From the Leaders
It is amazing to think our holidays have passed by so quickly and we have returned to school for 2016. We welcome all of our students and families back to Strathalbyn R-6 this year. We trust that everyone is feeling relaxed, refreshed and reinvigorated ready for the new school year to begin.

The year has started off with strength and positivity with all students already engaged in authentic teaching and learning programs. Our Reception students are already happy, settled little learners that are excited to join the Strathalbyn R-6 family. Our teaching staff are very excited about their classes and have been busily collaborating and preparing high quality teaching and learning programs that are directly related to the strategic directions of the school plan.

As of today we have 574 students enrolled at the Strathalbyn R-6 Campus, 45 more students than last year.

Quality Start
The first two weeks of the school year at our R-6 Campuses begin with “A Quality Start”. Together teachers and students build a classroom environment that is caring, connected, supportive, safe and an enjoyable place to be. Children do better physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively when they have a strong sense of connectedness to their classroom and school community.

During ‘A Quality Start’ students engage in activities that help them get to know their teacher and classmates well. The program includes opportunities to promote cooperation and collaboration through discussions, sharing, listening and supporting each other.

Students develop understandings about how they learn best and how to look after their brain to maximise learning. They develop skills in using a variety of thinking tools and strategies that can promote and support independent, effective learning, both at school and in their future lives.

During ‘A Quality Start’ the classroom is established as a community for learning where it is a purposeful place, a communicative place, a just place, a disciplined place, a caring place and a celebrative place.
New Faces for 2016
Schools are dynamic and vibrant places with many dedicated members of staff. On any given day at Strathalbyn R-6 we have up to 47 staff members all working together to make our students education the best it can be. In 2016 we are very fortunate to have a passionate team of collaborative educators teaching our students including new staff. We warmly welcome Ally Mead (Room 20, Reception), Belinda Jones (Room 24, Year 1), Meg Russo (team teacher, Room 10, Year 4), Bryn Lewis, Carly Filsell and Jodie Heinrich, SSOS, to our team this year.

Our canteen will be run by Sharon in Term 1. Cleaning staff including Lyn Ayres, Di Stewart and Les Kissell will continue to support our school.

We welcome our new Reception students as they begin their first full days at school. What a fabulous time for them as they begin their educational journey.

Morning Arrival and Afternoon Dismissal times
Supervision in our playground begins at 8.25am each morning. We do ask parents to bring their children to school after this time so they are supervised in the back playground.

The YMCA has an Out of School Hours service for families if they need to leave their child at school before this time.

Absence notes should be given to each child’s teacher on the day they return to school. Explanations should be clearly outlined so the reason for the absence can be accurately recorded. If your child is absent for longer than three days it is important that you contact the school to let them know the reason for the absence. In the case of holidays, we have exemption forms which can be obtained from the Front Office.

Wednesday - Early dismissal day
Students with siblings at Kindy or students who catch the Callington bus can stay in the Resource Centre with supervision until either their parents can collect them or the Callington bus arrives. Please advise the school if you wish to use this service.

Carers Afternoon/Evening
We hope you take the opportunity to welcome you to our Carers Acquaintance Night on Monday 15th February beginning at 5.15pm, to meet our current staff who will share class learning programs for the year. Notes have already gone out with times and a crèche will be available in the Resource Centre for a gold coin donation.

Swimming
What wonderful weather we have had for our junior primary classes starting there swimming lessons this week. Lessons will continue over the next two weeks, with middle and upper primary teachers supporting their students heading down to our local pool. Please note we have had a change to dates due to the SAPSASA swimming carnival. If your child is due to swim in Week 4 they will now not swim on Wednesday 24/2 and will swim on Thursday 25/2, an updated program will go to classes effected.

School Captains
Congratulations to our new School Captains and Vice Captains for 2016. We had over 20 students prepare speeches to present to their peers before voting took place. Our new School Leaders will be involved in assemblies, special events and provide our school community wonderful role models within our site.

White Sit Out Note
We are always looking at ways to increase and improve our communication with parents and with this in mind, we are now going to staple the White Sit Out Focus note in student diaries to alert you that your child attended Focus during that day.

What is Focus I hear you say?
To align to the 7-12 campus and have consistent language R-12, we have change the name of our Thinking Room to Focus. If there is a yard incident students may be required to miss play to work through a restorative process to talk through incident, repair harm and discuss better behaviour choices. Leaders and teachers will continue to contact parents by phone when required.

LOST
Diamond stud earring
If found please take to the Front Office.
Uniform
We have been so impressed with how smart the students look this year. The transition period for the new uniform has finished and once again, the Uniform Shop was very busy in the days before school started.

Just a reminder that students are required to wear hats at playtime in Term One. Bucket hats ($12) are available from our Front Office. Also we are happy for the students to wear sandshoes, school sandals, black leather or canvas lace up shoes. No crocs, girls slip ons or surf shoes please.

