



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 2, Term 1, 10th February, 2017

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## DIARY DATES

Mon 13/2-2:30 Assembly

Wed 15/2—7:00  
Governing Council Meeting

Thurs 16/2—World Read  
Aloud Day

**Mon 20/2—Pupil Free  
Day School & Preschool**

Thurs 23/2 RAA Street  
Smart Workshop

Mon 27/2—5:30-6:00  
Open Classrooms  
6:00-6:45 Sausage sizzle  
7:00 Governing Council  
AGM

Mon 6/3-2:30 Assembly

Mon 13/3-Public Holiday

Mon 27/3:2:30 Assembly

Fri 17/3 Year 6/7 Aquatics

Tues 21/3 Harmony Day

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

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you enjoyed some great family time over the summer holidays, although they probably seem so far away now! I have received a warm welcome from students, staff and parents and I am starting to get to know our students as I chat with them around the school.

We have welcomed 11 new reception students into Kayla's class this year. Generally they have all settled well and are starting to learn the new school routines. So welcome to Tyson, Katya, Cyra, Alex, Patrick, Abbey, Jade, Daisy, Charlie, Emily and Max. Well done on a positive start and we hope you have a wonderful time here at Echunga Primary School.

We have also welcomed Olivia, Joel, Tyler and Jaxen who have started at Echunga Primary School this term, and Eryn who started late last year.



## Tips for settling into school

Starting school is an enormous change for children. Education expert, and author of 'Your Child's First Year at School' (published by Early Childhood Australia,) Jenni Connor has some valuable tips for parents to ensure the road into school is as bump-free as possible. Check out the article [here](#).

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Staffing

As of Friday Peter Moore will be on sick leave for the rest of the term as he recovers from knee surgery. We all wish Peter a speedy recovery.

At this stage Steve Ward will be teaching PE/Health on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Georgie Patti will be teaching The Arts on Thursdays and Fridays. I know that they are both excited to be here for the term and are looking forward to working with our students.

## Governing Council AGM/Open classroom

All parents/caregivers are invited to attend the Governing Council AGM at 7pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Classrooms will be open from 5:30-6:00 with students guiding parents/caregivers through the learning that is happening in their class. There will also be a sausage sizzle from about 6:00pm and a chance to chat with other parents and staff members. Please fill in the tear-off slip to let us know whether you will be coming to give us an idea for catering.

The Governing Council chairperson and Principal will present brief reports. Please consider nominating to join the Governing Council for 2017. Nomination forms were sent out in an email and are due in by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. GC meets twice per term, usually weeks 3 and 8 between 7:00pm and 9:00pm. All council members need a current DCSI (criminal history) Screening.

## Volunteers

We welcome volunteers to help in a variety of ways. If you already volunteer in any capacity, thank you for your contribution. Volunteers can make a big difference to our school and our students. If you would like to volunteer on a regular basis you will need a DCSI screening, formerly known as a Police Check. Please let me or Merridee know and we will arrange to send you the relevant information.

Volunteers also need to participate in the Responding to Abuse and Neglect training. This training can be done online or face-to-face. If you wish to do the training online the [RAN-EC online session for volunteers](#) takes about 90 minutes and includes an assessment. You will receive a certificate once completed which then needs to be signed by the Principal. Information for volunteers, including access to the online session, [is on the department's website.](#)

If you need to attend a face-to-face RAN workshop please fill in the slip on the back page with a preferred evening you could attend.

## Pokemon cards

Please do not allow your children to bring Pokemon (or other collection cards) to school. There have been a few problems with them being "shared" or given away and we cannot monitor these interactions.

**Pam**

## PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

It's that time of the year again. Premier's Reading Challenge sheets have been issued to classes and you should see them appear at home very soon.

The aim of the challenge is to read 12 books between now and September. All details are on the reverse of the form.

