



MINDABOOKA

Adamstown Public School



Week 6 Term 1

5 March 2019

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School Parliament: Congratulations to our Year 6 students who have been selected as School Parliament Ministers for 2019. We have some very keen ministers who are quite excited about taking part in the decision making processes at our school.

Congratulations to:

Prime Ministers – Jessica and Nelson

Parliamentary Secretary: Aaleyah

Treasurer: Jagger

Ministers for Communication: Megan and Desana

Minister for Environment: Marcus and Jett

Minister for Health & Safety: Nate

Minister for Student Welfare: Jade

Ministers for Sport and Recreation: Natasha & Corey

Minister for Technology: Keira

School Parliament will convene again this Thursday afternoon. Parent visitors are most welcome.



Swim Team: The Zone Swimming Carnival was held on Tuesday, 19 February at Lambton Pool.

Congratulations to the 2019 Zone Swim Team who showed exceptional skill and sportsmanship. They were Amy, Amelia J, Jess, K, Nikoli, Indra, Nelson, Jack S, Aaleyah, Harry, Riley D, Lani, Myles, Lachlan S, Olive, Bella S, Toby U, Tyler W, Josie, Riley F, Reid, Thomas L, Tilly, Cooper S, Olivia T, Louis B, Jordy, Pippa, Tara and Isobel. Aaleyah, Olivia and Tara have been selected to represent at our Regional Swim Carnival which is being held at Lambton Pool today. Well done girls.

Thank-you to Mr Cook and Mr Davidson for their organisation and to the parents who assisted in transporting competitors to and from the pool.

ATTENDANCE DOES MATTER

Sydney Morning Herald journalist, Amy McNeilage, in an editorial, quoted a research paper that stated that school attendance patterns established as early as Year 1 very accurately predict how often a student is likely to attend school right through to their late High Schooling years. Alarming, Australia has extremely high absenteeism when compared to other OECD countries with the average NSW student missing around 3 weeks per year. This equates to two whole terms missed during their primary school years and if they head through to Year 12, it equates to almost a whole year of school missed! Does this have an impact? It sure does!

We do realise that some absenteeism due to illness and other circumstances is inevitable. However, days off for birthdays, concerts or to miss the Friday traffic on a long weekend just doesn't cut it. In fact, in 2015 the NSW Government and the Department of Education changed the rules around principals granting exemption from school for family holidays. This is now recorded as absent rather than exempt which remains on the student's records forever.

My advice is, if possible and where you do have flexibility, schedule appointments after school, plan holidays in school holidays, celebrate birthdays in the afternoons if it falls on a school day and send the message to our children that attendance is of the highest importance. Research shows that the 'super attenders' in 99.9% of cases, keep that habit up all the way through their education and then into the workforce and their success rates are significantly higher. Let's set them up for success; in the long run, it's just easier that way.

Should attendance fall below the benchmark target of at least 85%, it is likely that you will receive a call from the school requesting clarification as to why absences have increased and to offer you support where possible in lifting the attendance of the student in question. At times the Home School Liaison Officer may be involved in resolving ongoing attendance issues.

Remember, if you require leave of 5 days or more for your child, please see the front office to pick up an Application for Extended Travel form. This must be submitted at least one month before you take leave.

For more information go to:

https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/media/documents/attendance-behaviour-engagement/attendance/attendance_parents.pdf

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

The office is only able to administer 'prescribed medication' to students. This means medication that has been prescribed by a doctor. This medication must be left in the package provided, clearly labelled with the child's name and dosage. If medication is required, a parent will need to come to the office and complete a Medical Deed of Indemnity form. We are not able to administer Panadol or non-prescription medications.

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE

The 2019 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is being held on Thursday 21 March this year. Bullying is definitely not the "Adamstown way" and so this day is the perfect opportunity for us to be strengthening our existing everyday messages that bullying and violence at our school is not okay at any time. Thanks to Ms Littlewood and Mrs Mahony who will be co-ordinating events for us on this day. Stay tuned!

PARENT/TEACHER DISCUSSIONS ARE COMING SOON

Parent/Teacher discussions can sometimes be a little daunting, but these opportunities to touch base with your child's teachers are really important for all concerned and shouldn't be missed. Kindergarten teachers have organised their teacher/parent discussions re Best Start for 19 and 20 March. Parents should have already received information on how to book an appointment with their child's teacher.

In the last week of this term it's Years 1 to 6's turn with online appointment instructions being sent home for teachers of Stages 1, 2 and 3 this week. This year, students will also be included in the discussions re their learning. To avoid disappointment, please log on and complete your booking as soon as possible.



PARENT HELPERS' INDUCTION

Thank you to the many parents who have already taken the time to attend our compulsory Work, Health and Safety/ Child Protection/Code of Conduct sessions thus far. Just in case you were unable to attend and would still like to help out as a volunteer at our school, another session has been organised for Monday, 11 March at 5:45pm in the staffroom. A R.S.V.P. slip has been included again just in case you missed it. I look forward to meeting with you then.

