

e NEWS

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS TO INFORM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



7th February 2019



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Dear Parents and Community,

May I extend a warm welcome back to the new year for all members of our school community. A very special welcome to all new families joining the school community in 2019. I am very confident you will have a positive and educative experience with us.

May I extend a special welcome to new staff who have joined us this year;

Mrs Bernadine Bourke will take on a music specialist role for 1.5 days a week.

Mrs Natasha Smith will be teaching Year One students in tandem with Mrs Fiona Choo who re-joins us after parental leave.

Mrs Chantelle Binedell joins us as Associate Principal, Kindergarten, Pre-Primary and Year One for first term. Mrs Asher Dragun has again been appointed to the position of Principal, Weld Square Primary School for the first term of 2019.

Mrs Jess Veness is acting in the role of Associate Principal for Years Four, Five and Six this term while a selection process is being conducted to fill the position. Mrs Renae Zarb will be teaching in TA36 while Mrs Veness is a member of the school leadership team.

STAFF LIST

Please find attached to the eNews a complete staff list for the 2019 school year.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher Meetings are hosted each year to give parents the opportunity to meet their child's new teacher and learn about the routines and programs in the new year level. The meeting dates and times are;

Tuesday 12th February - Pre-Primary and Year One - 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Monday 18th February - Year Four - 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Tuesday 19th February - Year Five and Six - 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Wednesday 20th February - TA24 (Year 1/2 split class), Year Two and Three - 5.30pm to 6.30pm

THE TERM AHEAD

We have a full term ahead with a number of significant events for the students and our school including;

18th to 28th February Years Five and Six Swimming, Mullaloo Beach

1st March School Development Day

4th March Labour Day Public Holiday

15th March School Disco

19th to 21st March School Photos

19th March	Faction Jumps and Throws
22nd March	Faction Athletics Carnival
29th March	Free Dress Day (Gold coin donation for charity)
1st April	Interschool Jumps and Throws
5th April	Interschool Athletics Carnival
8th April	Year Two Excursion to Spare Parts Puppet Theatre (Blueback)
10th April	ANZAC Service
12th April	Last day of Term

FACEBOOK CODE OF CONDUCT

Included with this newsletter is a copy of the school's Facebook Code of Conduct. The school hosts a Facebook page to share with our community the many events, activities and experiences our students enjoy as well as a tool to communicate information about school processes and programs. The Facebook page also provides a wonderful way for families to share their children's school experience with their extended families, particularly if grandparents live overseas.

Our school supports the Facebook Policy that no child under the age of thirteen years old should have access to this social media site or for that matter, any other forms of social media.

We are keen for our Facebook page to be a positive experience for all members of our school community and a place to celebrate the successes of our school and our students. We would therefore acknowledge that if you have a concern or issue that is affecting your child adversely, please make contact with the school via phone contact, email or face to face meeting. This ensures the best outcomes for our students and your children, given that such challenges require discussion which often need to be more detailed than that of which is conducted on an online environment. The support of the community with this policy is much appreciated.

CONNECT AND SCHOOL APP

Parents should also be aware that the school regularly communicates with families through Connect, our web based communication tool and the school app. If you have not joined our Connect Community, please pop in to the front office to fill out a Connect Registration Form. The school app can be downloaded from the iTunes store.

LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY COLLECTION FROM SCHOOL

Can I remind all families that if you need to collect your child during the school day that a parent / carer must attend the front office to complete the appropriate processes before collecting him/her from the classroom. This ensures that we track which students are in the school at any given moment and matters such as court orders regarding access are managed appropriately.

When children arrive after the 8.30am siren, they are required to report to the front office and receive a late note. Teachers mark their roll straight after the siren has rung. A text will be sent out to the parent/guardian at 10am notifying that the student is absent from school. You can reply to this message with the explanation of the absence.

MESSAGE YOU (TEXT SERVICE)

Should your child not be attending school due to illness or an appointment, please text a short message (including student name) explaining the absence to 0408 934 134. This message is computer generated and the front office will update the students record. Message You generates a text to parents/guardians of those students who are marked absent by their teacher. Texts are sent out twice a day, 10am and 2pm. You may reply to this text with a short explanation of your child's absence.

Please Note that this Message You service is only used for absences and as it is a computer based program, replies can not be sent from the school. Message You service will also send out important or urgent messages.

