Message from Judy

Welcome to the 2017 school year – a warm and special welcome to the new students and their families: Morghan Yr7, Clayton, Cherish, Adele & William Yr6, Samantha & Bella Yr4, Jade Yr2, Bonnie Yr1 and 22 reception students.

Welcome back to David King who returns to Meadows after his adventures in Papua New Guinea & Dani Cook who is returning to school after time at home with her baby.

Welcome/Acquaintance Night and AGM—Wednesday 15th February 2017

Thank you to the Meadows Pre-school who changed their AGM night to work in with us. Hopefully this conflict will be avoided in the future. The Acquaintance Night will begin at 5:30 with a sausage sizzle which is available for a donation. The first information session will start at 6:00pm and last for 30 minutes, followed by the AGM. At 7:00pm teachers will repeat their sessions for any parents unable to make the earlier session. The Acquaintance Night is an opportunity for teachers to share their learning focus, talk about their expectations and provide information about how the class will operate over the year. **It is not possible for teachers to talk with individual parents about their child at this time, due to time restraints. If you would like to talk with the teacher, please make an appointment so that quality time can be given.** A crèche will be available in OSHC (bookings essential). Please ensure children have eaten or bring a snack.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 6:30 pm

All parents/caregivers are invited to the AGM. The Principal and Governing Council chairperson will present brief reports. The final item for the AGM is election of 2017 councillors—please consider joining the council. Governing Council meets twice per term in weeks 4 and 9 with meetings beginning at 7:00pm and finishing by 9:30pm. The role of Governing Council is to make decisions that benefit all the students at the school. It is a requirement that all Governing Council members hold a current DCSI Screening (criminal history screening). This will be organised and paid for by the school. Nomination forms are available from the office.

Farewell to Julie Dalziel (Bu)

Julie’s funeral will be held Monday (6th Feb) at 10:30 at Kleeman’s at Mt Barker. Julie was at Meadows for 13 years and will be sadly missed by both students and colleagues. There will be quite a few staff members (both teachers and SSOs) who will be attending the funeral. The students were able to express their warm thoughts for Julie through their art which was always so special to Julie. This flower arrangement was of great delight to her.
COMMUNICATION

There are a number of ways that we try to inform families about all the activities that are going on within the school.

- Newsletters are sent home Fridays, Weeks 3, 6, & 9 plus a Bulletin in Week 1
- Information is posted on our Facebook page, so please like us.
- Copies of newsletters and information is available on our website www.meadowspsp.ssa.edu.au
- Teachers send home notes with students and there are also notice boards and posters around the school.
- Texting is done for important reminders only as this is a very costly way of communicating.
- The electronic sign by the oval entrance displays current events.
- We have a skoolbag app, so that you will be alerted to upcoming events. Please pop into the school if you would like further information on how to install Skoolbag on your smartphone.

Please keep calendars and newsletters handy so that you don’t miss out on anything.

COMMUNICATION FOLDERS

Last year communication folders were introduced across all year levels to improve communications between school & home. If your child has a green bag with the school logo at home please return it so that it can be re-used this year. Students in Yr 3/4, 4/5 & 6/7 will have new plastic folders. All students will be asked to place notes from the school in this folder and if you have any notes or forms to return to school please make sure they are also placed in the folder. We are hoping this will avoid the screwed up note in the bottom of the bag scenario whereby parents are missing out on valuable information. If you need to remind your child that they need to go into OSHC, catch the bus or go home with somebody else a note could be written in their diary or communication book and shown to the teacher.

Package of Information, including School Fees Invoice

In an attempt to keep information being sent home manageable, you will receive a pack in the communication folder with a hard copy of the newsletter on Friday 17th February. The pack will also contain:

- Invoices for school fees ($270-00 per child) and information about school card
- Absence notes
- New Meadows Bakery List

Student Attendance

Lessons start at 8:45am. Please aim for your child to arrive at school no later than 8:40am. Students may arrive at school any time after 8:30am. If your child is late, please call by the office to sign them in. We request that parents ring prior to 9am if their child is going to be absent, or notify the teacher the day before if they have a medical appointment, such as the dentist. Where possible, please make appointments after school. An answering machine is available for you to leave a message, after school hours (4pm to 8:30am).

Road Directions around the Oval

For those families who use the drop off zone at the oval entrance, please remember to travel at 15 kms per hour or less in a clockwise direction right around the oval and stop in the parking areas only, keeping the walking lane (marked by the blue line) free for pedestrians. Be very vigilant for students who are on foot, especially toddlers and other littlies who may be in that area.

Dropping Off & Collecting Students

We ask that parents use the rear side door when dropping off and collecting students in the main building as the office area can become quite congested.

School Uniform

Governing Council strongly endorses the wearing of school uniform or school colours and appropriate footwear. Copies of the school’s uniform code are available on the web or hardcopies from the office. Uniform items are available from The Uniform Shop, Homemaker Centre, Mount Barker. Hats are available from the office for $11-00. Please ensure all uniform items and food containers are clearly labelled so that they can be returned easily if lost.
**Parent Club**
The Parent Club meets Weeks 2 & 7 on Wednesday mornings. Come and join us for a cuppa and chat with other parents. We are seeking committee members and helpers for fundraising activities. In 2016, some of the activities Parent club was involved in were: the Lap-a-thon, providing food at sports day, the disco and Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls.

**Music Lessons 2017**
Any parents who would like their child to learn piano/keyboard, guitar or ukulele in 2017 should contact Peter Beeby by calling 0431 151 104 or email pbeeby@gmail.com. Piano/keyboard and guitar lessons are provided during school hours (on Mondays this year) at a cost of $27-00 for a 30 minute individual lesson. Ukelele is taught in a group situation at $8-00 per student.

