Bidding a Fond Farewell to 2016 (and some staff)

It seems that 2016 only started a few weeks ago and already we’re winding up for the year and getting ready for 2017!

2016 has been particularly significant in that it was our school’s 100th birthday, which we celebrated in style with our week of special events and our amazing fete. Our Principal, Heather Walker, retired at the end of Term Two and many staff and parents (past and present) joined together to make her farewell one to remember. Thank you for everything Heather! I will continue in this role for the first two terms next year. The principal’s position will be re-advertised late in Term One, with a new principal to hopefully start in Term Three 2017.

While all staffing for next year is not yet known, we will be bidding farewell to some of our current staff members:

- A very special farewell goes to Steve Hetherington, our amazing school counsellor, who has won a position at another school. Steve has been an invaluable member of our leadership team and will be sorely missed by staff, students and parents.
- Many, many thanks to Amelia Neumeister who will be going on to further study and will be very heavily involved in university life next year.
- Our gratitude also goes to Rosalie Miller for her hard work and dedication to our French programme.
- It is also with regret that we farewell Jenna Birkin who will be joining her partner and pursuing her teaching career in Port Lincoln.
- Kate Smith has been an absolute asset to our staff and we hope to see her back in some capacity next year.
- We also bid farewell to Kerry Gallagher who has worked so hard for us this year.

Despite our best efforts we are still uncertain as to exactly how many classes we will have next year. Staff members are working hard on two different scenarios but we won’t be certain of our numbers until school goes back next year. For students, the 2017 school year will commence on Monday January 30th. Students (apart from Reception students who will go straight to their classes) are asked to assemble in the gym at 8:50. They will be placed in year level groups until numbers are confirmed and we can allocate them to their classes. They will be dismissed from the gym and asphalt area at the end of the day, coming home with information about their class for 2017.

On behalf of our school, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season filled with love and laughter.

Jo Rowell - Principal
**STUDENT REPORTS – END OF YEAR**

Student reports will be sent home on Friday December 16th which is the last day of the term. If your child is absent on this day, you will be able to collect the report from the front office on Monday 19th December or Tuesday 20th December. Any reports not collected during this time will be held for collection commencing Monday 30th January in 2017.

Please take note of the number of days your child has been **absent or late this year** in regard to the following information. Whilst we understand that there are genuine circumstances which require students to be absent from school at times, it is also important to keep the following points in mind:

- **10 days off in a YEAR** is deemed to impact on a student’s learning.
- This includes missing basic concepts and the foundations needed for ongoing success, especially in Literacy and Numeracy.
- **Poor attendance** interrupts social contact and friendships.
- Students miss practising organisational routines and expectations to set the scene for successful learning.

This information in your child’s report is an ideal time to reflect on how their attendance and punctuality may be impacting on their learning success and planning ways to improve this in 2017.

Steve Hetherington, our School Counsellor is available to support families as necessary. Please ensure that you inform the school as soon as possible when your child is absent from school for any reason. You can call on 83822455, email dl.0362.admin@schools.sa.edu.au or via the Skoolbag App.

**SKOOLBAG**

We are thrilled with the response to our Skoolbag App. Thank you to everyone who has installed it and has provided such positive feedback.

This is a reminder that you are now able to update your information and contact details via the app by clicking on the eForm and filling in the information. Student absences can also be done on the app. Click the eForm and then the Absentee Form and fill in the relevant information.

We have created a category for our OSHC Service and School Counsellor. Programmes and information will be shared in the app and we will continue to expand the App and its contents in 2017.

**CLASS PLACEMENT PROCESS**

If your child will not be attending Port Noarlunga Primary School in 2017 could you please let us know as soon as possible by phoning 83822455 or emailing dl.0362.admin@schools.sa.edu.au This will assist us greatly with the final stages of planning for 2017.

**END OF YEAR PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY**

Parents and caregivers are invited to attend the End of Year Presentation Assembly at 9:00am in the Gymnasium on Tuesday 13th December prior to the Volunteer’s Morning Tea. Students will be presented with certificates and medals for the Premier’s Reading Challenge and other competitions that students have participated in during the year.

**VOLUNTEERS IN OUR SCHOOL**

Our school cannot function without the amazing work that our volunteers do for us. We are grateful for every bit of assistance that we receive and hope that our volunteers realise just how important they are to the successful running of our school.

This year we were delighted to successfully nominate Caroline Duke for the Annual Southern Suburbs Volunteer Service Award.

I attended this excellent event with Caroline and had the added pleasure of hearing our wonderful choir sing the National Anthem at the commencement of the ceremony.

This is what was submitted to Amanda Rishworth’s office: Caroline always puts in more than we could possibly expect from a parent volunteer. This year, however, she has worked exceptionally hard to ensure that the school’s 100th Birthday Celebration Fete was an outstanding success. She put in many, many hours locating, researching and booking suitable stall holders. She also liaised with the local council (Onkaparinga) and was successful in gaining us much valued sponsorship from them. She spent hundreds of hours keeping us all on our toes so that everyone knew their responsibilities and we were ready to go on the day. We are deeply indebted to her.

![Photo of Principal Jo Rowell](image)

**Jo Rowell - Principal**

**VOLUNTEERS MORNING TEA**

The annual Volunteers Morning Tea will be held on Tuesday 13th December at 10:30am following the End of Year Presentation Assembly. Invitations will be sent home with your child soon. Please return the reply slip as soon as possible to help with catering.

