From The Principal

Welcome back to a new school year with all the excitement and activity that comes with the eager anticipation of a new year of learning. Both students and staff have quickly settled on agreed class routines that encourage a supportive, respectful learning environment. I trust your holiday was a good one with ample opportunity to relax and enjoy family time together. It is always a special pleasure for me to observe our students and staff during the first week of School as experiences and stories are exchanged that describe summer holiday journeys and the renewal of friendships after a long break. This takes on added significance for me as this is my last term at this wonderful School as its principal. Thank you to our parents for ensuring students arrived at school in uniform and making good choices for a healthy lunch. I encourage you to ensure your child has his/her SunSafe hat as it is Governing Council policy that students wear these throughout terms one and four. Happy students are an important component to successful learning outcomes. Teachers support this process through development of quality teaching practice that encourages students to challenge themselves and expand their thinking. Working together, students, teachers and parents can make a positive difference to the academic achievements of our most precious and wonderful resource – our children.

Our School community welcomes Cara Maney (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and Corinne Brookes (Thursday, Friday) in Years R/1/2 and Ebony Mitton in Years 5/6/7. As well, we welcome Troy Mathews, who is our newly appointed groundsperson. All classes, from Preschool to our Upper Primary Class have warm and inviting classrooms thanks to the endeavour of their teachers. I commend all staff for the extra effort outside expected working hours to achieve this pleasing result. Please take the time to visit the school for a look and a cuppa when next in our neighbourhood. We especially welcome new student, Isaac, to our Middle Primary class. As well, we welcome new Preschool students: Amethyst, Archer, Brandon, Charlie, Esther and Felicity.

Our School has long been blessed with great volunteers offering many rewarding and valuable experiences to our students and staff. Forming positive relationships with our community reflects a positive School engaged with its community. The list of tasks that our volunteers do for the School is both an endless and precious resource. If you would like to volunteer, whether on a regular or occasional basis, are willing to complete a Criminal History Screening process and participate in an induction program for volunteers, please contact the School. Please note that important notices regarding our Parent Information Afternoon and the Governing Council AGM have been sent home. Please write these important dates in your diary.

Students are now considering nomination for the School’s Student Representative Council (SRC). Those who choose to nominate prepare an expression of interest application for presentation to respective class groups. This year the Junior Primary and Middle Primary classes will appoint two SRC representatives each semester. The Upper Primary class will appoint three representatives for the school year. Our School has long valued student involvement in decision-making and this is one of many ways we provide students with opportunity for leadership development.

I would request that parents contact our School when necessary to discuss changes to student schedules, bus passes, messages, etc. I know you will support this process by making timely requests for assistance when required. The School welcomes visits from our community members. If parents/caregivers require an appointment with a teacher please contact the School to confirm a date and time.

The School has pending Facilities projects including the Preschool development, Junior Primary
Where a student averages one day per week being absent, it equates to a whole term of lost learning over the course of a school year. Throughout a student’s Primary schooling it could add up to two years of missed school. Attending school every day enables students to learn and understand the need for commitment and develops a sound foundation for their later years. Being on time, organised and ready to start each school day at the required time of 8.50 am, also adds to this foundation.

It is important for parents to communicate regularly and effectively with teachers when absences occur. The teacher is then able to follow up on any work that may be required to be made up or completed.

**Emergency Home Contact**

In order to contact a parent quickly (eg child illness or accident) it is essential that contact information be kept up to date. Thank you to the families who have returned their updated forms for 2016. Please notify the School as soon as you can if there are any future changes in home address, phone numbers, or emergency contact details.

**School T-Ball**

The first week of T-Ball saw an entertaining training conducted for 18 players on the Padthaway School T-Ball diamond last Monday after school. Our first round of competition will be played next Monday afternoon. Additional places are available for any student Reception to Year 4 who may wish to participate. See Harry or Kirilie for details.

