Governing Council News
Last Monday night was our Governing Council AGM. At this meeting the Annual Report was presented where we reflected on our achievements and progress for 2014. We also elected a new Governing Council for 2015. The parents and staff who represent you and your children this year are: Simone Pedler (Chairperson), Marcus Jeffery (Deputy Chairperson), Jodie Smith (Treasurer and Special Ed Representative), Melissa Beaven (Secretary), Kylie Rosenthal, Susan Buckingham, Karen Post, Orakan Pappas, Jodie David, Cathy McAuley (Principal), Di Scott (staff), Kathy Fahy and Mel Davies (staff).
Please feel welcome to approach any of these members in the school yard if you have any ideas or concerns, or come to the front office and we can hand on their contact details.
We still have three vacancies available on our Council for this year. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to one of the current councillors or come to the front office to speak to a member of the leadership team.
Any parent can attend a Governing Council meeting although only Governing Council members have voting rights. Meetings will be held at the school from 7.00-8.30pm on a Monday evening on the following dates: February 23rd, March 16th, May 11th, June 15th, August 3rd, September 7th and October 26th.
Acquaintance Night
It was fabulous to see so many people attend our Acquaintance Night last Tuesday night. Children enjoyed the opportunity to show families their classrooms and other areas of the school that are important to them. I appreciate the efforts made by all teachers and families, however, particular mention must go to those families with multiple children who have attended Surrey Downs, as these parents still pretend they don’t know where the library is!
Newsletters
You would be surprised how many times we hear “my child didn’t get a newsletter”. Did you know that spare copies of the newsletter are available in the front office and that the newsletters are available on our website? This year we will also be introducing the Skool Bag app which will allow us to use another form of communication, including newsletters, with our school community. More information regarding this application will be provided very soon.
What’s happening in 2015?
Each year we provide special learning opportunities for many of our students. In 2015 we are continuing with the familiar and well-loved instrumental, choir and SAPSASA programs. We will also continue with Kids’ Council, which provides wonderful opportunities for Student Voice. The years 3-7 ICAS Competitions will also continue and again the year 2s will have the chance to be involved in the Science, Maths and English competitions. We are also planning a School Concert towards the end of the year, as well as a Sports Day in term 2.
Whilst these are just some of the things to come, 2015 promises to be another busy and exciting year at Surrey Downs.

Cathy McAuley

Volunteer Training – Thursday 26th February 9am
Thanks (again!)  
Surrey Downs R-7 School would, once again, like to thank the Surrey Downs Neighbourhood Watch group (Area 362) for their generous donation of $1000 this week. This money is used to allow all year 7 students to attend the Young Leader’s conference next week at no charge. The generous donation covers the cost of attendance fees and all travel costs.  
We are extremely grateful for our continued relationship with this local organisation.

Bushfire Ready Meeting  
Did you get a warning message from the CFS during the recent fire? Did you know exactly what to do?  
A ‘Bushfire Ready’ meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March at 7:30pm at Tea Tree Gully Uniting Church (592 Milne Road, Banksia Park). Come and hear about house and property protection, and how the telephone messaging system works.

FINANCE NEWS  
We now have the facility to Direct Debit school fees. If you would like to participate in paying your fees via direct debit please collect a form from the Finance Officer, Kylie Thompson, in the Front Office.

TO: THE PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY  
RE: PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE  
Welcome back to a new school year and the twelfth year of the Premier’s Reading Challenge in South Australia. I am challenging South Australian students from Reception to Year 12 to read twelve books by 8 September 2015.  
Also, for the first time, there will be a reader for life champion award presented to students who have completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge twelve times.  
The Premier’s Reading Challenge continues to be remarkably successful, with more than 126,000 students completing the Challenge in 2014 from 681 schools. Many students educated at home also took part in the Challenge.  
Over 65 per cent of all South Australian schools had students completing the Challenge. This is an outstanding achievement and I thank you all for your time and efforts in supporting children and their families to complete the Challenge. I congratulate all of these schools on their results.  
The Challenge has been fortunate to have nineteen high profile and enthusiastic ambassadors who inspire students to enjoy reading and achieve their goals. Adelaide United Football Club, Adelaide Lightning Basketball Club, Port Adelaide Football Club, Adelaide Football Club, Thunderbirds Netball Club and SA Scorpions have also thrown their support behind the Challenge and Premier’s be active Challenge as joint ambassadors. The Premier’s Reading Challenge continues to be an important initiative that supports the State Government’s commitment to improve the literacy skills of young South Australians and encourage them to enjoy reading.  
All information about the Challenge is on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website at www.prca.sa.gov.au, where 8253 2005 or email prc@sa.gov.au. A school contact person is requested to coordinate your school’s participation on behalf of all teachers, staff and students at your school.  
I encourage all students to discover the world of reading with the Premier’s Reading Challenge and keep up the momentum. I wish you every success in 2015.  
Yours sincerely,  
Joy Weatherall  
PREMIER  
23/01/2015

