Dear Parents and Friends,

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Playful Learning Forum on Tuesday night. It was great to have such a positive response with over 60 people in attendance. The question and answer session was a great way for parents to gain clarification on the learning that is happening throughout our school.

Open Day
Just a reminder we are hosting an Open Day on Tuesday 2nd June from 9am until 11am. All classrooms across the school will be open for parents, grandparents, other relatives, friends and prospective parents to come along and see learning in action. This will also be a great opportunity to see the use of flexible learning spaces throughout the school. The morning will conclude with a morning tea around 10:45am. The students are very keen to have their parents come to their classrooms.

Pupil Free Day
At our recent Pupil Free Day, the Years 3-7 teachers travelled to Brighton PS to have a look at flexible learning environments. They are now equipped with some great ideas and are looking forward to making a few changes in their own learning spaces. These will not all happen immediately, but gradual changes will be made whilst the response from students will be analysed. The idea of the changes is essentially to provide a learning environment that caters for all students. Please feel free to discuss any of these changes with your child’s teacher.

The Junior Primary staff spent some time looking at the goals for learning in the early years and creating a belief statement and plan for learning continuity. They have also planned for continued improvement with their outdoor learning space.

External Review
As part of our continuous school improvement we will be involved in an external school review with a review panel. The purpose of external school reviews is to support schools to raise achievement, sustain high performance and provide quality assurance to build public confidence in government schools.

All government schools will be externally reviewed every four years. The focus of the review is to evaluate school performance. The review panel consists of a review officer and a trained review principal. The review will take place on June 22nd and 23rd.

We will find out the aspects of the school’s performance that have been verified through the review processes as well as the improvements that we need to make in the future.

During the external school review, some students, parents, governing council members and staff will be asked to provide information to the review panel in a number of ways. These include:
- individual interviews
- group discussions (with students or staff or parents)
- meetings (usually governing council, staff meeting)
- observations of student learning.
We appreciate your support and time in helping us with this external school review process.

**Attendance**

Recently we have been reviewing our attendance policy and Attendance Improvement Plan. One of our new strategies is to review first term data and contact parents if attendance is below 90% without legitimate reason, or is of concern. (DECD target is 93%)

*A child who attends school for only 90% of the time will miss a total of 1 year of schooling between Reception and Year 10 (in other words, they will miss 1 week every term).*

Consequently, we have sent home letters to make parents aware of concerning attendance. We want to be able to work with families to ensure children get maximum access to their education. The other concern is the amount of unknown absences. If your child is going to be away, or is ill, please let the teacher or the office know.

On a positive note, school attendance is currently at 94%, which a good start to the year.

**Pre-service Teachers**

Currently we are hosting quite a few pre-service teachers. We have four UNISA students doing their first experience practicum throughout the school. We also have Katelyn Squire, who is in Mrs Hogg’s 1/2 class for the next 3 weeks and Jess Skeer, who will be in Ms Sheppard’s class for the next two weeks.

**Cross Country**

A fortnight ago, we had over 60 students take part in the South East Cross Country Championship at Naracoorte. On the day we had two students win medals! Well done to Zara Kellett who took home gold in the 8 year girls race, and Ned Balnaves who won the silver in the 10 year boys race.

Full results along with photos will be published when they come through.

**SAPSASA Football**

Whilst on SAPSASA events, well done to Jacob Robbie, who has been representing the MSE this week in Adelaide at SAPSASA football. At this stage, the team has only lost one game and is set to take out second place.

**March into May**

The Year 6 class had a great day out at Canunda for the Annual March into May. Despite getting quite wet, they had a very positive attitude and took part in the activities enthusiastically.

**Canteen News**

The Year 7 cooking group has been working with Rosalia to use real life literacy and numeracy skills by helping plan and cook a canteen special. The team of Brady, Kaleb, Zac and Connor decided on Nachos as the special. They helped design the servings and what they needed. Together they made 68 serves and helped send them out to classes. What an awesome job!

**Roster**

**Friday 29th May**—Megan McGuinness

**Friday 5th June**—Carla Ranger

**Munchies**

**Tuesday 2nd June**

Sally Skeer
Josephine Wimshurst
Sue Bell

**Tuesday 9th June**

Sharon Ross
Lou Bailey
Louise Perry

**Working Bee**

Thanks to Matt, Peta, Mia and Pip Crewe, Jamie, Mel, Lucy and Bryce Catlin, Dea, Stella, Macey and Cormac O’Brien, Angela, Breanna and Teegan Lythgo, Cindy Hutchesson, Kirsty Balnaves and Annie Pollard, Graham Adams, Nathan Stanley and Louise Stanley, Michelle Barry and staff Tony and Paul for their contribution to the working bee. The small, but enthusiastic group completed many jobs and helped make the school look better for our students. Thanks also to Gavin Dent who came in after and split the remaining wood.

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**National Karate Academies**

FREE Come & Try Monday Nights Penola Primary School Gym Juniors 6pm-7pm; Seniors 7pm-8.30pm
Phone: 0417 812 960 www.nationalkarate.com.au
Year 4/5 Camp
When: Friday June 5th from 7pm
Where: Coonawarra Hall
Admission: $15 (includes lollies). Tickets available at the door or contact Ellie on 0413453259

BYO Chair & Bar Facilities available

Comedy Movie. A chef who loses his restaurant job starts up a food truck in an effort to reclaim his creative promise, while piecing back together his estranged family.

Margaret ★★★★★ David ★★★★★

Rated: M

This Fundraiser is in support of Ellie Wilson, the Penola Coonawarra entrant at the annual Swinging with the Stars. Ellie is raising money for the Penola Coonawarra wellbeing fund, the benefit of which is solely targeted at charitable projects that benefit the Penola Coonawarra area.

Raffle – A Samsung Tablet will be raffled on the night and tickets will be exclusive to movie patrons only.