Dear Parents

**STUDENT FREE DAYS /SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Governing Council as part of its role has the authority to close the school for one whole day or two half days for events of Local or State significance. In 2013 the Governing Council have approved the school closing for a whole day on **Friday 6th September as a Show day**.

In 2013 the Government have decreed that all schools will have 4 days Professional Development i.e. students aren't at school but staff are on duty involved in training activities focusing on the introduction of the Australian Curriculum. Coromandel Valley has three priority areas in the 2013 - Site learning plan Literacy, Numeracy and IB. Governing Council has approved closure days Tuesday April 9th for Literacy & Thursday 25th July for Numeracy with dates for IB to be confirmed once training is finalised.

**April 9th Literacy**

Staff will focus on the different genres taught in Literacy with a guest speaker James Ferguson.

**July 25th Numeracy**

An all day workshop with Michael Ymer focusing on inquiry based maths.

**HELMETS**

I spoke at assembly on Monday re the number of students who are riding their scooters to school without a helmet , with the flow of traffic in and around the school their safety was at risk, I emphasised with students they may not look cool but it is a safety issue. I would appreciate families reinforcing the importance of wearing a helmet when riding their scooters to and from school.

PHIL GREAVES – PRINCIPAL

Below are the email contacts for our sports coordinators this year.

- Brian Wicks (wixbcbm@hotmail.com) - cricket
- Chantal Wight (chantal.wight@flinders.edu.au) - basketball
- Donna Gunn (donna.gunn741@schools.sa.edu.au) - netball
- Steve King (asking@chariot.net.au) - soccer
- Rohan Clark (rclark@tceng.com.au) - football
**CATASTROPHIC (Code Red) Day**

Coromandel Valley PS along with all others in the area have been rated as high risk by the CFS and in times of a declared Catastrophic Day (Code Red) in the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District the school will be closed. There will be no staff on site.

At times the advice from the CFS may arrive after children have left. In the event that Coromandel Valley PS will be closed due to a Catastrophic Day families are responsible to check the weather forecasts or alternatively look on the Bureau of Meteorology or CFS websites for Catastrophic rating for the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District and listen to the ABC radio for updates.

In regards to OSHC and Vac-Care the same action applies. If the advice is issued, then the facility is closed so please keep an eye on the public warnings for the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District as staff will not be on site.

Our [Bushfire Action Plan](#) and Checklist is completed and submitted to the Department of Education and Childrens' Services annually, and we conduct fire drills at our site on a regular basis. Our fire booster pumps and hydrants are also checked on an ongoing basis.

The Bushfire information hotline number is 1300 362 361, and information is on radio AM891/5AN. The CFS website is www.cfs.sa.gov.au.

**ASTHMA INHALER RECALL**

Asthma Australia has advised the school that several batches of Ventolin and Asmol inhaler medication for the treatment of asthma have been recalled by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Alphapharm, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) due to a fault in the delivery mechanism of a small number of inhalers within each affected batch. This can lead to less than the full dose being delivered for each puff.

**Asthma Australia has been advised that a medical assessment has determined that the overall risk to patients is low; people should still act to replace inhalers that could be affected.**

The only batches affected are as follows:-

- **Ventolin Batch numbers** KN7170, KN7173, KN7178 and KN7179.
- **Asmol Batch numbers** KL6790, KL6795, KL6796, KL6797, KL6798 and KL6799.

If you have one of these inhalers we are advising you to take it back to your chemist and you should be able to replace it with another inhaler.

I have checked all the Asthma medication that is currently at the school and they are all OK.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Carol Moncrieff at the school.

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**Library Book Covering**

Many thanks to Ros Mazurek and Marina Brown who helped cover library books last term. Volunteers are always welcome to help in the library.

Sheralyn Robertson  
Teacher-Librarian

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**Year 1/2 Ride a Bike Program**

Students in year 1/2 are involved in a Ride A Bike program here at school on Wednesdays in weeks 7,8,9,10 (March 13, 20, 27 and April 3rd).

The Ride a Bike people will be coming to school in week 5 to talk to the parents about the program. The talk will be from 8.45 to 9.30 on Tuesday February 26th in the room next to Bev Tonkin’s room.

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**MILO in2CRICKET Program**

MILO in2CRICKET is a fun introduction to the game of cricket for boys and girls in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It provides children with an enjoyable and safe environment where they can learn skills and play games.

