Dear Parents and Caregivers

The events of last Wednesday are of concern to everyone, whether we were directly involved in the bushfire or not. It is a topic of conversation for everyone as they tell their stories, express their concern for others and think about what they might do in the same situation and what they will do differently next time.

Because it was also a topic of interest for our students, I have attached some information to this newsletter about how to talk with children about what has happened. You may find some useful tips in this article or just some things to consider, I will leave it up to you how you do or not use this information.

We also talked about the issue at Parents Club, including what the school’s Bushfire Action Plan was and what we would do in a similar situation. During the bushfire season, the CFS website and the radio are monitored, in fact, I have the ABC on all the time in my office in the background. The department also send through alerts about catastrophic fire days when the school will be closed (as they did a fortnight ago) and other agencies, such as the CFS and the police are also in contact to ensure we have received these alerts and are putting them into operation. Schools (meaning our children) are a priority for these agencies. Please be assured that we have plans in place and that these are updated regularly with the department and other agencies.

Finally if you know of any people wanting or needing counselling regarding their experience of the bushfires then please refer them to the Red Cross Mental Health First Aid on the central number – 8209 0700 - and ask for bushfire response team. This central service will facilitate contact with local agencies and connect families to them.

Onto other news: students are putting their final touches to the concert programme and things are so secret even I haven’t seen a lot of what’s been going on! I am looking forward to the full dress rehearsal tomorrow for my sneak peek! It promises to be a great evening and I look forward to seeing our families and friends at the hall at 7 pm on Friday as we celebrate our year at Manoora.

Thankyou to everyone, including those at Parents Club last week, who provided feedback about camps and different opportunities that we could take up, rather than just doing an aquatics camp in the alternative year to what is now the Canberra trip for Year 6/7 students. We are looking into what I am calling an ‘Adelaide Adventure’, ie exploring the city, taking in such things as the bush tucker trail in the Botanic Gardens and Tandanya as part of students’ studies into Aboriginal culture, investigating Asian culture through a visit to the Central Market or learning about migration by visiting the museum of the same name. These are all ideas at present, which will be more fully developed early next year. The aquatics camp has been taken off the agenda for 2016 as per the feedback received.

You will be pleased to hear that staffing has been finalised for 2016 with the appointment of Mrs Heather Merritt in the Year 4 – 7 class and with Mrs Sharryn Johnson teaching in the Reception – Year 3 class. Both teachers will be working full time, giving us – as a team of three teachers – wonderful opportunities to use and develop our individual skill sets for the benefit of all students from Reception through to Year 7. Heather, for example, is an excellent Science teacher and she is excited about the opportunity to teach Science to the students in Banksia class as well as to her own group. At the same time, Sharryn will be taking the older class for French – a direct 90 minute swap – while I will take at least one subject in each of the classes as well. This collaborative, team approach means that students will get the best teaching possible across every curriculum area and the resources of the school will be fully and effectively utilised. I, for one, am looking forward to yet another productive school year, different from this one to be sure, but just as good!
Of course, with the news about staffing for next year, we also have (predictably) the farewells to those staff who are completing their time here at Manoora Primary School. It has been my absolute pleasure to have worked with Laura, Belinda and Nicky over the last two to three years and I will miss all three greatly. While at different stages of their careers, all three are incredibly professional and have individual student’s needs at the heart of what they do as teachers. They spend time – a lot of it out of school time – developing their programmes and resources for students and always strive to implement a relevant and engaging curriculum for the students in their classes. They care about the students in their classes, want them to do well and develop their programmes accordingly. Truly, you can’t ask for better than that.

I understand Laura will be returning to her position at Burra Community School, while Belinda and Nicky are yet to hear about work for next year. On behalf of everyone here at Manoora Primary School – students, parents and staff – I would like to wish Laura, Belinda and Nicky all the best for 2016 and remind them to stay in touch, because we want to hear not just how well you are doing, but how much you miss us! Thankyou for all the effort you have put in during your time here, it has been greatly valued and appreciated.

Keep your energy levels up for Christmas Activities next week!

