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LETTER FROM KRISTIAN

“Critical thinking is a desire to seek, patience to doubt, slowness to assert, readiness to consider, carefulness to dispose and set in order…”

(Francis Bacon, 1605)

Inquiry-Based Learning

Learning can be shallow or deep. It can skim the surface of many things or it can engage deeply with a few ideas. Inquiry-based approaches aim to encourage deep learning — learning where children are absorbed and fascinated; learning where children are active and involved; and learning where children make connections and develop significant understandings. At Woodcroft Primary School, we openly promote the value of play-based learning and actively encourage students to make meaningful personal connections.

Inquiry-based learning is supported when educators see themselves as co-learners, working with students as they learn. We want our teachers to place less focus on transmitting knowledge and invest more time and energy in supporting and extending children’s own attempts at understanding. An inquiry-based approach affords students the time, space and resources to become deeply involved in investigations that carry personal meaning and relevance for them, as well as opportunities for planning and reflection throughout.

To support an inquiry-based approach, the physical school environment must provide materials and spaces that encourage curiosity, investigation and wonder and provide the stimulus for children’s questions and investigations. Students must be able to access the materials and resources that they need easily and quickly to construct their own learning and to follow their own investigations in whichever direction they lead. Learning spaces like our new Nature Play Area, our garden plots, Sensory Room and Performing Arts Centre all support this new-age approach. Thinking and learning happen more effectively when children are unhurried, giving ideas time to develop, and many daily routines at our school allow children large blocks of uninterrupted time to think, investigate and explore. Curriculum initiatives such as The Daily 5, Words Their Way, Reading Café and The Secret Code support this methodology and challenge our traditional views of what learning should look like, complemented by programs like Big Creative Play and Play is the Way that aim to foster positive pro-social behaviour.
Importantly, inquiry should be viewed as an inherently collaborative task. Learning is enriched when students work with others to solve problems or investigate topics of interest. Exposure to others’ ideas and perspectives helps to broaden individual understandings, and as students work together on joint projects, they develop strong relationships with each other. Inquiry processes also provide contexts for educators to engage in sustained, shared conversations with students. Through such conversations, teachers are able to enrich and guide student thinking and help them gain new understandings of themselves, the learning process and the world around them.

Above all else, an inquiry-based approach helps to develop positive attitudes towards investigation and slow, life-long learning. Staff at Woodcroft Primary are committed to creating a ‘lively culture of professional inquiry’ (as described in the Early Years Learning Framework) and we invite all parents to join us on this journey.


What is the fact family of these number pairs?

ICAS TESTING

The University of New South Wales is offering your child an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). ICAS assessments have taken place annually in schools for over thirty years and in 20 countries. Educational Assessment Australia (EAA), who design and deliver the assessments, is the not-for-profit arm of the University of New South Wales.

Students can participate in the following tests in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Yr 3-7</td>
<td>20th May</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Yr 2-7</td>
<td>4th June</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Yr 3-7</td>
<td>16-20th June</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Yr 3-7</td>
<td>12th June</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Yr 2-7</td>
<td>29th July</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Yr 2-7</td>
<td>12th August</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entry forms are available from the Front Office and are due with payment no later than Friday 18th April 2014.

Flyer attached

POLICE SCREENING

If you are planning on helping out with transport to and from sporting events, school excursions or other class activities. If you are coaching a sporting team or responsible for supervising children from this school other than your own during school hours YOU MUST have a DECD Police Screening entered via the school. Please come to the front office to fill out the necessary paperwork.

TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

WOODCROFT LOVES TOURNAMENT OF MINDS!

Tournament of Minds is on again at Woodcroft in 2014! The benefits of TOM are HUGE: it promotes critical and creative thinking, teamwork, persistence, initiative, originality, overcoming challenges and much more! Have a peek at the website for further details. [www.tom.sa.edu](http://www.tom.sa.edu)

This is a preliminary invitation to Year 6 and 7 students interested in being involved. Come along to an information session to find out more and register your interest on Tuesday 18th March (Week 8) in Room 34 at Break 1. Keep an eye on the Student Bulletin for reminders and updates.