Your nearest Centres will be run at Adelaide Oval i2C Centre, Adelaide Uni Grounds, War Memorial Drive, starting Friday 15th of Feb at 5:30pm, Coromandel CC, Hewett Sports Reserve, starting Wednesday 30th of Jan at 4:30pm, Flagstaff Hill Primary School, starting Sunday 3rd of Feb at 9am.

To find out more details about your nearest Centre and to register for this season log on to [www.in2cricket.com.au](http://www.in2cricket.com.au) and type in your post code.

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**PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS**

We would like to say thank you to the parents and caregivers of the new reception students for coming to the P&F welcome morning tea last week. It was nice to chat to some new people and we hope you feel welcome.

A big thank you to Takako for making the welcome gifts for the students.

**February Diary dates:**

- **Parents and Friends café**: in week 4 on **Monday 18th February**

Please join us for a chat over a cup of tea/coffee and cake after assembly outside the school hall/Canteen area.
Manage Online Behavior

What parents can do
There are several things that you can do to help counteract the dangers of the internet while allowing your children to use its benefits:

• learn more about it yourself;
• be aware of what your children are doing on the internet;
• establish guidelines about safe internet use;
• teach your children to be critical users of the internet;
• put in place reasonable boundaries;
• use blocking software or filters;
• if necessary, lodge complaints.

Learn more about it yourself
The more you know about the internet, the more support you will be able to provide your children. Many local libraries and other community groups offer free courses or courses at reasonable prices. Don't forget, your children may be the best teaching resource you have — sit with them and ask them to help you understand. You don't have to become an expert, but some degree of comfort with the technology will help.

Be aware of what your children are doing on the internet
You can do this in a number of ways, including sitting with them while they are using the internet and chatting with them about what they are doing. You can also keep track of what is going on by:

• checking Bookmarks or Favorites (accessible via the icons on the menu bar) for sites your children like to visit often;
• checking recently visited sites (using Options, Preference or History);
• email monitoring software is also available. KidSafe is an example of email monitoring software. It allows parents to filter emails for their children to block out spam, viruses and offensive email. For more information go to the KidSafe website

Establish guidelines about safe internet use
There are several practical steps you can take to safeguard what happens in your home in respect of the internet:

• keep the computer that is connected to the internet in a family area, not behind closed doors;
• Only allow your children to use chat groups or news-groups or send email messages with your permission and under your supervision;
• Talk to your children's school about their on-line policy; you may be able to put their safeguards into practice at home;
• Select a reliable service provider and discuss children's on-line safety with them.

Teach children to be critical users of the internet
One of the best ways of protecting your children is to teach them to be critical users of the internet. Teach your children:

• never to give others their name, the names of their friends, or fill in questionnaires with their personal details
• never to send images of themselves over the net as they may be used for other purposes
• about 'stranger danger' as it applies to the internet. If a child or young adult wishes to meet new on-line 'friends' in person, make sure you supervise the meeting
• never to respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, or threatening. Encourage your children to report such experiences to you. If they do, discuss these matters calmly with your child and forward a copy of any such messages to your service provider, asking for assistance;
• to only use monitored chat lines designed for their own age group;
• to always be themselves when on-line;
• to be critical in respect of ‘information’ found on the internet. Information on the internet comes from many sources and not all is reliable.

Use blocking software or filters
Blocking software or filters are the names used for programs that you can install and use on your computer to control the information that is accessed by children whilst on the internet. Blocking software:

• can block or minimize the risks of harmful violent material, sexually explicit material and chat lines being displayed on your computer;
• is inexpensive and available from most computer suppliers or straight from the provider's sites.

For more information about blocking software, see the related web topic and Fact Sheet Internet filtering software — what it is and how to use it on the Young Media Australia website. Whilst blocking software is an excellent idea for some age groups it is not foolproof and some computer aware children can still get around these programs. Blocking software goes hand in hand with parental supervision and is no substitute for it.

Put in place reasonable boundaries
Discuss with your children what you consider to be reasonable boundaries on use of the internet. Depending on the age of your child, negotiate these boundaries with them. For example:

• Set a daily or weekly time limit. The amount of time you decide upon will depend on the age and developmental stage of your child. Remember that the internet can be addictive and that you may need to encourage your child to keep a balance with other activities, including being physically active;
• Only allow internet access in public spaces so that you can keep an eye on what they are accessing and discuss it with them if necessary.
• Make it clear to them what materials are unacceptable.
• Make rules about on-line shopping, downloading material, responding to unsolicited advertisements and so on.
Operation Christmas Child

For some 38 years ‘Samaritan’s Purse’ has been involved in practical ministry in many nations throughout the world giving aid to the poor, sick and suffering with food, medicine and other necessities of life.