Tracy Griffin

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**Christmas Concert**

Our End of Year Concert will be held this Friday night starting at 7.00 pm.
Students in casual clothes please.
Can all raffle tickets please be sent back to school by Thursday 3rd December.
A working bee will be held Friday morning at 9am to set-up the Hall, and can parents please remain after the concert so the Hall can be cleaned up.
Can families please provide a large plate of savoury and large plate of sweet for the supper after the concert. Thankyou for your help.

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**School Breakfast**

The students at Manoora Primary School would like to invite all parents and siblings to attend breakfast at school on Friday 11th December.

Breakfast will be served from 8:30am onwards and will include pancakes, eggs and bacon and fresh fruit.

Everyone will be able to have a game with the children and partake in some traditional activities. There will also be presentations to those who are leaving us.

**Breakfast is in lieu of class parties.**

Looking forward to catching up with families and wishing them well for the holidays.

*There will be no hot lunches on the last day of school.*

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**FREE DRESS FRIDAY**

Come along Friday in Free Dress, but remember to add a touch of Christmas to get you in the spirit!!
We have made huge progress with painting the hitting wall this term! We started by painting a base coat of white and had to do two coats because we could still see the green on one side of the wall. After that Miss Tilbrook drew the design on each side of the wall and it was outlined. The students filled in the outline and painted the dots using a cut up pool noodle. It looks amazing!
The Waratah class have been busily finishing off some big projects in these final weeks, as well as preparing for Concert. Each student is producing an iMovie on the iPads at the moment. The task was to choose the most important message that you believe society needs to hear from your learning this year. Topics vary from peace to composting to caring for soil and some others in between. The messages have been planned frame by frame, characters created using pipe cleaners and pasta, and sound, lighting and effects are also being considered. These pictures are of us in action in Weeks 6 & 7.

Hip Hip Hooray!!!

Many thanks to the parents who have taken 10 cent recycling to Clare this term and who financially rewarded their children who did odd jobs at home. With our final activity arranged by Kristy – making cross key rings made with Ugandan beads – we have reached our fundraising goal of $1000 to fund a chook shed in Uganda. Kristy and Lee will be giving the key rings to their wedding guests. It was wonderful for the students to be able to do this special job for their wedding day. Thanks Kristy! Below are some snaps of the students busy creating during lunch time.

UP News – Media Arts
SA Water VACSWIM is a program to waterproof the confidence in young South Australians, in and around the water. It is a South Australian Government supported initiative to provide children aged 5 to 13 years with opportunities to develop a range of skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures.

These skills are delivered at over 130 pools, beaches and lakes throughout South Australia by one of three primary program providers – Royal Life Saving Society, Surf Life Saving and YMCA – who engage qualified instructors to teach the children of South Australia.

The majority of programs take place from Monday 4th to Tuesday 12th January 2016; they run for 45 minutes a day for 7 days.
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Have your say on early childhood reform

The Premier of South Australia is committed to leading early childhood education reform. As part of this commitment, feedback is being sought from South Australian families and service providers about early childhood education services that are needed to support young children.

We ask for your support to promote the article below through available communication channels:

“The South Australian government wants to hear your ideas for improving early childhood education and support for families.

Research shows that access to services such as preschools can reduce the effects of disadvantage, giving children a better start to schooling, creating benefits that continue into adulthood. It also tells us that it is more effective to support children’s development during their early years than attempting to ‘fix’ problems when they are older.

Share your views and ideas about before and after preschool care, services for disadvantaged children, and greater flexibility and choice for families when accessing preschool.

Have your say by visiting the YourSAy online consultation until 4 December 2015 and go into the running to win one of three prizes.”

ROUND 2

We are running another opportunity for you to come and try out for Ascot Parks Netball Development squad

Free 1 HOUR Netball Development Session & Talent Identification Netball Trial

Tuesday, December 8th, 2015
Ascot Park Primary School
1-37 Pildappa Drive, Holme Park

Development Session - 1:30-2:30pm
Coaching session ran by Taught & Bowled
Alice Johnswood
– Intermediate level netball coach
– Adelaide South East SAPSASA netball coach
– Garville Netball Club A1 Coach

Talent Identification Netball Trial – 2:30- 3:10pm
Students selected from this trial will be invited to join an independent development squad in 2016.