See you there! Mrs Ann Chee
PLAY IS THE WAY


HEALTH AND LIBRARY HAPPENINGS!

Premier’s Be Active Challenge.
We have been lucky to have Nick Warren, the Premier’s Be Active Challenge Project Officer here with us this week running physical activity sessions with all of our classes to kick start the challenge this year. All students will be taking part in the challenge which requires them to be active for at least 60 minutes on at least 5 days of the week. We will be doing lots of activity here at school but of course it would be great if families get on board too and make sure you are all being physically active each day. That way children can make sure they keep their minute totals up to 60 and you all can reap the health benefits too! Next week in our Health lessons we will be looking at the benefits of being physical activity and the downsides if we are not.

Premier’s Reading Challenge.
The PRC is powering along, full steam ahead! Reception – Year 2 classes are tacking the challenge as classes and reading the books together here at school. Years 3 – 7 are doing the challenge independently and filling in their Premier’s Reading Challenge record sheets each time they come to the library to borrow. Please continue to read lots with your children at home and encourage them as much as you can. We have never managed to crack 100% participation – 2014 could be the year!

Health Program.
As well as getting started with the PBAC and the PRC, this term we are focusing on safety. R-3 students had a visit from Lisa and Gail last week who brought along their dogs, Maeve and Niyah so that we could learn how to behave safely around all sorts of dogs. There is a great website, www.livingsafelywithpets.com.au if you would like to find out more. There are great games and activities as well as some excellent information about being a good pet owner.

Students in Years 4 -7 looked at the quite serious topic of Bushfire Safety and why it is important to have a Bushfire Survival Plan so that we don’t panic in an emergency. Hopefully your children will have had a chat with you about this. Even though Woodcroft may seem to be in a lower risk area, bushfires and grass fires can happen anywhere and are far more prevalent these days and can occur in more built up areas. Many of our students have stories to share about fires that have occurred near them and quite a few children have been in fire affected areas when on holiday. Thankfully they had a plan, knew what to do and have lived to tell their tales!

We will also be looking at Sun Safety and Cyber Safety with all classes so it will really be a busy term indeed!

New Quilt – thank you to Chris Carey (Jade and Nic Paparella’s Grandma) who made our beautiful Dr Seuss quilt. Come in and say hi and check it out – it’s gorgeous! Thank you also to Mr. Bristow for hanging the quilt for us and for installing our new blinds and lovely new, blue boards in the fiction end. The Library is looking really great!
Newspaper Costumes in Performing Arts

During Week 5 and 6 we have been making some very creative Newspaper Costumes in Performing Arts.
**FUNDRAISING NEWS**

We are holding an Election Day BBQ on the 15th of March from 7.30am, and we need volunteers to help if you can spare an hour of your time please contact Rebecca Morecroft at Morcsx5@gmail.com.

**EASTER RAFFLE DONATIONS**

The fundraising Team is in the process of organizing the 2014 Easter Raffle.

We are seeking donations from Parents, Grandparents, Friends or Businesses that can be used as prizes.

Your support and generosity in previous years has been overwhelming and we hope to achieve the same in 2014.

All donations can be handed in at the Front Office. Raffle tickets will be distributed to all classrooms from the 24th March and will also be available to purchase on Sports Day.

The draw itself will take place on the 7th April.

All money raised from the Election BBQ and the Easter Raffle will go towards new Fitness Equipment.

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Thank you to everyone who donated balls for our Sensory Room. We had a great response.

**DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>TERM 1 28 January – 11 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3 - 7 Mar</td>
<td>3 – 5</td>
<td>Rms 20 &amp; 21 to camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Year 6/7 Assembly 2.40 PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10 – 14 Mar</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Public Holiday Adelaide Cup</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Year 4/5 Assembly 2.40 PAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>17- 21 Mar</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Year 2/3 Assembly 2.40 PAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Rm 31 Kingston Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>24 - 28 Mar</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Year R/1 Assembly 2.40 PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>31 Mar- 4 April</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rm 11 &amp; 35 to the Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sports Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>7 - 11 April</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>Green Points Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Last day of term 1 finish at 2.20pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**PAYMENTS DUE**

As a general rule payments are due 1 week prior to excursion/camp etc unless stated on invoice. Payments can be made at Front Office 8.30 to 9.30am, via classroom in named envelope or over the phone with credit card for payments over $10.00.

