Can you remember your first day at school? For some of us we have to go back many, many years! This week we welcomed 63 students to our three kindergarten classes for the first time. And what excitement there was. From comments like, ‘Mum, can you pick me up when I’m in Year 12?’, ‘Do I really have to come back?’ to ‘Do we have to go home now?’, both Mrs Rose and Mrs Norris, our Kindergarten teachers, knew that all was well! When introduced to the class budgie in K1, one of the little ones was heard to ask if he could take the eagle home to look after!! Additionally, 17 new students from pre-primary to year six settled into our school with many class members offering to show them around.

P&C Meeting Monday 8 February at 6:30pm
From the Principal

**Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016**

Since the start of school on Monday all has gone very smoothly. Our students looked very smart in their school uniforms on the first day back and were eager to meet their new teachers and catch up with old friends. The Kindergarten children have been a particular delight to see over this week as they embark on their school careers. I would like to thank all parents for their efforts in getting our students ready for a new beginning. A very warm welcome to all our new parents, particularly, those starting the journey with their kindergarten children. Please remember we are here to assist you in those first few weeks when things are sometimes confusing.

**2016 School Information Booklet**

All parents should now have received a copy of the 2016 School Information Booklet via your oldest child. If you did not get a copy they are available from the school office or can be accessed on the school website.

**School Events**

Numerous school events have been planned for this term and into the future. We are continually updating our events calendar on the school website. I would encourage you to keep abreast of upcoming activities. The Interschool Athletics Carnival will again be held in the last two weeks of this term, as noted in our upcoming events section of this newsletter. Our own Faction Carnival will be held at the end of Week 2 in Term 4. The date will be confirmed in the very near future to allow you to plan ahead. We always love to see as many parents and friends as possible at our whole school events.

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**

These will once again be held during Week 7 and 8 of this term for students from Pre-primary to Year 6. This is an opportunity for teachers and parents to come together to discuss each student’s progress and what might need to be considered in terms of assisting each child to reach their potential as they progress through the year. More details will be provided at a later date; however, if you have a pressing concern, please make an appointment with your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

**School Board Nominations**

These have been called for two parent representative board positions commencing Term 2. Further information and nomination forms can be found on our school website or can be collected from the school office. I encourage any parent who believes they have the attributes and time needed to carry out this important role to apply. The closing date is next **Friday 12 February**. If you have any questions you would like clarified, please don’t hesitate to contact me through the school office.

I am looking forward to the year ahead as we continue to work through the key strategies in our school business plan, through the establishment of productive partnerships. I trust we will continue to see our students strive for high standards of achievement and caring, responsible citizenship.

Julie Tombs—Principal

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**Dates For Your Diary**

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<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>Monday 8</td>
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<td>Kindergarten Info Meetings</td>
<td>Wednesday 10</td>
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<td>School Board Meeting</td>
<td>Monday 15</td>
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<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<td>School Development Day (school closed)</td>
<td>Friday 4</td>
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<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
<td>Tuesday 8 to Friday 11</td>
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<td>Easter Tuesday (school closed)</td>
<td>Tuesday 29</td>
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<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<td>Interschool Athletics Carnival</td>
<td>Thursday 7</td>
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CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

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**Rhyme Time/Story Time**

Led by our Kindergarten teachers, this innovative language programme for pre-kindergarten students recommences for 2016 on Wednesday 2 March from 9:00am to 9:30am in Room 1. Come along with your youngster—both parents/carers and children will enjoy the sessions.

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**Waste Free Tuesday**

In an effort to have our students show respect and care for our environment, remember that every Tuesday is a Waste Free Day. This means that parents/carers are asked to pack lunches without any cling film, alfoil or paper. All food scraps are recycled by our gardener, Mr Langley to help our gardens grow.
From the Chaplain

Welcome back to everyone.
I hope you all had a great Christmas break - I know I did. I didn’t do very much which was the best part. It’s been great to see all the children in their new year levels and classrooms. 2016 is going to be a great year and I am excited for what it is going to hold. I want to remind you that my door is always open - please come and have a chat. Just contact the school office, or leave a message and I will ring you back.
Waiting in my pigeon hole on my return to school was a pamphlet from Relationships Australia outlining all the courses that they are running for parents this January – July. Courses on—Building Better Relationships,

Programs for Men, Programs for Parents, Courses for Individuals, Starting Over and Second Time Around and Short Courses and Seminars.
Their web address is well worth a look.
Lisa Ingham—School Chaplain

Playground Equipment After School

Please be aware that for safety reasons students are not permitted to be on the Kindergarten or Junior Playground equipment before or after school as supervision is unavailable in these areas. This also applies to children whose parents may be present, as often unsupervised students will want to join in, thus compromising our duty of care.

From the Registrar

Welcome back everyone, I hope you had a wonderful holiday break.
For parents of our year 6 students who are going on camp, you can start putting money into your school account to cover this, perhaps on a week by week basis.
On the Personal Items List (PIL) there was a CARS Plus contribution of $5.99. This was for an essential book in reading that is printed on demand. There are some parents who may not have paid this when ordering their PIL. If you are one of those parents, could you please forward $6 to the class teacher so when they are delivered the book will be given to your child.
Last year we received an extra $495.42 in commission for having student banking at our school. Well done to all our Dollarmite savers. Don’t forget your children can bank on any day before school. If you’d like to open an account, please check with the office for an information pack.
Kathy Dean - Registrar

Canteen News

The canteen is open from Tuesday to Friday and offers a wide range of ‘homemade’ delicious goodies at a reasonable price. Following the healthy canteen food guidelines set by the Department of Education, manager Kerry, with the help of a willing band of volunteers, prepares food that appeals to all children. Canteen orders can be made directly in the morning from 8:20am by completing a lunch bag or following the online ordering instructions on the school website.
The smooth running of the canteen is heavily reliant on volunteers - if you can spare an hour two to help out, please phone Kerry on 9405 3528 to offer your services.
What to Do if Your Child Talks to You About Bullying

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive environment for everyone. Sometimes it can be difficult for parents or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying. You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone.

If your child talks about bullying:-
1. Listen calmly to get the full story.
2. Reassure them that they are not to blame.
3. Ask them what they want to do about it, and what they want you to do.
4. Contact their class teacher.
5. Check in regularly with your child. Keep the conversation going.

Thank you for your support in helping to make our school a great school for everyone.

School Board Expression of Interest

Interested and suitably qualified candidates are invited to submit an Expression of Interest to become a school board member (parent representative) commencing in Term 2 2016. All expressions of interest should be forwarded to Julie Tombs, Principal, Edgewater Primary School by **3pm 12 February 2016.**

First Day at School

Parents play a crucial role in each child’s learning journey.

Play is an important aspect of the Kindergarten programme. Children learn many literacy, numeracy and social competencies through play.