NEWSLETTER
Thursday 28th January, 2016
Welcome to Week 1, Term 1

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK
I hope that all of our families had a wonderful break, holidaying, sharing time with family and just relaxing. As we enter 2016 I look forward to another successful year at Epping Public School for the students, staff and parents of our wonderful school community. The beginning of the year is always a very busy time and this note is to bring everyone up to date with what is happening. Our official school newsletters will commence next Monday. I encourage everyone to read our weekly newsletter as it contains up to date information and highlights upcoming events and activities.

HOLDING CLASSES
As I have often stated our staff allocation is based directly on our student numbers. Over the holiday period we have a number of new families move into the area, families move out of the area and families who travel overseas without notice of whether they will be returning. At present we have 16 classes on our books but, depending on new enrolments, may be forming a 17th class. I believe to put a child into a permanent class and then have to rearrange our classes can often have a negative effect on a student. Therefore we place students in holding classes in the knowledge that this may not be their permanent teacher. Students are placed in their 2016 grade. As always students will be placed in their permanent class once student numbers are confirmed. This will happen during next week.

CANTEEN

SCHOOL CANTEEN WILL REOPEN FOR 2016 ON WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY.

COMING EVENTS

Friday 29 January
Best Start interviews –Kindergarten
No Canteen

Monday 1 February
Best Start interviews –Kindergarten

Tuesday 2 February
Kindergarten start
Uniform Shop open 9 to 10 am
Canteen opens for 2016

Wednesday 3 February
Leadership Camp
Uniform Shop open 2:45 to 3:45pm
Canteen opens for 2016

Thursday 4 February
Leadership Camp

Friday 5 February
Leadership Camp

ASSEMBLY
There will be no Assembly this week.

Harmonious And Caring School Community
CURRICULUM
A number of years ago there were concerns that students missed out on their learning due to these holding classes. However, we now have a strong team approach to planning and teaching and as such the content is in place. I can assure you that all students will commence immediately on the 2016 curriculum whether it is or is not their permanent teacher at the front of the room.

KINDY 2016
Our new kindergarten students will commence their Best Start Interviews this week. This involves them coming to the school for an hour or so. If you see new kindergarten parents at school please make them feel welcome. All of our kindergarten students will start full time next Tuesday 2 February.

STAFFING UPDATE
Over the holidays I received advice that Mrs Conti’s position would not be filled by transfer and that I could go ahead and advertise the position. This process will take a few weeks, depending upon panel member availability. I will endeavour to have a permanent staff member on class as soon as practical. Until that appointment is made the class will be taught by Mr Hines. He has done casual work at our school and we are very pleased to have him on board. We have two other new staff members, both in temporary positions, who will be with us for 2016. Miss Doyle will position share with Mrs Townend and will also be teaching part of the RFF (Release from Face to Face) position. Mr Southwell will also teach part of the RFF program, assist with our Support program and relieve our technology coordinators Mrs Buttrey and Miss McGill. We welcome them both to our school and know they will become a positive component of our teaching team.

LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM
Every two years our school is visited by the Life Education Van. The teachers of the Life Education Program deliver age appropriate lessons from the Drug Education component of the PD/H/PE Curriculum. This program will commence at our school on Monday 8 February. More details concerning the program will be sent home in the near future.

DATES FOR THE DIARY
Here are some dates you may like to add to your diary. I do remind you that the calendar on our school website has all important school dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 18 Feb</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Thursday 25 Feb</td>
<td>Year 3-6 Swimming Carnival</td>
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Once again this will be a busy but exciting year as we continue to work on our strategic directions

1. Enabling a 21st Century Learning Environment
2. Engaged Learning through Quality Teaching
3. Connecting with the Community

These directions and our commitment to them are all aimed at making Epping Public School a positive and successful learning environment for our students.

John Ford
Principal

Opportunities for All