**Milo Cricket**

An enthusiastic group of promising cricketers anticipates their first week of Milo Cricket training for the year this afternoon. Our community is very fortunate to have John Orton as our Milo Cricket Coordinator and Coach. There is still time for additional students to join this merry bunch each Thursday after school for the remainder of the term.

**Student Representative Council**

An exciting opportunity to be part of your Student Representative Council (SRC) presents itself! If you think you could put a tick in some of these dots, you could be just the person to be on your School’s SRC.

- I enjoy having fun with friends of different ages
- I am a good friend to other students and staff
- I enjoy helping others
- I am a good listener
- I show respect to others
- I would like to help the school be fun and enjoyable
- I would love to bring new ideas to meetings
- I would like to help at SRC Tuck Days, Theme Days and Fundraising Days
- I would like to be a part of student leadership and work as a team.

Did you tick any of these dots? Talk about these points and other ideas with your parents and staff members including Mr Long and Mr Eddy. Each can assist and encourage you to put yourself forward for SRC consideration. Each Class then elects its representative using a democratic voting process.

**Student Free Day – 15th February**

The Australian Curriculum is continuing to be developed and this year teachers will receive ongoing training as we join friends from Frances and Mundulla to unpack the Health, Physical Education and Digital Technologies curriculum areas. This training will occur at Mundulla School on Monday 15th February. Governing Council has agreed to this date being declared a Student Free Day to allow this training opportunity to proceed.

**Padthaway Australia Day Ceremony**

I would like to acknowledge and thank the enthusiastic group of School volunteers who assisted fundraising at our Australia Day function at Apex Pioneer Park, Padthaway. As well, I thank Tammy Mathews for her wonderful contribution of over two hundred homemade muffins that sold on the day.

**Classroom and school bore. Our Facilities Manager, Will Franklin, informs us that the Preschool and bore projects will commence this semester.**

Our Swimming program commences week four, Monday through Friday, at the Bordertown Pool. Information regarding the swimming program has been forwarded with R/1 students receiving one lesson and 2-7 students receiving two lessons each day. The pool canteen will be open on Friday only.

Our niece, Jana Long, has been visiting from her home state of Kansas. She has had the opportunity to work with and speak to each classroom. Her PowerPoint on Kansas City proved popular with the older students who enjoyed extended conversations with her during recess and lunch discussing the similarities and differences between Kansas and South Australia. She thanks the students, staff and community for making her welcome stating that the Community Tea at the Football Club on Thursday evening was an absolute highlight of her holiday!

As always, our door is always open for a visit. Feel free to drop by your school at any time to say hello. Take care and no doubt our paths will cross soon.

*Harry*

### Governing Council AGM

The AGM of Padthaway School’s Governing Council will be held on Monday 22nd February 2016 at 6.30 pm. This will be a short meeting. Please bring a plate of supper to share.

### Attendance at School

Regular attendance at school is not only beneficial and important to the education of our students, but it is also compulsory, unless there are mitigating circumstances such as illness.
The School community acknowledges local resident, Rosemarie Hayes. Rosemarie was named the Tatiara Council’s Citizen of the Year for 2016. Rosemarie has served on many committees over time and was both a long-time School Committee and Council member and ongoing supporter of this school. Well done and congratulations, Rosemarie!

Harry

PSW Spot
The school year is well and truly underway, with excited students and probably some very happy parents after the Summer holidays! It seems the older one gets the more often the comment is made, “Don’t the years just fly by.” This was brought home to me the other day at school with a six year old student when I wrote down his age, then added the years to my age with single strokes – the strokes went onto a second line!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!+

There are no prizes for guessing my age which just comes under Mr Long’s.

We are indeed fortunate at Padthaway to have an excellent staff to nurture and teach our students. Parents, grandparents and wider family play a huge role in the upbringing of their children. Dorothy Law Nolty wrote some guidelines which are worth Googling and here is a snippet of them:

If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.

