Hello everyone, My apologies I started this newsletter for week 6 last term but then was sick and so now I am determined to get it out to you. There is some 'older' news.

Opening of the BER building
On Friday 16 August we had the official opening of our Multipurpose Hall building. It was opened by Senator Alex Gallacher, and attended by other VIP's including Geoff Brock & Mayor Brenton Vanstone not to mention our parents. At the event Anthony from Eyre class played the didgeridoo as part of the opening. Did you see the clip on the Southern Cross news? We all shared a morning tea and the students were wonderful. So far we have added an Interactive Star board, bright furniture and pin up boards. It is a versatile space which we use regularly and enjoy. It is a DEFINITE that we have the concert in the Hall this year. That date is Thursday 5th December Week 8 (term 4 is only a 9 week term ). Can you please put this date in your diary.

What’s happening next? - We are also proceeding with the changes to the school colours. If you recall there was a survey to all parents earlier in the year and the matter has been discussed in Governing Council. With the positive feedback from parents and staff the school will change its colours from Navy and Gold to Navy & Lime Green in 2014. We will update our signage in time. As our school uniforms are not compulsory students can continue to wear any previous T-shirts but the good news is that the school will supply each students with a free new top and hat in the new school colours. These are nearly ready to order and we look forward to getting for the start of 2014. We will send more information/photos out later. Staff and Governing Council members will also have the tops. These are all being sourced locally so that it will be easy for the community to access in the future.

Next Pupil Free Day is to review this year and identify / refine the directions for next year. 2014 is not so far away. Our focus will continue to be on communication in particular reading, wellbeing & engagement. We will also be considering the new DECD numeracy strategy. The date approved by Governing Council Term 4 Friday Wk 1/11/13.
Changes in structure within DECD: Brighter Futures. Next year will begin a series of changes to the structure in which there will be smaller clusters of schools rather than regions with regional offices. There will be a transition time for us to adjust but it does highlight and accentuate the need for us to work with other sites. One very good practice started this year has been groups of teachers across sites meeting regularly. Our staff have been sharing with both Solomontown PS & JPHS staff which strengthens the service we provide in Pirie.

Other Governing Council News: The new school crossing is nearly finished with changes also to the lighting in David St. This will slow traffic down and make it safer for our students crossing David St. We really appreciate the extent of cooperation from the Regional Council.

National Recognition Week for School Services Officers—the theme this year was SSO’s add value. All of our SSO’s add value, without their support classes would be very different. At school we had a morning tea and gave each SSO some pieces from a bigger puzzle to put together recognizing that we are all part of a bigger picture and hold pieces of the puzzle. I congratulate our SSO’s for their dedication and commitment to students and school.

Next year the same first day policy comes into place. That means that all students from kindy/ preschool will begin term 1 not staggered through the year. This will be happening for all DECD sites. The Pirie & Environs Cluster has been talking about our transition programmes to provide a consistent approach.

The Salisbury Basketball Carnival was a huge success, this year combining with students from John Pirie Secondary School.

Lettie—our Pastoral Care Worker will continue in her role next year. She has been very successful in establishing relationships with both students and staff. She has developed a strong sense of our culture and is very respectful. The focus will now be on building more connections with parents and the wider community.

WE welcome Indiana as a new student in Spencer class. We now have 36 wonderful students!!

Regards for now,
Anna
If your child is due for their Dental check-up before the end of the year, please contact the Port Pirie West School Dental Clinic on 8632 1926 NOW to see if you can obtain an appointment before the voucher expires.

**Make use of this valuable voucher.** The vouchers are only valid until the end of December and appointments are filling fast so ring now to ensure you don’t miss out.

*Note:* SA Dental Service is only able to offer an appointment if your child is due for their dental exam.

The Port Pirie West School Dental Service is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The clinic attempts to make suitable appointment times but please note Year 12 students will be given preference in relation to before and after school appointments.

All School Students, aged under 18 years, are eligible for oral health care with the School Dental Service. All dental care is free for pre-school clients.

For emergency advice after hours, please contact 1800 022 222.

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**PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILDREN REGULARLY FOR HEADLICE AS IT IS HEADLICE SEASON AND WE ALREADY HAVE HAD CASES OF HEADLICE IN THE SCHOOL.**

**SOME OF THE SIGNS OF HEADLICE ARE:**

- Scratching his/her head excessively.
- Fine black powder on the pillow.
- Nits, the lice eggs, seen as cream to coffee coloured specks stuck near the hair roots.
- The lice themselves, small white to greyish parasites about as big as a pin head.