



'Endeavour to Excel'

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'Excellence, Opportunity, Success'

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'Communicating with our Caring Community'

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT
8 February	CANTEEN CLOSED
10 February	CANTEEN CLOSED
10 February	P&C Meeting – 7 pm in staffroom All welcome
19 February	Textbook Sale Day
19 February	PSSA Cricket Trials
24 February	Swimming Carnival



*'Reach high, aim for the stars.'*

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WELCOME BACK to our wonderful school. I hope you all had a relaxing break and the students have returned to school keen to learn. Our school motto is *'Endeavour to Excel'* and we believe in *'excellence, opportunity and success.'* In order to provide the highest quality education for every student at OPS it is essential that we all - staff, parents, students and community members, continue to work together in a supportive, collaborative partnership based on mutual respect. We are fortunate to have a great school community.

2016 promises to be another wonderful year at OPS with many exciting programs and activities planned for the students throughout the year.

**A Great Start to the Year**

It has been an absolute pleasure to walk around the school and see so many smiling faces in the playground. It was obvious that the boys and girls were happy to be back at school. I was very impressed, they were all in school uniform and wearing it with pride. They look fantastic, especially with their school hats on. They are to be congratulated on making such a great start to the year.

#### **Welcome Kindergarten**

A BIG, warm welcome is extended to our 68 Kindergarten students who came in for their Best Start assessments and started in class on Tuesday.

#### **Welcome to Our New Families**

On behalf of the staff, students and parents, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the students and their families who are new to our school community. I encourage you to join the P & C, volunteer in the canteen and to offer your support in the classroom, where possible.

Please look out for our new families and make them feel welcome.

#### **Classes for 2016**

Thank you to the students and parents for your patience in waiting for our new classes to be formed. Our student numbers were such that we weren't sure if we would hold the 18<sup>th</sup> class, but at this stage we have. The classes are as follows:

KT - Mrs Bradney (Early Stage 1 Supervisor)

KS - Ms O'Connell

KM – Miss Kenny

K/1B – Ms Bissett

1MK – Mrs Miranda & Mrs Kenny

1A – Mrs Anderson & Miss Adams

1/2G – Mrs Golding

2M – Mr Miller

2F – Mr Formby (Stage 1 Supervisor - Yrs 1 & 2)

3P – Mrs Pasfield

3RE – Mrs Rogers & Mrs Elsey

3/4M – Mrs Bowd (Stage 2 Supervisor - Yrs 3 & 4)

4E – Mrs English

4A – Mr Annabel

5D – Mr Dean Wilson

5/6W – Mrs Wakelin (Stage 3 Supervisor - Yrs 5 & 6)

6E – Mr Edwards

It was great to see so many excited children going off to their new classes with their new teacher. The teachers have put much time and effort into forming new classes and have given careful consideration to where each child was placed.

Some parents have phoned after classes were announced yesterday, asking for their child to be given preferential treatment with regards to moving them to another class. This will not be happening; the classes are set and will remain as they are, with the exception of the placement of new students enrolling in the school.

### **Staff News**

A BIG warm welcome to our new staff, including Ms Kelly Bissett, Miss Melanie Kenny and Miss Rebecca Borg. Congratulations to Mrs Jodi Golding who has been permanently appointed.

Mrs Nada Potter is still our School Counsellor. Mr Tom Scriven is our Reading Recovery teacher. Mrs McLean is our LaST (Learning and Support Teacher) providing additional support throughout the week to students in need. Mrs Worth has joined our School Learning Support Officers, along with Mr Smith and Mrs Matheson.

In the office, we have Mrs Vila, Mrs Ward and Mrs Dawson. Mrs Blomfield manages our canteen. Mr Rainger is our general assistant. Mrs Craig and Mrs Potter are our cleaners.

It's an absolute pleasure to be principal of such a great school.

### **Caring, Dedicated Teachers**

I would like to thank staff who spent a considerable amount of time at school during the holidays and also staff who spent time working from home on plans,

programs and organisation for 2016. We are fortunate to have very professional, caring, dedicated staff.

### **Food Alert**

At OPS we have several students who have severe reactions to nuts. These reactions range from skin rashes to acute anaphylactic shock requiring an epipen or anapen. Please do not send any nut products or food containing nuts to school.

We also ask that if your child is allergic to or has an intolerance towards certain foods, that you speak to your child about not sharing any food with other students.

