On Monday and Tuesday of this week all of the Principals and Preschool Directors from around the state met in Adelaide to help set the new direction for Education in South Australia. Lots of great learning took place, but the main message for us as Principals was the need to develop students with Learning Power and Developing 21st Century Learners. Learners who are:

- Willing to take risks with their learning
- Willing to make mistakes and learn from them
- Problem solvers
- Independent thinkers

These are not new concepts, but ones that have been raised again as our world becomes increasingly complex and future jobs continue to change their shape.

Traditionally school has been a place where students are provided with knowledge sets (specific pieces of information about history, science, maths, etc.), however with the advent of the internet and Google this type of information is just a click away and it now gives us an opportunity to focus on developing in students the skills mentioned above. This means that the role of the teacher in the class is changing from the primary role of information giver to that of facilitator/guide/learner alongside the students. A simple example would be instead of the teacher saying 18 plus 6 equals 24 they would say the answer is 24 what could the question be? This gives students the opportunity to problem solve, try different combinations and if they don’t work, try different ones.

This might sometimes look messy and the teachers isn’t “Teaching”, but I can assure you that this is a very deliberate teaching technique designed to make the students do the thinking. We as teachers are making a conscious effort not to “rescue” students by telling them the answer, but instead giving them strategies to ensure they can find the answer for themselves. If you would like any further information on these ideas please contact your child’s teacher or me at any time.

It is a good thing if we teach our children to flounder intelligently! And value the struggle that is life, not give them, or do everything for them, where is the learning in that??

**Student Free Day Tomorrow**

A reminder that tomorrow Friday 7th March is a Student Free Day, no students is expected at school on this day. Staff will be travelling to Karoonda and will be involved in Professional Learning around the Australian Curriculum and peer observations.

**SAPSASA News**

Congratulations to Tilly Nickolls, Elli Jenzen, Tom Wurfel, Blake Virgo, Mitchell Hawthorne, Bailey Vogt, Bram Schiller and Jaylen Vogt in qualifying for the State Country Swimming Championships in Adelaide on Friday 21st March.

Congratulations also to Emmerson Thiel who has been selected to represent the Murray and Mallee in the state country softball championships in Adelaide in week 10.
Active After Schools Programme
This term students will be doing swimming and water activities. R/1 students will swim at the school pool on Mondays, the Yr 2-4 will swim at the town pool on Wednesdays and the Yr 5-7 class will swim at the town pool on Thursdays. Please ensure that your children bring their bathers on these days until the end of Term 1.

‘Aim High’
Sunyl Vogt

Student Awards

~ Student of the Week ~

Term 1 Week 4
R/1 Javen Gum - fantastic effort in all subject areas.
2/3 Sophie Sharrad/Owen Gum - for being excellent role models and for their all round achievement.
3/4 Elsie Nickolls - working in A/L and homework effort.
5/6/7 Principal - William Colwill - Great start to the school year with his increased focus on work, good decision making and responsible leadership.

~ Parent Club Award ~

Term 1 Week 4
R/1 Angus Schiller - fantastic work in Maths.
2/3 Jack Hyde - for accepting a challenge and starting times tables in Maths.
3/4 Sharon Joseph - learning times tables at home.
5/6/7

Term 1 Week 5
R/1 Amelia Daniel - fantastic work in all subjects.
2/3 Eliza Wallis - her persistence with using BIG numbers in Maths.
3/4 Cooper Nickolls - making an effort in all subjects including homework.
5/6/7 Blake Virgo - really striving for personal improvements in all areas of school.

Principal

Community Announcements

Pinnaroo Wetlands
"Day on the Green"
Official Opening with free Family and Children's Entertainment
Sunday May 4th 2014
Library News

ADULT NON-FICTION
Attitude is Everything by Nick Vujicic
The anxiety cure for kids by Elizabeth DuPont Spencer M.D.

ADULT FICTION
Brandon’s Bride by Alicia Scott
First Love by James Patterson
The unpredictable consequences of love by Jill Mansell
Courting trouble by Lisa Scottoline

CHILDREN’S FICTION
What’s your story by Rose Giannone
My two blankets by Irena Kobald
Along the road to Gundagai by Jack O’Hagan
Midnight: The story of a light horse by Mark Greenwood
Fire by Jackie French
Toucan can by Juliette Maclver
Secret Kingdom; Glitter Bird by Rosie Banks

School Announcements

PPS: Nut Aware
Pinnaroo Primary School has a nut aware policy. This means that we ask that all students do not bring any items to school which contain nuts in the main ingredients. This will include peanut butter, nutella and nut bars. Where items say “may contain traces of nuts” these may be brought to school. If you have any questions or queries please contact the school on 8577 8176.

Pancake Day
Wednesday March 12th
at Lunch time
$1 per pancake, choice of toppings (jam, maple syrup, icecream)
SRC Community and Fundraising

SRC Groups-Volunteers needed
Due to the success of our SRC programme last year SRC groups will continue in 2014. Groups are as follows, School Grounds, School Pride, School Community and School Activities. Students from Reception to Year 7 are allocated into the 4 different areas where they will remain for a semester. An executive SRC member will be in each group. This year we are asking for volunteer support to the various groups. SRC will run on Wednesday this term from 1.40pm till 2.40pm in weeks 3,6 and 9 ie: 12th Feb, 5th and 29th March. If you are able to help out please contact either the teacher in charge of the group or alternatively the front office.

We thank the school community for your continued support.
Hi, to the whole school community,

I can’t believe we are already over halfway through the school term, but a great start to the year and the blessing of two new teachers that the children love.

I have been talking in some of the classrooms about a concept of sowing and reaping and how the things that we say and do will reap harvest for good or bad.

The children gave me some great examples of sowing good seed. We also talked about how good it makes you feel inside when you are kind.

As adults its so easy to be too busy to stop and chat and I am guilty of this too at times. I remember when my children were going to school, I use to sew clothes for them, do lots of cooking and preserving, gardening and helping on the farm. I think back and wish I’d read more stories with them, well just took more time for them.

5 minutes here and there to stop and listen to our children can have a huge impact. This time passes by only once.

George Eliot wrote ‘the strongest principle of growth is human choice.’
Choosing to be positive, kind, helpful and forgiving is the best thing we can do for others and for ourselves.

Sometimes bad things do happen in our lives but we do have a choice in how we respond. Sometimes we don’t always make the best choices but that’s a part of life too and we can learn, move on and grow.

Keeping all the families and staff in my prayers as we make choices each day!

Dianne Nuske
CPSW