Engadine Public School

WARATAH WHISPERS

Engadine Public School acknowledges the generosity of Sunshine Real Estate in its support of the school.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

“Engadine Public School promotes an inclusive environment that fosters confident, innovative, successful learners with high moral values.

Excellent academic, creative physical and social programs empower each student to become an active, resilient and informed citizen in our rapidly changing world.”

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Welcome Back!

Hendrika Green, Principal

Welcome back for another exciting year of learning at Engadine Public School. We hope you are relaxed and refreshed after the holiday break. We welcome all our returning students, all our new students, our parents, carers, and our new Kindergarten students who will commence next week on Wednesday, 3 February.

We also welcome back all our dedicated teachers, many of whom were here during the holidays, working and preparing in order to prepare valuable learning experiences for your children. We hope you have all had a wonderful holiday and that all children are refreshed and ready to meet their 2016 teachers as soon as our numbers are finalised. We welcome our new staff, Mrs Christine Franklin, who will work in Kindergarten and Miss Katrina Durrant, our new Assistant Principal.

We have been pleased to notice many happy students as they returned to see friends and familiar faces, well dressed in their school uniforms, with hats on. We hope taking pride in the wearing of our Engadine school uniform continues throughout the year. It has been most pleasant to see students settled in so well and to witness their play in the playground areas. We look forward to another year of our students showing the caring and nurturing nature of our school, as they accept and respect new students and our new teachers. We expect that children are caring and tolerant of friends and classmates, and co-operate with both teachers and peers at all times.

Leadership Team for 2016.

As a school we can be proud of the choices made by our students for an amazing group of leaders for this year. **We congratulate our new leadership team for 2016:**

**Captains:** Allirah T and Billy L

**Vice Captains:** Isabella G and Wade M

**Prefects:** Brayden R

Emily S, Georgia H, Tye G

**Sporting Houses:**

Kangaroo Captains: Sophie C, Sophie H

Kangaroo Vice Captains: Adrian S, Ben B

Koala Captains: Rory H, Sophia H

Koala Vice Captains: Baylie F, Logan M

Possum Captains: Brandon R, Erin P

Possum Vice Captains: Lavinia V, Kailey D.

We are sure our new school leadership team will live up to the high expectations our school has for them, and continue to move our school forward.
Woolworths Promotes Healthy Eating

KIDS have the offer of free pieces of fruit at our local Woolworths store where they have placed baskets of complimentary seasonal fruit in its fresh produce section, inviting children to pick a piece. The scheme was rolled out late in December, with the free fruit being the same quality as the priced produce. Woolies expects to give away one million pieces of fruit a year, including bananas, apples, mandarins and pears, and it says the cost of priced fruit will not rise to compensate. “It is not only a great way to encourage healthy eating habits, but also an easy way to keep the little ones occupied while doing the shopping,” advised Fraser of our local shop.

“We know that a trip to the supermarket can be a busy time for mum and dad, and the free fruit initiative is a way to give parents a helping hand.”

Bike Licences and Bicycle Safety

Engadine Public school allows students in Years 5 and 6 to ride to school on their bicycles, provided they have passed a bicycle safety check, and have gained a bicycle rider’s licence from the school. The application is available on the website. Mrs Belinda Franke will assess each student’s knowledge of signals, road safety and conduct a safety check with the student regarding their bike, prior to the issue of a licence. Students who are below the year level of Year 5 & 6 may only ride to and from school in the company of an adult, who is to take the bike away for the duration of the school day.

MULTILIT Reinforced Reading Program

Do you have 20 minutes a week?

Parents are needed to help as tutors for the MULTILIT Reinforced Reading Program to support some of our students in Years 2-6.

As this is an evidenced based intervention to maintain validity, Parent Tutors will need to attend a one-time training session early Term 1.

The techniques in the training will be useful in supporting your own child’s literacy development as well as any students you may tutor. If you are willing and able please add your name to the roster at the office.
Throughout the school year, teachers focus on developing skills to building positive relationships among peers—some children learn these through experience and others need to be taught these skills specifically in order to apply them. The focus of our teaching points will last for blocks of two weeks, and will be placed in the newsletter. For the first few weeks of school, however, we will be focussing on the development of friendships.