Students identified with having anaphylactic reactions are provided with special lunch order bags from the canteen and a special set of protocols are followed when staff are organising their lunch or recess.

Students identified with having anaphylactic reactions, food allergies or intolerances are provided with an individualised Health Care Plan.

### **Thank You**

A BIG thank you to Kristy Murray, who runs the uniform shop, for going out of her way to come into school every day this week to be of assistance to new parents enrolling their children at school. Thanks to Kristy, new students have been able to start promptly in full school uniform.

### **Class Coordinators**

The P & C's Class Coordinators initiative will continue with all Kindergarten, Yr 1 and Yr 2 classes. Paperwork further explaining this initiative is located further on in this newsletter.

### **Caring, Supportive P & C**

Please note that P & C Meetings are on the second Wednesday of every month. Our first meeting will be at 7 pm next Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome to attend and we would love to see some new faces.

### **Citizen of the Year**

Congratulations to one of our favourite school community members, Sarah King, who has been awarded Wyong Shire Council's 'Citizen of the Year' for her outstanding work with the Give Me 5 For Kids initiative.

### **Out of Hours School Care**

We are very fortunate to have Camp Australia providing our Out of Hours School Care here on site. The staff provide a high level of care and are happy to take new enrolments throughout 2016. Care is available on school premises between 6.30 am – 9 am in the morning and again between 2.25 pm - 6.30 pm in the afternoon.

**Students are not to be on school grounds before 8.25 am.**

There is no supervision provided by the school before 8.25 am and students should not be on school grounds before this time, unless they are in Before School Care.

### **Staff Car Park**

Please note private vehicles are NOT permitted in the staff car park between the hours of 8 am and 4.00 pm. During this time, it is an out of bounds area for all students. Delivery vehicles, including trucks, are frequently in and out of the staff car park. In order to keep our students safe as they enter and leave school, we request that students use the main pedestrian gate located on Dog Trap Road. The RSL Club's car park is available for parking.

### **RSL Car Park**

Our school does not have car parking facilities for parents, however we are very fortunate as our good friends at the RSL Club have granted us conditional access to their car park on the corner of Dog Trap Rd and the highway. We sincerely thank the RSL Club for their ongoing support of the school.

### **Special Message from the RSL Club**

*'To make parents aware, the car park is fully owned by the RSL Club and we would ask parents to respect that fact. When using the car park – please ensure you park within the marked spots and please do not park in the Directors spots. Please ensure you walk your children through the car park, across the pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights then to the main school gates, as the car park gets very busy. There are no designated drop off spots in the car park. The RSL Club is a strong community partner and supporter of the school and we seek your understanding that staff and customers of the RSL Club do park there and have priority. We would also ask parents not to use the very small car park to the immediate south (railway side of the highway) of the Club house in the afternoon enabling that car park to be kept as free as possible for Club patrons. Please drive carefully as it can be quite hazardous trying to get out of that car park in the peak of the afternoon traffic.'*

*Kind Regards,*

*Ourimbah Lisarow RSL Club'*

### **SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL**

Parents are kindly reminded to consider everyone's safety when dropping off and picking up children from school. Please:

- Drive slowly and obey the road rules.
- Park in the RSL Club car park, not in the Directors spots.
- Use the pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights to

cross Dog Trap Road and walk sensibly across.

- Accompany young students across the road onto school grounds.

### Please

- DO NOT let your child get out of the car whilst stopped at the traffic lights as this is very unsafe behaviour, as well as a traffic offence.
- DO NOT use the bus bay as a pick up or drop off zone, as this is also a traffic offence and you are liable to receive a fine.
- DO NOT access the staff car park between 8 am and 4 pm.

With due care and consideration your children, and everyone else's, will arrive safely at school and travel home safely each afternoon.

### **Equipment List**

I have included a copy of the equipment list at the back of this newsletter that students in each stage would benefit from having at the start of the year. This is the same list that went home at the end of last year.

### **Fortnightly Newsletters**

As of next week, the newsletter will go home fortnightly. Please keep your eye out for next week's newsletter.

I will be on leave for two weeks and Mrs Wakelin will be relieving in my position, starting this Friday.

Until next time,  
Mrs Linda Trigg  
Principal

### **TEXTBOOK SALE DAY**

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> February – approximate cost for K-6 students will be \$15.00. Notes with full details will come home soon.

### **PHOTO DAY**

Please note that Photo Day for 2016 will be held later in the year on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September (Term 3).

