PALs make lunchtimes better

PALs, the ‘PLAY at LUNCH TIME’ support program began this term. PAL’s is designed to assist students in the Junior Primary to engage with a range of different play activities with the support of a student leader from Years 6 or 7. The Year 6/7 leaders undertook a day training course and learned how to provide age appropriate, stimulating and fun play activities for younger children who want to take part.

Sharon McAskill, a Year 5 teacher, is coordinating the program and ensuring that PAL Leaders clearly understand their roles and responsibilities and are rostered to run lunch session each day.

PAL leaders wear brightly coloured vests to identify themselves. A PAL’s program provides leadership opportunities to older students while also helping to reduce bullying amongst younger children as they learn how to play games and undertake lunch time activities in a cooperative manner.

How to play successfully is a skill, and conflicts are reduced when students are explicitly taught to play games with clear rules.

PAL leaders introduce students to a range of games. The leaders are trained in organising up to 30 different games. Some involve just simple movements while others require the use of equipment. The leaders carry game cards that explain the rules and procedures for each activity.

The games are played on the JP oval and certain JP year levels are targeted each week. Students who have difficulties playing appropriately in the yard are encouraged to join in with groups. Often in the early years conflict between students arises when children lack the social development to negotiate joining play groups and so engaging in games with the support of an older child is a great way to enhance their skills.

The program encourages:
- A fun inclusive environment where everyone is valued and their needs are met
- Safe play and emotional health and wellbeing
- Students to learn new activities that are stimulating, challenging, matched to their ability levels and increase their physical activity
- A positive school ethos and social cohesion as it builds students confidence and self-esteem.

NAPLAN: Literacy and Numeracy Testing.

NAPLAN is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 and will occur on Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th of May. Parents seeking to withdraw their child from any test must sign a record of withdrawal which is available from the Principal. See practice test examples at www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests.html

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NAPLAN: The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy

How are NAPLAN test results used?

• Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
• School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
• Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
• Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers are ensuring students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests.

Students with disability may qualify for adjustments which reflect their support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions, or who has recently arrived in Australia and is from a non-English speaking background.

If you would like to have your child exempted from all or part of the NAPLAN testing process please contact Deb Pryor who can provide you with more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption. Exemptions need to be submitted by 11th April, Friday of Week 11 Term 1.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has ten bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students.

For more information about NAPLAN: visit www.nap.edu.au
Hope Valley Junior Football Club

2015 player vacancies in U12’s (born 2003).

Games played mostly on Sunday with some Friday night.

Training held on Monday’s and Wednesday’s 6.00pm – 7.00pm.

If you would like to join us please call Matt Draper – mobile 0457 733 777 (any time)

Recorders

If you have a recorder at home that is no longer being used and would like to donate it to our Recorder Program, please bring it into the front office.

Ardtornish Children’s Centre Update

Term II Children’s Centre Program

We are planning for next term’s program at the children’s centre. If you have any suggestions for speakers, activities or events for parents and young children, speak to Jo, John or Tamara – well, anyone at the Children’s Centre - or call/SMS, email or Facebook message (Phew!).

Look out for sessions with a focus on infants next term and join in some fun, music based learning at the Making Music Program. Interest in Phil Altmann’s Coping in A Busy World Course (mindfulness) was strong this term and if there are enough interested people we will run it again. The program will be on Facebook when it is completed and available at the children’s centre.

Dental Program

The Dental Outreach will be here again in Term III for new and returning children. We will advertise well ahead of time.

Vacation Play

Join us in the second week of the school holidays. We will be in the preschool to allow for a larger group after the overcrowding last year.

At Least One Thing

Families are invited to take part in the ‘At Least One Thing’ survey before the end of this term – the survey suggests ways families can contribute time and skills, ideas and energy to improve the school’s facilities, and help to keep fees as low as possible. The survey will be promoted through Google Plus.

The City of Tea Tree Gully

always provides a range of school holiday activities but early booking are essential for some of the popular events see http://www.teatreegully.sa.gov.au for more info – but do it soon!

Tea Tree Gully Library has had an expression of interest to start a children’s book club. They have been running a youth book club for many years. If your children would like to attend a book email childrensandyouth@cttg.sa.gov.au

Fess Outdoors Play

Parks & Playgrounds There are a many to choose from for more information see http://www.adelaideplaygrounds.com.au What’s On For Adelaide Families

Home schooler, Joanne Foster, runs an online guide to family friendly event, attractions and activities. There is heaps of stuff including calendar of current fairs and activities. See the details at www.whatsonforadelaidefamilies.com.au

Parenting Playground

Another useful site is the Parenting Playground – see http://www.parentingplayground.org.au/. Leanne and her team aim to bring together in one specialised website, government and not-for-profit services that are there to help us, as parents/ carers. Whilst there are many services out there, it can be a challenge finding what is needed (or even knowing what is needed) in a timely manner. We want to become the ‘umbrella’ that ties all the services in together at one website and then links them to families.

John Buckell
Community Development Coordinator - 8264 9828, 0409 984 495 or john.buckell@sa.gov.au
Sports Day Program

Thursday 2nd April

8:50  Students assemble in classrooms.
9:00  Whole school warm-up, health hustle and war cry
9:25  Proceed to ovals.
9:30  Primary tabloid events.
9:30  Junior Primary tabloid events.
10:40 Recess begins
11:00 Junior Primary students return to classrooms.
11:00 Primary tabloid events continue.
11:15 Junior Primary tabloid events continue.
12:30 Junior Primary tabloid events conclude.
1:00 Primary tabloid Events conclude.
All classes return equipment to classroom at completion of last tabloid event.

1:10 Lunch
1:40 Junior Primary Students return to class room.
2:00 Assemble in house groups along Sprint Track.
2:10 Novelty Events
2:45 Whole School Clean-up
3:00 Presentation.
3:15 Dismissal

ATTENDANCE
Thursday 2nd April is an official school day and children will be expected to attend school unless, of course, they are unwell.

ARRIVAL
- School yard supervision begins at 8.35am.
- Children need to be at school prior to the bell at 8.50am.
- 8.50am - class rolls and other administrative tasks are undertaken. We ask that parents wait outside the room during this time to assist us in settling the children. Class teachers will take the children to the basketball courts and assemble them by 9.00am for Health Hustle & War Cry.

Students in Years 3 to 7 remain at school on Sports day until 3.15pm to support other members of their house team). Reception to Year 2 students may be taken home once their activities are finished. Supervision will be available for all students until 3.15pm.

Parents must notify the Class Teacher if they intend to collect their child early.

CLASS ORGANISATION
Please do not return library books or home reading books on Friday. Please make arrangements with the class teacher regarding any medication.

TEAM COLOURS
Please ensure your child is wearing house team colours. If not they need to wear school uniform.

TOLLEY – Blue
NEWMAN - Yellow
ANGUS – Green
KERR – Red

CLOTHING
Children must wear their hats and suitable running shoes .
Sun screen should be applied to children prior them coming to school.

Please name removable clothing. (Tank tops are not appropriate as bare shoulders are not sunsafe)