Back To School

I would like to welcome everyone back to school for 2016. For some students and their families today was in fact their first day at Ouyen P-12 College so we extend an extra welcome to those people. We are fortunate to have Mr Hager, Mr Hussey, Mr Clark and Mr Morrish (yes another one!) as new teachers to our school, while Miss Brittany Burns is returning as our Year 4 teacher. We also welcome Amanda Foster who will be working as a teacher aide.

The first day of 2016 was aimed at setting the scene for students for the coming year. Students worked in their Home Groups to set goals and establish protocols for successful learning and to pave the way for a positive start to the year.

In the coming weeks parents will be invited to meet with teachers to discuss their child’s learning goals for the year. We will also be holding a range of information evenings for parents. I would encourage everyone to make time to attend these meetings so that we can ensure strong home-school partnerships.

I hope parents will feel comfortable to contact Home Group Coordinators, myself or Shelley Cross with any queries or concerns.

Year Level Coordinators are as follows:
- Year 7 – Melanie Grant
- Year 8 – Amanda Elliott
- Year 9 – Nerida Morrish
- Year 10 – Renee McCuish
- Years 11 & 12 – Marie O’Connor

Parent Payments

Accounts have been sent home for essential education items required by students for 2016 (the Parent Payment Policy is attached to this newsletter). Families are welcome to organise a repayment program to cover these costs if required. Please contact Bobbie Stacey to arrange for this. Any family experiencing financial difficulties is encouraged to make contact as there is a range of assistance available, whether this is in the form of uniform or camps and excursions.

Netbook leases are due this term and need to be paid by the end of Term 1. Students who have ordered new computers will need to sign User Agreements before computers can be taken home.

We are happy to work to assist families in any way we can so please contact us if you have any problems or queries.

Grounds and Buildings

It was a pleasure to come back to see the school grounds and buildings so clean and tidy. Geoff and Shirley Amos and Geoff Vine (as well as the whole Vine family) have worked tirelessly to ensure everything was ready for Day 1.

Thank you to Kevin O’Neil for his voluntary work in the ag patch during the holidays. His work is much appreciated.

Leanne Dawes  
Principal

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DIARY DATES

**FEBRUARY**
- 5th UDSSA Tennis
- 11th Secondary House Swimming
- 11th Primary Science Fair
- 12th Underbool District Swimming
- 24th Division Swimming (Pri.) Mildura
- 24th Mallee Cluster Day

**MARCH**
- 2nd Division Swimming (Sec) Mildura
- 15th Primary Biathlon
- 17th Regional Swimming (Pri & Sec)
- 23rd Secondary Biathlon

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**Next Parents Association Meeting - February 8th - 7pm**

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Does your child need identification?
For $5 each your child/ren will receive an official Ouyen P-12 College I.D. card that can be used on public transport, to get into movies etc.
See the ladies in the Office if you require one.

Don’t forget to download the tiqbiz app to your smart phone.
If you’d like help come and see the ladies in the office.
We will be using tiqbiz to notify families of

BUS TRAVELLERS:
Primary Students
Parents are asked to send a note or make a phone call to the office when your child/ren are not going to travel on the bus.
If we do not have a note or have not received a phone call, your child will be required to travel on their designated bus.

CHANGED MEDICAL CONDITIONS:
Please remember to inform the school if your child develops a medical condition or allergy which you may not have included on your original enrolment form. It is extremely important for us to have accurate medical records if an emergency occurs.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER:
If you have recently moved, changed your phone number or changed employment, please advise the school. We require the correct address and contact numbers in an emergency.

VISITORS:
All visitors to our school, including parents, are expected to report to the Office to SIGN IN.

HATS:
All students must wear a hat in Terms 1 & 4.

SCHOOL BANKING:
A reminder to all parents that school banking will be on Wednesdays.

FORMS:
Students should have brought home a number of forms to be filled and returned to the General Office ASAP.
Students who do not return the General Permission form will be unable to attend any excursions.
All Medical Forms must be filled in and returned regardless of any changes.

WATER BOTTLES:
Students are permitted to bring a pop-top water bottle to school to use during class time. They are particularly important in hot weather. Please ensure the bottles are named.

LATE PASSES:
Any student who is late for school needs to come to the General Office for a late pass. This ensures a student is not marked absent for the day.

SHEEP SALE ROSTER:
DATE: February 11th
WORKERS
Alison Brackenridge-Blume
Justine Cresp

COOKS
Jenny Summerhayes
Bronwyn Greig
Carolyn Pengelly
Melanie Shaddock

Due to declining numbers, it is become difficult to fill all positions on the roster during the 2016 year. Any parents who can offer to work or cook more than once are encouraged to contact Mrs M Morrish as soon as possible to enable the roster to be finalised.
BOOK CLUB:
Book club will be running again throughout 2016, with approximately two catalogues sent home per term. All orders are to be left at the office. We do not accept cash, only credit card or cheque payments made payable to Scholastic. Please send along a clearly named bag with your order for your child’s books to be sent home in. Thank you. 
Roxanne Simmonds
Librarian

MUSIC:
Could all new or past guitar students please make sure they inform Iwan Soebardi (iwansoebardi@gmail.com or 0418 919220) or Mrs Woodall if they intend to continue lessons in 2016 as a matter of priority, so planning and timetabling can be finalised. There are a few vacancies for guitar lessons available for the quick and the lucky.