**WHOLE SCHOOL PICNIC**

Parents and caregivers are invited to share in a whole school picnic on the oval next Wednesday 14th December from 12:30pm (weather permitting). This is in lieu of individual class parties. Students are asked to bring their own lunch for the picnic. The canteen is available, as always, for lunch orders. Should parents attend and want to take their child early they must sign their child out at the front office before leaving.

**REMINDERS**

- School finishes at 2:15pm Friday 16th December.
- Year 1-3 students will be dismissed from the Gym and Year 4-7 from the asphalt area.
OSHCVACATION CARE BOOKINGS
If you are requiring bookings for your child during the school holidays then please book with Robyn on 040534676 as soon as possible. Bookings for Term 1 will be open on Wednesday 25th January 2017. Forms can be sent in prior to this date.
Robyn Harris – OSHC Director

CANTEEN NEWS
Due to end of term nearing quickly, some items will be out of stock and not replaced until 2017. If this happens your child will be consulted and a substitute will be offered. We apologise for any inconvenience.
Deonne Milton – Canteen Manager

VIV’S VIBE
I would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who donated goods and gifts to our hamper drive. We were able to distribute 15 hampers to families who can benefit from our school community’s generosity.
Your donations will go a long way to making things a little easier at this time of year.
Thank you – Vivonne Amoy – Pastoral Care Worker

TERM DATES 2017
- Term 1 – Monday 30th January – Friday 13th April
- Term 2 – Monday 1st May – Friday 7th July
- Term 3 – Monday 24th July – Friday 29th September
- Term 4 – Monday 16th October – Friday 15th December

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2017
- Monday 2nd January – New Year’s Day (additional day as 1st January falls on a Sunday)
- Thursday 26th January – Australia Day
- Monday 13th March – Adelaide Cup
- Friday 14th April – Good Friday
- Saturday 15th April – Easter Saturday
- Sunday 16th April – Easter Sunday
- Monday 17th April – Easter Monday
- Tuesday 25th April – ANZAC Day
- Monday 12th June – Queen’s Birthday
- Monday 2nd October – Labour Day
- Monday 25th December - Christmas Day
- Tuesday 26th December – Proclamation Day
- Sunday 31st December – 7pm – midnight New Year’s Eve

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS
Thank you to all parents/carers who have supported Book Club during 2016. Issue 8 will arrive and be distributed in week 9. Children will receive their PRC medals and certificates at the assembly, on Tuesday of week 9. Borrowing has closed for students for this year and all readers and library books must be returned to the library please.
Chris McDonald – Teacher Librarian

MATERIALS AND SERVICES CHARGES FOR 2017
Governing Council have approved a $5.00 increase in the Materials and Services charges for 2017. Invoices for 2017 will be sent home with your child during the first week of next year.

FUNDAISING NEWS
What an exciting year it has been for fundraising! Things were a little different this year due to the amazing success that was the 100th Birthday Celebratory Fete. Although some money was raised at the fete, this was not designed to be a fundraising event, and everything was run to a tight budget to make it as family friendly and inexpensive as possible. As of week 8 there is just over $16,000 left.
Money raised has gone towards:
- Installation of a rainwater tank near Butterfly Garden
- New drama blocks for use in Performing Arts and assemblies
- 100th Birthday pavers will be laid hopefully over the summer in an area soon to be announced

Teachers and students have been asked to think of ways to spend the remaining fundraising cash, with some initial ideas of new bins and bin storage, new iPads and outside games. As with most things these days, money is tight and fundraising is seen as a great way to invest into the school and improve areas of the students’ daily life that would be missing in a normal school budget.
Students and families have helped the school raise money by:
- Participating in the School’s Fun Run
- 100th Birthday Raffle
- Designing Commemorative Pavers
- Purchasing Entertainment Books
- Purchasing Commemorative Cookbooks

Thank you to all the families who have supported the fundraising efforts this year through sponsoring runners, purchasing items and donating goods. Thank you also to those who have volunteered their time to help with the fundraising events, from counting money, entering data, cheering on the runners and of course helping at the fete. It cannot happen without volunteers. In 2017 if you would like to help by joining the Fundraising Committee please send me an email to cduke@intermode.on.net
This year has been huge, and I enjoy volunteering at PNPS, but it would be great to have some other parents involved in organising, planning and setting up some activities, it does not consume a lot of time. Especially would love to hear from you if you have a new and exciting way of fundraising!
Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!
Caroline Duke – Fundraising Chairperson

SCHOOL SECURITY
As the school holidays loom closer, it is timely to remind everyone that students are not to be on school grounds unless supervised. If you see any suspicious behaviour or suspect a security issue please call Police Security on 81169230 with full details.

LOST PROPERTY
Don’t forget to check the lost property for your child’s belongings before the end of the school year as unclaimed items will be donated to charity during the upcoming school holidays.
Annie Neilson – Front Office SSO

2016 – A BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR
On the back page of this final newsletter for the year we have included some photos of our staff “getting into the spirit” during the 2016 school year. Our staff really gets on board when there is a celebration and the biggest highlight was the 100th Birthday Celebration Fete along with our annual events such as Twilight Dance, Beach Carnival, Family Fun Night, French Day, excursions, activities and special events. We feel especially lucky to have such a supportive and caring school community. Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.