Operation Christmas Child specifically aims at brightening the life of individual children at Christmas time bringing joy and a small measure of respite from the difficult lives they endure.

In term 3 we will be a collection point for Shoeboxes prepared for the ‘Samaritans Purse’. If you would like to be involved, you can start now, buying small items each fortnight and slowly filling a shoebox (or two) over the year. It is a good way to take advantage of specials!

Last year I found a shoe box for each of my children and asked them to use their pocket money just once a month to buy something to put in the shoe box. Once they had selected the age group and gender of the child they wanted to collect for, it was a really rewarding experience. There is more information on the website, as well as videos to watch.

This is just one small way we can bring a little joy to a child living under duress this Christmas. In 2012, Coromandel Valley PS put together 50+ shoe boxes. Please be encouraged to continue this very good work.

Please contact me if you would like any more information - Margot Bradley (6/7 BB)

INFLUENZA

If your child has flu like symptoms they should stay at home and not attend school. Symptoms include:
- high temperature
- cough
- sore throat
- body aches
- headache
- chills
- fatigue
- diarrhea and vomiting (on occasions)

There are three ways in which a flu virus can spread:
- inhaling infected sneeze or cough droplets – this is known as direct contact
- infection can occur when a person touches a contaminated object (such as a dirty tissue) and then touches his/her own nose, eyes or mouth – this is known as indirect contact
- in some cases flu is asymptomatic, which means the infected person feels fine and has no symptoms. However, they can still infect other people.

If your child has flu like symptoms, please consult your doctor for advice. To reduce the risk of infection, good hygiene is very important and can reduce your risk of getting flu or passing it onto other people. If you have the flu, take steps to reduce the risk of transmission to others in your household. Remember to:
- cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the bin after you use it.
- avoid travelling to the areas where outbreaks have occurred.
- wash your hands before eating or after using a tissue.

You could also get immunized. People who are at high risk are:
- pregnant women
- people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, heart and lung disease, cancer, obesity, diabetes, kidney disease, neurological disease and people with suppressed immune systems
- children in special schools
- healthcare workers
- indigenous people
- parents and guardians of infants under six months old.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Carol Moncrieff at the school.
LEARNER PROFILE & ATTITUDE CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the following students who received recognition for their efforts at school to learn in a positive and productive manner.

Weeks 1, 2 & 3

Juliet S. Principled
Mia P. Principled
Zoe O. Inquirer
Lachlan C. Caring
Abraham S. Caring
Adam M. Risk taker
Finn W. Principled
Tara A. Balanced
Sophie R-J. Open minded
Makedde H. Principled
Bonnie S. Principled
Rhiannon V Z. Reflective
Josiah M. Balanced

Amelia S. Risk taker
Breanna D. Principled
Harmony W. Caring
Lachlan T. Thinker
Roan H. Communicator
Mali T. Communicator
Chloe A. Caring
Josh C. Open minded
Chei W. Principled
Emil N. Communicator
Simeon P. Principled
Zac S. Open minded
Emma P. Open minded

Nathanael M. Risk taker
Nicholas W. Knowledgeable
Hudson R. Communicator
Nathan G. Knowledgeable
Lilyana S. Caring
Trevor B. Knowledgeable
Amelie R. Risk taker
Jacob K. Risk taker
Toby L. Principled
Amber D. Principled
Nava R. Open minded
Mitchell B. Thinker

Our new receptions received their Japanese Welcome Cones at assembly.

GIFTED AND TALENTED (IGNITE) PROGRAM AT ABERFOYLE PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Parents of year 7 students are you interested in the IGNITE program?
Aberfoyle Park High School is the only DECD Special Interest School in the southern suburbs that offers an Ignite program for Gifted and Talented students. This program provides interaction with likeminded students in a safe, nurturing environment where they can achieve their personal best.

How do I know if my child is gifted?
Gifted children possess an outstanding degree of a demonstrated ability or potential in one or more of the following areas:
- General intelligence
- Psychomotor ability
- Specific academic areas
- Leadership
- Visual and performing arts
- Creative thinking
- Interpersonal and intrapersonal skills

Current year 6 students are encouraged to apply for entry to the 2014 program. Selection is based on performance in the ACER assessment, which will be held on Saturday 23rd February 2013 at Aberfoyle Park High School. Applications forms can be downloaded from www.aphs.sa.edu.au and are also available from Aberfoyle Park High School on 8270 4455.