

WOOMERA AREA SCHOOL



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

11th November 2022

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to term 4. Already we have had a number of activities. We started with two members of the Review, Improvement and Accountability Team visiting our school, talking with staff, students and our Governing Council Chair, Ben Kleemann to ensure we are on track with our planning and goals for ensuring a high quality education in our school. We have received a draft preliminary report highlighting a number of strengths in the school and helping us define our areas of improvement. Some of the positives include staff developing professional learning teams with other teachers in small schools to work together to ensure quality programmes are being created and delivered to our students with fidelity. This included the specific training of all staff in the Read Write Inc. programme. Staff are using the resources and units provided by the department to ensure that students are working at the appropriate levels.

An area of focus is for staff to continue to reflect on their practice, and use observations providing explicit feedback to improve teacher practice. As we know we can always improve. We are also focusing on providing more written and explicit formative feedback to support students know what they have to do to improve their work.

In week 2 we also had year 4 students from St Barbara's Parish School in Roxby Downs come and camp for a night. Our students joined with them on the Wednesday when we had a number of members of Defence come in to work with the students. This included some equipment displayed, drone flying, paper plane making, using a metal detector and meeting Yetti an ex service dog.

COMING UP...

11 Nov	Remembrance Day
21st Nov	Hiccup performance in Roxby
21/22 Nov	Australian Space Discovery Centre Visit
29th Nov	Presentation Night
7th Dec	Doing it for Rural Kids Governing Council Dinner
16th Dec	End of year Early Dismissal

It was a positive opportunity for our students to mix with others. Our thanks to all those who were involved for making it such an engaging afternoon for all.



Friday of week 1 was the day we celebrated World Teachers Day which commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/ UNESCO 'Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers'. This was a low key celebration at our school with students making cards for teachers and a small morning tea. This provides us with the opportunity to focus on the standards, rights and responsibilities of teachers and the opportunities we can provide our students.

Week 4 has seen us have the opportunity to learn about snakes by attending a Snake Awareness session with other members of the community. Living where we are this is something we all need to be aware of and the opportunity to view a number of snakes and to learn what to do and what not to do when you see them is invaluable at all ages. We were able to view a number of venomous snakes and how they behave all from a safe and protected distance.



Hiccup

One balmy outback night, a sleep deprived camper, a Cheeky quokka and an emu with a penchant for creating wild inventions, awake to discover that a koala has come down with a stubborn (and very loud) case of the hiccups. The three partake in an epic showdown that sees them frantically eat, sing and invent their way towards a cure before the sun comes up.

November 21st

The junior primary class will be going over to Roxby Downs for this show.

More information closer to the date.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

The word 'Halloween' means 'hallowed evening' and years ago people dressed up as saints and went door-to-door. However, today people get dressed up in costumes and then go trick-or-treating on the 31st of October. The students in the junior primary class made witches mask using paper plates, paint and paper.



Saint Barbara Parish School Visit

On Wednesday 26th October, Saint Barbara's Parish School used Woomera Area School as the base for their overnight camp. As part of their trip some of the local Air Force members visited the school and Woomera students got to participate in the event.

The afternoon started with an introduction and summary of the different roles and jobs that various members have. They showed us different uniforms, some of their camping supplies and even an Working Dog. We got to ask questions. Riley (Pre-school) bravely asked questions even though he was one of the youngest students present. After questions we headed to the oval where we watched a drone fly. The drone controller even had a little tv screen which showed us the view from the drones camera. We could see so far.

We then broke into groups and moved around four different stations. Our first station was the vehicles, we got to climb in them. Some of them had tyres bigger than our younger students and it took some effort to climb into them. We got to ask lots of questions about all the different steering mechanisms and buttons. Our second station was working with the metal detector to hunt 'landmines'. Once we found a landmine we had to dig it up. We discovered that they weren't actually landmines but cool little Aeroplane pins. Station 3 was a closer look at the ration packs, uniforms/supplies and tent/swag. It was pretty cool to see what a day's rations look like, it didn't seem like a whole lot of food. Our final station was the paper plane contest. We all made a paper plane and then raced them. The wind made our planes fly in all sorts of interesting ways.

We then regrouped for any final questions. We were all gifted stickers and a little show bag which was slightly different for everyone. We all received flags, and some of us got pins, balloons, drink bottles, notebooks, note pads, posters, magnets and various other cool stuff. After the show bags were presented we said a final thank you.

Alexandra Fowler



