

# PRESTON SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

8th February  
2019  
Issue No. 1

Dates to  
Remember



### FEBRUARY

#### Every Wednesday

- Student free day for all Preps.

#### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>

- CENTRAL support briefing 4pm

#### Monday 18<sup>th</sup>

- School Council

#### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>

- Parents & Friends Meeting 8.50am

#### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

- Parent Helpers Briefing 9am

#### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> –

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>

- Parent information evenings

### MARCH

#### Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

- Labour Day
- No school

#### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

- Family Fun Night

#### Monday 18<sup>th</sup>

- School Council AGM

#### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>

- School Photos

### APRIL

#### Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

- Term One Ends

Welcome back to the 2019 school year. I hope you have all enjoyed the holiday break and everyone is relaxed, re-energised and excited about the new school year. What a delight it was to see all 70 Prep students start last week. There is something very special and rewarding in seeing young children keen to come to school and meet their teacher and classmates. I am very impressed with how quickly the students have settled into school life and seeing their confidence grow.

I would like to introduce and welcome our new teachers for 2019: Michael Cannizzaro (year 2/3 teacher), Sophie Delaney (year 2/3 teacher) and Patrick Smith (year 4/5 teacher). We are very excited to have them as part of our teaching team and wish them well for the year ahead.

Welcome to our new families who joined our school community. We look forward to working together to make Preston South Primary School an even better school.

It has been a pleasure to visit classes over the first two weeks of school and see that the students have settled in well and class routines have been established. I have been overwhelmed and overjoyed with the way our new Preps have settled into the school routine. Our Prep parent breakfast was a huge success with parents staying back to enjoy the special day and to ease their anxieties.



## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Over the summer holidays, we received our new Art Room and new Modular relocatable classrooms. We are still waiting to have the play equipment reinstated. I know that the students loved the climbing play equipment titled 'The Spider'.



This type of equipment is rare in schools and so we would love to have it reinstated. Thank you to all the parents who came in during the summer break to water the gardens. Because of their support, we were able to come back to school to see the newly planted trees looking healthy.



Parents and students were very excited to come back to see the new play space.

We received a lovely email from a grandparent who wrote, "Coming in to the school from the side gate is looking very impressive! If you have not done so already, go to that gate one day, walk into the school and check out the vista! A lovely school in every direction you look." We are also very pleased with the new hallway covering. It has certainly brightened up the school corridors.



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

All our students participate in Visual Arts and Performing Arts at P.S.P.S. We also provide an instrumental music program that is outsourced to 'Creative Music'. They provide affordable high quality instruction in guitar, piano and singing lessons. If you would like your child to participate please obtain an application form from the office.



## ICYPOLES

One of the Junior School Council initiatives is to sell icypoles at lunchtime to raise funds for playground equipment or fund day activities for the students. Last year many students finished their lunch with a delicious cold icypole. Starting Monday we will be selling icypoles for \$1.00 every day. If you wish for your child to have an icypole please send them to school with a \$1.00 coin. This activity is arranged for Term one and Term four this year. We are seeking parent helpers to help with this initiative. If you are able to help, please contact the school office.



## SCHOOL CANTEEN

Our School Canteen will commence again this year beginning Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February. If you wish your child to have a lunch order on this day and/or every Friday please ensure that orders are brought to school the day before (by recess).

## WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Whole school assemblies will be held at 3:15pm each Monday afternoon under the COLA (Covered Outdoor Learning Area).

## SCHOOL BELL TIMES

A reminder to parents that school starts at 8.50 am. Students will have recess at 11.00am to 11.30am and lunch will be from 1.45pm to 2.30 pm. Students are supervised in class whilst eating their play lunch at 10.50am and their lunch at 1.30 pm.

## NEWSLETTER

In an attempt to keep hard copy newsletters to a minimum, save money, time and trees please ensure you provide an email address to the office to receive your newsletter electronically. If you have supplied your email address and still have not received an electronic copy of the newsletter, please let us know so we can ensure we have you listed correctly on our distribution list. We love keeping everybody informed and try to do this as cost effectively as possible. We also place a copy of our newsletter on our school website.

## LEAP KIDS (Before & After School Care)

Our 'Out of Hours School Care' provider - LEAPKIDS (*Learn, Engage, Active, Play*) have made a great start to the year and have been well received by both students and parents. Their holiday program was a huge success and they received positive feedback from many families. If you wish to have your child attend the LEAPKIDS program please complete an enrolment form at the school office. This program runs from 7.30am to 9.00am and from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. For more information please contact Nadia on 1300 366 235.

