From the Principal

Today I received an email from a work colleague with a simple message – RU OK? It was such a simple gesture but with a powerful message.

R U OK? Day is today and it calls on Australians to help prevent suicide by making more effort to have regular, meaningful conversations with anyone who may be struggling. About seven Australians suicide every day and about 65,000 people attempt it each year. Suicide is the biggest killer of Australians under the age of 44.

The reasons are varied and often complex, but the sense of hopelessness and disconnect are common. "To ensure that people are protected from suicidal thoughts, we need to make a concerted and genuine effort to be there for one another and really walk in one another's shoes," RU OK Campaign Director Rebecca Lewis said. "RU OK? Day is a national reminder for us all to start a conversation that could change a life." (*)

The power of just being there is so much greater than we realise. Even when it appears to go unnoticed. A sense of connectedness – through family, school or community is one of the primary preventative factors in suicide.

What this means for us at Thiele is that we have a strong focus on the wellbeing of our students through the promotion of our school values of respect, achievement, integrity and sustainability. We also have social development programs that include Play is the Way, Restorative Practice in dealing with relationships, recess and lunchtime play, Pastoral Care Worker, support services and a leadership position in student wellbeing and engagement. A significant protective factor is regular attendance at school because it promotes connectedness to develop positive relationships and routines.

The basic premise of this is that for a student to be a successful learner they must feel good about themselves and develop resilience. Resilience and the ability to bounce back and problem solve are important attributes that we endeavor to develop in our students.

For support contact:
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Men’s Line: 1300 78 99 78
- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

(*) Reference – Sarah Berry: The Sydney Morning Herald

Cheers
Shaun
ENROLMENTS 2016

Are you looking at enrolling at Thiele Primary School in 2016?

There are spaces available but we need your information so we can coordinate transition visits and ensure there are spaces available in year levels for students.

If you haven’t already completed an enrolment form for 2016 please see Jayne Hardy - Front Office Thiele Primary School.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Thank you to all of the families that supported the Father’s Day Stall. It was one of the most successful we have had. We hope the Dads enjoyed receiving their special gifts on Sunday, as much as the students had selecting them.

A very big thank you has to go to Kirsti Ilic who has come on board the Fundraising Committee, very recently and who took on the organising of the Father’s Day stall. Also a big thank you to the mums who stepped in to help Kirsti on ‘stall’ days – Kylie Perry, Kelly Keens, Alexis Smith, Lisa Filipenko and Anita Bailey – without your help this would not have been able to go ahead. We hope you all enjoyed it and appreciate you giving us your time.

The Thiele Fundraising Committee has a number of vacancies to fill, in fact Kirsti is our only member at this time, and we would love it if more of you would like to volunteer some of your time to help with this vital part of our school community. Contrary to what you may think about committing to this committee taking up a lot of time, we generally only have 4-6 fundraising events for Thiele a year. Please contact the front office if you are able to help.

Once again thankyou to everyone for your support and look out for the Christmas Stall which is just around the corner – Sorry!

CASUAL DAY

Friday 18th September is our next Casual Day. This Casual Day will support the "Shoeboxes of Love" or something to place into a shoebox to support orphaned children overseas. If you chose to bring an item for the shoebox you may choose:

- something to wear
- something to cuddle
- something for school (paper, pencils)
- something to play (ball, skipping rope, finger puppets)

Please ensure that the items chosen do not leak or melt, are not food items, damaged or used, breakable, scary or harmful, gambling related, religious, racial or political.

You may complete a whole shoebox if you would like to make one up for a girl or boy aged between 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 years old.

GIRLS TROUSERS/SKIRTS

If anyone has any girl’s trousers or skirts their child has outgrown and willing to donate to the Thiele sick room it would be very much appreciated.

COMMUNITY LOTTERY

There is only one week to go for your chance to win a fantastic prize in the People’s Choice Community Lottery and help earn money for Campus. If you have a book of tickets, please sell them and return the stubs and money to your school’s front office in the next month to be eligible to go into the draw. Additional books of tickets are still available if you need another. Or you can purchase tickets online at www.peoples.choicecu.co.au/aberfoyle-park-primary-school-campus

The lottery closes on 18th September and all books (sold or unsold) with the money must be returned to Campus. Let’s try to raise the most money possible for the Campus!

Respect – Achievement - Integrity - Sustainability
The Woolworths Earn & Learn sticker campaign finished on 8th of September 2015. If you still have either completed, partially completed sticker sheets or loose stickers at home, can you please place them in the Earn & Learn box in the front office as soon as possible.

All stickers need to be sent off before the end of Term 3 to be counted. So even if your sheet is incomplete, we have extra loose stickers to finish it off and get it included. Every sticker helps, so get them into the box as quickly as you can.

Campus PINS celebrated Spring and Show week with some special visitors today in the form of 2 bottle-fed baby lambs. Children were delighted to have a go at feeding and petting these tiny woolly bundles. With a huge thank you to Therese and Simon for bringing them in.

Campus Playgroup in Schools is held each Wednesday from 8.45am until 10.30am, term times. Enjoy craft, song, activities and stories with your preschooler. New families welcome to come and try. Gold coin donation entry.

You are invited to:

2015 Australian International Pedal Prix
24 Hour Race

When: 12 noon Saturday 19 September – 12 noon Sunday 20 September
Where: Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge

Campus Tornadoes pits are 185-187 Pit H at the northern end of the track (map attached)
Look out for the big maroon Pedal Prix trailer and the “landmark” big catering tent!

There will be 228 trikes racing continuously over the 24 hours!
Watching Campus students race against other schools in the biggest race of its kind in the southern hemisphere is an awesome day out and a great way to see how exciting and rewarding it is for students to participate in Pedal Prix.

We look forward to welcoming you to join us amidst the excitement and we thank you for your support during season 2015!

Any questions? 😊

Please contact Ali Sellick on 0416 175252

Respect – Achievement - Integrity - Sustainability
25 Reasons
Why My Local Public School Is Great

1. Caring staff, aware of complexities and diversity within the local community
2. Non-denominational; accepting and respectful of all religions and beliefs within the school and local community
3. Inexpensive, affordable school fees
4. Facilities targeted for children’s education
5. Strong focus and attention on students, who are considered as the prime clients
6. Learning programs that meet the needs of each child
7. Students and parent can walk to school, creating less traffic congestion
8. Clear and openly evident stance against bullying
9. Students form friendships networks within their local neighbourhood
10. Welcome access for community use of school facilities after hours
11. Creates a strong sense of community, often the hub of the community
12. Prepares students for life through the acceptance of differences and the development of resilience
13. The staff never give up on anyone, child or parent
14. Offers learning opportunities and work opportunities to adults within the community – teachers and volunteers – who may not get a fair go elsewhere
15. Has solid links with other government agencies, which helps to support student and their families
16. Staff continually seek ways to make all children literate and numerate for their world
17. Helps students understand cultural differences on a daily basis, both discreetly and overtly
18. Connected to local community centres and local businesses
19. Provides the catalyst for families getting to know each other in the local community
20. Builds a sense of community and a sense of belonging
21. Responsive to individual needs
22. Works closely with and for families that need support
23. Provides education for all, and not selective of potential enrolments
24. Creates employment in small towns/communities
25. Provides and consolidates strong values base for students