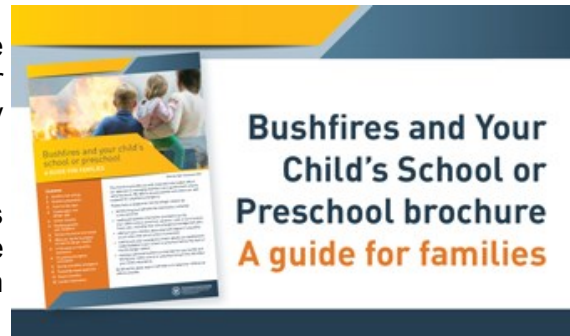
Last year all students completed the challenge and we will aim to achieve that again this year. The first class to finish will receive the Bookworm cake to celebrate.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## NEW BUSHFIRE AND YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL OR PRESCHOOL BROCHURE A guide for families

Parents are encouraged to access a new brochure which provides important information about what our schools/preschools will do on a catastrophic fire day or in the event of a fire.

Bushfires can occur at any time during summer. It's important that our families understand our Site Emergency Plan, are prepared, and have a plan in place for their family when these situations arise.



If there is a bushfire emergency while children are on site we will keep them safe until the danger has cleared even if this is outside of normal school hours.

You can access a copy of the brochure by visiting [www.decd.sa.gov.au](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au) and search 'bushfire brochure'. Alternatively we do have some hard copies of the brochure. Please come to the office if you would like to collect a hard copy.

## NEWS FROM THE PASTORAL CARE WORKER (Narelle Chester)

Welcome back to another school year. I trust you had a relaxing holiday and are ready for a fantastic year.

I will be working here 9.5 hours this year on Mondays and Wednesdays.

I am employed by SMG (Schools Ministry Group) and work in the school on behalf of the local Christian Churches. My role involves caring for staff, students and families in the school community, referring to local services and providing information on wellbeing. I work closely with the principal and teachers to help students be the best they can be. I can be contacted via a note at the front office or classroom teacher. I am available to listen and help wherever I can.

I attended a PERMA training event in Week 0 which was at Mt Barker High School and was all around positive education and wellbeing. One of the things mentioned was one of the biggest things to boost our wellbeing is to do something for someone else. I think it's about the love and care we show to others and loving our school community, our towns and the world around us. Being a positive influence on other people and being the best we can be. Some of the things I do this year will give opportunity to put this into action.

**PARENT COFFEE N CHAT** - This is on every Wednesday morning from 9-10 am in my room next to the front office. Next Wednesday we will be sorting through Woolworths Explorer cards and making up some albums and sets of stickers that can be used in classrooms and given out to students. So, come and along and help out or just come for a chat. A program will be coming out soon but we will have a mixture of learning more about parenting, helping out the school through things like making playdo, baking and other things.

# SCHOOL NEWS

**PANCAKE DAY** – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at lunchtime – The Uniting Church and any parent volunteers from our school who are available will be cooking pancakes and making them available at 11:40. They will be available for all students but we would love for people to make a donation towards Uniting Care South Australia. Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) is Uniting Care South Australia's leading fundraising event. Each year, hundreds of schools, community, church and business groups hold events on Pancake Day and throughout February in support of Uniting Care.

Donations and funds raised help Uniting Care overcome poverty and disadvantage and assist Uniting Care agencies to provide practical support to people in need including people without a home, abused and vulnerable children and adults, the frail aged, families in crisis and those with disabilities. Since its inception in 2002, more than one million pancakes have been sold and over \$300,000 has been raised for local Uniting Care agencies.

I'm excited that as a school we will be a part of this. I will change my day for that week so we can join many other places across South Australia having a pancake day at school.

**SECOND HAND UNIFORM-** I have taken over the handling of the second hand uniforms from Lynn who has done an incredible job over a long time! Thank you for all she has done. I would love to hear from any parents who would like to be in a group of people who work out the best way forward to handle lost property. Leave a note at the front office. It will involve a quick tidy up weekly, looking through for names and together working out a system that works well for everyone. Love to hear from you!

