From the Principal

Farewell
It has been another extremely exciting and successful year. I am always amazed at how much we manage to squeeze into one year and all of the exciting and rewarding experiences that we are involved in. The End of Year Performance again highlighting ‘Curiosity’ with a real focus on learning, inquiry, creativity and of course curiosity. Our sports programs were again well attended from Sports Day, Basketball and Netball competitions, table tennis, athletics, hockey, Beach Safety Day and many sporting clinics. Last week we held the Sports Presentation Night and the Sports Person of the Year for 2015 was won by Hawi A, for her outstanding achievements in athletics and netball. Congratulations Hawi!

On Tuesday night we held our Graduation Ceremony for the Year 7 students. A wonderful ceremony, organized by the students which began with a presentation from our Taiko drumming troupe Himawari Daiko and leader Pauline Thomas followed by dinner and then a disco. Special thanks to the staff who stayed on to assist, Mira who always organizes the meal and the Year 6/7 students and teachers for setting up and coordinating such a wonderful event. There were a number of awards presented on the night to our graduates which represented their outstanding contribution to our school and community in general.

The winners were Citizenship Award, presented by Rachael Sanderson the Honorable Member for Adelaide, to Ed C.
Health and Physical Education Award to James C
Environmental Award to Tullula R
Approaches to Learning Award to Luca P
Community and Service Award to Nandi N
Student of the Year Awards to Room 13 Zavier K
Room 12 Oliver P
Room 14 Raye F

Thank You’s & Goodbye’s
A big thank you to all of the volunteers across the school who make everything we do possible. From going on excursions, listening to reading and being on committees, your work is invaluable.

A very special thank you to Kath Vannan and Andrew Crocker who have both acted as Chairpersons and long standing members of our School Council. Both of whom have served the school with the best interest of all children at heart. I have appreciated their support.

We will also farewell Alison Hicks and Jane Glasson who will be leaving, Deb Fisher and Rachel Cumpper who have both worked in the IELC throughout the year & who we hope will return in 2015. Finally, I would like to farewell all of the students leaving our school and wish them all of the best for their futures.

Have a wonderful Xmas, happy New Year & safe holidays.

Deb
NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Thanks to all the teachers for their hard work throughout the year and for providing an interesting, challenging and creative learning environment for our children. Once again it has been a busy year. Some of the highlights of the year include:

- The redevelopment of the Front Office which has transformed this space
- Teaching for Effective Learning pilot program
- Implementation of the Australian Curriculum
- Continuation of Microsoft Partners project
- IB projects – once again demonstrating thinking and learning out of the square
- Deb McMahon being nominated as SA teacher of the year for the second year in a row
- An amazing end of year concert once again showcasing the talent within the school
- Another successful Sports Day
- Kids Matter which continues to extend the school community’s understanding of the social and emotional needs of children
- A very successful Quiz Night that raised money and brought the school community together
- A Grounds Committee that has formed to start the much needed changes to the grounds
- Unfortunately there have been delays in the redevelopment of the new space but this will be an exciting project for 2015.

Also I would like to thank Mira and all the staff at OSHC for providing a safe and nurturing environment for children before and after school and during the holidays. Assessment as part of the National Quality Framework has been undertaken and the program did well on most indicators.

Also I would like to thank the staff and parents on the School Council. It has been a privilege to serve on this committee for the last seven years.

There are some special thanks and goodbyes to acknowledge. Firstly we farewell Alison Hicks after 21 years at Gilles Street Primary School. Thanks for your passion for books and dedication to learning and we wish you all the best for the future. Enjoy retirement.

We would also like to wish Senorita Jane all the best for her travels next year. Your passion for Spanish has taken learning to a new level in the school.

Lastly I would like to thank Andrew Crocker who has been a longstanding member of the School Council, previous chair and secretary. Thanks for all your hard work and good luck with pedagogy in the future.

Thanks everyone for all your support.

Kath Vannan

SEEDS PROJECT

Angela and Val’s classes travelled to Horsnell Gully on Monday where they met Dr Dan, an amazing scientist, and Michael Yeo from the Botanic Gardens. The students walked through the gully and were horrified to see that the blackberry bushes, introduced from England, have almost smothered our native bush. We did see a few native orchids and several koalas. Many children plan to take their parents on a visit during the holiday break.

Next year’s classes will need to work very hard to ensure that our seedlings, of Veronica Derwentiana, continue to grow and are planted in the reserve.
External School Review.
As part of our continuous school improvement we will be involved in an External School Review with a review panel. The purpose of external school reviews is to support schools to raise achievement, sustain high performance and provide quality assurance to build public confidence in government schools. All government schools will be externally reviewed over the next four year period.
The focus of the review is to evaluate schools’ performance -
**How well does the school improve achievement, growth, challenge, engagement and equity?**
The External School Review will be held at our school in the week beginning 23rd February 2015.
The review panel consists of a review officer and a trained review principal.
We will find out the aspects of the school’s performance which have been validated through the review processes as well as the improvements that we need to make in the future.
During the External School Review, some students, parents, Governing Council members and staff will be asked to provide information to the review panel in a number of ways. These include:
- individual interviews
- focus group discussions (with students or staff or parents)
- meetings (usually Governing Council, staff meeting)
- observations of student learning

We will be sending home further information at the beginning of next year.
We appreciate your support and time in helping us with this external school review process.
If you would like more information, please contact me on 82235184. Deb O’Neill

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**Surf Safety Day**

Last Monday, Rooms 14, 3, 16 and 17 went to Glenelg Beach. We walked to the tram stop at South Terrace and caught the tram to Moseley Square at Glenelg Beach in 30 minutes.
We had to wear our bathers and went to the Glenelg Surf Club where we were divided into groups. My instructor was called Will.
First we did some jogging on the beach and some racing to the water. If we were last back to the line that Will made, we had to do 5 star jumps. I came last once.
Next, Will stood in the water and we had to race around him. After that we practiced rescuing each other using ropes and floats. We did some body surfing and had to dive under the wave and get some sand in our hand and show it to our instructor. We did some surfing on the boards with the help of our instructor.
Then we changed our clothes and we sat down with our instructor and talked about safety on the beach. We learnt about rips and sea animals in SA waters. What to do if you are in danger and always read the signs at the beach.
After that we ate our recess and then played cricket. Devendra and I scored lots of runs and I also took two wickets. Next we played beach volleyball. A kid called Rahul from Bangladesh joined us, he taught us how to serve properly.
Then our class went for a walk with room 3. We played on the swings and saw the ship that the first English people came to South Australia on. We also saw lots of jelly fish. Ms Scott gave everyone an ice block. At that moment everyone saw dolphins, except me.
We went back over a bridge and near the tram we saw a stone monument on which information was written. After looking at and reading it we caught the tram. We walked back to school over the Pulteney School’s bridge and that was the end of my visit to Glenelg Beach.
It was a fast, tiring and joyful day.

Shaurya Room 14
THRASS is a teaching tool that helps student learning of English, making reading and spelling acquisition much simpler, faster and more sustainable.

THRASS is a tool that we will use as a whole school approach from 2015. We would like your support in helping your children develop better literacy skills.