WELCOME BACK TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome back and welcome to Adelong Public School and the 2016 school year.

I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful Christmas and New Year break. I’m pleased to advise that our school enrolments are steadily increasing and as from today’s date we now have 84 students enrolled. With this increase in enrolments for 2016, we have had to make some changes in our senior class.

For 2016 our class structures will be as of Monday 8 February:

- **Kindergarten** – Mrs Heidi Casey
- **Class 1/2** – Mrs Sue Hall
- **Class 3/4/5** – Mrs Cath Beattie
- **Class 5/6** – Mr Peter Pilgrim, Mrs Jodie Barton and Ms Telirah Weir.
- **Library** – Miss Jenna Mitchell
- **Infants support staff** – Kadie McDonald
- **Primary support staff** – Wendy Guldbransen
- **School Counsellor** – Mr John D’Alessandro

New Staff

I would like to also take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Jodie Barton to our school for 2016. Mrs Barton will be undertaking the learning support role across the school and will be working with groups of students at various times. Mrs Barton will be also re-establishing Reading Recovery with our students.

Also returning to our school this year is Mr John D’Alessandro. He is taking up the position of School Counsellor and our previous Counsellor, Mr Wetherbee has moved to another area.

Student absences

I’m attaching the Department of Education, Compulsory School Attendance – Information for Parents.

This document outlines family obligations on absences. I would ask that if your child is away that you please forward a note to the class teacher upon their return.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this document, please do not hesitate to contact me.

2016 KINDERGARTEN

We would like to welcome our 12 new Kindergarten students to our school.

They are all settling in well to their classroom and the school routines.

A reminder to parents to advise Mrs Casey or the office to any changes as to how your child is going home of an afternoon.
SWIMMING CARNIVAL REMINDERS

Our school swimming carnival will be held tomorrow, Friday 5 February 2016 at the Adelong Community Aquatic Centre, for students in Year 1 to 6.

All students are to come to school prior to the carnival. They will be broken up into their house groups and their ages written on the hands. They will then depart and walk to the pool for a 9.30 am start. Pool entry is $3.00 and this will be collected by the staff at the pool on arrival. Season pool passes may be used.

All students are to bring a hat, sunscreen, morning tea and adequate water for the day.

The P&C is running the sausage sizzle lunch. They will be $2.00 each and payable at the pool.

Some confectionary will be for sale from the pool kiosk as well as drinks. No fizzy drinks are allowed to be purchased by students of for students. The kiosk will also have some limited numbers of hot food (ie; sausage rolls and pizzas).

Parental help is needed and will be greatly appreciated. Please see Mrs Hall if you are able to assist.

WHOLE SCHOOL LEARN-TO-SWIM PROGRAM

The whole school learn-to-swim program will be commencing on Wednesday 17 February and concluding on Monday 29 February. A permission note will be sent home next week outlining all the details.

REORDER GROUP

The reorder group will be starting again next Wednesday at lunchtime. This is for the students that were involved last year. New students in Years 3 to 6 that wish to join will be invited to attend the following week.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

The school distributes leaflets for Scholastic Book Club, approximately 2 issues per term.

These will be given to students during Library on a Thursday and are to be returned the following Thursday with payment of cash or cheque. NB: Cheques are to be made payable to Adelong Public School and not Scholastic. Books can be ordered online through Scholastic.

CANTEEN

There is no canteen tomorrow due to the swimming carnival. All kindergarten children are to bring their recess and lunch as usual.

A menu will be sent home as soon it is finalised.

Sao’s will no longer be available from the canteen. These will be replaced with rice cakes with the usual toppings of vegemite, cheese, ham or tomato. These will be 50 cents each.

We are also introducing yoghurt Squeezies. They are available in strawberry or banana flavours at $1.00 each.

ROSTER

12 Feb: Kim French and Toni Romeo
19 Feb: Ange Dierkx and Robyn Lovett
26 Feb: Lyndal Hannan and Toni Romeo
4 March: Maree Jamieson and Heli Alkumaa
11 March: Liz Smith and Jessica Weaver
1 April: Maria Contessa and Robyn Lovett
8 April: Heli Alkumaa and Toni Romeo

Please contact Toni Romeo if there are any problems.
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
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