Uniform Shop
Located on our 7-12 Campus at 11 Callington Road, Strathalbyn

Tuesdays 8.30—10.40am
Thursdays 3.45 - 5.45pm

Outside these hours, uniform enquiries can be directed to
Ms Julie Martin at
Bubbells Embroidery
Ph 85362648/0417771944
Email: bubbells@adam.com.au

Kiss and Drop Zone
Morning Only
In the morning our Kiss & Drop Zone is open for parents to drop off students.

At all times this area is Standing Only, which means there is a minute time limit for parking. Parents must not park and leave their cars.

if your child is not ready for pick up you need to leave the zone within 2 minutes and return after driving around the block.

If you wish to pick your student up from their classroom you will need to find a parking space with a longer time permitted.

WANTED
Second hand uniforms
If you have any items you would like to sell or donate to the school, they would be greatly appreciated.
Shirts, shorts, skirts, dresses, jumpers etc.
Please drop any uniform items off to the Front Office.

Thank You.

CANTEEN NEWS
I would like to warmly welcome new students and their parents to the school plus our returning students and their parents.

Our Summer menu continues for this term only. (Term 2 and 3 is our new winter menu) If you require a copy of the menu, please call in the canteen to collect one.

For our new students/parents who are unsure how our canteen works: Lunch orders- can either be filled out at home and them send with money in their lunch order bag and drop off to canteen in the morning before class starts OR other option is to come to the canteen between 8.20am and 9am and fill out their lunch order and pay for it then and there. Any queries or concerns please feel free to come and talk to me.

Lunch orders need to be placed first thing in the morning, before 9am. Late orders cannot be guaranteed depending on preparation time and may have to be substituted for another item on menu. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Volunteers
If you would like to help out once or twice a term please feel free to come and see me. Current days available are Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays. Also require volunteers on our special days: Litter Free/Sports Day/Gala Night.

Thank you for your continued support of the canteen.

Sharon White
Welcome from Governing Council

Welcome to the 2016 school year, and an especially warm welcome to all new parents, carers and students joining Eastern Fleurieu School for the first time. As Governing Council chair I wanted to provide some information about our Council and also outline how parents can nominate to join the 2016 Governing Council.

Governing Council at Eastern Fleurieu School consists of parents from across our campuses, along with our Principal Trevor Fletcher, our Directors of Primary and Secondary Education, staff representatives and a community representative, along with input from our student leaders. It’s a great opportunity for the many people involved in our school community to come together and work towards building an exciting future for our school and its students.

One of the many strengths of Eastern Fleurieu School is its strong engagement with its parent community. Our Principal Trevor Fletcher, and all the school leaders, greatly value the input of parents. This means that each Governing Council member makes a significant contribution to the development of school policies and to establishing the strategic direction for the school.

Governing Council Nominations

We are calling for nominations for 7 positions on the Eastern Fleurieu School Governing Council.

The 2016 Governing Council comprises 16 members, 10 of whom are elected parents. Elected terms are for two years. These parents are not campus representatives but are representatives for all parents in this R-12 multi-campus school. The Council meets on the third Monday of each month (with a minimum of two meetings per term) and travels to each of our five school campuses throughout the year.

If you are interested in nominating for Governing Council, please contact Heather Goldfinch at the school on ph 8536 2455 (Tuesday to Friday) or email to: heather.goldfinch686@schools.sa.edu.au and she will provide you with a nomination slip. Self nominations are acceptable. All persons who are parents and guardians of the school are eligible to nominate. If there are more than the required number of nominations received a ballot will take place.

Nominations close at 4pm on Wednesday 24th February 2016.

If you have any questions about Governing Council and what’s involved, please feel free to contact myself, Andrew Joyner (Chairperson of EFS Governing Council) or Trevor Fletcher (Principal of Eastern Fleurieu School) via the school on phone 8536 2455.

AGM

The AGM of the Governing Council will be held on Monday 21st March 2016 at 6.30 pm in the Resource Centre at the 7-12 Campus, 11 Callington Rd, Strathalbyn. All parents, carers and students are welcome to attend. It’s a great way to gain some insight into how our school is performing and the plans for the year ahead.

Andrew Joyner
Chairperson
Governing Council
Eastern Fleurieu School

Counsellor’s Corner

Growth Mindset

As part of our Quality Start we are continuing to talk to students about developing a Growth Mindset.

In general, a growth mindset is the belief that intelligence and ‘smartness’ can also be learned and that the brain grows from experience and effort. The opposite, a fixed mindset, is the idea that you are smart, or you are not. In math, that translates into “some people are good at math, and some are not.”

