Dear Parents and Caregivers

At the halfway mark of the term, it seems like a good point to pause and look around, to check out what’s been done and what’s still to do!

In staffing news for next year, Sharryn Johnson will be teaching the R – 3 class and Laura Hadley the Year 4 – 7 class, with both teachers opting to work part time again next year. My next step, and the process is underway, is to confirm Sharryn’s and Laura’s teaching partners for next year. Expect news on that front within the next couple of weeks. The plans we made on the Student Free Day on Friday of Week 3 have assumed we will have the same teaching staff in 2015.

The process for the Finance Officer’s position will begin later this week and will be a temporary position for one term, ie Term 1 2015, as an issue relating to permanent hours needs to be resolved first. In a conversation with our Human Resources consultant, this seemed to be the best way forward, giving us a Finance Officer for the start of the year. Once the issue is resolved, the position may be filled with a permanent person.

We have all been struck, this week, by the ‘beauty’ of the lino found under the carpet and underlay in what will be our school kitchen next year. It is just, umm, ‘lovely’! Personally my favourite thing about the lino is the hole that Daryn Quick cut in it to check the size of the pipe that will go to the sink in the room. All good there! While the room is out of action for the remainder of the year for the students and teachers, we are looking forward to seeing its transformation over the coming weeks. We will keep you updated!

Students attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony yesterday held at the Manoora Institute, with the group inserting crosses and poppies into the memorial board and the upper primary class presenting wreaths they had made as well as reading a poem to the assembled group. Community members commented on the students’ behaviour (wonderful!) and were pleased that the students had been invited to attend and participate in the proceedings. Our thanks to Glenys Quick and Laura Hadley for the invitation and for organising our part in the service.

Students were also treated to a chat with Wendy Turner, whose uncle Trevor Jones, a local young man, died in World War II. Wendy sat on the sofa, under her uncle’s picture, in the library named in his honour, and talked about the young boy he was and the young man he became, showing the students photos and telling stories about him. Trevor became so much more real when you can see pictures of him with his mother and father, with his brother (Wendy’s father Howard) on their pony or dressed up as a ‘red indian’! Special thanks to Wendy and Brian Turner for making the trip here and taking the time out to meet and talk with our students and for the folder of information about her uncle that Wendy gave to the school. It is much appreciated.

The children who will be in Reception next year have begun their transition visits to the school with a half day this week, which is very exciting for all concerned: children, parents and teachers! With four new Reception students next year, Noah, Nathan, Jack and Ryan, we will have 28 students in the school and fourteen in each class, which are still very nice numbers to work with. The boys still have three visits to go and will hopefully enjoy each one as they come to know their new school and their classmates and teachers a little more each time. Welcome, boys, we are so looking forward to you starting and welcome, too, to the Philp family who are joining our school community!
Someone who is also joining our school community, albeit for a short time while I am on leave, is Mr Errol Pfitzner. Errol has taken the time to write and tell you a little about himself, which I have reprinted here:

Tracy thought a short note of introduction would be in order before I begin in my role of Acting Principal in Week 6. From the outset I must say that I am really looking forward to meeting and working with members of the school community. The four weeks will be a challenge for me - but as I have said to students many times, life is full of challenges, but it’s how we deal with these that is important.

I have been teaching since 1976 in a variety of settings and performing different roles. I am currently a teacher at Lyndoch Primary School. I have a quite a diverse role being the Australian Curriculum Co-ordinator, School Counsellor and a Reception to Year 7 teacher in Physical Education and hands on Technology. I am also the lead teacher of our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen /Garden Program. I really enjoy the “family feel” that Lyndoch offers being a relatively a small school in a rural setting.

On a personal note I am married, have two grown up sons and also one grandson.

I am looking forward to the last four weeks of school to support staff and students to successfully wind programs up and also support structures for 2015.

Errol Pfitzner

Errol will be in the school tomorrow for a handover and to meet the students and staff. If you happen to be around, by all means call in!

Thankyou – staff, students and parents all – for a fabulous year. It seems too early to say it, but if I don’t do it now I might not get another chance, so ‘Merry Christmas’! Enjoy your time over Christmas and during the holiday break with family and friends because that’s really what it is all about, isn’t it? Take care and let’s do it again in 2015.

Tracy Griffin

Parent Club met on Thursday 30 October and welcomed Lauren Philp to the group.

The following matters were discussed:

- Classroom Kitchen
  Daryn popped in with the plan, which looks great. Final quote is around $18,000. Parent Club will look at doing another quiz and/or bingo night in Terms 1 and 3 next year to raise more funds. Colours and oven picked out.

- Christmas Concert
  The idea of holding the concert on Thursday night was discussed, however the majority were keen to keep it on Friday. It was suggested that the Friday concert should start at 7pm. If the decision is to go with a Thursday night, then the concert should start at 6.30 pm. Decision to be made by Governing Council at their next meeting.

  Request all families each bring sweet and savoury plates for supper. Parent Club will supply Christmas show bags on night. Set up the hall at 9 am the morning of the concert and clean up Saturday morning.

  Raffle prizes all collated and thanks for all donations. Tickets have been given out.

- Uniforms
  Looking at getting uniform items from Closet and Robe in Clare next year as it is cheaper and easier to pick up.

- Canberra Trip
  There are some changes happening with the arrangements for this trip, including the opportunity for Manoora Primary students in Year 6 and 7 to go with students from Saddleworth Primary School every second year. Tracy discussed some scenarios she is discussing with Sherree Mader, Principal, Saddleworth, and will keep parents informed about what is happening.
The following matters were discussed:

- **Concert Night** - Majority of Governing Council voted for Friday night (5 December) with a 7 pm start.

