



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

# Echunga Primary School

Together we will strive for academic, social, emotional and personal achievement, working within a positive culture that promotes the pursuit of excellence and the understanding of others



Week 8, Term 4, 8th December, 2016

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## REMINDER

School finishes at 2:20 on Friday  
16th December.  
OSHC closes at 5:30 on that day.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY ITEMS

We are still lacking items from the community for our Community Assembly. If you or a member of your family have an item they would like to perform, please contact me (Alex) by next Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December so we can put it in the programme.

### FAREWELL EVERYONE

To you the school community and to that over the last 8 years, I say thankyou. I was accepted enthusiastically from the start and this has continued for my stay here. It has been a privilege working with you and the students of Echunga Primary School and Preschool. In my first newsletter item, when I first started here I said, "I have to say that from my first impressions you are sitting on the best kept secret in the Adelaide Hills. Echunga Primary School is a hidden gem." I still believe this.

Small schools have a lot to offer. The concept of a village raising a child is what small schools are all about. All the children in the school are the responsibility of all the stakeholders. Small schools are family oriented, they naturally nurture, everyone really is in it together, and, the community feel of small schools is second to none. My history before I came here was in larger schools and I know they constantly try unsuccessfully to achieve what you have here naturally. Be proud of your school, it has a great reputation in the community and everyone here, parents/carers, teachers and support staff, are committed to, and focussed on, the children.

At this stage a replacement for me has not yet been announced. I believe a short term appointment will be placed here first during which time a panel process will be put in place to appoint a longer tenured position (normally 5 years). The next leader(s), short and long term, I'm sure, will move the school forward to the next step and develop improvement to the next level. So from me it's all the best and adios.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### DIARY DATES

Mon 12/12-2.30  
Preschool Celebration  
Event  
Tues 13/12 3:00-3:20  
Farewell Assembly  
Wed 14/12—Year 7  
Graduation Dinner  
Thurs 15/12—Community  
Assembly/Year 7  
Graduation/Community  
Tea (after graduation)  
Fri 16/12—End of Term  
4  
2.20pm early dismissal  
OSHC closes at 5:30pm

Term 1 2017 begins on  
Monday 30th January.

View the newsletter on  
our website at  
[www.echungaps.sa.edu.au](http://www.echungaps.sa.edu.au)

# SCHOOL NEWS

Another article from Kirrilie Smout:

## Upset/Angry Young People? Three Magic Words to Say to Ourselves

Some kids and teens get upset a lot - more than the average child/teen.

They get REALLY mad when things are unfair, outraged when their plans are thwarted, really stressed when they have small responsibilities, anxious about how other people think about them and sad about life.

There are many ways we can help young people deal with difficult emotions - depending on the situation, their age and how much time we have! But often, an excellent first step is to say three magic words to ourselves.

What are these magic words? They are these:



### **Not My Responsibility.**

It is not our responsibility to fix or solve the problems which cause our kids and teens distress.

It's not our responsibility to make life okay for our "big feelings" kids and teens. It's not our responsibility to make them happy.

It's our responsibility as parents/carers to love them through their struggles, be empathic as much as we can, coach and teach skills to help them deal with them and to help structure their life with boundaries and care - so they can learn to live meaningful lives.

But that doesn't mean removing all sources of distress, or ensuring they are happy as much as we possibly can. Let me say this one more time, when kids and teens are upset -**it is NOT our responsibility to fix it.**

I think I've probably said it enough, but just in case I'm misinterpreted, let me clarify again that *I don't mean we don't offer our young people empathy when they are distressed* - actually, on the contrary, I think empathy is vital. We need to say, as often as possible, things like: *I'm sorry you feel like this. I wish you didn't feel so bad. That sounds tough.*

Empathy is vital - and I actually believe that often when we are clear that it is not our responsibility to fix their problems, it's easier to be empathic.

But it's not our responsibility.

**Try it yourself and see how it feels for you:** next time your child/teen comes to you in anger, frustration, sadness, worry or stress - silently say to yourself "not my responsibility" - and see what happens next.

*Kirrilie is a child/adolescent psychologist who helps kids and teens feel calm, confident and cooperative. For more help online check out [calmkidcentral.com](http://calmkidcentral.com)*

# SCHOOL NEWS

## LETTER OF THANKS

In a week's time my daughter will graduate from Echunga Primary School. She attended pre-school, kindy, reception and all of her primary school years at the school.

In those years we've had our ups and downs, we haven't always agreed with every decision the school and/or the teachers have made but we have always felt supported by the school and the wonderful community that surrounds it.

It may be a small school but I can't think of a more beautiful way to begin your child's journey towards adulthood. I have felt that all the parents at the school look out for everyone else's kids and are always willing to go that extra mile to help them out.