Numbers are limited – Register by contacting Hannah Long
Email – hannah.long840@schools.sa.edu.au
Or Contact Greg Cox or Hannah Long at Ascot Park Primary School - 8276 3055
The Valleys Lifestyle Centre  Ph: 8842 3999
DECEMBER 2015

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The Pinery Fires have been devastating to the Adelaide Plains and Mid North communities. My thoughts and condolences are with all those who have lost family and friends and those who have suffered personal injury or have lost property, pets or livestock.

I am sincerely grateful to the CFS, MFS, Police, Ambulance, SES and other emergency service personnel who worked tirelessly to defend life and property.

I would also like to thank all of those who are contributing to the recovery efforts, including the utility workers, relief centre staff and the volunteers.

It has been encouraging to hear stories of the community rallying together and putting themselves out to assist others in need.

I have included some additional information below about services to those who have been affected or wishing to volunteer or donate to the recovery process.

**SA Bushfire Recovery Hotline - 1800 302 787**

The Government has activated the SA Bushfire Recovery Hotline for people in fire-affected communities (1800 302 787). Emergency Relief Centres have been established at Gawler, Balaklava and Clare to provide people with information and services including food, financial assistance and accommodation.

- Gawler Sport and Recreation Centre - Nixon Terrace, Gawler
- Balaklava Race Club - Racecourse Road, Balaklava
- Clare Showground - Horrocks Highway, Clare

**State & Commonwealth Disaster Assistance**

Assistance will be available to eligible residents of the local government areas of Light, Mallala, Clare and Gilbert Valleys and Wakefield. Financial assistance can be accessed through both the *Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements* and the Australian Government *Disaster Recovery Payment* and *Disaster Recovery Allowance*. Further information is available from the South Australian Government Recovery Assistance website.

**Donations**

Community members are encouraged to make a cash donation to the State Emergency Relief Fund and are requested not to donate foods. Cash is always preferable to donating goods, as cash can be used to purchase items of greatest need, and is often spent locally in communities affected by the fire, aiding recovery efforts. Details on how to make a donation to the SA Pinery Fire Appeal are available on the SA Government website.

St Vincent de Paul has also launched the Vinnies SA Bushfire Appeal 2015. More information is available here: https://www.vinnies.org.au/mobile/donate/form/sa

**Volunteering**

As we are still in the emergency response phase, there is no formal calls for volunteers for the post emergency recovery phase.

However, people interested in volunteering can now register with Volunteering SA&NT at their website: http://www.volunteeringsa.org.au or by calling 1300 782 332.

Please contact my office on 8284 2422 if you require further assistance or just need to talk.

Yours sincerely
Nick Champion MP

www.nickchampion.com.au
A Different (and Cheap!) Christmas Idea for Your Children

I saw this idea in Lainie Anderson’s column in the paper just over a week ago and thought it was worth reprinting here:

On Facebook this week, I saw a lovely Christmas idea to encourage reading with your kids. When you put up the Christmas tree, individually wrap enough old and/or new books for each day until December 25 and pop them under the tree. Every night, your children can choose a book to unwrap for reading (with you!) before bedtime. It’s a much nicer countdown tradition than those tacky (her words, not mine!) advent calendars we see nowadays in the supermarkets,

Thanks for the idea, Lainie!
### Vacation Care Parent Information

Children using the program must have a booking. Please contact the service to organise this as soon as possible. Bookings may be limited due to availability. Phone 88421430.

The program runs from 7.00am to 6.15pm.

The program cares for primary school children from Reception to Year 7. Our aim is to provide a safe and stimulating environment for the children to enjoy and have fun in their school holidays.

Everyday a variety of activities are offered to provide choice and maximum fun.

Feature activities are shown on the program. The program activities are subject to change depending on the weather.

A redeemable $2 per day/child is required to confirm a booking. Please fill out a booking form available at OSHC, with the days that you require and names of children requiring care.