- **Finance Committee Meeting** - next meeting is Friday 14th November.
  As agreed, Parents’ Club and Governing Council bank balances will drop to $1000 each with the surplus funds being directed toward the kitchen project. The school budget will need to cover the balance to $18,500 if the project is to go ahead. This matter will need to be discussed and a recommendation made at the next Finance Committee meeting for ratification at the next Governing Council meeting.

Materials and Services Fee (school fees) to remain at $150 per child in 2015.

- **Manoora Primary School hosting Gilbert Valley Sports Day in 2015.**

- **2015 Student Free Days**
  Governing Council all in favour of granting two student free days in Week 3 of 2015 (12th and 13th February 2015) for ‘Visible Learning’ training as part of the Lower Mid North Partnership Plan.

- **Canberra Trip 2015**
  Manoora Primary School have been invited to join in with a Saddleworth Primary School Canberra trip for Year 6 and 7 students which would be held biannually. Approximate cost $1100 - $1200 per child (flying), as opposed to about $700 by bus. Manoora Primary has 9 students in 2015 who would be eligible to attend. Parents of present Year 5 and 6 students will be invited to a meeting in Week 5 to discuss the issue.

- **Kitchen Development** - new quote is $18,400.
  Costs overall have increased, including the following:
  
  - lino price up by $1500 because it is a higher grade/quality
  - larger bench meant more powerpoints which equals another circuit
  - no rainwater in building and the old wash sink is bore water. Extra plumbing needed
  - bigger, better oven.

  Work for volunteers, which will save on costs, includes
  
  - pulling up carpet ready for lino
  - pavers up and trench dug
  - proping up floor stays whilst floor opened up.

  This work would need maybe 4 people for 4 hours.

  Governing Council approved that $18,400 quote be accepted, based upon working bee to open up floor, etc., and inspect underneath.

Next meeting Tuesday 2 December at 8 pm.

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**Last week Mrs Hadley and the students made home-made fruit ice-blocks to sell when the temperature is over 30 degrees.**

**The children have loved them.**

**Price 50c**
Welcome to our new Reception students, Jack Voigt, Ryan Philp, and Nathan Allen who commenced their transition visits this week. Noah Kruse unfortunately couldn’t come to his first visit yesterday, but will come next Thursday. They have settled into their new class beautifully, and were fantastic in going along with all of the very special Remembrance Day Activities on Tuesday. We look forward to seeing you all next Thursday for your second visit.

**Explorers theme – Bass and Flinders**

**MATTHEW FLINDERS**
Flinders suggested the name of Australia.
Flinders died the day that his book got published.
The British Government asked him to go right around Australia.
While he was in England he became married. Anne was his wife.

By Milly Schwartz and Chloe Eckermann

**GEORGE BASS**
People believed he was captured by the Spanish.
Before reaching Western port, he came across a party of 7 escaped convicts, and promised to rescue them on his return.
They discovered they both had a love of sea and exploration of land.
Bass and Flinders explored the coastline south of Sydney in a tiny boat called ‘Tom Thumb’.

By Lydia Schwartz and Seb Quick

Year 2/3’s Researching Bass and Flinders, preparing for their Oral Presentation to the Class.
Year 1’s built a model of Bass and Flinders’ boat, ‘Tom Thumb’, to actual length and height.

Reception students sequenced and matched pictures and information about Flinders’ cat, Trim, who accompanied him on most of his voyages. Producing a chart about Trim’s adventures! They even had time for a Sight Word Sort while older students finished their Explorer activities.
On Tuesday 11th November, Remembrance Day, the whole school were invited to take part in the Manoora Ceremony of Remembrance.

Leading up to the day students in the 4-7 class spent time learning about WWI and what it was like for soldiers and families during that time in history. Students then were able to choose from a list of activities to complete. Many chose to make items that could be used for the ceremony. This included a mural and 2 wreaths.

The class also learnt a poem that was part of the Read to Remember program that students from all over Australia were taking part in. As a class they then read this poem in front of the community members as part of the ceremony.

We were very proud of our students and the maturity they exhibited yesterday.
The Riverton Pool Season will commence on Saturday 8th November

Opening Times
Lap Swimming
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 6.30am - 7.30am

Public Swimming
Monday - Friday 3.30pm - 7.30pm
Weekends and Public Holidays 2.00pm—5.30pm
*Weather policy: If forecast on eldersweather.com.au for Clare is 26°C or above the pool may be open at lifeguard discretion.

For more information, please contact The Riverton Pool on 8847 2251 during opening times or The Valleys Lifestyle Centre on 8842 3999

MUSIC LESSONS IN 2015

Enrolments are now being taken by Pauline Garrard for piano, keyboard or singing lessons in 2015.
Phone (08) 88430038 or 0417 867 142 as soon as possible.
(Preferably before the end of the term).

DECD RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

The Respite Care Program offers the opportunity for parents and caregivers to expand their child’s / young person’s growth and development to enable them to participate and be included in their community.

The birth of a child with a disability or chronic illness, or the discovery that a child has a disability or delay, can be overwhelming for a family. When parents learn that their child has a disability, and or health condition, they begin the process of continuous, lifelong learning.

The Respite Care Program provides assistance to families through a range of respite care services to help build capacity within the family unit and prevent “burn-out”.

For more information please contact:

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