Term 3 Week 7

9th September 2016

From The Principal

Dear Families,

A special welcome to new students and families, we hope your time with us is both fun and rewarding. Thank you for choosing Mount Barker South Primary school to support and educate your children.

The following are some friendly updates for families about important details as we lead towards the end of term 3 and into term 4. As a staff we hope you find them useful:

Enrolment details
Have your telephone and/or address details changed during the year? If so, please contact the school with the changes. This is important in case we need to contact you in an emergency or want to invite you to celebrate your child’s achievements at our assemblies.

Student absenteeism and the importance of attending school daily
Parents/Caregivers, please phone the front office on 8391 1197, text or record in your child’s diary if your child/ren are late or absent. Incidents of absence, lateness and early departures are recorded daily in Roll Books as part of DECD requirements to monitor children’s attendance and safety. In addition, class teachers are requested to call home to check on each child’s wellbeing when they are away. Lateness means missed learning time and can lead to children feeling confused and embarrassed when they return.

The following are legitimate reasons for your child to be away:
Due to a health condition, being sick or taking a holiday during term time.

The following are not appropriate reasons for any student to be away:
Having a day off for your birthday or to go shopping
Recent media coverage of national NAPLAN results painted South Australian schools in a very poor light. At Mount Barker South Primary School, however, our continued outstanding results in Years 3, 5 and 7 are the culmination of many years of a relentless focus on literacy and numeracy. It is clear that Mount Barker South’s “Reading and Maths for Learning”, “Three wave Intervention” programs and quality of teaching are bearing fruit, and the results are a credit to the dedication and commitment of not only the children, but the teaching, support staff and wider school community who have all played critical roles in our children’s learning. This partnership is why the South children are flourishing.
Of course, there is still much work to do to not only maintain these standards, but to continue to improve them. We at “The South” are excited by the challenge of having our children achieve similarly outstanding results in the future and thank you for your ongoing partnership in our schools focus on improving all students learning outcomes.
Hats
Reminder about Term 4 hats

Our Sunsmart Policy will recommence in week 1 of Term 4, at which time hat wearing is a compulsory requirement. Please remind your child/children of the need to wear the correct school hat next term as it helps in getting them prepared and organized for the change in weather coming up. If you require a school hat, please go to the Uniform Shop in advance to ensure you acquire the appropriate school logo hat. We would greatly appreciate your attention to this matter so that all children are in the correct school uniform and protected from the sun.

Bikes and scooters

Any student who rides a bike or scooter to school needs to place it into the student garden shed near the library or primary bike enclosure before the bell goes so it is secure. Students can see the yard duty teacher in the morning if they would like help securing their bike, scooter and or helmet. We really encourage students to ride their bikes and scooters and to wear their helmets to keep safe. Encouraging your child to also use the designated road crossing is greatly appreciated.

Medication

We ask that all parents please check your child’s medication at school to ensure that it is up-to-date (e.g. the mediation has not passed its expiry date and the health care plans are current). Children’s medication requirements can change over time, and it is vital that the school has the most current medication and plans should your child/ren need medication while at school.

Also if it is necessary for your child to be given medication at school, we require a letter from your child’s doctor outlining the necessary dosage and time(s).

Active After School Programs update

This term our children have been undertaking the following programs and learning new important social and team skills.

Activities

1. Chess
2. Soccer

Soccer concludes for the term in week 8 and Chess concludes in week 10. I would like to formally thank all the staff and families that support the more than 60 children that engage in these programs each week by giving up there time.

Collecting students after school and before school arrival time

Please ensure that students are aware of the arrangements for being collected after school. If the routine changes or you feel your child may forget what they are to do, please write a diary note so teachers are aware of what is happening so they can support your child to feel safe.

Recently we have noticed some children arriving as early as 8am when staff are not officially on duty. Can we remind everyone that our duty of care begins at 8.30am and before school care is available for families prior to this time in the OSHC centre. Ph: 8398 2474

Kind Regards,
Catherine Cox-Walliss