DIGITAL DEVICE POLICY

Our School is aware that some parents wish their children to have access to mobile phones and devices to manage communication with them before and after school. The school is concerned that such expensive equipment is on the school site. We are also concerned that many of these devices have unfiltered internet access and cameras. Digital photos of children at school may only be taken with school devices, with the images remaining in the control of the school. It is the school's policy that if a parent wishes their child to have a mobile phone, they should write a letter or send an email to the Principal requesting permission. This request should acknowledge that the family recognises that the school does not take responsibility for the phone. Children must turn off all mobile devices as they enter the school premises and devices will remain off throughout the day. Children may turn on mobile phones at the conclusion of the school day, but should only access them on the school site to communicate with a parent. A copy of the policy is attached for your consideration.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Can I make all parents aware that children are not expected to arrive on the school site prior to 8.00am. When children arrive after 8.00am and prior to 8.15am they should wait on the Astroturf area near the office. Children are not to wait outside classrooms during this time. This will include parents of Kindergarten and Pre-Primary students.

Parents of young students should stay with their children and escort them to class. While on the school site, all students are to be in the designated area even if their parents are with them. This allows the school to meet our duty of care arrangements. At 8.15am a siren will ring and students can then move to class. Classes are open fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of lessons to allow the students to settle in. Parents of young children (Kindergarten and Pre-Primary) may also wish to play a game or puzzle with their child prior to school commencing.

We ask all parents to support us with these arrangements to ensure we can manage appropriate supervision of students prior to the commencement of the school day.

ON ENTRY

Our Pre-Primary students complete a Literacy and Numeracy Assessment each year. The assessment is conducted by the teacher with each student. The assessments commence on 18th February 2019.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school every day matters when ensuing maximising the learning and development for each and every child in the care of the school. It is important that the school and parents work collaboratively to promote the importance of school attendance to the students. Classroom teachers will be celebrating success with attendance every day, with high attendance classes being acknowledged regularly.

We encourage parent to promote to the students that the only reason to be absent from school is for illness.

Term One calendar is attached to the eNews. A hard copy was sent home with students.

TERM CALENDAR

A copy of the Term One calendar is attached to the eNews. A hard copy was sent home with students today.

PARKING

A map related to the use of the Kiss 'n' Drop is attached to the eNews to remind parents of the procedures for morning drop off and afternoon pickups. I would ask parents to familiarise themselves with this document.

CHILDREN'S CROSSING, CONNOLLY DRIVE

A survey of usage for the Children's Crossing on Connolly Drive found that the usage was below the levels required to sustain the crossing. On review given the busyness of this road, it has been determined to maintain the cross at this stage. I would encourage all families to ensure that if they are walking or riding in this area to use the crossing to ensure its viability.

SCHOOL FENCE

Work on the school fence was planned to commence last week, however ground scanning identified the Heavy Voltage Western Power cable runs along the border of the school and in some places crosses over the school boundary. This has necessitated revisiting the positioning of the fence and the impact on pruning trees and vegetation on the school grounds. It is hoped that this matter will be resolved relatively quickly.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our school will again be offering a number of after school programs to support student learning and engagement. This will include:

- Year Four to Six Girls Lego Robotics classes on Wednesday afternoons from 2.45pm to 3.45pm
- Year Four to Six Boys Lego Robotics classes on Wednesday afternoons from 4.00pm to 5.00pm
- Galileo Lego Technic program for students in Years Four to Six on Friday afternoons from 2.45pm to 4.15pm

Notices regarding enrolling in each program, costs and start dates are included in the documents attached to this eNews.

All of these workshops support the Children's University Program which is available to students in Years Four to Year Six.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

Our school will continue to offer the Children's University Program for students in Years Four, Five and Six. The program is run in partnership with Edith Cowan University. Children are able to track learning experiences that they participate in beyond the usual hours of instruction both at school and at home. Learning experiences can include instrumental lessons, sports training, attending a museum, completing online tasks or writing a restaurant, movie or book review. When a certain number of hours is achieved, students will be invited to attend a graduation event at Edith Cowan University.

INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

Our Instrumental Music Program for students in Years Five and Six will commence shortly. We will continue to offer clarinet and flute and I am pleased to note we will expand the program to include brass. We will also be offering our Year Six students the opportunity to engage with the band at Ocean Reef Senior High School.