Did you know that praising efforts rather than intelligence or results can impact your child’s ability to persevere in challenges?! The goal is to have children thrive on challenges and see failures, not as a sign of low intelligence, but as a learning opportunity.

Brain research tells us that making mistakes actually wires more connections into the brain! When a person has a growth mindset, they accept challenges, see their efforts as worthwhile, and are open to learning from mistakes. Students with a growth mindset achieve at higher levels than those with fixed mindsets.

Did you know that praising efforts rather than intelligence or results can impact your child’s ability to persevere in challenges?! The goal is to have children thrive on challenges and see failures, not as a sign of low intelligence, but as a learning opportunity.

Some simple ways:

- Adding “yet” when they claim they are “not good at this” (Respond: “You are not good at this yet.”)
- Ask questions that focus on their effort and choices and get them to reflect on satisfaction of that effort (e.g. What did you learn today? What mistake did you make that taught you something? What did you try hard at today?)
- Model this yourself as you share about your day.
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

WELCOME BACK / GREAT START TO 2016

We have enjoyed an excellent start to the new school year with our highest ever enrolment of 1,381 students across the five campuses. This includes many new families from within and well beyond our normal catchment zone. We warmly welcome these students and their parents / carers to Eastern Fleurieu School and we trust your time with us will be rewarding and positive. I am pleased to report that our new EFS bus which transports students from Goolwa to Strathalbyn is already full and we are pleased to have another bus that we can also use for various school activities. Our growing student population has also enabled us to appoint a good number of new teachers and there is at least one at every EFS campus in 2016. We are now in the fortunate position that there is tremendous interest in any teaching vacancies at our school, which means that we can select only the very best colleagues to join our team. We are both proud and protective of the particular culture we have developed at EFS and it is most important that we continue to strengthen our staff, as we look to improve and build upon our journey of success. Last year saw further changes and new programs and we were particularly pleased to celebrate the growth in learning outcomes all the way through to our Year 12 students who achieved at a high level with their SACE studies.

JOHN FLEMING

Our teachers and SSO’s again spent a full day working with John Fleming in the week before our students returned to school. We are one of the few schools in South Australia to have adopted Mr. Fleming’s model of explicit instruction for all year levels R-12. It was tremendous to observe this approach working effectively for teachers and students in all of our EFS classrooms throughout 2015. We noticed that it helped teachers to structure and deliver their lessons with more confidence and that students were more engaged, clearer about the purpose and success criteria for their lessons and more likely to retain what they had learned. This year, we are looking at how we can further develop and embed this approach across EFS and we will be hosting Mr Fleming and his team of coaches for some demonstration lessons with our students in June.

INVITATION TO PARENTS

A key component of the EFS culture is the great involvement and support from our parents and carers at each of our five campuses. We are determined to keep building on this key component of our improvement plan during 2016. We expect our teachers to be proactive and authentic in their communication with parents. We are all looking forward to interacting with you next week at the Acquaintance functions organised for each campus. You are also welcome to attend a range of special events, such as the regular assemblies and special activities held at each campus. We have very active Campus Advisory Committees at each campus, including the new group which was formed at the 7-12 campus in 2015. During the next month, we will be conducting the election process for Governing Council and all are welcome to stand for a position on this important decision-making group at our school.

PERSONAL NOTE

This year will be the fifth and final year of my current contract as EFS Principal. While I am in a position to retire, I am still very much loving my work with our students, staff and community. As a result, I have not yet made a decision as to whether or not I will seek an extension of my contract beyond the end of 2016. I am certainly very excited about this year and that remains my point of focus.

Trevor Fletcher - Principal

Parent Club

Members Wanted!
If you’re interested in joining the Parent Club please fill in the form below and return to the Front Office.
Any support would be greatly appreciated.
I’d like to join Parent Club

Name ____________________________________________
Phone Number ___________________________

Strathalbyn “OUR TIME”
Formerly P.O.Ds
(Parents of children with disabilities)

When: Mondays, fortnightly
Where: Emmanuel House, 2 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn
Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm
Dates: 8/2/16, 22/2/16, 5/3/16, 21/3/16, 4/4/16.

You will have fun and share experiences.
Find out about available community support.
Relax, enjoy morning tea and an activity.
Ph: Kerry on 85510553 or 0439824812
Welcome back for 2016. Thank you to families who have paid their school fees or applied for a school card. School Card applications need to be completed each year. Please bring your Health Care Card when submitting applications. School hats available at Finance office $12. Choir contracts can be returned to the Finance Office along with $25 asap. Payments can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or by credit card online. Finance Office open 8.30am - 4.00pm daily.

HELEN WAKEFIELD
Finance Officer

SCHOOL BANKING
Every Tuesday Morning

New Commonwealth Bank School Banking rewards now available!

Exciting new Term 1 rewards with an Outback Savers theme are now available, while stocks last!