Some of the best friends that I have, have been made through my association with Echunga Primary School and I like to think that this is partly because of the community feel of a small school.

In short, I would like to say THANK YOU to the Echunga school community and hope that **your** time with the school is as positive as ours has been.

Wishing you all happy holidays!

Ali Kelman



## SCHOOL RAFFLE



Just a reminder that raffle tickets are due back at school.

If you haven't sold many that's fine. Can you please return all sold tickets and money to the Front Office by Monday 12th December.

Raffle will be drawn at the Community Assembly on Thursday 15th December.

## COMMUNITY TEA ORDERS

If you have not put in an order yet tomorrow is your last chance to get an order in. You are able to order a Beef Kafta Wrap, Za'atar Chicken Wrap or Felaful Wrap all of which cost \$6.00 each. Please see Merridee with your order and money.

We cannot guarantee that there will be any spare food on the night if you have not placed an order so don't miss out get your orders in.



# SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

## ALEX'S RETIREMENT

The staff, students and, I am sure the whole school community, wish Alex well in his retirement. It has been a pleasure working with him.

We hope he has a relaxing time and is not kept too busy being a house husband.

All the best Alex.



## YMCA SUMMER CAMPS

Why not join the YMCA Camping team on a fun filled Summer Holiday Camp these school holidays!

With 4 Camps on offer including Surf, Caving, and Kangaroo Island camps there is a huge variety of awesome activities to keep your children busy throughout the summer holidays.



YMCA Holiday Camps are very popular and places are limited. Book now to secure your place in the sun, and join us for Fun, Friendship and Adventure!

All the details and booking form can be found on the YMCA website—  
<http://www.sa.ymca.org.au/our-services/y-camping/school-holiday-camps/>

Contact YMCA Camping on 8406 2900 or [campingsa@ymca.org.au](mailto:campingsa@ymca.org.au) for more details.

## VACSWIM

Don't miss out! VACSWIM enrolments closing soon!

Registrations for SA Water's summer school holiday VACSWIM program are closing fast and families are reminded to book now before it's too late! More than 13,000 primary school aged children are expected to take part in the summer water safety program at more than 130 pool and beach locations this January.



Described as the best value-for-money holiday program with enrolment starting at \$30/child, VACSWIM provides children with the opportunity to develop skills and positive experiences in the areas of water safety, confidence and competence in the water, personal survival activities and basic aquatic emergency procedures. Enrolments close December 19. Don't miss out, visit [www.vacswimsa.com.au](http://www.vacswimsa.com.au) to register your child today!

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Art Workshops for kids

Christmas Holidays 20<sup>th</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016

at the Hahndorf Academy

2 hour workshops \$30, 4 hour workshop \$60

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

9:30 – 11:30: **Wood and Felt Decorations.** Come and make as many beautiful decorations as you can! They could be Christmas themed or just something interesting to hang around your room.

12:00 – 2:00: **Stamp and printmaking.** Make your own stamps and rollers, then test them out on Paper and fabric to create some unique wrapping paper or banners

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

9:30 – 11:30: **Sock Critters and Finger puppets.** Gather lots of weird and wonderful objects and glue and cut them to create the ultimate sock and finger puppets.

12:00 – 2:00: **Mandalas on records.** Draw with permanent markers on white painted records to create beautiful Mandalas to hang on your walls.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

9:30 – 11:30: **Christmas Bonbons and Table decorations.** Choose from a heap of lovely surprises to put together Christmas Bonbons then make some cool candle lit table decorations.

12:00 – 2:00: **Shadow Puppets.** Take snippets of your imagination and turn them into strange, cute or creepy moving characters for your own shadow puppet play.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

9:30 – 11:30: **Crazy holiday head dresses.** It could be a crown, giant hat or giant horns, what you make is up to you but either way it's bound to make you stand out. Come and see what you can make with pompoms, wire, material, paper, streamers, feathers and much more.

12:00 – 2:00: **Stained glass zentangle.** Create some beautiful stained glass decorations for the sun to catch over summer.

Contact: Rebecca Prince

0433098596 | [info@artytypesartschool.com](mailto:info@artytypesartschool.com)

[www.artytypesartschool.com](http://www.artytypesartschool.com)



**It's your time to shine at our brand-new location!**  
CAPA welcomes you to join the fun at our new  
**Aldgate Studio!**

**New studio, new classes and new teachers bring in the  
New Year with a whole lot of fun!**

**Have you ever wanted to learn how to dance or maybe  
thought of yourself in a pop group, singing and dancing?  
the chance is here!!**

**Offering Jazz, Tap, Contemporary and Glee Crew!**  
**Ages 3-14+**

**Make 2017 your year to shine!**

The Village Well – Aldgate Church of Christ  
54 Strathalbyn Rd, Aldgate SA 5154

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