Permanent Vacation Care bookings are available with a $50 Bond. Please see staff for more details.

Excursions are shown on the program. Please arrive 30min before the departure time.

Ensure you sign your child/ren in and out of the program each session.

**Note:** A water bottle must be provided by the family for the child. All food for the children will be provided by OSHC as stated on the program.

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### Schedule

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<td><strong>VISIT CLARE’S POLICE MUSEUM, OLD COURT HOUSE AND POLICE BARRACKS in groups</strong></td>
<td><strong>Swimming at the Valleys</strong></td>
<td><strong>OSHCS TOUR DOWN UNDER</strong></td>
<td><strong>Water Play Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plaster Fun House</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MORNING TEA: Fruit, Veg, Dip &amp; Crackers</strong> <strong>LUNCH: Chicken Wings and Salad</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MORNING TEA: Fruit, Veg, Dip &amp; Crackers</strong> <strong>LUNCH: Cheese &amp; Tuna Salad Rolls Chocolate Muffins</strong></td>
<td><strong>MORNING TEA: Fruit, Veg, Dip &amp; Crackers</strong> <strong>LUNCH: Tomato and Cheese Rolls Hummernord Muffins</strong></td>
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**DEPART 9:45am** **RETURN 1:00pm** **DEPART 9:30am** **RETURN 12:15pm** **DEPART 9:30am** **RETURN 1:00pm** **DEPART 9:30am** **RETURN 12:15pm** **DEPART 9:30am** **RETURN 1:00pm** **DEPART 9:30am** **RETURN 12:15pm**

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**VACATION CARE PARENT INFORMATION**

- Suitable clothing is recommended for the weather and day’s activities/excursion.
- Check the program & Consent form for any additional items required for activities.
- If weather is forecast to be over 30 degrees please send your child’s sun safe bathers (t-shirt) towel, thongs, extra hat and change of clothes for water play.

Please Note: The total cost of care is located on each day of the program. CCB will be deducted from this amount. No additional money for excursions will be needed, it has been included in the cost of the day and will be charged to your account. 50% of out of pocket expenses rebate can also be claimed.

Half Day must be either 7 - 12:30pm or 12:45 - 6/6:15pm (not available on some excursion days)

Cancellations must be before 6pm 2 OSHC working days before the booking to avoid a fee.

If notice is not prior to 6pm 2 OSHC working days before – the booking becomes an “Allowable Absence”. Ask staff for details if required.

We look forward to seeing you soon, and wish you all the best for the festive season and for the New Year - 2015.

Clare OSHC and Vacation Care Team
Hello all,

As you are well aware, many people have been affected by the Pinery fires. If you are wanting to help out the Red Cross are collecting meals at the Sports Club in Balaklava to distribute to families, and Balaklava Children's Centre are collecting toys and gift items. Please see details below...

I received this message from a friend who helps with the Red Cross:

Wow! The response from everyone wanting to help following the Pinery Fire has been amazing. Thank you so much for your generosity. We are now at the point where we have no room to accept any more non-perishable items. In coming days, the Lions will be taking stock of what is still needed and we will update you on how you can help but if you could hold off on bringing things on for now, please. **Meals in disposable containers are still needed and this need will be ongoing.** If you can help in any way please drop your meals/items off at the relief centre at the sports club between 7am-7pm. Kossie has been overwhelmed with so many lovely offers of help. If you are still wanting to help pack food ready for distribution, please contact her **on 0408 899 984** with your details and she will get back to you in coming days. This is going to be an ongoing relief effort, possibly lasting many weeks. . **Please also don't forget the toys and other children's gift items being collected at the Balaklava Children's Centre - contact Dale Gathercole if you need further details for that.** (Please ring them to see what particular age group and items they are looking for). Your generosity and love has been overwhelming and has gone a long way to showing those in the fire areas that they are truly cared for. If you could spread this message through your social networks, I would be most grateful. Thank you once again. Lauren xx

Also, when I went in there the other day they were also needing shopping bags, preferably the 'soft esky' type ones, to put food in when handing the meals out to families.

Bless you all!

Kristy Adams

Pastoral Care Worker