### **P&C EASTER RAFFLE**

Easter is early this year, so please start sending in donations for our fantastic annual Easter raffle. A separate flyer with full details will come home this week. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### **BUSWAYS - SCHOOL BUS NUMBER CHANGES**

Reminder – the new bus numbers came in to effect on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Please see the table below for all bus number changes affecting our school. Please note that **Bus 37 remains as Bus 37**, as this is a public service bus NOT a

dedicated school bus.

AM – PM	Old Bus Number	New Bus Number
AM	38	2049
AM	54	2063
PM	38	2557
PM	84	2624
PM	85	2629

### **STUDENT OPAL CARDS**

All Student Opal Cards have arrived at school and will be handed out to students as soon as possible. Any recent applications for Opal Cards may take a couple of weeks to arrive and will be sent directly to your home.

Any Kindergarten parents who are sending their child on the bus for the first time must send a note to the class teacher so they are aware of any change to going home arrangements.

### **Bus Behaviour Matters**

Please remind students that free travel is a privilege that can be taken away if official Codes of Conduct aren't followed. In summary, students should remember to:

- Tap on and tap off every time.
- Offer their seat to paying customers without being asked.
- Respect transport staff, transport property and fellow travellers.
- Be mindful of safety at every stage of a transport journey.
- Always travel with a valid ticket.
- Student Codes of Conduct are available at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

### **ATTENTION PARENTS OF YEAR 3 STUDENTS**

Please be aware that students going in to Year 3 who did not return their application before the end of last year will **not** have a Student Opal Card for the start of 2016. A new application must be completed online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students).

### **BOOK CLUB – DUE BY THURSDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

Welcome to all of our new students and parents.

The first issue of Book Club for 2016 will be coming home soon. For some of our Kindergarten children and parents this may be the first time you have seen the Book Club brochures.

If you wish to place an order for Book Club, please be sure to fill in the order forms correctly and place your child's name and class at the top of the forms. The forms and payment then need to be placed in an envelope with your child's name and class marked clearly on the front. Orders can be paid for by cash, cheque or by ordering online with your credit card. Please send the correct cash as giving change can be difficult. Book Club orders

can be given to the class teacher or handed in at the office.

**Issue 1 of Book Club for 2016 is due back at school by Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February**

### **SPORT NEWS**

#### **SPORT DAYS**

The sport day for students in Kindergarten to Year 2 is still to be determined. Information will come home as soon as possible.

Years 3-6 sport day will be Fridays as it has been in previous years.

### **ELECTION OF SPORTS OFFICIALS 2016**

The students in Years 3 to 6 will meet in house groups during the coming weeks to elect their Sports Leaders for 2016. Year 6 students are eligible to stand for the positions of Vice Captain and Captain, both boys and girls for their respective sports house. A short presentation ceremony will be held soon during a school recess assembly for the successful leaders. Guardians of each leader will be contacted with the date and time for the presentation prior to the event.

During the house meetings, Mr Wilson will also discuss the organisation for the upcoming Swimming Carnival. Gary Edwards

### **NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

The school newsletter is distributed to the youngest child in the family on a fortnightly basis and will come home on Wednesdays on odd weeks of the term. Today's newsletter (Week 2) will be an additional one, with another newsletter to follow next week in Week 3.

The newsletter is also accessible on our school website, along with other valuable information and a calendar of events which is updated regularly. The website address is [www.ourimbah-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ourimbah-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

### **UPDATE INFORMATION FOR CLASS TEACHERS**

Could the parents of any students who have special medical requirements or dietary needs please send a note to your child's 2016 class teacher to keep them updated on your child's condition and needs. We endeavour to pass all information on file to the new class teacher, however a note from the parent is recommended.

**Also**, if there are any updated custody forms or family issues, please keep the class teacher and office informed.

### CHANGE OF HOME ARRANGEMENTS

If your child's going home arrangements need to be changed, please ensure this is put in writing to your child's class teacher. Verbal messages to children can create confusion and this can cause them distress.

If you do have to change arrangements by phone during the day, please give plenty of time for the message to be received by the class teacher.

### LATE ARRIVAL

If your child arrives after the school bell has gone a late arrival note is required. Please bring your child to the office for this note.

### EARLY DEPARTURE

A note to your child's teacher stating time of departure and reason is required. The office staff will organise for your child to come to the office **after you arrive** to pick them up, so please allow time for them to walk down from their classrooms.