P&C AGM and GENERAL MEETING

Becoming involved in your child's education is proven to enhance educational outcomes. Joining your incredibly friendly, welcoming, hardworking school P&C is the perfect way to learn about what is happening in your school and contributing to making a difference to your child's education. Our next P&C meeting for 2019 will be Monday 11 March at 6:30 pm in the school staffroom. Everyone is welcome, especially our new families and Kinder parents, we would love to see you there. Last year our record was 18 participants – let's see if we can break that at this first meeting. Our P&C is extremely active and raises funds to enable us to purchase additional resources to enhance the learning for your children. Come along and see what it is all about. All Welcome.

SCHOOL DISCO



Our school disco is scheduled for the evening of Thursday 14 March.

The Disco times are Yrs K-2, 6pm till 7pm and Yrs 3-6, 7pm till 8.30pm. Unless supervised by a parent, no primary students should be attending the junior disco.

Students should be picked up promptly after the disco with no child permitted to leave the School Hall area unattended.

The only gate open will be the front gate near the OOSH car park.

The disco will cost \$5 per person and will include a drink and a packet of chips.

There will also be a sausage sizzle (no need to worry about dinner!) for \$2.50.

OUR LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM



Each Thursday morning our school conducts Learning Support Team (LST) meetings. Last year we conducted 60 LST meetings. On most occasions our meeting tends to focus upon an individual child that may be encountering some challenges with their learning, attendance, behaviour or social/emotional growth. The aim is to assist all parties to maximise the child's learning through open communication resulting in some specific strategies being put in place for the classroom and perhaps even for home. The meetings are usually attended

by the principal, class teacher, school counsellor, Learning and Support teacher, other specialists if applicable and of course parents. If the classroom teacher or Mrs Smith does contact you, don't panic! We are simply trying to assist and help in every way we can to help your child reach their potential.

CUPPA TIME

I would like to extend an invitation to all parents who visit us for our Friday assemblies to join me in the staffroom for a cuppa after assembly each week. This is an opportunity to have an informal chat over a cup of tea, coffee or cool drink before you leave us for the afternoon. Penny Holt our DSTA will also be there. I look forward to you joining us whenever you can.



Thank you for making our school the 'Greatest School Around'.

Kym Ross – PRINCIPAL

Principal Awards

CORE VALUE: EXCELLENCE



Jagger

An excellent buddy who has not only supported his own buddy but all Kinder students.



Tristan

Striving for Excellence in all that he does.

CORE VALUE: PARTICIATION



Edward

Eddie is keen to participate in all activities and support others at the same time.



Tahlia

Enthusiastically participating in all aspects of school life at her school.

CORE VALUE: FAIRNESS



Phoenix

A calm and considerate friend.



Jarrah

Fair, patient and inclusive of all her peers.

UV Radiation cannot be felt or seen

It's possible for the sun to damage your skin even on cool or overcast days. When the UV index is 3 or above sun protection is recommended for all skin types:

- Use a combination of sun protection measures (hats, clothing, sunscreen, shade) at all times when outdoors.

78% of schools and services have used the SunSmart UV App

[Download our free SunSmart App](#) – it's a great way to check when you require sun protection from harmful UV radiation.

Did you know? It isn't just the summer that you need to practice good sun protection. In NSW, UV levels are high enough (UV 3 or above) to damage unprotected skin at least 10 months of the year!



Clean Up Australia Day



Basketball Clinic

We have been fortunate to obtain the services of Newcastle Basketball for the next four weeks to assist the students in various basketball based skills. This opportunity has arisen through funding from the Sporting Schools Australia. Students from years one to six will have the opportunity to participate in basketball skills taught by highly qualified sport coaches every Monday. This will be a rewarding and exciting opportunity for students and there were lots of happy and sweaty faces after the first session on Monday.



Important Dates

THIS WEEK	THIS MONTH	THIS TERM
4 Mar ■ Basketball Clinic begins	11 Mar ■ Young Leaders Day	4 April ■ Kotara network Yarning Circle
8 Mar ■ International Women's Day assembly	■ P&C AGM and Meeting	■ Kotara network P&C meeting
	14 Mar ■ Selective High School Test	8 April ■ Teacher / Parent / Student Discussions begin
	■ School Disco	9 April ■ ANZAC Service
	19 Mar ■ Best Start interviews – KL	12 April ■ Easter Hat parade
	20 Mar ■ Best Start interviews – KW	■ Out of Uniform day
	21 Mar ■ National Day of Action against Bullying & Violence	■ Last day of Term 1
	28 Mar ■ Band Meeting @ 3:30pm	
	29 Mar ■ Earth Hour	



Collecting Now

➤ Voluntary Contributions

PARENT HELPERS INDUCTION

Monday 11th March at 5:45pm

Session to be conducted in the staffroom

Name/s: _____

Signature: _____



We have children enrolled at our school with life threatening anaphylactic allergic reactions to shellfish, nuts and peanut products. We would like to encourage families not to send these products to school with their children. Nut products include peanut butter, Nutella, sesame seeds, loose nuts, nut or chocolate bars.

We are committed to the pursuit of excellence and the provision of high quality opportunities for every child.
In our school every child is known, valued and cared for.