Dear Parents, Guardians, Caregivers,

Welcome to the start of a new school year. All the classes have settled in nicely and attendance has started on a very good note. I would like to welcome our new teaching staff to the Onslow School community:

Miss Jo-anne Bailey in Kindergarten
Miss Cherie Matison in Upper Primary 1
Miss Dianna Pacaric in Upper Primary 2
Mr Terry Brosnan in Secondary

Please see inside for their personal introductions.

WASO

This year we have continued our partnership with WASO. Their first visit will be occurring this term during the week beginning 9th of March. The students really enjoyed their visits last year and were able to put on a fantastic performance at the Shire Christmas Concert. I can’t wait to see what interesting musical instruments they make this year.
Attendance

We have had a great start to the year with attendance. We encourage everyone to keep this up as many school activities are linked to attendance. Every Friday we run attendance games for all students who have 100% attendance for the week; we also include those students for whom we have received an acceptable explanation for when they have been away during the week.

Other Attendance based activities include the athletics carnivals, School Ball and annual Attendance Camp. As with past years, to be eligible for championships points or receive an invite to the school ball or attendance camp students must reach and maintain an attendance percentage of 80% or more or achieve their individualised attendance target.

We would also like to thank the RSAS team for their support in getting the year off to a great start with attendance and for their donation of a school pack to all the students who attended school in the first two days.

Government Assistance for Secondary Students and Parents

Eligible families are able to apply for an Education Program Allowance of $235 (payable to the school) and also a Clothing Allowance of $135 (payable to the parents) for each student enrolled full time at high school. To be eligible, the parent applying must have a Centrelink concession card with the child’s name on it. Please come into the school and see the friendly staff at Admin for assistance with the applications.

Jackie Barry
Principal
Onslow School
Welcome to the new school year. My name is Maria Christensen and I am Registered Nurse as well as a Community and Child Health Nurse providing School Health services to Onslow School. I will be visiting the school every Tuesday throughout the school year.

Community Health Nurses work in both primary and high schools to promote healthy development and wellbeing so students may reach their full potential. In Primary School, a major part of my work will be focused on early health interventions and the School Entry Health Assessment program. For our High School students, Community Nurses are skilled in providing health education support, and assessing adolescent health needs. We engage in health counselling with young people to identify issues, risks and protective factors, provide advice and brief intervention, and assist with access and referral to other services. Young people can ‘drop in’ to the School’s First Aid room where I am located, or can make an appointment to discuss health and wellbeing issues during recess times on Tuesdays when I visit the school.

It was lovely to see all of our kids coming to school with clean hands and clean faces and with shoes on their feet. These three things are very important to protect our health by preventing germs getting into our bodies. Skin is a protective barrier for our bodies. In 2015, a strong health focus is going to be on healthy skin. I will be talking a lot to the students about “Clean Hands + Clean Face = Healthy Skin”. I will also put articles in the school newsletter throughout the year, giving Parents and Carers tips on keeping their kids’ skin healthy.

YEAR 8 IMMUNISATIONS: All Year 8 Students are able to have booster immunisations for MMR and Chicken pox and start their HPV immunisations at School. These immunisations are given at three separate times throughout the year; late in term 1, term 3 and term 4. The students will be provided an information session talking about why these needles are important. Permission forms will be sent out to the Year 8 students for their Family Carer to fill in. Parents and Care givers can support their teenager to make positive health choices by filling in the form and getting it back to school as soon as possible.

I am looking forward to a fun year at Onslow School working with Students, their Families and Our Staff to have a healthy, happy 2015. If you would like to talk to me about your child’s health concerns, my mobile number is 0409 681 599.

Maria Christensen – School Health Nurse
Paul McKeigh, YouthCARE’s Support Chaplain to the Pilbara Region, will be in our school on
MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY
And
THURSDAY 19 MARCH

Does someone you love have:
Difficulties Reading?
Problems with spelling?
Worries with writing?
Find out exactly where learning has stalled and what can be done to help.
Dyslexia and Irlen Clinic
will be in your area in March 2015
Phone 1300 732 998
or email beatrice@worldwidelearningacademy.com
for appointments.
Visit worldwidelearningacademy.com for self-assessment and download the free eBook – “Read, Spell, Write, Right?”

YOUTH SPORTS TERM 1
(STARTING Week 2. FEBRUARY 9TH)

MONDAY
Active After School
Handball @ MPC
2:45pm-3:45pm / Fri: Lower Primary Age Kids

TUESDAY
Active After School
Soccer @ MPC
2:45pm-3:45pm / Fri: Upper Primary Age Kids

WEDNESDAY
Active After School
Multi Skill Day @ MPC
2:45-3:45pm, Fri: Lower Primary Age Kids

THURSDAY
UPPER PRIMARY & HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS
(Dodge & Minor Games)
2:45pm -3:45pm @ MPC

For more information/ questions contact Sarah with V Swans at 0418 865 319
Parents encouraged to come, watch, play and engage.

