. One day – 110km – at seven years of age!

Next time something seems a little difficult, think of Tom and Sid’s effort.

*Mr Eddy*

**Thank You**
I would like to say what a pleasure it has been teaching at Padthaway Primary School. You have a great school with fantastic people.

It can be hard dropping in one day a week to acclimatise and settle in but everyone has been most helpful. So to Sandi Key in the Library (plus her phone and buzzer duties), to the students who are always willing to help set up sports equipment as well as support and instruct others, including myself, I’d like to say “Thank you”.

Some time ago I spent a couple of years teaching Harrison Rayner when ‘we’ were in Years 2 and 3 so it has been great to be able to catch up with him. I’d like to wish him and all the Year 7s the very best as they move on to High School and beyond. It has also been a pleasure working with Miss Martin, Mrs Steer, Miss Cope, Mrs Dickson (GO THE POWER!), Mrs Biggins and Mr Long.

*Thankyou*

*Tristan Taylor*

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**Community News**

**Kool Kangas**
Kool Kangas will resume in Term 1 2015.

Joanna Schutz, Team Leader
Phone 8765 5120

**Padthaway Playgroup**
Playgroup will resume on Friday mornings to be announced in Term 1 2015.

*Kylie Pethybridge, phone 0417 862 861*

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**Sunday School**
When: 4th Sunday of each month
Where: Padthaway Uniting Church
Time: 10.00 am
Contacts: Pam and Matt May, phone 8765 6116

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**Keppoch Community Christmas Party**

*It’s another year past, so come and share with us your “Christmas Cheer” in our local Keppoch Hall, Keppoch an evening of some games for the children, surprises, a gossip, a yarn, a new face, past residents, new babies and a shared tea makes a community.*

To be held Sunday 14th December 2014
at the Keppoch Community Hall, Keppoch
Starting from 5.00 pm, with games to commence at 5.30 pm
‘Shared Tea’ to follow
A Donation of $10 per family at the gate

Those who have children please bring a WRAPPED PRESENT WITH CHILD’S NAME $10.00

Place discreetly in bag in the kitchen

**Please BYO:** - Savoury and Sweet to share, making sure you cater ADEQUATELY for your family - Chairs and Esky if needed. Tea, coffee and water available.

Anyone is welcome; any queries please call:
Lissy Orton 8765 6017