

# SANDY CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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*Respect  
Responsibility  
Excellence*

## From the Principal

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone and a special welcome to our new families. We have 10 new students which takes our total enrolment to *65 students*. New receptions are *Alex, River, Joseph, Olivia, Felix and Cartier*. *Harper* joins our year 5s, *James* is in year 6 and *Corey and Kelsey* are in year 7. We wish them a wonderful year of learning and know that our students and families will make them and their families welcome.

I would like to say a big thank you to all of the staff for their welcome to me as the incoming Principal. Lauren has left things beautifully organised for me to begin the year and all staff have worked hard building the team and preparing their classrooms for the year ahead. We are pleased to have *Anna Johnson* join the staff team as an SSO. Many of you already know Anna as she is a member of the school community. We also welcome *Christina Artini* who is our new Pastoral Care Worker.

Last year we farewelled *Kellie Dalton* and *Olivia Snook* and this week we will be farewelling *Kristen Langford*. All other 2016 staff have returned for 2017 with a strong focus on student learning and growth.

This year our three classes have undergone another name change. The R-2 class is called the **Banksia Room**, the 3-5 class is the **Eucalyptus Room** and the 5-7 class is the **Waratah Room**.

Our **annual acquaintance evening** and **Governing Council AGM will be held on Wednesday 1 March**. You will receive further information about this later.

It is wonderful to be part of this lovely school community and I look forward to meeting all of you over the coming weeks.

*Robyn Gibbes*

## Classes for 2017

### **Banksia Room ~ Mrs Lauren McGowen**

Reception ~ 6 students  
Year 1 ~ 6 students  
Year 2 ~ 6 students **Total 18**

### **Eucalyptus Room ~ Miss Shawnee Mephram Mrs Christine Vine**

Year 3 ~ 11 students  
Year 4 ~ 6 students  
Year 5 ~ 5 students **Total 22**

### **Waratah Room ~ Mrs Bek Pens**

Year 5 ~ 5 students  
Year 6 ~ 8 students  
Year 7 ~ 12 students **Total 25**

### **Pastoral Care Worker ~ Christina Artini**

#### **SSO's**

**Classroom:** *Michelle Impett, Chandra Turner, Chris Vine, Mary McMaster and Anna Johnson.*

**Front Office:** *Donna Riggs and Chris Vine*

**ICT:** *Andrew McMaster*

**Resource Centre:** *Elaine Richardson*

## M & S and Information Update

Today you should have received a package from school with school fees and information requiring you to check and update. The school now has EFTPOS facilities available for payment of school fees, uniforms and other school costs, for your convenience. There is also a consent form for the year to be signed for all students. **Please return the information updates, consent forms and user agreement by Monday 13/2/17.**

## School Diary Dates 2017

**February**  
**Wednesday 9th**  
Year 3-5 ACA  
Cricket Coaching  
Clinic

**Tuesday 14th**  
Robyn at Greater  
Gawler Partner-  
ship Meeting

**Wednesday 15th**  
Finance Meeting  
Governing Council

**Thursday 23rd-  
Friday 24th**  
Robyn at Leaders'  
Residential Con-  
ference

**March**  
**Wednesday 1st**  
Acquaintance  
Evening and Gov-  
erning Council  
AGM

**Tuesday 14th**  
Pupil Free Day

**Wednesday 22nd**  
Governing Council

**April**  
**Monday 3rd**  
**-Thursday 6th**  
Parent Teacher  
Interviews

**Monday 11th-  
Wednesday 13th**  
Year 3-7 Camp

### Fruit Roster

To encourage healthy eating, we ask that parents donate a selection of fruit for students to have for Wednesday recess. We will kick this off next week. Thank you for participating.

- Wednesday 8th Horne, Johnson
- Wednesday 15th Mitchell, McBride
- Wednesday 22nd Niblett, Lagana-Degioia

### Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are a high priority for all of our students. School begins promptly at 8.55am and concludes at 3.20 pm.

If children are absent or late for any reason, a note should be written in their Communication Diary, or explanation made by phone or personal contact, to the office or the class teacher. Children who arrive late must report to the office and obtain an absence/late form before entering the classroom. Children who leave the school before dismissal time must also report to the office before their departure. Education Department regulations stipulate that absences for any reason other than illness or family, must be approved. Approval must be sought in writing from the Principal. Parents will be telephoned to enquire about the whereabouts of students if the school has not been notified of the reason for their absence.

### Bushfire Information

Going home with today's newsletter is our bushfire brochure. Please read the brochure carefully so that you are aware of what to do should a bushfire pose a risk to our site. Remember that **if the forecast fire danger rating is catastrophic, then our school will be closed. Our fire district is the Mt Lofty Ranges.** Students will practise the emergency fire drills early in the term, so they are aware of the routine should the situation ever arise.