## SCHOOL CROSSING

A reminder to all students and parents to please use the school crossing. P.S.P.S prides itself of a high standard of care in relation to students.



## PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Welcome back to another year of Parents and Friends at Preston South Primary School. Our first PFA meeting will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of February at 8.50 am in the staffroom. Please come along and support our wonderful school in fundraising. Being a part of PFA is very rewarding in so many ways, knowing all fundraising that we do is going into the school which is helping our children. The PFA is a non-profit, volunteer association established to benefit the school community of Preston South Primary School – pre-school children are welcome!

## INFORMATION EVENINGS

Preston South Primary School understands the importance of effective communication between home and school. The school provides a fortnightly newsletter to parents in addition to regular reports, parent teacher interviews, Facebook page and Sentral Parent Portal - as well as information evenings. This year we have scheduled information evenings for each teaching team to present to parents/guardians on the curriculum and year level expectations for 2019. In order to support families with more than one child at Preston South we have scheduled the following times.

- **Prep** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 5.15 pm - 6.15 pm
- **Years 1** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 5.15 pm - 6.15 pm
- **Year 2/3** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 5.15 pm - 6.15 pm
- **Year 4/5/6** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 5.15 pm - 6.15 pm



We hope to see all parents/guardians come along and learn about our exciting curriculum.

## CURRICULUM DAYS

Each year schools receive four student-free days (when student instruction does not occur) for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development and student assessment and reporting. The first day of Term 1 each year will be a student-free day in all government schools to allow for appropriate planning to take place for the arrival of students. To support parents to be able to make suitable arrangements for the care of their children, staff have selected the following dates to put forward to school council. This year we have tried to make it easier for parents to plan their appointments and work commitments and have found that parents often like to plan an extended weekend before or after a public holiday. So we have planned accordingly.

- **Term 2** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of June (Queens Birthday on the Monday- Public Holiday)
- **Term 3** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of August
- **Term 4** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of November (Cup Day on the Tuesday – Public Holiday)

## BIRTHDAY TREATS REMINDER

We are very appreciative to have so many students share their birthdays with their classmates. Often there are yummy treats brought in, which we know so many students look forward to. This is just a friendly reminder from the First Aid Team to be mindful of students with allergies, as we have an increasing number of students with allergies.

While we don't want students to stop celebrating their birthdays, it would be a great help if families sending in treats attach a list of ingredients (or send the packaging information) along with their birthday items (as we do with the Friday Food Stall items). Alternatively, **please consider a non-edible item** to share eg. a small eraser, stickers, balloon or pencil.

While students on Anaphylaxis plans are all very diligent with knowing which treats they can and can't eat, it would still help the families of these students to know what they are taking home with them. We realise this will require a little more organisation and time, but the extra effort is much better than the alternative, if a student were to accidentally consume an item that they could react to.

Thank you again to students who choose to share their birthdays with their classmates. Please know that this is just a reminder to look out for each other as a school community. All items bought to school to share are only given at the end of the day for safety planning and safety reasons.

## SENTRAL PARENT APP AND PORTAL

The Sentral Parent Portal will allow you to engage with different aspects of your child's education.

Within the portal you will be able to:

1. Book Parent-Teacher interviews
2. Manage your child's attendance- access attendance data and provide explanations for any absences.
3. Access your child's archived academic reports (only reports written in Sentral)
4. Receive notification pushes- whole school, year level and grade announcements
5. Communicate directly with your child's teachers (messaging)

New families will soon receive an email with instructions and registration login code to access the SENTRAL parent portal. Mr Leonidas will be available to support parents with any further information or technical support in the school library on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of February at 4.00pm – 5.00pm**

**PARENT HELPERS**

One of the many features of Preston South Primary School is the excellent co-operation between our teachers and parents. We believe that the best learning environment is created when there is a strong partnership between parents, teachers and students.

Parental involvement takes place at all levels of the schools' operation and enhances the students' learning, school programs, school administration and the school's role within the community. All parent helpers at Preston South Primary School are required to complete the Parent Helpers' Training Course- which we offer at the beginning of each school year. The Parent Helpers' Course is run in first term by Mrs Tina Kyriazopoulos. The date of the parent helpers Course is at **9.00am on Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup> in the school library**

Parents who miss this course will need to undertake the training the following year. All parent helpers are required to have the Working with Children Check and this must be presented to the Office staff where a photocopy will be recorded on file.

**YEAR ONE WRITING**

**The year one teachers are very impressed the students have settled into the new school year.**

**The year one students have been very busy demonstrating their writing skills.**

