Important Dates

| Mon 6/2 | Crows visit |
| Week 3 | R-5 swimming lessons |
| Wed 15/2 | RWSSN meeting |
| Thurs 16/2 | Acquaintance Night |
| Tues 21/2 | Governing Council AGM |
| Fri 2/3 | Yr 6/7 Aquatics at Barmera |

Principal's Report

Welcome to week 2.

Thank you for your support and making me feel welcome.

The calendar for our term is fast filling up with exciting learning experiences for both the students and staff.

The students were visited by the Crows today to talk about healthy eating. The presentation combined a multimedia talk with interactive activities that engaged the students and reinforced their healthy eating habits such as our healthy snack break in the morning learning block. The Crows will be back again next Thursday to run another session with the students.

Swimming lessons for the students in reception to year 5 are taking place in week 3. The year 3-5 students will be having two sessions a day (10 in total) and the reception –year 2s will be having one session a day (5 in total). Swimming times for Monday through to Friday are as follows:

- 3-5: 12pm-12.45pm
- R-2: 12.45pm-1.30pm
- 3-5: 2pm-2.45pm

The 6/7 students will be attending aquatics in week 5.

Acquaintance Night – Thursday 16/2

Once again, we are hosting our annual Acquaintance Night BBQ on Thursday 16/2. 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 either a salad or a dessert (or both!). To assist us with catering, can you please indicate whether or not you will be attending and if so, how many on the reply slip attached.

The night starts at 6pm. Feel free to bring a chair to sit on and your liquid refreshments to help keep you hydrated! Please RSVP by Friday 10/2. After this date, we will assume that you are not attending.

Governing Council AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is where the Annual Report for 2011 will be presented to the school community and where council members will be elected (or re-elected) to the Governing Council. The AGM will be followed by a Governing Council Meeting. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st February at 7pm here at the school. I strongly encourage parents to be active in the Governing Council. Accompanying today’s newsletter is an election form where you can nominate yourself or someone else to stand for Governing Council.

University of NSW International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Once again we are offering all parents of Year 3 and above students the option to have their children participate in the 2012 ICAS tests. There are six tests which parents can choose from. Below is a table containing the subjects available, the sitting date and the cost of each test. Entries and the associated fees need to be received at the school by not later than Monday 27th February.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>24/4/12</td>
<td>$7.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>$7.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>22/5/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>21/5/12</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3/7/12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>17/7/12</td>
<td>$7.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kids Club

This Thursday Feb 9th we will be having Kids ‘Club here at school. For some of you it will be the first time your child has attended ‘Kid’s Club.

We start at 3.15 pm with something to eat, a game & then a Biblical story with Pastor Malcolm Pech. Then we have an activity based on the story. Kid’s Club finishes at 4.45 pm, so you will need to collect your child at that time.

Pastor Pech & I will look forward to seeing your son/daughter on Thursday.

Many thanks to you all for your past attendance.

We also wish to remind you that we have eggs for sale at $3.00 per dozen.

Rosie Thistle
Dear Parents & Friends,

It feels great to be back at school again, so welcome to week two. I feel confident that this will be a fun learning time for all.

Today I have found a story called "What He Valued Most".

Jack was a young man who had learned most of his basic skills like "how to make or how to do this or that" from the man next door, as his Dad had died when he was a young boy. Lately though, as many years had passed, first with College girls, then a career & a busy life, he had not seen the old man. He had moved away from home in pursuit of his dreams.

Over the phone his mother told him that Mr Belsar had died overnight & that the funeral would be held on Wednesday. Memories flooded through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood. His mum said "Jack, did you hear me?"

"Oh, sorry, Mum, yes I heard you, I was just thinking of how long it has been since I even thought of him. His Mum said "Well he has never forgotten you. Every time I saw him he'd ask after you & would reminisce about the many days you spent 'on his side of the fence' as he put it."

"He's the one who taught me carpentry," Jack said "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He taught me everything he thought was important. I loved that old house he lived in. Mum, I will be at the funeral". Despite being busy, Jack kept his word. Mr Belsar's funeral was small & uneventful as he had no children of his own, & most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack & his Mum stopped by to see the old house one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack remembered the house was exactly the same as it was so long ago, every piece of furniture exception - except! "The box is gone", he said. "There was a gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he ever said was "the thing I value most. Now, someone from his family must have it now, so I'll never find out what it was."

About two weeks later, Jack returned home from work to find a note in his mailbox. "Signature required on a package . No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days", the note read. Early next day Jack retrieved the package. The box was old & looked like it had been mailed hundred years ago. He ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box & an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside. "Upon my death, please forward this box & it's contents to Jack Bennet. It's the thing I most value in this life" Jack's hands shook & tears came to his eyes as he unlocked the box with a small key taped to the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold watch. Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved. Jack thanks for your time!

"The thing he valued most was...my time".

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Life just seems to race by. It is so easy to ignore the little voice that says stop & spend some time. You never know how valuable this is to someone who feels lonely or sad.

Many blessings to you all.

Rosie

Please find attached: lunch order, Term Planner for Term 1, Uniform order, Fun 4 YOUTh

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Community Notices

**Walkerie Netball Club – Registration Night**

4-6pm on Wednesday the 8th of February at the Rec centre's netball courts. Registration for seniors, Under 17, Under 15's Development Squad and junior Saturday morning players. Anyone interested in coaching is also welcome to express their interest.

Fitness training for U15/U17 and seniors to start on the 15th of February.

Enquiries/Interest or apologies to Cheryl Mortimer on 0431 355 604 or Karen Taylor on 0429 346 233. Everyone welcome.

**BLANCHETOWN KART CLUB**

Education Day – 12th February 2012
Education 9am – 2pm track event
Normal canteen hours
Lunch break 12-12:30pm

Temperature 35 and under for track event

More Info Contact: Dave Hassett 85405101
Jodi Lambe 85405149
Angela Pfeiler 85413326

**RIVMICS DANCE**

Rivmics Dance classes commence week two. Classes for Boy and Girls – Tots to Adults. Lessons in Ballet, Jazz and Tap. First week come “Come and Try”

Princess Ballet, beginners class has some vacancies – Thursdays

Tap for beginner's class also has some vacancies – Thursdays.

Information and Enrolment: Carol Walker 0417 414102 or 85414100

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**Acquaintance Night**

Family: ........................................

We will / will not be attending the Acquaintance Night.

There will be ....................... Adults ............... Children