**Presentation Day Photos**

are available from the Office

$2.00 per photo

If your child received an award last year, there will be a photo to be collected.

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**TERM 1 2016 CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>18.2</td>
<td>19.2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Years 1, 3 and 4 Information Evening</td>
<td>Kindergarten Express Photo Years 2, 5, 6 and Kindergarten Information Evening</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>24.2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patty Cake Day K-2</td>
<td>Patty Cake Day 3-6 P&amp;C Planning Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<td>4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Young Leaders</td>
<td>Young Leaders</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM</td>
<td>K-6 Special Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>11.3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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**BEN VENUES**

Ben Venue Public School...

where great things are always happening!

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**Welcome to Week 4 Term 1**

February 15, 2016

Another busy week has included debating workshops, a visit to school by the Sydney Swans and the Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival.

**Swimming Carnival**

A huge thank you must go to Karen Watson for her outstanding organisation of this event as well as to the many teachers and parents who helped out on the day. Details of winners will be published in next week’s newsletter.

**School Hats**

Ben Venue is a ‘Sun Safe School’. We have a policy that all students wear a broad brimmed school hat while outdoors. We understand that on occasions students may forget to bring their hat to school. If this is the case, students will be asked to play under the two covered cola areas or they may sit under the covered area near the toilets and sports shed. Please discuss this with your child/children.

**Orchestra**

I am excited by the enthusiasm of Paul Marshall to work with our orchestra this year. Last week he was spending some time working out the different levels of experience and confidence of our students as well as determining who plays what instrument. I encourage any student who has had at least twelve months of formal lessons to become involved in this fabulous opportunity. I am very happy to assist families with the initial cost of participating in the school orchestra, if required.

**Ukulele**

Our ‘Benveneuxes’ group (led by Cathy Welsford) will operate again this year. This is a fabulous opportunity for students to learn to play a musical instrument for a minimal cost. I have a small amount of student assistance available to any student who would like to be involved. This is open to all students in Years 3-6. Cathy is keen for the group to develop and perform at some local events during the year.

**Parent Information sessions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Room</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16/2</td>
<td>5:30-6:15pm</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>3G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16/2</td>
<td>5:30-6:15pm</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>4F</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5:30-6:15pm</td>
<td>4/5/6M</td>
<td>4/5/6M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16/2</td>
<td>6:15-7:00pm</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>1C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17/2</td>
<td>5:30-6:15pm</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>5W</td>
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<td>Wednesday 17/2</td>
<td>5:30-6:15pm</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>6R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17/2</td>
<td>5:30-6:15pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>KP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17/2</td>
<td>6:15-7:00pm</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>2B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Lou Moffatt
School Attendance for Parents – Part 1

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 (e.g. attending a funeral)

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.

Principal may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified.

Principal may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

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From the Deputy’s Desk

Rules for Online Safety
The rules for online safety are included in this week’s Ben Venews. Please read these rules carefully with your child and discuss how important it is that he/she obeys these very important rules. Once you have discussed these rules, please sign the form, along with your child and return it to school.

Crunch&Sip
Crunch&Sip is a set break in the morning session of the day to eat fruit or vegetables and drink water. Each day students bring a small portion of fruit or salad vegetables and water in a small clear bottle. This break gives children the opportunity to refuel, a bit like putting petrol in a car.

What should my child bring?
- All fresh fruit is permitted. It is suggested that the fruit be peeled and cut up into smaller pieces as this is only a very short break.
- All fresh vegetables are permitted eg. celery, carrot sticks, snow peas, broccoli bits, cherry tomatoes
- A clean, clear water bottle filled with plain water each day.

Crunch&Sip is not only a time to encourage students to eat fresh fruit and vegetables but also an opportunity to encourage the habit of drinking water. Research indicates that children rarely drink enough water and often forget to drink unless reminded.

ICAS Competitions
The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) program will again be on offer for students in Years 3-6 in 2016. This competition provides an opportunity for students to gain a measure of their achievement in an external competition. All students receive a certificate and an individual student report. Entries are now open. Entry forms are available from the office.

Thanks, Ann Lewis

Netball
If students are interested in playing ADNA netball this season and missed last weeks meeting please see Mrs Swain or Mrs Hall for information. Registrations for Primary 1 and Primary 2 divisions are now open. For all players 5-10 years interested in playing Net, Set, Go registrations open on February 19, 2016.

School Banking starts

Around the classrooms.....

2S students have had a wonderful start to the year! We have welcomed two new friends to our school and class, Riley and Antwone. All students are settling into Year 2 routines and it is great to see such happy, organised students each morning.

In English this term we are looking at many wonderful picture books, with a focus on Wombat Stew by Marcia K Vaughan. In Science and Technology students will explore life cycles and in History we will study family life, both past and present.

I’m looking forward to meeting parents at the Parent Teacher Evening, to be held this Wednesday from 6:15-7:00pm in the 2B classroom, which is right next door to 2S.

Just a reminder to please ensure all belongings are clearly labelled — I already have a small, growing collection of unnamed clothing, food containers, sharpeners and hats!

I’m looking forward to a fantastic year!

Sue Dowling