**SALVATION ARMY CAN DRIVE 2016 RESULTS-** Thankyou to the donations of our generous school community we were able to give around 130 items well exceeding our 70 goal. Clare from the Salvation Army received this last year and she visited classes to say thanks. Thanks for being part of blessing our community.

Have a great term and I look forward to seeing you all around the school. Let's look after each other and be the best we can be this year.

## REMINDER

Just a reminder that Monday 20th of February is a Pupil Free Day for the school and preschool.

If you require OSHC on the day please let Merridee or Josie know by Monday 13th February. OSHC needs 8 children booked in to be open. At this stage we only have 2 booked in.

## SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to those families who have already paid their school fees for this year. School card forms are available at the Front Office if you think you may be eligible.

It would be appreciated if fees could be paid as soon as possible.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Get involved in the School Banking program.

School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for young Australians to learn about money and develop good savings habits. Children who deposit money into their Youthsaver account through School Banking earn points, which they can save up and redeem for exciting rewards.

The rewards available during 2017 are:

- Cyber Handball
- Colour Change Markers
- 3D Chalk Set
- Tablet Case
- Smiley Emoji Keyring
- Volt Handball
- Pencil + Tech Case
- Epic Earphones



### Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. You can open an account for your child in one of two ways:

#### 1. Online

Visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account.

#### 2. In branch

Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child, like a driver's licence and birth certificate.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is Thursday. Each week you need to place the child's bank book into the blue banking folder hanging up in the classroom or drop it into Merridee in the Front Office. Bank books will be returned to the Blue Banking folder for pickup at the end of the day.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2017 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking)



## COMMUNITY NEWS



MOUNT BARKER AND DISTRICTS LITTLE ATHLETICS  
FREE Family Fun Day on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 11-2  
Mt Barker High School Oval, Mt Barker  
Ages 3-17 years  
Regular meets Friday's @ 4.30pm  
Go to [www.mbdlac.org.au](http://www.mbdlac.org.au) or email [info@mbdlac.org.au](mailto:info@mbdlac.org.au)

### ECHUNGA UNITING CHURCH NEWS

In Year 6 or above? Youth Group Games Night—next week 7-9.30pm Friday February 17th @ Wandeen. All Year 6-12's welcome. Contact our new Youth Worker Caleb Willsmore at 0435282799 or [youth@echunga.ucasa.org.au](mailto:youth@echunga.ucasa.org.au) for further information.

#### **MOPS returns for 2017**

All mothers of preschool children are welcome to hear Bron Anderson share on the 2017 theme "We Are Starry Eyed". Your children will be looked after in the MOPPETS program. Next Thursday February 16th, 9:30-11:30am at Wandeen. Visit our 'Echunga MOPS' Facebook group for further information or contact Bec on 0439 622 224.



### **ECHUNGA FOOTBALL CLUB JUNIOR REGISTRATION NIGHT**

Friday March 3rd from 6:00pm.

All Grades Auskick to Senior Colts.

Junior players wanted.

Everyone welcome.

Contact Vaughan Brooks 0457 537 794.

# TEAR OFF NOTES

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**OPEN CLASSROOMS & AGM**  
**FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE**  
**MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY**

If you are intending to come on the night and would like to grab a sausage or two could you please indicate below your family's name and how many sausages you would require so that we can cater correctly. Please return the order to Merridee in the Front Office or email it back to dl.0123\_info@schools.sa.edu.au Thank you.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sausages required: \_\_\_\_\_

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## NOMINATION FOR GOVERNING COUNCIL

(Return to the Front Office no later than Friday 24th February)

I \_\_\_\_\_

(person nominating)

**wish to nominate**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of self or other person)

**for the position of councillor on the  
Echungga Primary School  
Governing Council.**

I \_\_\_\_\_

**Accept the nomination.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of nominee)