**Flying Snake Tail**

**Wildlife Writer Set**

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their regular savings habits. There are 2 new items released each term so be sure to keep an eye out for them!

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program and don’t forget that **Tuesday** is School Banking day!

If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack from the school office.

Calling for volunteers – we need your help!

Our school participates in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program and to keep this program running we need your help.

The program requires volunteer School Banking Co-ordinator’s to facilitate the banking and distribution of School Banking rewards. This only takes a small amount of your time (approx. one hour) one day a week during school term and the Commonwealth Bank will provide support in how to run the program.

All parents and Carers welcome to **Cuppatime!**

Every Monday from 8.45 - 10am in the Activity Room.

Come and join other parents and carers for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat! A safe place for pre-schoolers to play while you relax. Free Parenting SA information brochures available.

A Kidsmatter initiative!

All parents and Carers welcome to **CAC AGM**

Monday 22 February 6.30pm

All welcome, all positions open.

Sue Miller
Chairperson

**PLEASE NOTE:**
Panama HATS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT OFFICE

HATS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT OFFICE
Calling all Dads and Kids!

Join us for Dads and Kids Dinners – a free fun-filled evening of activities and a delicious homemade dinner. Get out of the house, have some fun with the kids and meet other families! Activities suitable for children aged 0-9 years.

WHEN: Monday 22nd February, 6-8pm (Week 4)
      Monday 14th March, 6-8pm (Week 7)

WHERE: Strathalbyn Kindergarten
       9 Coronation Rd, Strathalbyn

For enquiries and to RSVP call David Hammond on 8555 2509. Bookings appreciated.

Dads and Kids Dinners is a collaboration between Children’s Centres of South Australia, Strathalbyn Kindergarten and OPAL Alexandrina.

Buz Awards
What a great start to the year! Some awesome Buz Activity (Build up zone) happening. Congratulations to Shontaya Richey, Jasper Martin, Jay Kemmis, Will Sherriff, Ollie O’Driscoll, Cooper Lynn and Ethan Fox who have all won BUZ Awards for their caring actions. Thank you and well done to these students.

Breakfast Club
Breakfast Club is off to a fun start for the year. It’s so good to catch up with the students and hear what’s happening for them.

Breakfast is Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings, 8.20 - 8.45am in the studio and is free and open to all students.

If there are any parents reading this who would like to help out at Breakfast Club I’d love to hear from you. This could be once per weekly/fortnightly or just as a back up. Please fill in the slip below or give me a call if you are interested.

BUZ Lunchtime
All families would now have received information and consent form about Friday Lunchtime Buz. If you are keen for your child to attend please fill in the consent form and return to me or send me a test or phone call if that’s easier.

I am looking forward to supporting students, families and staff in 2016. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you think I can be of assistance.

Thought for today:

“Every day is a gift -
That’s why it’s called the present”

Have a good week,

Kaye Gale (Pastoral Care Worker - 0408362512)

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‘Our Place’ Program links schools and Community Groups

This year EFS Strathalbyn R-6 classes will be involved in the new ‘Our Place’ Program run by the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association. The program links school students with local special places and the volunteer community groups that care for them. The project aims to give students a special connection with a local natural place, as well as the knowledge and skills to help keep these spaces special into the future and in doing so build the next generation of environmentalists.

Natural Resources, SAMDB have provided funding for the project that will help the school partner with the Angas River Catchment Group to care for bushland at Archery Park. The program aims to reconnect children with nature under Dr. Jane Goodall’s “Only if we understand, can we care. Only if we care, we will help. Only if we help, we shall be saved.” The idea that to get young people helping look after our environment both in the future and now, we first need to give them a connection to the natural world.

According to Nature Play SA, our children spend less than two hours a day outside, one in four have never climbed a tree, one in three have never planted a garden and the area in which they can explore, has shrunk by 90%. The program will initially involve two classes and will hopefully expand in the future!
What a great example of our caring students...

Year 2 student, Lexie Bauer has arranged a fundraiser for Cancer Research.

SATURDAY
February 13th
10.30am - 2.00pm
Woolworths
Strathalbyn
Sausage Sizzle
&
Homemade
Cupcake
stall

All proceeds go to Cancer Research.

Staff in the spotlight
Belinda Jones is our new Year 1 teacher in Room 24. She has spent the past 12 years teaching in rural and remote areas, one year teaching in Kimba and eleven years in Coober Pedy.

Belinda loves watching her students learn and develop, she is passionate about her job and enjoys the many challenges it comes with.

Belinda and her husband Jason, 8 year old daughter Sienna and 4 year old daughter Imogen live just out of Strathalbyn on a farm.

Her hobbies include spending time with her family, sewing, craft, cooking and looking after her pets, including three dogs, three horses and two guinea pigs.