### School Uniforms and Hats

School uniforms can be ordered at any time. Pricelists and order forms are available from the Front Office. All students are required to wear a hat when outdoors for protection from the sun. New hats are available for purchase from the front office. Students who do not have a hat will be required to play under the sun shelter outside the main building. New hats are issued free of charge when students change classes.

### Lunches

Children should bring their lunch to school in a secure, labelled plastic container. A refrigerator is located in the central corridor for student use.

**For MONDAY LUNCH** (or Tuesday following a public holiday) students can order their lunch from the Cockatoo Valley Store. Orders and money should be left in a sealed envelope in the front office prior to 9.00am. An order list is available in the front office.

During **WEDNESDAY RECESS**, children will have the opportunity to have a piece of fruit free of charge. Parents/carers are rostered on to provide this healthy alternative each week.

Pizza Day is each **THURSDAY**. We would love a parent volunteer to manage the heating of the pizzas!! These may be ordered at the office prior to 9.00am.

The school's gas barbecue is available for **FRIDAY LUNCH** for the children to use, under staff supervision. Experience has shown that quick to cook food is most suitable or pre-cooked food that can be heated on the BBQ. The BBQ will not be available if the fire rating is severe for our area.

### Student Banking

Children may use the facilities of the Commonwealth Bank by bringing their deposits each **Thursday** into school. The school receives a donation for each transaction from the Commonwealth Bank that goes towards new school resources. Application forms are available from the Front Office.

### Hello from our Pastoral Care Worker

A big hello to the children, parents and community of Sandy Creek P.S. My name is Christina Artini and I am a Pastoral Care Worker. My role here has many dimensions which are intended to enhance the wellbeing of children and their school community. This, in turn enhances their learning. My support may range from smiles, and "Wow, you've had a haircut!" first thing in the morning, to encouragement of positive behaviours or providing an ear to help with problems. I will be at the school most Mondays and Wednesdays from before school until after lunch. Please say hello to me if you see me in the schoolyard, or on Acquaintance Night. You can contact me by saying hello at school or by seeing Donna in the front office. Please take the time to read more about my role in the Pastoral Care Worker Consent Form which is with the consents in this pack.

Just a few words about myself. I love reading, nature, (especially my garden and my dog Maggie!) and I love my family. *Christina Artini*

### Emoji Performance—Adelaide Fringe

Congratulations to *Osha and Myra* who are performing in the Adelaide Fringe Performance called *Emoji*. This performance is on 24th-25th February at 7pm and 26th February at 1pm at Parks Theatre, 46 Cowan Street, Angle Park. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 for adults. "Whether you use them or not, we all know what Emoji's are and how they are used. Smiley face ... Sad face ... Cat faces ... all Emoji's convey much more than you think and they can be used for saying something important, being nice to each other, being mean and even cyber-bullying."

You can order tickets at: <https://www.adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/emoji>

Group discounts are also available for performances (\$15/ticket for groups of 6+). If you are interested in coming along, please email expressions of interest, with numbers, to Monique: [monique.seymour@gmail.com](mailto:monique.seymour@gmail.com) or phone: 0439 874 633 by Friday, February 10th.

### Facebook Page

Information is attached to this newsletter about the school Facebook page. We would appreciate it if you could complete the approval form for your child/ren to have pictures on the school Facebook page so that we can update this information.

### Car Park

Please be aware that our Car Park gets very full at pick-up time. Be considerate of others and park carefully please.

### Character Strengths

We are continuing to focus on student and staff character strengths as part of our Positive Education at Sandy Creek Primary School. Staff spent some time last week sharing with each other about the strengths we perceive in ourselves and each other.

"Character Strengths are the positive parts of your personality that impact how you think, feel and behave and are the keys to you being your best self. When applied effectively, they are beneficial both to you and society as a whole. They are different than your other strengths, such as your unique skills, talents, interests and resources, because character strengths reflect the "real" you — who you are at your core...Every individual possesses all 24 character strengths in different degrees, giving each person a unique character profile."

This week classes are beginning to discuss character strengths. The Waratah room students have completed a survey at <http://www.viacharacter.org/www/Character-Strengths-Survey> to discover their character strengths as perceived by themselves. This survey can be completed by anyone who is interested.

We would like parents/carers to identify the 5 strengths you most see your child/ren demonstrating on the colour sheet of character strengths that is with this newsletter and return it to school. This will enable teachers and students to look at the strengths that others see in our students.