Dear Parents/Caregivers and Community Members,

WELCOME BACK

It was pleasing to meet with our students on Monday morning to welcome them back to school for the 2005 school year. In particular we welcome Jenna Purcell, Justin Perrott, Daniel Bastian, Mitchell Cummings, Max Pope, Billy Hayes, Richard and Samantha Norris, Kane Sincock, Brad Wiseman, Brooke Curtis, Grace Chopin and Shantelle Fisher. I trust that you both value and enjoy your education at Cowell Area School.

Welcome back to Kyla Hornhardt who returns to our school after a year abroad.

TERM ONE EVENTS

This term ends on Friday, April 15th. Easter Friday is March 25th. Our swimming carnival is set for Monday, February 21st. Sports Day will be conducted on Thursday, March 24th. Interschool Sports Day will be conducted at Cowell on Tuesday, April 12th.

TEACHING STAFF

I understand that there have been comments from a few of our community about the downsize of our staff from last year. Our staffing is dictated by student numbers. The school was considerably overstuffed and with uncertainty of the new funding model, we needed to rationalise our staffing. There are procedures set by the Department of Education and Children’s Services. These procedures were followed and so the reduction took place. It would have delighted me if we did not have to reduce our staffing. If you wish further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Margaret Tonkin for her great effort in providing uniforms over the last 11 years.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

We had most successful results from our Year Twelve’s at the end of last year. Congratulations to our students and staff on their efforts. Please find an article below from the Eyre Peninsula Tribune regarding our successes.

The efforts of students and staff at the Cowell Area School were rewarded at the conclusion of the 2004 school year according to principal Graeme Stacey. "All year 12 students achieved their South Australian Certificate of Education and students at the school performed particularly well in nine different subjects in their Year 12 results," he said. "Of special note are the Merit Awards (20 out of 20) achieved by Ryan Beatie in Seafood Operations (Aquaculture) and Troy Schuler in Chemistry. Students at the school gained very high achievement scores in Geography Studies, Mathematical Studies, Specialist Mathematics, Physics, English Communications, Mathematical Applications and Physical Education. Alesha Jones and Shaun Smith contributed to the tally of As achieved with Ryan and Troy. Samantha Lock and Rebecca Crettenden also gained high achievement in areas of their studies. Senior school coordinator, Lorraine Walford said: "We are extremely proud of the successes demonstrated by the students over such a diverse range of subjects. "The school has demonstrated that students in smaller area schools can 'match it' with their counterparts in larger schools when a team approach is taken in education." Mr Stacey expressed delight in the achievements of students at the school. "The partnerships established in our school certainly developed opportunities for the success of its students," he said. "Successes such as those that the students have experienced started way back. These successes have encouraged positive learning experiences and provided the stage for students to do well." Regards Graeme Stacey

BETTER TEACHING NEEDS BETTER INFORMATION

DECS is currently working with State/Territory and Commonwealth Education Departments to collect and use a wider information base about our students than the one we have now. Here in SA we already collect most of the information required when you enrol your children. From 2005, the only new information that schools need to collect will be about parents’ occupation and education levels. To keep this information from getting too personal, parents will simply tick boxes from a number of categories, rather than giving details. The State Government Information Policy Principles guarantee that this information will remain private and only used to support teachers as they plan more effective programs for each child. Your personal consent is required if this information is to be used for any other purpose. Your information will make significant difference to the quality of our educational programs. If you have any questions, though, about the new enrolment form and its questions, please contact Accountability and Strategic Futures Unit by telephoning 8226 3269.

SPORTS CARNIVALS TERM 1

Dates are as follows:
R-12 Swimming Carnival—Monday, February 21st
R-12 Sports Day—Thursday, March 24th
Interschool Sports Day (at Cowell) - Tuesday, April 12th

We are looking for parents to join our Sports Committee and to help out with the running of these days. If you could help, please contact Colleen Peters.

New enrolments will be placed into teams at the end of this week. If you have any specific preferences for teams, please leave details at the Front Office by tomorrow, Thursday, February 4th.

Colleen Peters

HOODED WINDCHEATERS

We will be placing an order for hooded windcheaters next Monday, February 7th. Please contact Front Office staff if you wish to place an order.

PAYMENT OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

We are asking that community news articles be paid for at the time of submission. No articles will be accepted without payment. Please pay cash to Michelle Elson or Donna Story (exemption for groups/clubs who submit weekly). Rates are as follows: 40 words or less = $2 (5c per word thereafter). “FOR SALE” notices can only be submitted into the newsletter if they have been/are advertised in the Eyre Peninsula Tribune. Thank you.

Dates to remember............

06/04/05 - 12/04/05 Interschool Sports Day at Cowell
24/03/05 - 28/03/05 Easter Break
25/02/05 - 26/02/05 Swimming Carnival
08/04/05 - 14/04/05 SASSA Athletics
09/05/05 - 13/05/05 Year 7/8 Camp - Port Augusta
21/02/05 - 22/02/05 Sports Day

Our vision is: “To be a leading provider in the education of young people, specialising in aquaculture and the environment”
UNITING CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Begins this Sunday, February 6th at 10.30am. Our Sunday School is interdenominational and open to children from 3 years old. Please contact Sue Story if you have any queries 8629 7068.