### FIRST AID ROOM

Please be aware that due to the rainforest environment of our school, we have cases of mosquito and ant bites amongst our students. In the case of insect bites we would normally administer a spray of Stingoes. We also use Savlon cream and bandaids when a student has a graze. Please advise the class teacher and office if your child **cannot** have these administered.

### SIGNING ON

When volunteering at school it is essential that you sign on in the book in the office foyer, indicating your arrival and departure times. This information is vital if an emergency procedure is required. Whilst on site you are required to wear a 'Visitors Badge'. If you have not volunteered previously, a 'Working with Children' form needs to be completed at the office.

### AFTERNOON WET WEATHER DISMISSAL

Parents are requested to wait at the gates under the covered waiting area in the afternoon for your children, even during wet weather. Waiting near the hall causes congestion and confusion during the dismissal of bus lines. Please send your child every day with wet weather gear to wear. Only children in Years 3-6 may bring umbrellas.

### MONEY COLLECTION

All money for excursions, performances, text books, photos, etc is to be sent in an envelope **to your child's teacher** with their name, class, payment description and amount enclosed marked clearly on the front.

If money is left at the office there can be a delay in your child's teacher being aware that you have paid for an excursion. The exception to this is for Book Club orders. The orders and money for Book Club can be left at the office or sent to the classroom.

Money is collected on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Our Parent Online Payment System (POP) can be used to pay for the majority of excursions, performances and voluntary contributions etc. Detailed instructions for using POP are available on our OPS webpage under the 'Notes' tab or can be collected from the front office. Alternatively, payment can be made via the office.

### ADMINISTERING PRESCRIBED MEDICATION

If your child requires medication at school, please fill in a Medical Consent form at the office. This form must be completed prior to any medication being administered by our staff. Please note that **only prescribed medications can be administered**. A note to the class teacher is also necessary to inform them of medications and the time to be given.

### WELCOME BACK STUDENT BANKERS

**School banking for 2016 recommences tomorrow.** For all new parents, if you would like your child to participate in the School Banking Program, your child will need a Youthsaver account from the Commonwealth Bank. You can visit any branch to open one, please take your child's birth certificate and identification for yourself. An introduction package will come home with Kindergarten students shortly.

The banking day will be Thursdays and bank books will be returned on the following Monday. Please make sure deposit books have your child's name and class clearly marked on the front.

School banking information packs are available at the office. New accounts for all other students can be opened at any Commonwealth Bank Branch or application forms can be downloaded from [www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) and returned to school.

### STUDENT BANKING

**Join School Banking on an outback adventure!**

Every year the School Banking program launches a new savings theme and 8 new exclusive School Banking reward items.



This year's program is themed the **Outback Savers** and School Banking is taking students on a wild adventure through the Canyon of Savings, where they'll learn to master smart savings habits.

There are **8 new reward items for 2016** from the Outback Savers range:

- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Mud Splat Handball
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wiggly Glow Worm

### **Win a wildlife family adventure holiday to Australia Zoo!**

This year School Banking is giving students the chance to win a family trip for up to two adults and three children to explore Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin.

Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will be automatically entered into the draw. This is another great way to motivate students to save regularly and reach their savings goals.

2016 Back to School parent information kits will be distributed soon.

**BANKING DAY AT OURIMBAH PS IS EVERY THURSDAY, COMMENCING 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY.**

### **OUR POSITIVE REWARD SYSTEM**

The Magpie Reward system is based on recognition for good behaviour and effort over a single term. At the end of each term those students achieving 10 'Magpies' will be eligible to participate in the 'Magpie Term Reward.' This may vary from term to term, from an ice block, daytime disco or even a day out etc. The teachers have many exciting ideas for these rewards and no doubt the children will too!

Each student will be eligible to take part in the term reward activity if they have received 10 class 'Magpie Awards' that term. The following term everyone starts anew. All terms will be of equal importance. Each student will have a 'Magpie Reward Card' which will be kept by the classroom teacher. The card will indicate the progression from 1 to 10 awards. The 'Magpie Reward Card' will go home at the end of each term as a record and memento.

The school will continue with the K – 6 House Points Shield and various other in-class reward systems. The 'Playground Award' will expand from positive playground behaviour to include behaviour and effort when working outside of the regular classroom eg library, sport, art, etc. This is known as the 'Citizenship Award' with a canteen voucher going to the lucky draw winners each week.

The Communication Card will once again be used in 2016 as it has proved to be a valuable form of communication between the class teacher and parents.



