Despite the extremely hot weather, Acquaintance Night was very well attended and staff appreciated the opportunity to meet with families in an informal setting. Many thanks for the help provided in cooking the barbecue and providing the salads.

Our guest speaker at the AGM, Professor John Halsey, gave us food for thought as he shared his experiences and thoughts about the role of small schools in Australia. We thank him for the special effort he made to visit us and the honest way in which he answered questions from the audience.

Last Thursday, Terry Sizer, the Director for the Yorke and Mid North Region, visited the school as a part of routine performance management. I was very pleased to share the 2012 Annual Report with her. A summary report goes home with this newsletter. The full report can be found on the school’s website www.blythps.sa.edu.au.

Cheers, Dzintra

**Governing Council**

We thank and congratulate members of our community who have been elected to Governing Council or are continuing members.

Chairperson: Phillip Bigg
Vice Chairperson: Gavin McElroy
Treasurer: Julia Agnew
Secretary: Sarina King
Councillors: Brett Bertelsmeier, Ashley Dunsford, Mick Jamieson, Pamela Kaeding, Brad Kennett, Cherie Stirling, Scott Welke.

The staff representative on Governing Council in 2012 is Jacqui Kenny.

One vacancy remains unfilled. Please see Dzintra if you are interested in joining Governing Council.

**Pupil Free Day**

This is an early notice that Governing Council has endorsed a Pupil Free Day on Thursday 28th March. (Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday) Teachers will travel to Snowtown Primary School to participate in Jolly Phonics training provided by SPELD (The Specific Learning Difficulties Association of South Australia)

**KESAB Clean Up Day**

Students and staff will participate in Clean Up Day tomorrow morning. After moving into class and taking care of notes and lunches, we will clean up some areas in the township and the school grounds. Many hands make light work. We would love your company and help as we clean up.

**Attachments with this newsletter**

- Annual Report Summary
- School Vision Statement
- Student Absence Forms
- Parent Club Survey
**School Vision**
After several years of work by the Curriculum Committee and more recently the Parent Club, a revised Vision Statement for the School was endorsed at the AGM. The Statement is founded on the National Goals of Schooling for Young Australians and a copy goes home with this newsletter.

**Tuck Day**
Yesterday’s lunch was delicious. Thank you to Simone Bigg who coordinated our first Tuck Day and Marie Walsh, Charmain Angel and Cherie Stirling who helped prepare lunch.

**Student Attendance**
In 2012 the average student attendance rate was 94.55% and there were very few late arrivals or unexplained absences recorded. This is an excellent result and no doubt contributed to the very good progress made by students last year. Student Absence Forms go home with this newsletter. Please fill an Absence Form in and return it to school whenever your child is absent, or alternatively write a note in your child’s diary.

**Sensational Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Bernhardt</td>
<td>☺ For Organisation and good listening</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsey Hayes</td>
<td>☺ For doing her best</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmel Pyrke</td>
<td>☺ For Organisation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathew Easther</td>
<td>☺ For Persistence</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus Morant</td>
<td>☺ For good listening and Organisation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathew Easther &amp; Gage Milic</td>
<td>☺ For initiative and Organisation in voluntarily tidying the Sports Shed</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Welke</td>
<td>☺ For being so helpful during the 3 days Mrs Pyrke was with the class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Evangelista</td>
<td>☺ For Excellence.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kasey Bigg</td>
<td>☺ For exceptional Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caitlin McElroy</td>
<td>☺ For Confidence in trying something new and different (teaching the class a new art skill as “teacher”)</td>
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**Reminders**
Just a couple of reminders from the Front Office.

**Tuck Day**
Tuck Day orders need to be in and paid for by the date listed on the order form. Orders made after this date are not guaranteed to be filled.

**Payments**
All payments made to the front office need to be in cash or by cheque. We do not have a credit card machine due to the cost of maintaining it.

**Student information update**
We are still waiting on several Student Update information forms to be returned. If you have not yet returned your child’s form please fill out and return to the front office as soon as possible - even if there are no changes to previous information supplied.

Thanks, Marie

**Rec-Year 1 News**
Dear Families,
These last weeks the year 1’s have revisited the long vowel sounds of á é ó and verbs and adverbs. Next week they start Jolly Grammar 2. I am using Spelling/Grammar books for home and school. So far so good. They have been doing puzzles on stories about 10 and “doubling numbers”.

The big receptions have been reusing lots of Jolly Phonics and moving on to long vowels like “oa/ie/ee/ai”. They can tell you the rhyme about “2 vowels walking”. They have some spelling words in their Jolly Phonics Books this week.

