



Gundagai South Public School

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, CARE

Principal: Mrs Pip McAlister

NEWSLETTER

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Gundagai South Public School
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Term 1 Week 1

30th January 2013

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to everyone for 2013. I hope you all had a most enjoyable Christmas and New Year break together.

A special welcome to all those families and staff who are beginning their association with our school for the very first time. I'm sure that you and your children will enjoy their time with us at Gundagai South. Welcome to our new staff members - Mr Nathan Cooper who will be teaching the 3/4 class, and Mrs Sharelle Jackson who will be teaching Kindergarten and some Year 1 students. Mrs Flanagan will be returning to teach the 1/2 class and I will be teaching Years 5 & 6.

This year with Mrs Ray working only 4 days, she will be teaching the release from fact to face and part time allocation, as well as teaching the 5/6 class each Thursday during my Principal's Release. Ms Dickinson will continue to support all our students in the Learning Support role and Mrs McMillan will teach computers each Friday. Our office staff of Mrs Edwards and Ms McDonald continue in their respective roles - Mrs Edwards Monday - Thursday and Ms

McDonald - Thursday in the Library and Friday as our office lady.

Learning Support will also be provided by Mrs Matthews each day - Monday - Friday assisting in the K/1 and 1/2 classrooms; Mrs Greaney working on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays supporting Year 3/4 and 1/2 and Mr Garnham working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until lunch time working in the K/1 classroom. Mrs Cate Cross is our newly appointed Welfare Worker and will assist in a variety of ways including learning support, working each Thursday and Friday.

In addition to all this wonderful extra learning support for your students - with our two biggest classes (1/2 and 3/4) we will be splitting the class into 2 groups until lunch on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays so our class sizes will be much smaller which should be of great benefit to everyone. Mr Cooper and Mrs Ray will work together with the 3/4 class and Mrs Flanagan and Ms Dickinson will work together team teaching the 1/2 class. Each day literacy for the whole school will take place for 2 hours from 9.15 - 11.15, and from 12.15 - 1.15 the whole school will be doing numeracy.

Fitness will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 11.45 - 12.15 and sport will be on Friday afternoons.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to come and ask us - everyone has an open door policy and we are all more than willing to find time to have a chat to you. We would rather you come and talk to us in person about any issues or concerns as this personal approach is always the best and is the best way to discover all the relevant information. We are looking forward to a very exciting and positive year ahead.

2013 Staff



Mrs McAlister



Mr Cooper



Mrs Flanagan



Ms Dickinson



Mrs Ray



Mrs Jackson



Mrs Matthews



Mrs Greaney

Welcome New Students

We are very excited to welcome 12 new kindergarten students this year as well as new students in Years 5 & 6.

In kindergarten we welcome William Bults, Hugh Cooper, Jack Dowell, David Foster, Jade Harvey, Brandy McGrath, Michael Monaghan, Amy Myers, Lilah Norden, Dana Rolfe-Lanyon, Angelina Winner, Braith Winner and in Year 5 Chelsie Crossley and in Year 6 Dylan Doran. We welcome all these families to our school and a special welcome to our new families.

A welcome function is currently being planned.

This year, we have made some room changes due to the size of our Year 1/2 group. The 1/2 class will now be working in the kindergarten room and the Kindergarten / Year 1 class will now work in what was Miss O'Hehir's classroom last year at the end of the hallway.

Mr Cooper and the Year 3/4 class will work in the demountable and the 5/6 classroom will also house part of the library.

Library

Library lessons and library borrowing will generally take place on Thursdays. All students will need to have a named library bag for borrowing books. It is important that students borrow and read regularly and the library contains a rich and stimulating range of both literacy and factual texts.

School Uniform

All students are expected to wear correct school uniform to school each day. Accepted school uniform for girls in summer is our checked school dress or red shirt with green shorts, white socks and black shoes. Joggers may be brought to school and worn for sport and fitness times.

Boys are encouraged to wear red polo shirts and grey shorts and green shorts on sports days (Fridays), white or grey socks and black shoes should also be worn.