As part of the ongoing review of the school's positive rewards 'Magpie System' it was decided that the Kindergarten students would be better prepared for this system following two terms of schooling and therefore will receive their communication card in term 3.

### **UNIFORM SHOP**

#### **Operating Hours – Mondays & Thursdays**

The opening hours for the uniform shop are as follows:

**Mondays 8.30 am - 9.30 am**

**Thursdays 2.30 pm - 3.00 pm**

Online ordering and eftpos are available in the Uniform Shop. Order forms are also available from the office with an option to make arrangements for collecting/paying at the canteen or from the uniform shop.

### **CANTEEN NEWS**

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

It's exciting to be looking ahead to a great year in the Blue Gum Canteen.

Our canteen has a Facebook page that is regularly updated to share details of life in the canteen. Please pop on over to Ourimbah P.S. Canteen and share in the community spirit.

Our canteen is open **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**. We serve light snacks before school, Crunch n Sip, recess and lunch. It is a very busy hub in the school where children come to socialise and relax. The children use the canteen a lot like we use a coffee shop or cafe.

It takes 6 volunteers per week to be able to run the canteen successfully, so we really need your help. If you would like to come and help in the canteen in 2016, please call the school or email me at [ourimbahcanteen@gmail.com](mailto:ourimbahcanteen@gmail.com). It would be wonderful to meet you.

Elise Blomfield  
Canteen Supervisor

**P&C MEETING**  
 Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February  
 7 pm in staffroom  
 All welcome



**WELCOME TO  
 OURIMBAH PUBLIC SCHOOL  
 P&C ASSOCIATION 2016.**

121 Pacific Highway OURIMBAH NSW 2258  
 Phone (02) 43621033 Fax (02) 43622531  
 email: ourimbahpandc@gmail.com



**GENERAL MEETING DATE: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2016**  
 TIME: 7pm VENUE: Staff Room

**AGENDA**

(10 minutes reading time prior to commencement of business)

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Business Arising
  1. Code of Conduct
  2. Action List
  3. Wish List
5. Correspondence
6. Reports
  1. Treasurer
  2. President
  3. Uniform Shop
  4. Fundraising
  5. Class Coordinator
  6. R.A.P
  7. Social Convenor
  8. Nitbustlers
  9. CC Council of P&C Rep
  10. Principal
7. General Business
8. Date of Next Meeting

If you have any topic that is school related and you would like to be brought up at the next P&C Meeting please email the P&C Executive: email: [ourimbahpandc@gmail.com](mailto:ourimbahpandc@gmail.com)

President – Andrew Collins  
 Treasurer – Adrienne Collins  
 Vice Presidents – Kim Bettison & Lorelei Barkley  
 Secretary – Rhonda Wagener (correspondence), Lesley Marshall (minutes)

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 TENNIS  
 ACADEMY**

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 Lessons**

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 Open tennis on TV? Always  
 wanted to try tennis out? Well  
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 Tennis Club and give it a go.  
 We provide fun 1 hour group  
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 kids of all standards.

Are you sick of sitting and watching  
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For more information regarding our  
 other lesson types available,  
 competitions, squads, prices or even  
 just to hire a court call **Angie** on

**0402021159**

**COMMUNITY NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENTS**



**Timetable 2016! All Welcome, First week FREE!**

**Ourimbah School Hall**  
 Monday

3:00pm 5-8Yrs Jazz

**Valley View School ( WYOMING )**

Wednesday

3:00pm 5-12 Yrs Jazz Technique

4:00pm 5-12 Yrs Cheerleading

**Niagara Park School Hall**

Thursday

3:10pm 5-10 Yrs Jazz

4:10pm 5-10 Yrs Hip Hop

4:40pm 5-10 Yrs Contemporary

**Tuggerah Studio**

Thursday

12:00pm 18 Months – 2.5 Yrs Dance

12:30pm 2-3 Yrs Jelly Beans Jazz

1:00pm 2-3 Yrs Jelly Beans Ballet

1:30pm 4-5 Yrs Jelly Beans Jazz

2:00pm 4-5 Yrs Jelly Beans Ballet

2:30pm 2-5 Yrs Jelly Beans Acrobatics

**Kariong Hall**

Friday

10:00am 2-5Yrs Jelly Beans Ballet

10:30am 2-5Yrs Jelly Beans Jazz

11:00am 2-5Yrs Jelly Beans Tap

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 0401 473 457 / [jessie@jbdance.com.au](mailto:jessie@jbdance.com.au)

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE CLASS COORDINATORS INITIATIVE**

This is a Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) initiative that is being implemented in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 classes.