CANTENE SPECIALS  
WEEK 5 - Potato Pie or Cruizer  
Or Sausage Roll + Calippo  
$4.50  
WEEK 6 - Ham Salad Sandwich  
+ Frozen Mony  
$4.00

Surrey Downs Calisthenics Club

Do your child love to dance around the house? Do they love to dress up and put on a performance for the family? Have you ever thought about trying a non competitive sport? Then you need to come and see what we get up to!  
Not only will they learn new skills, they will also learn team spirit, self-confidence, self-esteem, co-ordination, polite and they’ll make new friends too!  
All routines are choreographed to the latest releases and we hold an Annual Concert at the end of the year at the Golden Grove Recreation and Arts Centre.  
Classes are held at the Surrey Downs Primary School in the Gym, during school terms. First class starts in the second week when school has resumed.

Tuesday nights: 6:30pm - 7:30pm for children aged 4 - 10 years of age  
7:30pm - 8:30pm for teenagers aged 14 - 16 years of age  
Saturday mornings: 10:00am - 11:00am for children aged 8 - 10 years of age  
12:00pm - 1:00pm for young adults aged 16 years and over  
Registration fees are $50.00 per term, per child  
Term fees are $60.00 per term, per child  
Payment options are available. We also hold some fundraising events during the year.

No sewing skills required!  
Surrey Downs Calisthenics Club is affiliated with the Calisthenics Association of South Australia.

Principal Coach is a Nationally Accredited Level 1 Coach and holds current First Aid, Criminal Screening and is also a Child Safety Officer.

For more information please contact.  
Principal Coach: Heather Boyd: 0409 678 671

Free Parenting Seminar

KEEPING TEENS and PRE-TEENS SAFE ONLINE

Are you the parent or carer of a 10 – 15 year old?  
Are you worried about their online safety?  
Come and hear internet safety experts and a child and adolescent psychologist talk about:  
- how teens connect online  
- how to talk with them about safety  
- making agreements and setting limits  
- dealing with cyberbullying.

Register to attend in person:  
Phone: 8303 1660  
Email: health.parenting@sa.health.sa.gov.au  
Or  
Register for webinar:  
Online: http://parenting.eventbrite.com.au  
When you register you will receive login details.

This seminar is designed for parents. Presented by Parenting SA. For more information about raising children and teenagers go to www.parenting.sa.gov.au and www.cyb.com.
Did you know?
- We are open 6:50-8:50am before school and 3:00-6:10pm after school
- We offer breakfast until 8am and after school snack with fruit
- There is a huge range of activities to do including craft, dress ups and lots of toys as well as movies, playstation, Wii and iPads
- OSHC is open on Pupil Free Days
- We use the gym, oval and asphalt areas for free play or games
- There is a 5% discount for siblings attending OSHC (full fees for 1st child)

‘My favourite thing to do at OSHC is play on the computer’ – Stefan, Room 4

Come in for a chat with Sarah if you are interested, call 0412 408 193 or email oshcvac.surreydr7437@schools.sa.edu.au

BIG THANKS to the families who have donated clothing, toys and furniture to OSHC! If you have anything you would like to donate we would love having some more dress ups and toys.
I heard the story of a ten year old who was asked to guess what might be the answer to “we all want this, but when we are together no one can really have it all the time”. The child guessed the correct answer...”My own way”. Insightful hey. My “own way” has differences to the “own way” of others. This difference can cause conflict or disagreement. If the difference is seen as small by one or both people, it is easier to make an adjustment to what they are doing together; but when discontent about the difference is felt by one or both people, communication skills are necessary. Although conflict is often associated with argument or fighting, conflict can, in fact become a growth opportunity for our self and our relationships. The following are some ideas that might assist in our children learning to find peaceful resolutions in conflict situations.

Say what you feel (without interruptions).

Listen to what other people have to say about their feelings (without interrupting them).

Try to put yourself in the other person’s shoes and understand their point of view.

Don’t use put-downs or mean, nasty remarks that will hurt people’s feelings.

No screaming and shouting, fighting, hitting, kicking, pushing or any kind of physically hurting others.

Have people involved say what they feel without blaming others. A good way to achieve this is by making "I" statements, like: "I feel hurt when..." "I need to feel or be..." "I hear what you are saying, but I feel..."

Take turns at speaking. Those involved might even want to decide on an equal time limit for each person.

Talk quietly. We are more likely to listen to a quiet firm voice than someone shouting at us.

Have those involved in the conflict write down what they see as the problem and then read each other’s comments.

Do some active listening by: Looking at the other person, to show that you are giving your full attention.

Make ‘listening noises (but don’t interrupt). Repeat back to the person what you think you heard.

eg. "So, your problem is that I haven’t tidied my part of our room?"

Once everyone involved has listened to each other and found the problem, then it’s time to look for a solution. Brainstorm together to think of ways in which you could resolve the conflict. Think of as many solutions as you can, even if they seem silly at first. Another person may be helpful to write down your ideas or suggest ways of making your ideas work so that you can resolve the conflict.