FOR SALE:
Two school dresses, Ladies size 8-10, $20 for both. Please contact Mrs Woodall.

CONGRATULATIONS:
Congratulations to Nic Vine who was announced as the 2016 Ouyen Junior Citizen of the Year.

WELCOME
A big welcome back to students, parents and staff to the 2016 sporting year. The primary campus sports program would like to welcome Mr Clark, Mr Hussey and Mr Morrish to the sporting program and look forward to their expertise in a wide range of sports.

SPORTING DATES – TERM 1
Please check the updated sporting dates for Term 1 as there are some slight changes to those published at the end of the 2015 school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5th February</td>
<td>Underbool District Tennis Tournament (Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th February</td>
<td>Secondary Swimming Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12th February</td>
<td>Underbool District Swimming Sports (Primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 24th February</td>
<td>Primary Division Swimming – Mildura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 2nd March</td>
<td>Secondary Division Swimming - Mildura</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 15th March</td>
<td>Primary Biathlon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 17th March</td>
<td>Regional Swimming – Swan Hill (Primary &amp; Secondary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 23rd March</td>
<td>Secondary Biathlon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UDSSA TENNIS TOURNAMENT
The UDSSA tennis tournament will be held on FRIDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY. Selected students have received information and are requested to have their permission forms and money back to Mrs Morrish by WEDNESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY.

PRIMARY CAMPUS SWIMMING SPORTS
Due to the introduction of a “Division” swimming carnival, the primary sports have moved to a week earlier. They will be held on FRIDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY. Further details will be in the newsletter next week and prep parents will receive a note outlining the procedures on the day. Any questions can be directed to Mrs Morrish.

PRIMARY SWIMMING PROGRAM
The primary students will have swimming during their physical education classes over the next few weeks. Prep, Grade 1 & 2 students will have two weeks of swimming and Grade 3-6 students will have four weeks of swimming. Students will also swim during sport time. A final time table will be sent home as soon as possible.
If you do not have a seasons ticket, it would be appreciated if the entry fee of $1.90 could be sent to school in a clearly named envelope.
The cost for Prep – Grade 2 students will be $3.80
The cost for Grade 3-6 students will be $11.40.
All students are required to have a “rashie” when swimming.
Parent Payments

Categories Of Parent Payments
College Council can request payments from parents for student materials and services charges, and for voluntary financial contributions. These payments fall into three categories:

1. **Essential education items** which parents and guardians are required to provide or pay the school to provide for their child (e.g. stationery, text books and school uniforms where required)

2. **Optional extras** which are offered on a user-pays basis and which parents and guardians may choose whether their child accesses or participates in (e.g. school magazines, extra-curricular programs or activities)

3. **Voluntary financial contributions** which parents and guardians may be invited to donate to the school (e.g. grounds beautification, additional computers).

Essential education items and optional extras
The college will ensure that:
- all students have access to the standard curriculum program
- parents and guardians are provided with early notice of requests for payment of essential education items and optional extras (prior to the end of the previous school year)
- the advice to parents/guardians provides a clear description of the payment categories and which category items fall under and that where appropriate, parents/guardians have the option of purchasing certain items themselves
- items that students consume or take possession of are accurately costed
- the status and details of any payments or non-payments by parents and guardians are confidential
- parents are informed of alternative payment options and invited to contact the principal if they wish to discuss these options
- details of how funding collected will be spent are provided by the school
- payment requests or letters to parents clearly identify whether the items are essential education items or optional extras
- parents are immediately provided with a receipt upon payment
- all payments are receipted in CASES21
- payments are kept to a minimum and all requests for payment are fair and reasonable
- a copy of the policy is provided to all parents.

Voluntary Financial Contributions
College Council may invite voluntary financial contributions for:
- a building trust fund or contributions to a library trust fund (these trust funds are approved by the Australian Taxation Office and are tax deductible)
- a specific purpose identified by the school (e.g. equipment, materials or services such as additional computers) in addition to those funded through the SRP
- donations or general voluntary financial contributions to the school

Support Options
Parents who have difficulty paying for essential items may have access to a range of support options including:
- Access to State Schools Relief Committee support via the principal to assist with clothing/uniforms.
- Welfare and support agencies that have established partnership arrangements with schools to provide further assistance to students and their families. The school should be contacted for more information.
- Where families have difficulty making payments, the principal will discuss the range of support options available, and negotiate an appropriate alternative arrangement, such as payment by instalments.
- The Principal will explore ways to make quality second-hand books and uniforms available to parents in need.
- Parents and guardians who experience difficulties providing or paying the school to provide essential education items, are encouraged to make an appointment with the principal on the understanding that any discussions will be confidential.

Payment /Non-payment
The principal will ensure that:
- invoices for unpaid essential education items or optional items accepted by parents are generated and distributed on a regular basis, but not more than once a month
- parents and guardians are provided with an alternative option for their children if they choose not to participate in an excursion or camp
- only the initial invitation for voluntary financial contributions and one reminder notice is sent to all parents and guardians
- under no circumstances can collectors of any type, including debt collectors, be used by schools to obtain any funds from parents and guardians
- any record of payments or contributions by parents and guardians is kept confidential. The public identification of students or their parents and guardians who have or have not made a payment or financial contribution is unacceptable and will not occur in any circumstance.