Welcome to Blanchetown Primary School – and an extra special welcome to our new families and students. I have already had the pleasure of meeting most of the parents and families in the school community and I look forward to building an even stronger partnership throughout the year.

A little bit about myself- I recently moved to Blanchetown with my wife (Terry), we have three children (Harvey-6, Ivan-4 and Evelyn-1).

I have a close connection with the Riverland and River Murray, as I grew up in Renmark and spent many weekends swimming and fishing. I completed secondary education at Renmark High School, studied Junior Primary and Primary teaching at UNISA, and my first teaching appointment was at Pinnaroo Primary School. While this is my first principal position, I have over five years of leadership experience, as Primary science facilitator in the Mallee region and Literacy & Numeracy Coach in the Far North Region.

Welcome to our New Students
Year 6: Shakira Crack
Year 2: Ashton Edge
Year 1: Harvey Ness
Reception: Jean-Paul Streicher, Aiden Roberts, Emma Zadow, Shae Zadow, William Ohlmeyer

Our 2015 Staff
David Ness: Principal/R-2 teacher
Jayde Sherriff: 3-7 teacher
Ros Hahn: Front Office/Finance
Michelle Payne: Classroom Support SSO
Erin Schneider: Pastoral Care Worker
Elaine Molzer: Groundskeeper/Cleaner

Important Dates
- 2nd Feb: Acquaintance Night and GC AGM
- 13th Feb: Healthy Life Performance@ Morgan
- 19th Feb: Assembly
- 20th Feb: Splash Carnival
- 5th Mar: Assembly
- 6th Mar: Pupil Free Day
- 9th Mar: Public Holiday, Adelaide Cup
- 18th Mar: Blanchetown Sports Day
- 27th Mar: Mid Murray Sports Day
- 2nd Apr: Assembly
- 3rd Apr: Public Holiday, Good Friday
- 6th Apr: Public, Holiday, Easter Monday
- 10th Apr: Term 1 Ends

Welcome our New Staff and Students

![Image of new students and staff]
The First Week
The 2015 school year has started exceptionally well, with every student coming to school eager to learn. The students have completed many diagnostic tests and discussed our classroom rules and routines. Some important rules that we have learnt so far are;

Respect
- We treat others how we want to be treated
- We keep our hands to ourselves
- We put our hand up to speak
- We listen to the teacher/adult
- We look after our property

Doing Your Best
- We set goals
- We strive for excellence
- We always work hard
- We finish our work to a high standard
- We know how to achieve our goals

Please take some time to discuss these rules with your child, especially if they are starting school for the first time.

Acquaintance Night
We will be having a BBQ at the school on Monday 2nd February (week 2) at 5.30pm to celebrate the start of the 2015 school year and to meet new staff, students and parents. We invite all students and their immediate families to come along and enjoy the night. The school will provide the meat and bread; we just ask that families bring a salad and a dessert to share.

Swimming Lessons
All students have participated exceptionally well in swimming lessons this week, with our instructor Nichole Duffield commenting on how wonderful our school and students are.

Blanchetown Play Centre
Play centre (0-5) is held every Wednesday morning during school terms from 9am to 12noon. All welcome.

Swimming Pool
Students can bring bathers, towels and appropriate swimming equipment to school on days that are forecast to be 30 degrees and above as the pool may be used for fitness and PE lessons.

Governing Council
Please consider nominating to be a member of Governing Council, the AGM will be held straight after Acquaintance night at 7:00.

Volunteers
We would like to invite parents, caregivers and community members to express interest in volunteering here at the school. Please let us know if you are able to volunteer at the school, what areas of learning you would like to volunteer in and what days and times would suit you best. Please be aware that before a volunteer can begin working at the school a police check must be done.

Pastoral Support Worker Morning tea
Erin Schneider will host a welcome morning tea for all parents and caregivers tomorrow morning at 8:45.

Assembly
This year assemblies will be held in the year 3-7 classroom from 2:05-2:25 on Thursdays, check important dates for times. Assemblies provide a great opportunity for the students to showcase their work to parents/caregivers and the wider community.

Fortnightly Newsletters
From 2015, newsletters will be sent home on Thursday each fortnight. Newsletters will also be available on the school website; www.blanchtnps.sa.edu.au

Parents & Friends
We are hoping to get a Parents & Friends Committee up and running again this year. Our Parents & Friends Committee is a great opportunity for you to get involved with the school, and take a proactive approach to helping improve the school. P&F members would be responsible for organising fundraising activities for the school, volunteering at school events, assisting with breakfast club/healthy lunch days, as well as bringing fresh ideas on ways to improve the school and its community presence. We will be asking for Expressions of Interest on Acquaintance Night, and strongly encourage all parents/cares, new and old, to consider joining.

David Ness
Principal

Community Notices
Please see attached