Success through diversity, participation and care

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Welcome Back
Welcome back to all students, staff and parents. Gilgandra Public School trusts that you all enjoyed your holidays and are ready for another exciting year.
A special welcome to our 2016 Kindergarten students, new enrolments and their families. The staff trusts that your children will enjoy their education at Gilgandra Public School.

2016 Classes
Gilgandra Public School has eleven classes commencing 2016. Leanne Morris will provide assistance for students who require extra support with their learning as Learning and Support Teacher (LAST). Janine Hazelton will provide extra support in Years K-2 with Literacy/Numeracy as the Interventionist teacher for the Early Action for Success (EAfS) program. Brenda Purvis will continue in her role as EAfS Instructional Leader both at Gilgandra and Gulargambone Schools. Chantel Chandler will teach in the Library for two days (Tuesday, Wednesday) and Release from Face To Face (RFF) will be taught by Amy Spora to enable teachers their release time throughout Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Classes at present are:
Kindergarten Meerkats Lyn Greenhalgh
Kindergarten Cobras Renee Cohen
Year 1 Monkeys Michael Altmann
Year 1/2 Foxes Catherine Dunn
Year 2/3 Ollie Roos Sally Jordison
Year 3/4 Smarties Laura Nelson
Year 4/5 Goannas Owen Batten
Year 4/5/6 Warriors Fay Goodwin
Year 5/6 Brumbies Rebecca Rogers
MC Owls Gabby Stephens
MC Dolphins Jason Root

Music in Gilgandra 2016
This year at Gilgandra Public School students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in a music program with Mr Knight the Music Teacher from Gilgandra High School as part of the prerequisite to the high school music course. For many students this may be the first time they have experienced performing or composing music and this opportunity will strengthen their creativity and self-esteem going into high school.
Anaphylaxis-Urgent
Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It can occur when a susceptible person is exposed to an allergen (such as food or insect bite). Currently we have a child diagnosed with Anaphylaxis attending school who is allergic to nuts, and egg products. To ensure that the school environment is safe for the student, Gilgandra Public School asks all parents to be mindful of the food that they send with their child/children to school so we can prevent a serious incident from occurring.
Food items to be avoided: peanut butter, nutella, hazelnut purees, peanut muesli bars and health bars, picnics, snickers, Beuno bars, peanut or nut sprinklers, kiwi fruit or fruit salad with kiwi fruit, eggs are okay in cooked cakes but not meringues, pavlova or boiled eggs. It was hard to find a specific list of foods to avoid but just check the labelling on the food for an ingredients list. Many thanks for your anticipated support.

2016 School Ambulance Cover Scheme
Since 2012 the Department has negotiated an agreement with the NSW Ambulance Service to commence an annual licensing arrangement for school student ambulance cover for all public schools in NSW. Arrangements for the scheme have now been confirmed for the 2016 school year.
The Ambulance Cover Scheme provides assurance that if a student has an accident or falls ill whilst at school or on an organised school excursion or activity, and requires the ambulance service, the cost will be met through the scheme. Coverage of the Schools Group Cover Scheme also extends for excursions to the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, Victoria, Northern Territory and Western Australia.
NSW Government school students travelling under the Assisted School Travel Program are included in the scheme when they are travelling to and from school provided the journey is not broken for any reason.

Before School Care
Parents are reminded that the playground at Gilgandra Public School is supervised from 8:50am each morning. Teachers arrive early to prepare and organise for the day, before the first duty commences at 8:50am. We encourage parents to keep their children at home until 8:45am as there is minimal supervision provided.

School Leaders' Induction Assembly
On Thursday 11th February Gilgandra Public School will hold the Induction Assembly for students who will have a leadership role in the school during 2016. All the students will receive their badges at the Assembly and will then have light refreshments in the Library with their parents and guests.

Parent/School Issues
If you are unsure or unsatisfied with issues that impact on your child, then please contact the classroom teacher to clarify details. Discussion with the Assistant Principals is also an important avenue for communication open to you. The Principal is more than willing to discuss these issues but making an appointment will enable the collection of relevant information about the issue to be discussed. Appointments can be made through the front office on 68472043.

Visitors to the School
Parents, Caregivers and Community Members are reminded that it is the Department of Education and Training’s (DET) Policy that all visitors to the school report to the front office and sign in if meeting with staff. This enables the school to monitor visitors and ensure the safety of all students and staff. If delivering lunches or recesses to your children please visit the front office and let them know so if an emergency situation arises then we are aware of your presence on the school site.

School attendance
Did you know that if your child misses as few as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a whole year of education?
By law, you are required to send your child to school every day. If your child has to be away from school for any reason, please either tell your child’s teacher or send a signed note explaining the reason for the absence, as soon as possible. If your child arrives at school late, or needs to leave early, you will need to go to the office to sign your child in or out.
If you’re having problems getting your child to attend school regularly and on time, please talk to your child’s teacher or the principal.
For your obligations under the school attendance guidelines, please go to: www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_admin/attendance/sch_polproc/PD20050259.shtml

Canteen
Our school canteen at present is being managed by the school until a new lease agreement is organised with the Department of Education (DoE). Keel O’Bryan will operate the canteen during the tendering process.