Please note that **coloured** shoes are **not** acceptable.

Every child should also have and wear each day a school hat, as our policy of "no hat, no play" is enforced during the hot weather during Terms 1 & 4.

Scripture

It is anticipated that scripture classes will again be held at the school each Thursday from 12.45 – 1.15pm.

Whole School Swimming Lessons

Swimming lesson will begin this Friday when students from Year 1 – 6 will be going to the pool from 11.00 – 1.00pm (**Kindergarten students do not formally begin until Monday 4th February**).

Could all parents please sign the attached permission note which will cover all swimming lessons from Friday 1st February until Tuesday 19th February inclusive. Money for entry to the pool (\$3.00) unless a season ticket is held and bus money must be forwarded to the school each day or it may be paid in full. Bus costs will be \$2.00 per child per day and there will be 9 lessons. A school swimming carnival will be held on Tuesday 12th February.

All students will need a towel, swimmers and rashi or tee shirt and their school hat each day.

ALL clothes should be clearly named (including socks and undies) as it is surprising how many red shirts look alike!

Please return your permission note and money by Friday.

Kindergarten children will have 8 lessons commencing on Monday 4th February.

All students will have a buddy to help them, with their belongings, if required.

Dates for swimming are included on the calendar attached to your newsletter.

Classroom Supplies

Each class teacher will let you know what they require of your students in relation to stationery. Could all Years 5 & 6 come prepared with a scrap book for homework sheets to be pasted into; a large glue stick, library bag, pencils, eraser and ruler.

Information from NSW Government Health

Please take the time to read the attached information relating to Smoke Free Environments which takes effect from 7th January 2013.

Best Start Assessments

Parents of all new kindergarten students will have received a letter with an appointment time for Best Start Assessments which will be conducted by Mrs Jackson this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. If there are any difficulties with the times, please let Anne know and we can make any necessary changes. **All kindergarten children will then commence school on Monday 4th February.**

PBL – Positive Behaviour for Learning

This year we will again focus on using the strategies of positive behaviour for learning for encouraging and rewarding all students for showing our 3 school values of Respect, Responsibility and Care. We have chosen an icon to support our school PBL program – a beautiful fish, drawn for us by our very own talented artist, Tracy Moy! Thanks Tracy.

Each day our students will be able to ‘earn’ small fish tokens to place in their PBL Token Book. There are 5 levels and each level requires 30 tokens to move up a level. At the end of each level, students will be able to choose a small reward. Each week a specific social skill and lesson will be taught which emphasises one of our values.

We are also monitoring playground behaviour and will be giving students whose behaviour is not acceptable a yellow slip and for more serious misdemeanours, a red note will be sent home. More about PBL next week. A parent booklet will be made up for you all to explain everything more clearly.

Portfolios

Thank you to those parents who have returned their student's portfolios. Once you have finished reading them and discussing your child's work with them, could you please return them to school so that this work may be added to their ‘Special’ Books ready for the end of Semester One work and reports. Thankyou

Media and Child Protection Permission Notes

Attached are permission notes for Media and Child Protection Education. These permission notes **must be** signed for your child to be able **to have his/her photo placed in newsletters, the local paper etc.** and for participation in lessons as part of the school's PDHPE program.

Pip☺

Canteen

There will be
no Canteen
until Monday
25th February
following the
completion of
swimming
lessons.

Calendar

The calendar for
February is attached for
your information.
Please keep this on your
fridge and add any
relevant information as it
comes.

Book Club

Book Club
brochures are
attached. If you
wish to place an
order, these need to
be returned to
school with the
correct money by
**Wednesday 6th
February.**

LOST

At the end of last year a
pair of reading glasses
belonging the Jordan Paton
was lost. The glasses have a
dark blue frame and were in a
dark blue hard case with the
optometrist's name Zak
Zachariah on it.
The glasses may have been
taken by mistake. Could all
parents please check at home
or in your child's/children's
bags for these glasses.

Thankyou

OOSH Newsletter

The Out of School
Hours Care newsletter
is attached for your
information.