HOSPITAL/HOSTEL AUXILIARY

First meeting for 2005 will be held on Wednesday, February 9th at 1.30pm in Hostel Loungeroom. We welcome anyone who has an interest in the Hospital or Hostel.

KUMON MATHS & ENGLISH PROGRAMMES

Correspondence or contact studies are available for students of all abilities by means of the Kumon Maths and English programmes. Call Bridget or Keith Tattersall at Kumon Port Lincoln Study Centre 8683 0107 (ph/fax).

STUDENT EXCHANGE AUSTRALIA

FREE INFORMATION EVENING
Wednesday 16th February at 7.30pm
Rydges South Park
1 South Terrace, Adelaide Phone 1300135331 (cost of a local call)
www.studentexchange.org.au

MUSIC MATTERS

offers

KINDERMUSIK

UCA Hall Cleve Tuesday and Wednesday mornings
Music and movement curriculum for 18mths – 7 years
Singing, vocal play, rhythms and rhymes, story telling, dance, imaginative play, pre-reading and writing music skills. Age appropriate At Home Packs include CDs, literature books, Family Activity Book, carry bag, instrument. Current research shows music plays a significant role in early child development. The music/movement connection helps social, emotional, physical, language and cognitive skills. Ring Heather Dennis for a colour brochure 8682 5006. Enrol now for classes starting 15th February.

OCCASIONAL CARE

Where: St Pauls Kindergarten, Cowell.
We are located at 42 Story Road
When: Tuesday 9am—11.45am 12.15pm—3pm
Thursday 9am—11.45am
For Whom: Children aged 2—5 years
Costs: Fees are on a sliding scale
For more information phone the Kindy on 8629 2243 or call in and visit us on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

TAFESA COURSES AT CLEVE CAMPUS

FIREARMS SAFETY will run on Sunday, April 3rd. Anyone needing a gun licence should apply for the police clearance immediately, to be able to attend this course.

SENIOR FIRST AID is planned for March.

COMPUTING

Basic courses are $25 per session or $15 concession.
18th Feb FIRST LOOK AT COMPUTERS
18th Feb CREATING TABLES IN WORD
22nd Feb LETTERS AND POSTERS
23rd Feb, 2.9, and 16th March PREPARING POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS Cost $60 or $40 concession
1st March SAVING AND FINDING FILES
4th March CLIP ART AND WORD ART
4th March PREPARING A NEWSLETTER
8th March USING TOOLBARS
11th and 18th March Two day workshop on creating a web page using “Front Page” Cost $80 or $53 concession
23rd, 30th March 6th and 13th April EXCEL SPREADSHEETS Cost $80 or $53 concession.

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Opening Times: due to a staff cut there has been a change to Monday’s times. At this time it will only be Monday’s that are affected. Therefore, the Library WILL NOT OPEN to the community until 1.15pm and will close at 4pm each Monday. (Term time only). We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause. We shall continually monitor times and adjust where necessary. We thank you for your co-operation.

Other days as usual:
Tuesday 9am—5pm
Wednesday 9am—5pm
Thursday 9am—5pm and 7pm—9pm
Friday 9am—5pm
Closed weekends and public holidays.
The Library is available, after hours, for use by community groups for meetings, workshops etc. Just ask Library staff.

New books: These are to be found in the new book stand just inside the Front Access door. As new books come in they will be put in this stand.

COWELL NETBALL CLUB

The Cowell Netball Club is a recalling for coaches for all grades for the 2005 season. Please send a written application to Emma Carmody SECRETARY PO Box 66, Cowell SA 5602 or Fax 86285001. For further information call 86285004. Applications close Tuesday 8th February 2005.

JUNIOR TENNIS

Premiership Table
Yellow 13 109%
Green 11 96%
Red 8 107%
Blue 6 104%
Aqua 6 86%

Games for this week Feb 5th
Red V Yellow Blue V Green
Bye – Aqua
Red parents on Roster

COWELL AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

A committee meeting will be held TONIGHT Wednesday, February 2nd at 7pm in the School Library.

Time Trials: Tuesday, February 8th for A,B,C,and D grade.
Parents needed for timing.

Training Times
Monday E Grade 4pm—4.45pm
C Grade 5pm—5.45pm
A & B Grade 6.45pm—6.45pm

Tuesday—Time Trials—to be arranged

Wednesday E Grade 4pm—4.45pm
D Grade 5pm—5.45pm
A & B Grade 5.45pm—6.45pm

Friday D Grade 4pm—4.45pm
C Grade 4.45pm—5.30pm
A & B Grade 5.30pm—6.30pm

COWELL FOOTBALL CLUB

Pre Season Training began on February 1st. It will continue every Tuesday night at 6pm. There will be training on Sunday, February 6th at 10am followed by a club BBQ organised at the clubrooms beginning at 12noon. All players, sponsors & families invited to come along and meet the coaches for 2005.

PARENTS & FRIENDS

Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, February 10th at 1.30pm in the School Library. New and current members welcome.