School Uniform
Many parents have purchased new uniforms for their children through the front office which is great to see. To enable all the new items to be returned to the correct owner if lost please ensure your child’s name is clearly marked on the piece of clothing.
5/6 Brumbies
With Mrs Rebecca Rogers

I am so pleased to be teaching senior primary for another year. Our class of combined Year 5 and Year 6 students will be successfully moving along the literacy and numeracy continuums throughout the year. Brumbies are well known for being intelligent and resilient. We are looking forward to many adventures and challenges in 2016 beginning in just a few weeks with the induction ceremony and swimming carnival where we will all be playing important roles.

We are excited to be working with Ayumi Tamsett on Monday afternoons, Mrs Chandler for Library on Tuesday mornings and Mrs Spora for Science on Wednesday mornings.

4/5/6 Warriors
Welcome to 2016. Year 4/5/6 Warriors have started the new school year off with great enthusiasm. We have achieved two lion heads for being on task and being Respectful Learners. Ricky is our School Learning Support Officer/Aboriginal Education Officer and will be teaching us Cultural dance for P.E. this term.

Miss Faye Goodwin

4/5 Goannas

4/5 Goannas are looking forward to a productive and great year ahead. My name is Mr Batten and I look forward to an exciting year. 4/5 Goannas have already been busy, getting to know each other and working together, creating some great work. Over the past few days we have completed book covers and reading each morning for 15 minutes and will continue to working hard throughout the year. Our class will be challenging our learning in reading, writing and numeracy 2016.

Mr Owen Batten
3/4 Smarties have had a happy start to the 2016 school year! We are ready for a great year of being Safe, Respectful Learners having already earned a Lion Head for our class! We enjoyed swimming for sport on Friday and can't wait for the Swimming Carnival. Year 3 students are enthusiastically exploring the Primary playground with many making mention of the cricket game and the equipment as some highlights.
Miss Laura Nelson

Year 2/3 OllieRoos

OllieRoos are a wonderful class of Stage 1 and Stage 2 students. We have commenced Literacy Centres and I am very impressed at how dedicated these students are to improving their learning outcomes. OllieRoos complete a contract during the week to achieve set goals and this allows for individuality and develops an independent approach towards their learning.
In Mathematics so far we have concentrated on Number and this week we are focusing on addition of one digit numbers as well as having fun with Skip Counting.
In HSIE our topic is Past and Present Families and the students will enjoy looking at old toys and how much things have changed.
Mrs Sally Jordison

Year 1/2 Foxes

Welcome back to another wonderful year at Gilgandra Public School. We are the Year 1/2 Foxes and we are ready to have a productive year with lots of learning and fun activities. We are very fortunate to have Mrs Michelle Leven working in our classroom as the Student Learning Support Officer (SLSO). Our library day is on Wednesday, Science lesson is on Thursday and whilst we do fitness activities every day, our main sport is on Friday. Home reading and homework have started this week and we appreciate any support you can give your child at home, as it reinforces the message that school and learning is important. I look forward working with everyone this year.
Mrs Catherine Dunn

Library

Welcome back to another year of reading and borrowing in the library. My name is Chantel Chandler and I will be teaching every student in the school for an hour a week in the library. During library time the students will have the opportunity to select and borrow books. This task allows them to develop responsibility as it is their job to keep the book safe and bring it back to school. We encourage students to use a library bag to protect the books.
In term 1, Kinder, Yr1, Yr1/2, Yr2/3 and Yr3/4 students will be learning about the library, books, borrowing and other activities that the library has to offer.
Year 4/5/6, Yr 4/5 and Yr 5/6 will be learning about Mongolia. Mongolia is the CWA country of study this year. Feel free to start collecting pictures and information on this country.
I will be encouraging all students to participate in the Premiers Reading Challenge this year. I will discuss this year’s challenge with the students but feel free to see me if you would like more information.
Mrs Chantel Chandler
Year 1 Monkeys
We are the Year 1 Monkeys and we are looking forward to an exciting year with lots of fun and learning. Our class is very lucky to have Mrs Louise Edwards and Mrs Liana Coetzee in our room this year to help us with our learning. We have Library on Tuesday, Science on Wednesday and Sport on Friday. Home reading and homework start this week and we appreciate any help you can give your child at home, to support the learning we do at school. I look forward to working with your child this year.
Mr Michael Altmann

Welcome to 2016 with Miss Gabby Stephens, Mrs Frances Eason and The Wise Owls!

Week 1 of term 1 began with a very positive and enthusiastic vibe in the Owls Classroom. We focused on practising skills required for effective instruction following, and Miss Stephens was extremely impressed with the Owls’ ability in this area. We are learning about each other and are very excited for the year ahead!

We welcome guests in our room, so please feel free to let us know if you have time to pop in to join us in our learning.

Dolphins
The Dolphins are ready for learning in 2016. The students are currently doing their best to make our classroom look like an underwater paradise, to support studying the unit ‘Under the Sea’ this term. We have many fun things planned including healthy cooking and visits to the Japanese Gardens - Dubbo and Rural Museum - Gilgandra.
Mr Jason Root (Classroom Teacher)

P and C
Welcome back to another school year. It was lovely getting to meet and know some of the new kindergarten parents at our morning tea.
To keep up to date with what is going on remember to Like the Gilgandra Public School P&C facebook page.
The first P&C meeting for the year will be held on the 18th of February at 2:15pm in the library.
Everyone is welcome.
Mrs Chantel Chandler
P and C Secretary