There will be times throughout the year where programs have to be cancelled, in this instance children will be notified the session prior and as well as at school. Sorry for any inconvenience.
Onslow Primary School P & C AGM

Onslow Primary School P & C will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4th March at 5:30 pm at the Canteen.

All positions will be declared vacant at that point.

For further information please contact Mechelle Macdonald on 0408 229 508.

UNIFORM SHOP

All uniform needs for 2015 will now be available through the P&C Association.

Order forms are available from the canteen.

Please contact the P&C at onslowpc@outlook.com or P&C Treasurer Mechelle Macdonald on 0408 229 508 for any further information.

Expression of Interest sought:

Education Assistant

0.5 FTE fixed term contract
9am to 1230pm Monday to Friday
To support the Year 5/6 classroom teacher during key literacy and numeracy periods.

Contact Marylou Wallace for further information on 9184 6062
Onslow Playgroup

For families with children aged 0-4 years. If you would like to meet fellow parents and introduce your children to new friends, please come along to one of our sessions.

During School Term:
Friday
Playgroup Day
Onslow Primary School Kindergarten, 9.30-11.30am.
Crafts, music, sensory play, stories and free play.
$2 per family. Please bring a small plate of fruit to share.

We look forward to meeting you and your family.

Story Time

During School Term:
Monday
Onslow Primary School Library, 9.30-10.30am
Songs, rhymes and stories.

For further information please contact our committee members:
Amanda Meyers 0439 698 262
Annette Jacobs 0420 894 722
Nicole Burke 0439 986 782
Rebecca Dawe 0439 794 044

V Swans, through their partnership with Onslow School, are excited to offer their pilot program, “JET”, to Upper Primary students in 2015. JET stands for Join, Engage and Thrive.

JET is a support program that will be delivered 3 days per week (1 hour sessions) during students’ regular class times.

It is built on project-based learning principles, and delivered through a sports and activity medium, so that sports-minded students can connect their passion to their learning.

Students will be introduced to concepts and content, apply it practically through activities, and then further explore their understanding through the creation of projects.

Critical and creative thinking; problem solving; social and emotional learning; and communication skills are all areas that we expect to be developed through JET. Expressions of interest will be distributed mid-term.

For more information please contact:
Sarah Wright: 0418 865 319/swright@swandistricstfc.com
Sean Walker: swalker@swandistricstfc.com
V Swans, through their partnership with Onslow School, are offering their accredited High School program “Shooting Goals” to students in 2015.

Through “Shooting Goals” students are able to further develop sports skills, fitness and leadership – while building their knowledge of the Sports and Recreation industry as they complete their Certificate I or II Sport and Recreation accreditation.

This year, the program will have a strong basketball focus, along with the inclusion of several other sports, while the students complete their certificate units in a balance of both theory and applied practical work.

This program will also put students on the path to completing their Certificate II in the future and be well placed to pursue a career in the Sport and Recreation field.

For more information please contact:
Sarah Wright: 0418 865 319/swright@swandistrictsfcc.com
Sean Walker: swalker@swandistrictsfcc.com

Attendance Winners
Kindergarten: Jake Banfield
Pre Primary: Ryan Menta
Early Childhood 1: Evan French
Early Childhood 2: Jaymon Hayes
Upper Primary 1: Hayden Ward
Upper Primary 2: Sienna Hogg
Secondary: Jericho Enciso
My name is Jo-anne Bailey. This will be my 5th year of teaching. Previously I have taught at Mount Magnet District High School and more recently at Pannawonica Primary School. I have been looking forward to teaching Kindergarten for a few years and am excited that Onslow has given me the opportunity to teach in such a beautiful location. I look forward to seeing my students grow each term and develop into knowledgeable students. I am also excited to be involved within the community and look forward to meeting all of the students and their families.

Hi, my name is Cherie Matison and I’m the new teacher in the Kangaroos (Year 4/5) class. I’ve taught all over the state in remote communities and small towns and overseas in London. I’ve moved down here from the Kimberley and am looking forward to my new, exciting Pilbara experience. It has been great to meet so many students and parents already at Onslow Primary School.

Hi, my name is Terry Brosnan (no relation to Pierce) and I am the new Secondary teacher at Onslow Primary School. My teaching journey started in Perth and in 2011, I decided to take off to Broome for a sea change. My regional journey then continued on in Karratha, Moora, Fitzroy Crossing and now Onslow. I am looking forward to teaching the students I have from Year 7 to 12 over a variety of subjects. Onslow is a beautiful town and I know we are all going to have a fabulous year.

My name is Miss Dianna Pacaric and I am very excited to be commencing my journey at Onslow Primary School with a fantastic year 5/6 class. I have moved to Onslow from Perth and am excited to embark on my Pilbara journey. I have taught in various Perth suburban schools in my three years of teaching. I am looking forward to a productive and fun year with my year 5/6 class. Thank you to all the parents who have been so welcoming.