**Meadows Choir 2017**
Karen Brand (our fabulous choir trainer) will meet with interested year 5,6,7 students next week, with choir sessions starting Tuesday in week 3.

**Nicci’s Apples**
Delicious fruit is available Monday, mid morning until Wednesday mornings in the front office.
Apples and plums are in season. Dried apples for $1-50 a bag

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**Student Medical Conditions**

If your child has a new medical condition or there are changes to an existing one, please pop into the office and speak to Karen Brand. We can only administer medication if we have a written note from the doctor and the medication is clearly labelled from the Pharmacy.

*It is very important that we have up to date information in case of an emergency or if your child is sick. Please fill in the slip below and return to the office a.s.a.p. (only if your information has changed).*

The following family information has changed:

**Family Name__________________________ Eldest child in family______________________**

**New mobile/ phone no.**
________________________________________________________________________for________________________________________________________________________

**New email address**
____________________________________________________________________________

**New emergency contact- name/phone no./relationship/priority (1,2,3) - we will always try to contact parents first**
____________________________________________________________________________
Bushfire Information

Please read the attached information and ensure that your own bushfire action plan is in place.

Meadows Bakery Lunch Orders

A copy of the Bakery price is available from the office. An updated one will be sent out with the Week 3 newsletter. The items in the green boxes are available every day while the ones in the amber box are only available on Fridays. From Monday to Thursday students are to bring their order written on the outside of an envelope (with their name & class) and money enclosed to the office and place it in the black basket by the front door. At lunchtime they need to come back to the office to collect. On Fridays, due to the high number of orders, envelopes will be collected from the classrooms.

Season 2017

REGISTRATION DAY

WHEN – 19th February 2017
WHERE- Home grounds,
Strathalbyn Polo & Recreation Grounds, Callington Road
TIME – 10am - 2pm

Teams for this Season

Mixed U7(MiniRoos), U8, U9, U10, U12, U14, U16, Men
Girls Only U13, U17

We are looking for Existing and New players of all ages 5+ to come and register for our 2017 season.

Further information contact Nick on: 0407 617 943 or president@strathstrikers.com.au
Appendix A
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS
MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL
EVACUATION/INVACUATION/BUSHFIRE ACTION PLAN

These notes cover the basic details of the school’s policy covering emergency situations including: evacuation (in case of fire or other danger in the buildings); invacuation (in case of danger outside the buildings); or bushfire. Please note the information on page (Appendix B) gives details of actions to be taken in an emergency.

(1) EVACUATION

In the event of an evacuation from the school buildings, staff remain solely responsible for the direction of students to the allocated assembly point, on the eastern side of the asphalt area. Students will be returned to their classes when all danger has been deemed, by the principal or delegate, to have passed. During an evacuation event, including a drill, parents and visitors on site must also assemble in the nominated area. Parents who wish to take their children from the school must personally inform the child’s teacher so that the child is correctly accounted for.

(2) INVACUATION

During an invacuation, teachers will be responsible for the safety of the children. All children will be moved into the nearest supervised building, and will be properly accounted for. Access to the classes will be restricted, and parents may not be able to gain entry. If there is no danger to others, the teacher may release a child into the care of his/her parent. Access to the school may be dangerous in these situations. During an invacuation event, all parents and visitors are required to conform with the invacuation policy by proceeding immediately to the nearest occupied lockable building.

(3) BUSHFIRE

Bushfire safety preparations are made regularly by the school, and in high fire danger days, the CFS Website and ABC radio are monitored for any news of fire. Children will be invacuated into their own room if there is a fire reported in the district (see above). Excursions will be cancelled, and buses may be affected.

In case of fire in the local area, all students and staff will be directed to the main building. This building has drinking water and toilet facilities. If the school is threatened then all students, staff and adults will move to the hall (nominated last resort refuge). Children will be cared for until the area is declared safe by the local fire authorities. They will then be released to parents individually. Parents are asked not to tie up the telephone in these circumstances, or attempt to collect their children in highly dangerous circumstances. Importantly, it will be essential to keep paths, gates and buildings clear, for the use of emergency vehicles.
Appendix B
POINTS TO REMEMBER IN A MAJOR EMERGENCY

The summary below contains important points to remember concerning the safety of your children in an emergency.

- Your child/ren will be taken care of, for as long as necessary by staff until they can safely be reunited with you.
- You should avoid tying up the school telephone in an emergency situation. Critical announcements regarding bushfires are given regularly on radio ABC891 (AM band).
- Do not park on or near the school site or gates as the area must be available for emergency vehicles.
- The school’s hall is the designated last resort refuge in a bushfire emergency situation.
- Excursions or camps will be cancelled, or in some cases, groups will be directed to a nearby safe school location if it is considered dangerous to return to this school.
- Bus runs may be cancelled in case of danger at schools, or along the bus route.
- Children will not be permitted to leave the last resort refuge, or the site, until advice has been received from the CFS to do so.
- Children will only be released into the care of their parents, unless we are advised of alternative arrangements by the parents.
- Parents cannot be accommodated in large numbers in the school’s last resort refuge.
- After a fire, staff will communicate with parents until all children are safely collected.
- After a major emergency, counselling services will be arranged for children as required.

YOUR COOPERATION WITH THESE MATTERS IS APPRECIATED.

Please ensure that the school has your current mobile and home phone numbers.

On Red Alert days (catastrophic days) for the Adelaide Hills the school buses will not run.
Parents of students who usually travel on Eastern Fleurieu buses will receive an SMS message from Eastern Fleurieu

Meadows Primary School will be open on Code Red days unless the CFS advise otherwise. Listen to 891 for details.
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