TERM 1, 2015 DIARY DATES:

**Week 10**
Friday April 3
GOOD FRIDAY

**Week 11**
Monday April 6
EASTER MONDAY
Thursday April 9
1.30 pm - ANZAC Memorial Garden Opening
Friday April 10
Anzac Performance
End of Term – Early Dismissal 2.00pm

TERM 2, 2015 DIARY DATES:

**Week 1**
Monday April 27
Term 2 starts

**Week 2**
Tuesday May 5
RAN Training for Volunteers
Wednesday May 6
Mother’s Day Stall
Friday May 8
District Cross Country Assembly 12.00 pm
Sunday May 10
Mother’s Day

**Week 3**
Tuesday May 12
6.30 pm - Finance Meeting
7.30 pm - Governing Council Meeting

**Week 4**
Tuesday May 19
ICAS Digital Technologies
Wednesday May 20
7.00 pm - Mark Le Messurier parent workshop @ Hub Library
**Wednesday May 22**
Assembly 12.00 pm

From the Principal

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

At the end of this term we see two significant departures from our school: one for a short time and one for …..

Graham Palmer has advised me that he plans to retire from teaching at the end of the term. Graham has had a long career of 36 years with the Education Department coming to Thiele PS in 2008. During his time with us he taught in the Primary Years and contributed greatly to the development of the culture and ethos of Thiele PS. His passion for equity and justice contributed to the achievements and wellbeing of the children in his classes. I am sure that Graham will be remembered as a passionate educator and as a school community we wish him well in his retirement.

Mel Grierson is leaving us on 12 months maternity leave. Mel has been on Campus for 5 years and in her role as PCW, she provided us with care, compassion, humour, advice, counselling, dancing and most of all support for all our school community. We wish her well on her exciting journey to becoming a mother and we look forward to her return sometime next year.

Mel has more to say later in the newsletter.

Towards the end of next term, our school will be involved in an External School Review. The purpose of a school review is to raise student achievement and sustain high performance. All DECD school will be reviewed every four years. More information about the process will be available next term.

Last Friday we had a fantastic Campus Sports Day. The cooler weather made being outside all day very pleasant and ensured a higher participation rate from all the students. I wold particularly like to thank Maggie and Bern from the Canteen and their band of helpers who cooked the barbecue for all the hungry children and spectators. The results of the day are outlined in the table below.

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With the end of the term and change of season already upon us, please remember to have the correct uniform (eg windcheaters) for the start of next term.

Have a safe and Happy Easter with your family.

Cheers
Shaun
NOTES SENT HOME

Over the past fortnight the following notices have been sent home.
- Yr 7’s River Journey @ Flinders University
- Official Opening Community ANZAC Memorial / ANZAC Story / Walkathon

If you have not received any of the above, please request a copy either from your child’s class teacher or Thiele Reception.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

There is still one vacancy for the Thiele Governing Council, if you are interested in joining please ring or email Jayne at the Thiele Front Office or come along to the next Governing Council meeting on Tuesday May 12 at 7.30pm in the Thiele Staff Room.

JAPANESE NEWS

Kodomo no hi Children’s Day Festival
@ Cowandilla Primary School

Sunday, 3rd May
11.00 pm – 4.00 pm

On Sunday 3rd May The Kodomo no Hi Japan Festival will be held at Cowandilla Primary School, 21 Jenkins Street, Cowandilla.

These cultural days are extremely popular as there are lots of great things to see and do. The school comes alive with a great variety of performances, demonstrations and exhibitions to celebrate Children’s Day. These include craft classes, food stalls, games and raffles.

Plenty of activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Cost: $2 per person, $5 per family
Free parking!

ANZAC STORY / MEMORIAL PHOTO

Please remember to return your ANZAC Performance payments & photo opportunity booking slip. If you have misplaced this information, please see Jayne at the Thiele Front Office for copy.

ASIAN LANGUAGE SURVEY

Asian Education Foundation is conducting a study on parents’ attitudes towards learning an Asian language at school. If you are a parent and your child is studying an Asian language in Australia, we would like to invite you to complete this short survey and share your views on Asia language learning with us. It should take no longer than 5 minutes. All responses are completely anonymous, your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Survey link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TNWHGKL](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TNWHGKL)

SKOOLBAG APP

Our School now has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. We are asking parents/students to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name "Thiele Primary School" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

The term is almost over, and this is the first report to hit the headlines. To start the term we spent money before we had raised any, because we always support the school aquatics programme by subsidising $5 per student from fundraising.

Thank you to all who bought bulbs through our Garden Express fundraiser. We managed to raise over $500 through this, and we hope you all have a beautiful spring garden to show for your support. We had intended to use the Kyton’s Easter fundraiser but decided it was too much for one term. Instead, look out for the Kyton’s Winter Warmers coming next term.

Our first event next term will be the Mother’s Day stall and already we have collected a delightful selection of items to sell on the day, all beautifully gift-wrapped or bagged. There will also be a raffle prize of a lovely gift basket for one lucky mum. All gifts $5 or less to buy.

We have already been asked about the Thiele Disco, the best event on the calendar. Due to the Campus Pedal Prix disco already booked for Term 2 (we don’t want to wear you out), we will have our event in Term 3 and will be even better.

Thank you to all who support our fundraising efforts!

