Cathy McAuley

Congratulations to Cathy McAuley who has won the Principal Consultancy position at the Para Hills Regional Office. Cathy has been Principal at Surrey Downs since Term 3 2013. She brought with her a wealth of experience, skills and knowledge and she actioned some very positive changes for Surrey Downs during her time here. We wish Cathy all the very best in her new role! Cathy will attend our week 6 assembly so we can farewell her and give the students and families an opportunity to say goodbye. The Principal vacancy will be advertised this week and you will be notified of the successful applicant in due course.

SSO Week

This week is School Support Officer Week (SSO). Surrey Downs is lucky to have a group of hardworking and dedicated support staff who are highly professional and caring. We have spent the week acknowledging their role in our school and thanking them for the contribution they make to our school every day. Student learning and support is at the core of the work they do here at Surrey Downs and the children benefit from their skills and expertise. A few of the programs that are facilitated by SSOs include MultiLit, Reading Doctor, Quicksmart and one to one support for students in class. Thank you to our magnificent team of SSOs.

NAPLAN Results

If you are a parent of a child in Year 3, 5 or 7 you will have received your child’s NAPLAN results for 2016. The NAPLAN test is a snapshot of learning taken at a point in time and is one of the many ways we gather information about your child and their learning. As a school we were very pleased with the student’s results and their positive attitude towards the test and their learning. Our results show an improvement and growth in student learning in literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN results are one tool of many that teachers can use to support students in their learning journey. Information for parents can be found on the National Assessment Program website. A NAPLAN factsheet for parents and a brochure explaining the student results report information to parents are available to download from the parent/carer support section of the National Assessment Program website.

Canteen news!!!!!!!!!

AND THE WINNER IS......Tom McLachlan from room 18! His entry for our “Name the Canteen” competition won convincingly. The canteen will now also be known as “Incredible Edibles”. Congratulations to Tom who will receive a free lunch and also have his creative name advertised on the canteen price list. Thanks to everyone who entered. There were some fabulous, creative ideas. Kid’s Council met and came up with the top 3 choices and then every student voted for their favourite. 😊

2016 Parents in Education Week – book your spot!

You are invited to attend a series of free evening information sessions delivered by renowned international and national child development and learning experts. Information sessions will run from Monday 12 September to Thursday 15 September in 4 keys locations across the State and can be viewed online or attended in person. You’ll hear about practical tips and easy ways that you can support children’s learning at every age and stage. To find out more and to register for a session, visit www.decd.sa.gov.au/2016PIEWeek

BINGO FUNDRAISER – SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 7pm
This week also saw the trial of NAPLAN online. Students in Year 3, 5 and 7 participated in an online trial to assess the schools readiness to sit the test online in 2017. The students participated in 2 tests that were designed to show the capabilities of our online system and gauge the demands that will be placed on the system for next year. The test also gave the children an opportunity to see the format of the online test and have a practise of what will be required next year. Our school system coped admirably with the demands and the tests were completed smoothly. Thank you to Liz Rayner, Kathy Fahy, Kendall Hurst, Tiz Saffi, John Wherry, Nicki Winkworth and our IT support person Phil for their efforts in ensuring this was a successful online trial.

Habit of Mind

**THINKING AND COMMUNICATING WITH CLARITY AND PRECISION**

The Habit of Mind (HOM) focus for weeks 5 – 6 of term 3 is “Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision”. An important thing to remember for this HOM is that we must be very clear with our thoughts, in order to communicate them effectively to others. Always thinking before we speak of the consequences of your message. This can be reinforced from a very early age.

Some things you can do to assist your child/ren’s development of this HOM are:

- Encourage them to stop and think before speaking
- Avoid over generalisations such as ‘stuff’: be specific
- If you can name it then say it eg. Instead of saying “think” about the cat” say what you really want them to do eg. “describe the cat to me”
- Ask children – Is it true, helpful, inspiring, necessary or kind – THINK before you speak.

Before you speak:

**THINK**

*T* = Is it True?

*H* = Is it Helpful?

*I* = Is it Inspiring?

*N* = Is it Necessary?

*K* = Is it Kind?

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**Bullying – No Way – Take a Stand Together**

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone. Sometimes it can be difficult for parent or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying. You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involved everyone.

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. Listen calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they’ve told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need to: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child’s experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.

2. Reassure your child they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like “That sounds really hard to deal with. No one should have to put up with that.” Or “I’m so glad you told me. You should be able to feel safe at school: that’s not fair at all.”

3. Ask your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel more confident.

4. Visit [www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au) to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.

5. Contact the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help. Make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher and, if you need to, ask to talk with the principal. Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child’s safety.

6. Check in regularly with your child. Keep the conversations going. It can take time to resolve, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.

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**Keep your kids smiling**

At the School Dental Service, dental care is FREE for all babies, children not yet at school and most children to age 17.

The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider.

Call us now for an appointment!
Your local clinic is: Modbury GP Plus Dental Clinic
Phone: 7425 8700
Pupil Free Day!
We had a special guest for our Term 2 pupil free day who came for a karate session! Everyone learned basic steps & self defence. This term is a dress up day! Whether it’s your pj’s or your favourite costume - come to OSHC dressed up for some fun & face paint!

Dress Up

Kids at OSHC have been helping to make snack and treats - such as cupcakes!

Parents and caregivers!
We are currently gathering information to determine the need for vacation care at Surrey Downs – please complete the survey & return to the front office or OSHC by Monday week 7.

Over the holidays our new carpet was installed thanks to Choices Flooring - it looks wonderful (although the ‘new carpet smell’ is lingering). We also have new lounges - come in and have a look! Everyone is enjoying them.

Keep your eyes open for the next change...

There is always room for more people at OSHC! Whether you need permanent or casual bookings we can arrange care for your family. To organise bookings call 0412 408 193, email oshcvac.surreydr7437@schools.sa.edu.au or come in and talk to Sarah in the OSHC building.
Parents you are invited…

Parents are welcome to join the class parents at a coffee/tea and dessert night being held in the staff room while the kids disco is grooving in the gym on Friday 19th August, 2016. You can come and join us for the duration of your child’s disco or pop in if you need a break from the music, lights and action. There is no charge or agenda, just a chance for parents to chill for a bit before re-entering the sound zone. ☺

ps we’ll have toys and blocks for any younger children you may have with you.

A Note from the Class Parents:
The Class Parents Group role is to encourage you to grow in knowing one another and your child’s school community.

These are 2 resources available to assist you in learning about what’s happening in the school:
1. Facebook Page
   “Surrey Downs R-7 School parent Info Group” (By Simone – Unofficial)
2. School Bag App – Download from App Store and iTunes

We also encourage you to attend the Volunteer Training. Attendance enables you to assist in your child’s school. By completing the training you are not committed to do anything. The hours you decide to volunteer are up to you and your own schedule.

The next training is being held in the Office on 25th August @ 9am. The cost of Police clearance is covered by the school. We would love to see new faces attend. Please call the School office on 8251 1393 for further information.

Kind Regards from your Class Parents

Barb

PCW ☺