Please include cvn no. if paying via credit card.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Fees</td>
<td>Issued Term 1</td>
<td>$260.00</td>
<td>11/04/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 44,45,46 El Shaddai Camp</td>
<td>Deposit</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Overdue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm 44,45,46 El Shaddai Camp</td>
<td>$125 less Deposit</td>
<td>01/05/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm 11,35 Adelaide Zoo</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>27/03/2014</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 7’s Kangaroo Island</td>
<td>$494.00 less Deposit = $444.00</td>
<td>Final Payment 19/09/14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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If you have any concerns meeting the above payments please contact Sue Reeves or Trudi Lawley in the Front Office.

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The Fundraising Team

**SPORTS NEWS**

**Netball**
Flyer attached
Woodcroft Primary | 27th February 2014

Holiday Club is coming soon!!

With the holidays coming around the corner, don’t forget to book your children in! As we are getting closer there are a few things that we need to tell you about that are changing at the Woodcroft OSHC.

From these holidays we will not be serving breakfast in the mornings at all due to this not being in our budgets for the holidays.

Please remember to make sure that the children these holidays wear closed in footwear when they come to Holiday Club, thongs are not part of OSHC policy, it is unsafe for the children to be wearing thongs on the oval and in the gym when they are running, they slip off easily and children can also trip in thongs.

Donations!

At OSHC we need some new paint smocks for the kids, so if you could please look through your closets and see if you have any old shirts, or aprons that you could give to us that would be great. We also need a cd/iPod player for the OSHC, if anyone has one that you do not use anymore, can you please donate it to the OSHC so that we may listen to some music in our larger OSHC room.

Thank you from all the OSHC Team!
### HIGH SCHOOL OPEN NIGHTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Specialist</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wirreanda Secondary School</td>
<td>Wednesday 2nd April</td>
<td>4.00pm – 7.00pm</td>
<td>Sport Program</td>
<td>8382 9555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reynella East</td>
<td>Sunday 4th May</td>
<td>1:30-4:30pm</td>
<td>Sport Program</td>
<td>8329 2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberfoyle Park High School</td>
<td>Wed 19th March</td>
<td>6.00pm – 8.00pm</td>
<td>Ignite Program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@aphs.sa.edu.au">info@aphs.sa.edu.au</a> 8270 4455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urrbrae Agricultural High School</td>
<td>TUESDAY 18th March</td>
<td>Sessions commence at 2.00pm and 6.00pm, Farm Tours departing at 1.00pm, 4.00pm and 5.00pm.</td>
<td>Ignite Program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dl.0798_admin@schools.sa.edu.au">dl.0798_admin@schools.sa.edu.au</a> 8372 6955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**Reynella Football Club**
Flyer attached

**Onkaparinga Libraries**

Are launching a series of six events to help and encourage dads reading to their children. The launch is on Saturday 15 March starting at 10am at Aldinga library and the full program of events will be available at the launch. Guests at the events include Stig Wemyss, Michael Wagner, Kym Lardner, Dan McGuiness and many more. Could you please assist us in getting the word out about this?
Flyer attached

**Mighty Good Talent School**

Performing Arts Classes. Learn to Act, Sing and Dance. 3 to 15 years. Woodcroft Morphett Vale Neighbourhood Centre. Mighty Good Talent School. Please call 8443 9999.

**Lego Fundraiser**
Flyer attached

**Relay for Life**

We are hoping to hold a Cancer Council Relay for Life on October 11 and 12 to raise money which will help to fight cancer. The Relay is known for bringing people and communities together to raise awareness. We are holding a information night on April the 9th at 7pm at the McLaren Vale football club (where the Relay will be held), and are trying to get the word out to extended communities.
Flyer attached

**Fish Fest**
Fish Fest is Onkaparinga's new Youth Short Film Festival.
Flyer attached