Lois Watson
Tina Howard
Carlie Vandenberg
Hello Pilgrim and Thiele schools,

Alas the time has come to say goodbye. As you know I am leaving the campus at the end of the term to pursue a new career path – motherhood. Whilst this is an exciting time it is also really hard to say goodbye. This is my fifth year here at Campus and I would have to say this place is one in a million. Despite our differences and the complexities of three schools working together - we have something very unique here that makes our school community members (staff, students and families) want to be a part of it.

So I leave you with this - Appreciate one another and what each has to offer. It is so easy to be bogged down in gossip, blame, negativity and our own agenda. It is so easy to hold onto things that haven't turned out the way we planned - or to resent someone for the way they have wronged us. But often the best and most rewarding thing you can do is encourage and appreciate one another. You all bring something unique to this place and it wouldn't be the same without you.

My job has given me the privilege of seeing life from all angles within the school community. The tricky situations that leadership can face behind the scenes, the hurts that families and staff experience that people may not know about, the obstacles and challenges that teachers face each day, the struggles kids confront from small to really big and the loneliness and worry that comes along with that.

Often we don’t know the full story and we have a limited perspective, basing our judgements on what we think we know. So why not encourage those around you and see what a small gesture of kindness can do for a person and our school community moral. Stop and ask yourself “Before I jump ahead to any conclusion, what might this look like from the others perspective?”

Teachers - Our teachers are one in a million. Before I worked in a school I used to think that teachers worked until 3pm and got a lot of cruisy holidays. Not true. In fact good luck finding a teacher who doesn’t go into school and plan during their holidays. The hours they put in and the time they give to much more than just teaching, is phenomenal. Committees, meetings, training days, making someone a sandwich who forgot their recess, giving up their lunch break to support a child, giving up their afternoon to talk with a struggling parent, trying to manage difficult behaviour whilst teaching at the same time - the list goes on. The next time you think a teacher is not meeting your needs? Consider the time they put in with each of your children whilst they try to cater for the very varied needs in their classes. This is often done with limited resources and time, but they do it because they want to see your children grow and learn. Encourage your teachers. A little bit can go a long way.

Behind the scenes - Our behind the scenes workers like reception staff, bursars, SSOs, librarians, groundsmen, governing councils and parent committees work very hard to keep the school running. Often taken for granted because so much of what they do, whilst essential to keeping the school a float, is not publicised. The next time you read a note that comes home, see the grounds mowed, a great display in your child’s classroom, the paperwork needed to have an excursion, a well-run mother’s day stall, a mended knee and even this newsletter – know that one of these people has taken care of it. A task faithfully completed and often without recognition. Encourage your behind the scenes staff. A little bit can go a long way.

School leadership – not a job I envy. These guys are the face of our school with the great responsibility of overseeing everything. They’ve staff, families, students and the department to please - all whilst trying to look after not only their own schools but to see how we can better grow as a campus. Probably the easiest ones to blame when we think things are not running as they should - but consider their big task and the complexities which form their decisions - information we are not always privy too. They are not perfect but are doing their very best. The next time you feel a frustration with leadership? Encourage your school leaders. A little bit can go a long way.

Families – Our school community would not be possible without you; so many different backgrounds and family structures that make this place unique. With difference comes both strength and conflict. Sometimes it can be easy to pass judgement on what we see, or to jump aboard the rumour mill rather than knowing facts first. From firsthand...
experience I encourage you to always stop and think about the ‘unknown complexities’ of your fellow school families. Some of the hardships a family can face others will never fully know. Marital struggles, tragic family death, financial strain, mental illness, terminal illness and even loneliness are just a few of the cases I have come across in my time. The next time you feel you know the whole story? Encourage your fellow families. A little bit can go a long way, and who knows what impact that might have on someone.

Thank you for nearly 5 wonderful years Thiele and Pilgrim schools. I truly do love my job (no really, I do…I wouldn’t drive from Mawson Lakes each day for just anyone©). You are such wonderful people! Staff, parents and students I will miss you greatly.

I am taking 12months maternity leave with my return still to be discussed closer to the end of that time. There will be a Pastoral Care Worker replacement and this is TBA.

Look after each other and know you will be truly missed.

Mel Grierson

COMMUNITY NEWS

ABERFOYLE PARK HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS ACADEMY

Applications are now open for the 2016 Aberfoyle Park High School Tennis Academy. The program provides student athletes access to a high quality, personalised tennis and education program from years 8-12. It delivers a flexible, supportive and “athlete friendly” academic environment. The academic program covers all essential learnings in the Australian Curriculum and leads to a number of pathways at Senior School.

Application Packages for 2016 are available NOW from your Year 7 teacher or by contacting the Tennis Academy Manager Mr Terry Ellis.

Email: Terry.Ellis@aphs.sa.edu.au
Phone: 8270 4455
Address: Taylors Rd East Aberfoyle Park 5159

Note: Applications are due no later than May 8th 2015

Principal Tours
2015

9.15am – 10.45am

Wednesday 29th April
Thursday 30th April
Thursday 7th May
Friday 8th May
Monday 11th May

Bookings are essential. Please phone or email to reserve a place.

Come and meet our great students and teachers, be inspired by our dynamic programs and state of the art technology in a school where your child is our focus.

I look forward to meeting you at a tour.

Liz Mead  Principal

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Email: info@aphs.sa.edu.au

Respect – Achievement - Integrity - Sustainability