Dear Parents,

Welcome back! The students seemed excited about returning to school and have approached their school work with enthusiasm and endeavour. In history this week, the upper primary was looking at governments and we talked about democracies, monarcholes and dictatorships. We discussed how all kinds of communities have a form of government including schools and families. I asked what kind of government runs your family and you will be pleased to know we have a blend of monarcholes and dictatorships, according to your children. The collage of photos is taken at the beach showing upper primary and junior primary students working together to create a favourite animal, sea creature or thing. One of the great aspects of Rapid Bay is the family like community and the superb environment for learning in and around the school.

Students 2017

Our starting enrolment for 2017 is 23 students. With our large number of year 7’s exiting in 2016, numbers have dropped from 34 in 2016. The student teacher ratio is about 1:11 meaning your child gets excellent additional support in their learning. Lucky Rapid Bay, especially when we have such outstanding students that make it a pleasure to come to work.

Attendance

Attendance at school is a pre-requisite to learning and being a successful student. There are learning opportunities in all aspects of life but school has a deliberate and targeted program for learning. There is a close correlation between achievement and attendance. The students that attend less are often those students that have difficulties with their learning. There can be a multitude of learning support programs in schools but their value is severely diminished when the student has a poor attendance record. When a student is genuinely sick, s/he should see a doctor and follow the doctor’s plan. We are committed at Rapid Bay PS to making sure your child gets the best start to their schooling and being at school ensures they have a chance at being the best they can. When your child is absent on any given day, it is expected that the school is notified by phone in the morning and/or a note sent to school via the school diary explaining reason for absence. When a student is absent for more than two days, a doctor’s certificate is required. I would ask that all families are diligent in following these procedures should a student be absent from school. If the student will be absent for reasons other than illness eg holiday, prior approval must be sought from the principal via an Exemption From Attendance form, which is available from the school on request.

The UP class is collecting toilet rolls and egg cartons for art and technology projects. Please send any you may have spare.
Medical Management Plan
For every medical condition, the school needs a management plan signed off by a doctor. These plans need to be updated each year together with any medication. (eg asthma, allergy to bee stings, eggs, nuts etc). Without a management plan, we are unable to administer medicine. Your prompt action would be appreciated. There is particular urgency for students in years 6 & 7 that are attending aquatics in the next few weeks.

Staffing
Teaching R-3 Jenna McArdle (1.0), 4-7 Denise McGrath (0.6)/ Mark Shadiac and Non Instructional Time release (0.6), Admin (0.4).
Non-Teaching Deb Wilson – Admin/Finance/Library/Classroom Support, Jeanette McGrane – Classroom Support, Liz Lorde – Playgroup Co-ordinator, Gina Hunt – Pastoral Care Worker, Ian Cole – Grounds, Michael Graves – Bus Driver

General Permission
At the start of each year, a General Permission flier is given out that needs to be returned signed. This is to make sure parents are clear about the types of programs and responsibilities we take on during the year with your children. This year, we are planning to start a Facebook page for Rapid Bay as a means of regularly communicating to parents about the great things the students are doing throughout the year. We have made up a separate return sheet for this purpose. Also attached is the Materials and Services account. We continue to keep this to the minimum charge. This is to be paid by the end of week 3. Should this pose a problem, please contact Deb to make alternative arrangements. Visit the Schoolcard site at http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme for information about eligibility and application forms. Alternatively, contact Deb at the school.

Promote Rapid Bay Campaign
In the first few weeks of every year, we hold a meet the teacher evening and it gives parents an opportunity to ask questions about curriculum, classroom routines and so on. This year, we plan to do something a bit different.

At the end of 2016, the Governing Council decided on a plan of action to promote Rapid Bay School to the community. We would like to hold a session with all parents to solicit your ideas on the different ways we can promote Rapid Bay School so we invite you, the parents, to contribute to drawing up plans and participating in their implementation. (There will still be an opportunity to ask teachers questions about the classroom routines and curriculum.)

Please confirm your attendance by filling in the return sheet below.

We plan to have a shared tea and would ask that parents bring along a small salad/sweet to share.

Thursday 9th February – 5.30pm BBQ (sausage in bread), 6.30pm – Meeting - 8.00pm FINISH.

Return slip

PARENT MEETING – PROMOTE RAPID BAY CAMPAIGN – SHARED TEA

Family Name ______________________________________

Adults _______ Children _______

Please nominate one

☐ I/We can bring along a salad to share
☐ I/We can bring along a sweet to share

Parent Signature ______________________________________
Bagus Ty for positive mind set thinking. This orang-outang drawing began as a reindeer. He wasn’t happy with his reindeer drawing so he cleverly changed it to an orang-outang.