Dear Parents,

What a great start to the school year. I have already passed on the good news about the school receiving an additional teacher, Mel Carragher. This is a fantastic bonus for the students and their learning. The thing that has struck me in the last few days is the happiness and good manners of the students. The school is a wonderful place and the students are a credit to you, the parents. I would like to acknowledge the work of my predecessor Chris Heartfield for his tremendous work over the previous six years. We are in for an exciting and fun filled year and I look forward to meeting you. Please drop in to say ‘hi’ should you have to call into the school for any reason.

School Captain / Vice Captain
After discussion with the staff, we are going to have a school captain and vice-captain. The year 7 students have accepted the nomination and are now in the process of preparing a speech for the students as to what values they represent and how they intend to carry out their leadership role should they be elected. With the honour of the position comes responsibility. The role is more about serving than being served. The school captain and vice-captain will also be on the Student Representative Council.

Student Representative Council (SRC)
During this week, students will be going through a process to nominate their representatives on the SRC. The SRC will be meeting weekly and will commence next Wednesday.

Meet the Teacher Evening
Next Tuesday from 6 – 8pm, we will be having a ‘meet the teacher’ evening. Each teacher will have a 20 minute session for parents and these will be held separately to cater for parents with students in different classes. JP (R-2):6.15 – 6.35, MP (3-4): 6.40 – 7.00, UP (5-7): 7.10 – 7.30pm. There will also be a sausage sizzle running during this time so families can eat before, during or after the information sessions. We will provide sausages, sauce, bread, paper plates, serviettes and water to drink. BYO drinks of choice, salad and cutlery. This is an opportunity for you to meet other parents at the school.

Forms
There are a number of forms going home with the newsletter to be filled in and signed. Please make sure these are returned by next Monday, thanks.
Attendance
The best time to talk about attendance at school is the start of the year. I am yet to study in detail the attendance records at Rapid Bay PS. What I do know already is that the prerequisite to learning at school is turning up. 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.

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
Olivia Pawson – R-3, Mel Carragher – 3-4, Denise McGrath 4-7, Fiona Harris 4-7 and release teacher, Mark Shadiac – Principal
Non-Teaching
Deb Wilson – Admin/Finance/Library, Jeanette McGrane – classroom support, Liz Lorde – Playgroup Coordinator/Classroom Support, Gina Hunt – Christian Pastoral Care Worker, Ian Cole – Grounds, Michael Graves – Bus Driver

New Students

Regards
Mark Shadiac
Principal

Festival Fleurieu Doors
The UP class is going to join the door painting event for the upcoming festival. Three doors are needed for the project. If you have a flat wooden door in good condition you could donate it would be greatly appreciated.
Please contact Denise

Yankalilla Junior Football
Hello everyone to the 2015 season. Here are some dates to put in your diaries:
-Juniors (12 -14 yrs old) will start training 4.30pm 3rd Feb 2015 at the footy oval.
-3rd March Junior Registration Sausage Sizzle. 4.30pm at footy oval. Registration fee will be $65 (discount for families).
-3rd March Modi’s, Mini’s and Juniors start training 4.30pm at footy oval. Please note Tuesday night to accommodate other sports are finished.
-11th April 2015 1st game at home against Myponga.
Hope to see you all out there again this year.
Any questions please phone Kerry Graves 0403275137

WELCOME MRS C
I was born and raised in Port Pirie and moved to the city five years ago, where I taught at Moana Primary. From there I went to Myponga Primary. I have been living in Yankalilla for just over a year.
I have a six year old daughter and a sixteen year old son. I also have two step children.
I will be teaching 3-4 English and Math, 4-7 Geography and R-4 Science.