From the Principal

Every Thursday in term two is Soup Day in our staff room. There is something special about tasty, hot soup and a crusty loaf on a cold wintry day and we have all really enjoyed sharing this treat. Staff members are rostered so that every Thursday two people provide soup for the hungry hoards. James supplies the bread, which he makes in his breadmaker overnight, and I have to say that it is a very impressive loaf that he comes along with, and there is never any left over.

We have had a very interesting range of soups, some of which are very kind to our waistlines and some of which the ingredients would make any cardiologist worth his salt absolutely shudder. Some people have a mixture of both soups which makes sense if they are both pumpkin but when it is minestrone mixed with cauliflower and cheese, well… there is no accounting for taste!

Today we reached the end of our roster and, wouldn’t you know it, it is the turn of the trusty Principal to bring along soup. As it turns out the not so trusty Principal! I forgot all about what I had committed myself to until it was too late to do anything about it, so to celebrate the end of our soup roster we had pizza today. Happily most members of our staff really like pizza and they are a very forgiving bunch.

I could make lots of excuses (I would probably make myself feel better if I called them reasons) about why I forgot. Most of us are pretty good at that and it is a comfortable way of giving the responsibility for our shortcomings to someone or something else, so it is not really our fault. Many people invest a lot of energy in this tactic, working out who they can blame when things go wrong in their lives. Children can learn this very quickly and, if not corrected, become very skilled until they firmly believe that there is always some external force that is responsible for their misdemeanours.

I have often been in a position when I have needed to ask children the question “What happened?” and, almost without exception, the response will begin with “He…” or “She…” rather than “I…”. The next thing I ask is “What did you do?” which will also often draw the response “Well, he…” or “Well, she…” . It can be quite challenging for the child to describe their own behaviour, particularly when there has been a conflict. I guess that is because their own behaviour may have been a contributing factor.

When we look at the great teacher Jesus, we see him in fact actively taking up the responsibility for every bad thing we have ever done, rather than trying to avoid taking responsibility like we very often do. We see him not even trying to defend himself when he was without fault. He didn’t spend his time trying to justify his actions or trying to excuse himself, but he died and rose again so that God could look at us and not see the myriad of times that we have done exactly that. How wonderful if we were all able to take responsibility for our actions, and to confess when we have contributed to a conflict, and ask for forgiveness from those who are hurting.

Remember with God all things are possible!

18 June 2009

Welcome to Niamh Mannion who began in Year 6 this week.

I’m sure you will make her and her family feel welcome and part of our St Peters community.

Special points of interest:

• Tomorrow—Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
• 22/6—Uniform Com Mtg 9am
• 23/6—Special Food Day
Parents & Friends

Chocolate Drive
We are holding a Cadbury Fundraiser over the coming weeks where we will be selling boxes of chocolates (e.g. Freddo, Crunchie, Cherry Ripe, etc.). Each box contains 48 various chocolates with each unit selling for $1.20 which, in turn, raises $28 for our school.

This is a very easy way for some people in our community (i.e. those who work in offices) to be able to help with our fundraising without much effort as these chocolates invariably sell themselves! If you are able to help out, please collect a box or two from the office.

Building Education Revolution

NSP Progress report
Our school is looking very fresh as the painting of the outside of the buildings nears completion.

P21
Work will begin on site next Tuesday and the first visible sign will be a builder’s fence enclosing the work site. There will be some temporary changes to the fence on the western side beyond the ELC where the access road will come into the school yard from the very southern end of the car park.

We are expecting minimal inconvenience to the school community but nevertheless there is bound to be some so we thank you in anticipation for your patience during the building period.

Chess Competition on Thursdays
Senior students were invited to play a chess competition in term one during their recess. A small group of year 4/5 students took up the challenge and played each other for 12 weeks.

Each student will receive a certificate of participation from Mr Ziersch who coordinated the competition.

SWINE FLU
Enclosed with this newsletter is the latest Swine Flu fact sheet from the Department for Health. It contains a number of changes including advising schools to conduct daily health checks on all staff and children and to send anyone who has flu-like symptoms home. Any student who has the “flu” should not return to school until they are well.

There is now no minimum period of exclusion from school.

We understand that it can be inconvenient for parents when students are sent home, but we will certainly be complying with this advice and sending children home if they present at school with any symptoms.