The new receptions now know 7/8 sounds and also have a few simple words to sound and write. All children have been doing “capacity” and now 2D shapes with Mrs Richards.

As a class we have concentrated on the “Cat” family and have a list of 15 different sorts. We have also listed Primates and Reptiles.

From Today we have started working with a buddy from the Year 2-4 Class on a Zoo Animal. Fitness, Handwriting, Art, Technology, Music and Social Skills are all going well.

Next week the 2 new Receptions for Term 2 will come for their 1st transition visit. How time flies.

Cheers, Gabrielle Silvester and the JP’s.
Year 2-4 News
Dear Parents,
In Weeks 5-10 our learning will have an animal theme and we will be working with the R-1 on research and report writing; art and science activities.
We will celebrate our learning of this topic with a visit to the Adelaide Zoo on the 5th of April.
We are revising addition, subtraction and shapes for maths and some of the Year 4’s are trying hard to extend themselves in this area.
In English we are writing poetry and Narratives with an emphasis on using descriptive language.
We have started group reading and each child reads daily. Please try to hear your child/children read every night.
In P.E. we are focusing on catching and batting skills
Regards, Jillian MP Teacher.

Year 5-7 News
Week 5 already! Thank you to every one for bringing in plastic trays, toilets rolls and yoghurt containers. Please keep collecting as they are valuable resource.
Our learning space walls are starting to become very full with the wonderful work that has been completed in class. Please feel free to pop in and have a look around before or after school.
In History this week we have begun look at our individual heritage and family trees. Everyone in the class was keen to research and find out the names and birth place origins of their descendants.
Our class has also become very creative with the use of felt tip pens creating designs and patterns. This has also incorporated an abundance of Maths vocabulary and discussions on lines and geometric shapes.
I have also included as attachments to the newsletter this week a more detailed newsletter about the specific topics and areas we are studying in our classroom. There is also a SAPSASA explanation that may help with any queries you may have with this program.
Have a great week.
Regards, Jacqui Kenny

German
We celebrated Karneval/Fasching by making masks as many children in Germany do. The junior and middle primaries all had fun doing this - amazing how they morphed into little Affe, (monkeys), Elefanten (elephants), Kühe (cows), Schmetterling (butterflies) and Hasen (rabbits) as soon as they put their masks on ! It is no wonder Karneval is such a fun time.
We are also talking about the months, the seasons and special days. Our languages and cultures have much in common.
Tüüt, Judy

Parent Club
Parent Club is currently working on finding a time slot for meetings to suit most parents and have attached a survey to this newsletter. Can you please fill out and return to school by Friday 15th March. Our next Parent Club meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th March.
Tamara Pyrke
0438445118
Secretary

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Le Chef (M) ★★★★.5
Fri 1st Mar 8.00pm French comedy Jean Reno

Frankenweenie (PG) ★★★★
Sat 2nd Mar 6.00pm Animated – Tickets $5
Fri 8th Mar 7.30pm

Argo (MA15+) ★★★★★
Sat 2nd Mar 8.00pm Ben Affleck – Golden Globe Winner
Sat 9th Mar 8.00pm

Moonrise Kingdom (PG) ★★★★.5
Tues 12th Mar 2.00pm Drama
Fri 15th Mar 8.00pm
Sat 16th Mar 2.00pm
HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.
Join your local community in making a big difference.

Australia needs several different kinds of blood donations to keep the blood supply strong. Whole blood, plasma and platelet donations are used to make different blood products, which help unborn babies, burn victims and people with cancer, leukaemia and other serious illnesses.

Your blood type helps determine which type of donation is the best use of your blood. So at your next appointment, tell a staff member what blood type you are.

By giving where it's needed most, you'll save more lives.

The blood service is visiting the **Clare Sports Club Inc, Main North Road, Clare** on

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12th March</td>
<td>12.00pm - 6.00pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>13th March</td>
<td>12.30pm - 8.30pm</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>7.30am - 3.00pm</td>
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Before you donate eat something, drink 4 good-sized glasses of water and bring photo ID.

We will also be collecting Plasma at Clare. To find out more or to make an appointment please call 13 14 95.

Make your donation count by joining clubred online at donateblood.com.au/clubred*

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**LATEST NEWS**

Every blood donation can save three lives.

Did you know that Plasma is know as liquid gold and is a protein rich liquid, which is used to make 17 different products. These products help patients with trauma, burns, cancer, blood diseases and a range of other conditions.