PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

This is the first newsletter for 2016 and this year newsletters will go home every second Friday.

We extend a very warm welcome to our new families and welcome back to our existing ones. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and just like us, are all looking forward to another busy and productive year of fun and learning at Austral PS.

We are already off to a great start, with classes set and children have started learning in earnest. Our numbers seem to be fairly set now and I don’t envisage any further movement or changes to classes or teachers.

Our structure for 2016 is:
KT – Mrs Tester
KG – Mrs Gow
1/2D – Mrs De Giorgio
1/2G – Miss Gaut
1/2L – Miss Little
3/4R – Mrs Rysko
3/4G – Miss Ghassibe
3/4S – Miss Standley
5/6M – Mr Thompson & Mrs McPherson
5/6B – Mrs Bergmann
5/6A – Mrs Ayuso

Other teachers include:
Teacher/Librarian – Mrs Benson
Community Language/Italian – Mrs Cordi & Mrs Docter
Learning and Support and ESL – Mrs McMullen, Mrs Logozzo, Mrs Manago
Early Action for Success Interventionist – Mrs Walker

Mr McKay will be working in classes and with teachers to support 21st Century Learning and Student Welfare.

Sadly at the end of last year, Mrs Becker and Mrs McGuire (our Instructional Leaders) both gained other positions and will not return to Austral in 2016. We are currently in the process of selecting a new Instructional Leader through an Expression of Interest. Mrs McPherson is very kindly supporting K – 2 classes until the new person arrives.

Our Kindergarten students have amazed us all by settling in to school routines very quickly and are already joining in with the whole school. Their Year 6 buddies are doing a great job of helping them to navigate their way around the school during lunchtime.

Swimming Carnival
Yesterday was our annual swimming carnival, which was held at Fairfield Leisure Centre. Despite the threat (and arrival) of some rain and wind the carnival was very successful. Our students were very well behaved and keen participants in races and novelty events. I would like to thank Mr Thompson for his outstanding organisation of the carnival and all teachers and parents who ensured the day went smoothly.
Congratulations to all of our race winners and place getters and to everyone who had a go and showed great school spirit.

Unfortunately, on the way home from the swimming carnival, an incident occurred with the buses. One of the buses was a bendy-bus and the other a regular sized bus. There was a problem with the bendy bus and the back door opened unexpectedly. This triggered an emergency braking system in the bus and it stopped suddenly. The second bus had to stop very quickly as a result to avoid hitting the bendy bus. As a result some children and teachers were jolted forward. I want to assure you all that everyone is ok and I have contacted the bus company who are investigating the incident. Please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns regarding this incident.

School Improvements
During the holidays we had some work done on the school. Our toilets were upgraded and while not quite finished, are looking fantastic. We also had the rest of the hall painted and it is looking very fresh and clean. We hope to have it air conditioned during 2016.

Kind regards
Jan Rogers

2016 School Swimming Carnival
Yesterday students at Austral Public School attended their annual swimming carnival at Fairfield Leisure Centre.

We had an absolutely fantastic day! All of the students were extremely well behaved and we had lots of students competing in events.

A number of our students broke their personal best times, which was a massive achievement for them. Students who have qualified for the Zone level will be told over the next couple of weeks.

Finally, thank you so much to all of the parents who came along to support the students and to those parents who helped out yesterday time keeping. Your support and assistance was greatly appreciated!

Mr Thompson

Allergy Aware School
I would like to remind everyone that we have several students at Austral Public School who have severe allergies to certain foods with many sensitive to nuts and nut products. These allergies can be life threatening! We want to support these students to feel safe and happy at school, so we encourage parents and carers not to send peanut butter, nut based products or whole nuts to school if possible please. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Uniform Orders
Uniform orders are to be placed at the office no later than Friday morning 9.30am. Orders will be filled out on Friday and delivered to the child’s class. Please place correct money in envelope with their name and class.

Change of Clothes
It is a good idea to put spare underpants and either grey pants for boys and royal blue pants for girls for Kindergarten and Year 1 students in their bag as the office only has a limited number of spare clothes.

If your child has an accident at school and needs to be given items of clothing, please wash and return them to the office.

Thank you

DATES FOR THE DIARY

FEBRUARY
10  Leaders Induction Assembly
15  P&C AGM
**Sport Update 2016**

Our school’s involvement in PSSA sport has been a topic that has been discussed at various P & C meetings throughout 2015. Issues related to the amount of time spent on the field (playing), on average 30mins from a 3hr sport allocation, and the ever-rising costs of transportation to and from sporting venues, have played a large part of the concern regarding our continued involvement in the PSSA program.

To that end, and as a part of our annual school evaluation in 2015, the school feels that the disruption to learning, the high costs of buses and the small amount of time playing sport, necessitates our decision not to participate in PSSA sport for 2016.

We acknowledge the importance that sport plays in students’ lives and as such will participate in the following, more suitable, sporting programs:

- clinics from outside sporting agencies in a range of sports
- competing at CCOS Gala Days (once a term)
- ‘round-robin’ sports competitions (eg Cops and Kids Oz Tag Day, Wests All-School’s Rugby League Carnival Day)

At the end of the year, we will evaluate the success of these programs and make changes where necessary.

Our decision not to participate in PSSA Sport has not been taken lightly and your support for this change in Sport at Austral is appreciated. If you have any questions, please see me.

Thank you

Mr McKay
Caring for their future.....
We provide a safe and warm environment and care for children between the ages of 6wks to 12yrs.
Long Day Care 6.30am - 6.30pm
Before and After School Care
Vacation Care
Call us on 9606 2424
Is maintaining your health important to you? Just ask us.

- Health information
- Health check screening programs
- One on one consultation and advice
- Professional service

Pharmacist Advice
We'll sit with you so you'll understand!

Open 7 days
Mon - Fri 9am - 6.30pm
Sat 9am - 1pm
Sun 9am - 12 noon

Cnr Edmondson
& Tenth Avenues
Austral
Telephone
02 9606 9051

Prescription
Corner Fifteenth & Edmondson Avenues,
AUSTRAL, N.S.W. 2179
Monday - Friday 8.30 am - 6.00 pm
Saturday 8.30 am - 12.30 pm
Telephone: [02] 9606 0150
Facsimile: [02] 9606 9151
Email: westhoxton.pharmacy@nunet.com.au

Volare Woodfired Pizza
Mobile Catering
0423 277 525
info@volare.net.au

Jilly’s Educational Centre
30 Whitaker Rd Rossmore
Ph: 9606 9201  Fax: 9606 9291
Fully Accredited for both LDC & OOSH with the
NCAC Inc.
Long Day care (Babies to school age, in separate
rooms and yards)
Before / After School Care
Vacation Care