Amazing Saturday, on March 5th, is on again with swimming, kayaking, ice-blocking, face painting, craft and many other activities finishing with a BBQ tea and the main feature being Squirt the Clown coming from Melbourne for the evening session. See myself or Heather for registrations or more information. This event is organised by the local Uniting Churches. Registrations close on 24th February so get in quick.

Next Monday I fly out to the land of the long white cloud, ‘tramping’ over mountain ranges and deep valleys with lots of rivers in Fiordland near Doubtful and Milford Sounds. No phones or Ipads for ten days along with dehydrated food, a block of cheese and dried fruit and nuts. My idea of Heaven on Earth! I will miss my coffee (and Heather).

Cheers, Stephen

Tuck Day
Reminder
16th February (Week 3)
Pizzas
Helper
Michele Moyle-Read
[Muffins – Brenna Brooksby]

23rd February (Week 4)
NO TUCK DAY
(Swimming)
Kim Doecke.Tuck Day Coordinator
Ph 0488 190 972

Community News
Padthaway Playgroup
Dates for Term 1 2016:
Friday Week 2 (12th February)
Friday Week 6 (11th March)
Friday Week 10 (8th April).
For more information contact Kylie Pethybridge on 0417 862 861.

Padthaway Medical Clinic
The Padthaway Medical Clinic will be open every Tuesday from 8th March from 10.00 am – 12.00 pm or until the last appointment.
Please contact Keith Surgery on 8755 1766 to make appointments.
Immunisation and all Health checks are available.

Naracoorte United Soccer Club
Junior Soccer Team Training starts Wednesday 10th February:
U12s & 14s from 4.30 – 6.00 pm
U17s from 6.00 – 7.30 pm.
First game of the season 3rd April.
Any queries contact Leanne on 0417 867 501.
Padthaway Netball Club  
Season 2016

Senior and Junior Online Registrations
are now open via our website

Registrations close 10th March 2016

Senior Registration - $85.00
Junior Registration - $65.00

Senior and Junior Coaching Applications are now open
Please email the Club to request an application

Applications close 22nd February 2016

Senior & 17s Training begins – 11th February 2016 @ 7pm
Junior Training begins – 10th March 2016 @ 5pm
All past, present and new players welcome

Visit us on Facebook @ Padthaway Netball
Website: www.padthaway.sa.netball.com.au
Email: padthayvenetbalclub@hotmail.com

For any further information, please contact the President
Michelle Maynard
Ph: 0423 132 699

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**February Thursday Night Teas are back**

4th, 11th, 18th and 25th February, 6.30 pm
Padthaway Football Club
Schnitzel, Salad and Chips - $10.00

The teas are a great way to meet new people, catch up with friends and bring this wonderful community together for a social evening. Spread the word that the teas are happening again. Love to see you there, everyone welcome.

For more details, please contact Coordinator – Maria Day 0408 521 747
Building Resilience - Free Public Events
An evening with Brigadier General (ret) Dr. Rhonda Cornum

Wednesday 17 February - Mount Gambier
Thursday 18 February - Naracoorte

The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) Wellbeing and Resilience Centre is thrilled to be bringing Brigadier General (ret) Dr Rhonda Cornum to the Limestone Coast in February. This visit, sponsored by Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), coincides with the February Techworks Resilience training. Dr Cornum will deliver two FREE community presentations.

Mount Gambier
Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre
Wednesday 17 February
Commencing 7:00pm
Entry - FREE

Naracoorte
Naracoorte Town Hall
Thursday 18 February
Commencing 7:00pm
Entry - FREE

For further information regarding the SAHMRI Wellbeing and Resilience Centre - visit www.wellbeingandresilience.com

Thank you to the following organisations and business for supporting these important community events.

Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Regions SA

City of Mount Gambier
Villa Monte

ac.care
5SE 88.3am

Thank you to the following Visiting Fellows program supporters:

Government of South Australia
Department for Correctional Services

Lincoln College
tafESA

Government of South Australia