GOOD NEWS
Congratulations to our PYP Coordinator, Mr John Dow, who has been invited to train as a Visiting Team Leader involved in the quality assurance of schools who are working towards, or are authorised to teach, the International Baccalaureate Primary Years’ Programme.
Dear SPLOSHC families

This week we have been looking at the continent, Africa, and mainly focusing on South Africa as Eduard Van den Berg is from there. We have been very lucky with all the photos, craft and stories Eduard has brought in and even luckier to have tried the traditional food that Anna (Eduard’s Mum) whipped up for us. Yum! Many thanks to the Van den Bergs for all their contributions this week.

The Lion King has also been a big hit this week as has the traditional African ‘drumming’ music we have been dancing to while playing our own instruments along with the beat—great fun!

SPLOSHC News

**Lost Property**
Nicholas Evans from Room 8 is missing his communication bag and Liam Tighe from Room B is missing his school-issued Bible. Please return to the office if found. Thank you.

**School Building Fund**
As the school’s building fund donation is tax-deductible if you make a contribution before 30 June you can claim your donation when completing your tax return. Contributions can be made via the school’s website using your credit card or by Bpay (details are on school fee accounts).

**School Dental Service**
The South Australian Dental Service has advised that from 1 July 2009 school dental service care will be free for preschool children as well as children who are dependents/holders of Centrelink Concession Cards, Veterans Affairs Pension Concession Cards or School Cards. A small fee applies for all other children aged under 18 years who are not dependants of the above concessions.

**IB Learners**

- **Inquirers**
- **Knowledgeable**
- **Thinkers**
- **Communicators**
- **Principled**
- **Open-minded**
- **Caring**
- **Risk-takers**
- **Balanced**
- **Reflective**

**Year 2/3 Football**
We versed Plympton. We had a good game. We only lost by one goal. Everyone played well.

Sebastian

Next week we go to France and we are fortunate to have one of our own staff members, Richanda, with us who is in her final year studying to be a French Teacher. Lots of fun and interesting stuff will be happening with lots more yummy food to eat.

Please return your Student Free Day form for Friday 3 July ASAP as I have made a tentative booking to the Hahndorf Farm Barn but we need a minimum of 15 children to attend and the sooner we can let them know the more secure our booking will be! All information regarding the Hahndorf Farm Barn is in the SPLOSHC room.

Hayley & the SPLOSHC team :)

**Basketball top fees**
Basketball top fees are now due for the winter season. Please send the amount of $12.00 to school in an envelope marked with your child’s name, team and “Basketball top fees”. The final day for payment is 24th June. After this date the amount will be placed on school fee accounts.

**Sturt Falcons Softball Club**
St Peters has been invited to enter into a Girls’ Softball competition. The competition is for Term 4 2009 and Term 1 2010. It is on Saturday mornings during term; matches are played at participating schools with teams of between 10-13 players. The club can arrange free softball lessons, after hours training to determine interest and assistance in providing coaches and/or umpires for a team. Please let Mrs Sharon Smith know by Tuesday 23rd June if you wish to participate.

**Bits & Pieces**

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**IB Learner Profile**
Week 2 (Monday 27/7)

Week 3 (Monday 3/8)
Wed 5/8 SPLOSHC Com Mtg 5pm
Thur 6/8 School Council Meeting 7pm
Fri 7/8 Primary Principals’ Mtg 9am

Week 4 (Monday 10/8)
Tue 11/8 Musical Performance 2pm
Marketing Mtg 5pm
Thur 13/8 Musical Performance 7pm

Week 8 (Monday 15/6)
Fri 19/6 Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea

Week 9 (Monday 22/6)
Mon 22/6 Uniform Com Mtg—9am
Tue 23/6 Special Food Day
Fri 26/6 Uniform Shop Open—9.15am
Class Support Coordinators’ meeting—2.30pm
Sun 28/6 Family Service, Room 8—10am

Week 10 (Monday 29/6)
Mon 29/6 BLEA Meeting (Principal away)
Tue 30/6 BLEA Meeting (Principal away)
Thu 2/7 Last Day of Term for Students
School Council Mtg—7pm
Fri 3/7 Staff PD Day
Sat 4/7 Staff PD Day

Term 3
Week 1 (Tuesday 21/7)
Mon 20/7 Staff PD Day
Tue 21/7 Term 3 begins with Chapel 8.45am
Sun 26/7 Second Pedal Prix Race

These dates are subject to change so please make sure you check them each week.

School Holiday Stuff
The next YMCA school holiday camp will be held at YMCA Glenhaven Park, home of the state’s greatest high and low ropes course and largest Giant Swing, from July 13 – 17 in the school holidays. The camp is open to children aged 7 – 14 and the cost is $320 per child. For information and bookings, please call 8528 2250, email Lauren.cecchi@ymca.org.au or visit www.sa.ymca.org.au