



Para Meadows School Newsletter

Week 5

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22/2/17

Dear Parents & Carers, **SCHOOL PHOTOS**



School photos will be on Monday 27th February.

If you would like a siblings photograph then you can ring the office to request that a special envelope is sent home. A student ID card is available at a small additional cost of \$5.

Payments for all photos need to be sent in the envelope by Monday.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

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.

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.
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.

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.

SCHOOL CAMPS

School camps are a wonderful opportunity for students to consolidate skills in a new setting. However, camp is not always suitable for all students and staff will discuss with the executive those students that they would like to invite to camp. We try very hard to make sure all students are given the opportunity to attend but sometimes behaviours, student groupings/ combinations mean that the current camp may not be the appropriate camp for some students. This year there will be two camps to Berry for Stages 4 and 5, and Snow Camp for students in Stage 6.

CORRIMAL PLAYGROUND COMMUNICATION BOARDS



Wollongong City Council collaborated with Para Meadow's staff and a speech therapist from ASPECT to produce the first trial communication board in a council setting. It would be great if parents could trial this and give the council some positive feedback. We might then see more boards in a greater variety of settings. Fingers crossed! Well Done Heather and Lisa!!!

P & C NEWS

SCHOOL BANKING DAY—FRIDAYS

Next Meeting: 8/3/17 @9:30am

All Welcome

FAMILY PLANNING MEETING

We had two very successful meetings on Tuesday to assist families with puberty and what is normal and age appropriate behaviours for students around sexuality. Thank you Candice and Kirstie for co-ordinating and organising these wonderful meetings. Parents were thankful for the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with other parents that share similar situations. We will be beginning our SoSafe program in the high school later this term.

AREAS OF INTEREST OR STUDENT NEEDS

Over the years we have offered formal and informal opportunities to come into the school and discuss topics of interest /concern with training provided. Family Planning; Communication and devices; Communication and visuals are just a few of the recent topic. If you have an area of need that we can assist through training sessions or open discussion please send suggestions to the school through your child's communication book or to the school email address with attention to Gill or Heather.

GRANDPARENTS AND HARMONY DAY ASSEMBLY AND MORNING TEA

We invite all families, Grandparents and carers to our Harmony Day assembly on Friday 17th of March (to be sure, to be sure St Patrick's Day) and stay on in your child's class until morning tea where you can join the staff for a cuppa and chat in the staffroom. We encourage all families to dress in family heritage costumes or national colours. It is always fun to see the students and parents embrace their cultural background.



I embraced my cultural background during my recent holidays and found myself walking in the snow at -4°C. I just wanted to highlight the difference in temperatures we had over the last couple of weeks.

Well done everyone surviving the recent heatwave and keeping your sense of humour when things heated up!
Have a great fortnight,
Gill Hendry



Attention Canteen volunteers:

If you are unable to attend your day please phone Tracy on 0438273836



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|--------------|--------------------|
| Thu 23rd Feb | Tracy |
| Fri 24th Feb | Paula & John |
| Mon 27th Feb | Jo & Juliette |
| Tue 28th Feb | Leyna & Jean |
| CLOSED | |
| Thu 02 Mar | Jessica Gizzi |
| Fri 03 Mar | Paula & John |
| Mon 06 Mar | Suzi |
| Tue 07 Mar | Wendy |
| CLOSED | |
| Thu 09 Mar | Tracy |
| Fri 10 Mar | Mareanna & her Mum |

Para Meadows Ex-Students Group

Anyone interested in joining the group in 2017 please contact Genevieve on **0417651862** or email: genovevecertificate@yahoo.com.au
You will be most welcome to come along and join in the fun with lots of social activities! Open to all school leavers and adults with a disability.

Held at Para Meadows school hall from 7pm-9pm every fortnight on a Wednesday night, \$3 to attend. There are drinks and chips to purchase and we also serve a light supper.

Dates for 2017:

01Mar/15Mar/29Mar/12Apr/26Apr/
10May/24May/07Jun/21Jun/05Jul/19Jul/02Aug/
16Aug/30Aug/13Sep/27Sep/11Oct/25Oct/08Nov/
22Nov/06Dec (Xmas party)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in helping out please contact Genoveve Vieira on 0417651862 or email genovevecertificate@yahoo.com.au