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Austinmer PUBLIC SCHOOL

Principal's Report for Wednesday 16th February 2011

Welcome to the 2011 School Year

A busy start and now with 14 classes and 338 students.

New staff include appointed teachers;

- Mr Matthew Clark
- Mrs Simone Pallier

Long term casual teachers;

- Mrs Susie Wynn-Jones
- Mrs Jo Blanch

Long term job sharing casual teachers;

- Ms Holly Swan
- Mrs Elaine Bell
- Mrs Di Hosking

There will be some staff movement throughout the year including;

- Merit selection procedures for a new Assistant Principal. Position advertised today with the process to be completed by end of Term 1. This appointee will move onto the Year 5J class.
- Mrs Polster will be commencing maternity leave around the end of Term 1 / start of Term 2 and Mrs Jo Blanch will move to the Year 2 J class.

Kindy – KM	Miss Melissa Mendham
Kindy – KF	Mrs Kathy Foster
Kindy – KS	Mrs Sarah Webb / Ms Holly Swan
Year 1P	Mrs Simone Pallier
Year 1HG	Ms Debbie Hobbs/ Mrs Bronwyn Gleeson
Year 2J	Mrs Jane Polster
Year 2 W	Ms Rennae Watts
Year 3/4M	Mr Matthew Clark
Year 3/4C	Mrs Eleanor Chamberlain
Year 3/4B	Mrs Rachel Brown / Mrs Elaine Bell
Year 5J	Mrs Jo Blanch
Year 5B	Mrs Ruth Burns / Mrs Di Hosking
Year 6R	Mrs Julie Reid
Year 6WJ	Mrs Susie Wynn-Jones

All other staff are maintained for 2011.

Of note is our Reading Recovery position with Ms Debbie Hobbs undertaking training in Reading Recovery and sharing her class with Mrs Bronwyn Gleeson.

As part of the Illawarra and South East Region (ISER) School Learning Support Program trial, we continue to have the expertise of Cherylyn Fenton as our School Learning Support Teacher for five days a fortnight.

We have also maintained Nikki Dalla Possa as our Counsellor and Mrs Joy Lynch as our Chaplain both for one day a week.

Demountable Movements

There is a delay of around three weeks with moving classes into the demountables.

Concern have been raised by neighbours of the school regarding the location of the classrooms.

Departmental officers from Properties and Assets are negotiating the placement of these rooms.

MySchool Website

The new version of the MySchool website is due to go live in March. Many of you would be aware of the issues raised about the site from the private sector.

The site does have a function, but to get the real picture of any school, talk to the school.

Trooper Mark Donaldson VC

Next Thursday we will be honoured to have a visit from Trooper Mark Donaldson VC.

Mrs Gleeson had a number of students write to Trooper Donaldson last year.

He was so taken with the responses of the students that he will be with us next Thursday, 24th February.

Details will follow, but please try to join us for his visit.

Electronic Newsletters, Notes and Calendar

We will be moving to a Newsletter subscription service towards the end of the term. Parents can still have a hard copy, but if 90% of parents have their newsletter emailed, we will save around \$1700 in printing costs.

We also hope to have copies of notes on the subscription service too.

An electronic calendar is in development. This will be online as part of the website and should allow for long term planning for parents.

Future Events of Note

Swim-a-thon

Paul, Jodie and the team are all set to repeat their successes with a 2011 Swim-a-thon.

With the timing of this event now in Term 1, it is a brilliant way to make the afternoon a real celebration of our school her and turn the after-swim event into a Welcome Back to School event.

Dragon Boating

There is one boat full of staff ready for the challenge on Lake Illawarra on Saturday, 5th March. So here is the challenge for the P & C to put together a parent team too.

Supporting Public Education and the Australian Government Schools Review Commission

Submissions to the Review of Funding for Schooling has been extended to March 31st 2011. There is a Public Education Supports event being organised to take place at Keira Technology High School. We will pass on the exact details as they come to hand and encourage all parents to attend.

Long Term P & C Support Requests

First and foremost, I am passing on the thanks of every staff member, for we are grateful for all of the work done by parents in supporting their classroom work. As long term 'wishes' we ask for:

School Based ICT Interactive Whiteboard Funding

To continue the great work of 2010, we would like to provide more interactive whiteboards across the school. The current machines are being well utilised and are a huge asset to any classroom.

Hall Equipment

Kookaburra Educational suppliers has developed a master plan for kitting out the hall and once presented we plan to make a wish list of things we gradually achieve in the hall.