The Class Coordinator is one, or perhaps two volunteers from each class who are nominated at the start of the school year to assist the class teacher with coordinating classroom assistance and distributing information to parents.

The Class Coordinator provides valuable assistance to the teacher and the children by liaising with parents, contributing to the coordination of activities for that class and other programs within the school.

One of the greatest strengths of Ourimbah Public School is its friendliness, community spirit, nurturing environment and parent involvement, all of which enhance the educational opportunities of our children. We have a great school and as the Class Coordinator you will have the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to our school.

The Class Coordinator of each class at Ourimbah Public School has an important role in the overall organisation of the school. Class Coordinators will make a significant contribution to the effective management of each class by *establishing productive networks within the parent community*. I am sure you will find it a very satisfying and rewarding experience. Your role might include coordinating parent helpers for class programs, being a point of contact with other parents, helping new parents with information about the school, coordinating a group of parents to cover reading groups and being an advocate for P&C initiatives, whilst creating and maintaining a climate of cooperation that currently exists between the teachers and the parent community. The Class Coordinator's role may vary from class to class and will depend on each class's particular needs.

Some Class Coordinators may even consider arranging social events to meet other class parents. This is not an expectation in our initiative, but Class Coordinators are welcome to do this if they feel there is a need and they are comfortable in this role.

In order to fulfill this role, the Class Coordinator will need to co-administrate a class Facebook group and compile a Parent Contact List. All contact details will be treated with confidentiality and will not be shared with other parents. Only the Class Coordinator, the class teacher and the Principal will have access to this information.

The professional ethics of the school will continue to be maintained and we will comply with privacy legislation. The privacy of class families will continue to be respected. Please note, *phone numbers or email addresses will NOT be provided to another person unless parents voluntarily provide this information on a signed permission note*. (PTO for further details)

The Class Coordinator is not a spokesperson for the class or parent group. They are the coordinator and disseminator of information as requested primarily by the class teacher, but may also include requests from the Principal and P & C.

Mrs Jane Brooker will be taking over the role as our Class Coordinator's Coordinator. She is happy to meet with Class Coordinators and talk them through the process.

We are looking forward to building on this P&C initiative which has successfully run for three years now.

Yours Sincerely,  
Mrs Linda Trigg



## Class Equipment List for 2016

Parents are kindly asked to provide the following equipment at the start of our 2016 school year.

Please look at the grade your children will be in next year.

This information is being provided so you can forward plan for next year.

<b>Kindergarten</b>  * 1 A4 plastic envelope * 1 library bag * 4 glue sticks * 1 lunch box * 1 paint shirt * School hat 1 box of tissues 1 liquid hand soap 1 roll of paper towel	<b>Years 1 &amp; 2</b>  * 1 Home Reading folder – velcro type * 1 homework book - A4 size (96 pages) * Coloured pencils * 1 pkt twister crayons * Textas (optional) * 2 glue sticks * 1 eraser * 1 library bag * 1 lunch box * 1 paint shirt/smock * School hat * 1 pencil case 1 box of tissues 1 roll of paper towel 1 liquid hand soap
<b>Years 3 &amp; 4</b>  * 1 glue stick per term * Good quality pencils – coloured * Good quality pencils - 2 lead pencils (HB) * Highlighters – optional * 1 homework book - A4 size(at least 96 page) * 1 eraser * 1 sharpener * 1 <u>small</u> pencil case * 1 library bag * 1 lunch box * School hat 1 box of tissues 1 liquid hand soap	<b>Years 5 &amp; 6</b>  * Pens- blue, black and red * Pencils - coloured * Pencils - lead (HB & a 2B) * 1 <u>small</u> pencil case * 1 homework book - A4 size(at least 96 page) * 1 glue stick per term * 1 eraser * 1 senior ruler (with millimetres)- solid plastic or wooden (not flexible plastic or metal) * 1 scissors * Highlighters * 1 lunch box * School hat 1 box of tissues 1 library bag

\*\*\*\* Please make sure items with an \* are labelled with your child's name.

Please provide a daily serving of fruit/vegetables for our Crunch and Sip time. Kindergarten students need one serve that can be eaten in 5 minutes.

# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



## It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

### That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.



Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school.

### Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

### It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Auntie is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

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