**MAKING FRIENDS**

Parents and teachers often struggle with helping children learn how to be good friends or to understand the complexities of social interactions. Friendships are important part of school life. We encourage students to maintain friendships in the playground. Sometimes when children commence a new school year and a new class grouping, they miss the comfort of friends they have known in class. It is important that children realise they can extend their friendships to include new people without losing friends from their past.

Below are a number of strategies that can help children develop friendships.

1. **Get Involved** – Community sports teams, art programs and special events provide opportunities for children to engage in structured activities with peers. For children who benefit from very direct instruction, social skills groups can be very helpful. These groups are a way for children to develop their social skills in a fun yet structured environment.

2. **Use your Child’s Interests** – If the goal of enrolling a child in a program is to provide opportunities for making friends, look for activities the child enjoys. If a child is particularly shy, look for activities that initially have less direct contact. Gymnastics, ten-pin bowling and swimming are examples of individual sports while soccer and netball involve more contact with peers. If children start in activities they enjoy, they are more likely to join other programs as their confidence grows.

3. **Role Play Difficult Skills** – Practicing social skills is a way to work on specific aspects of social interactions. If you notice your child stands too close to peers or repeatedly asks the same questions, help them learn about personal space or conversational skills through role play. By practicing these skills at home, children can learn to improve their social skills and apply them outside the home. If your child has difficulty accepting the rules or decisions of others in games, talk to them about how to stay calm and in control of their emotions. Help them practice problem solving so that they can deal with situations appropriately, confidently and independently.

4. **Provide Examples** – While reading books or watching television, explain social situations to children. Point out how helping others, using kind words and listening when friends talk are ways to be a good friend. When characters are being hurtful or uncooperative, point these actions out and ask your child what the character could do differently to be a better friend.

5. **Model Being Good to Others** – Part of being well liked and being a good friend is being kind. Demonstrate kindness by saying nice things about and to others. Point out when a co-worker does something thoughtful and how this makes you feel about them. If your child is sympathetic or says something complimentary, tell them how impressed you were with their actions.

6. **Do Not Force Friendships** – Just like adults, children get along better with some peers than others. Teaching children to be kind and to include others in activities is important, but they do not have to be best friends with everyone. However, they do need always to be respectful and considerate.

The P & C is a valuable mechanism for parents to support the school and have a voice in matters pertaining to school direction. Their first meeting next year will be **Monday 15 February, and held in the school staff room.** At this time they will also hold their AGM, to gain Office members. **Please come along and join in. All are welcome.**
The canteen’s first day of operation in 2016 is on **Wednesday 3 February**.

### School Banking — Thursdays

**Rewards Update**

The rewards still available to order are the **ET DVD, Invisible Ink Pens, Intergalactic Rocket, Money Box** and a new option of a **Frisbee**. To order a Frisbee, just pop a note in with your deposit book and tokens. Unfortunately handballs, solar systems, torches and light bands are no longer available. Tokens can be kept until next year and be redeemed on the new 2016 rewards early in Term 1. **New Bankers** welcome at any time. Put your deposits in your **Dollarmites** deposit book and bring to school on Thursdays. **Our first banking day will be**

### Uniform Shop

**The first opening time for 2016 is Friday 5 February.**

The **Uniform Shop will open on Friday morning of weeks 1 & 5 of each Term except for Term 1, 2016 when the first opening will be 5 February**. Orders can be placed in the Office money box and they will be filled fortnightly. **Cash or cheque only.**

**Cheques to be made out to Engadine Public School P & C Uniform Shop.**

Please direct all enquiries to Mrs Cody on Wednesday to Friday from 9.30—11.00am.

Please be aware Mrs Cody is also running the canteen and not all orders/enquiries can be dealt with immediately.

**Second Hand Uniforms**

The Uniform Shop is always happy to accept donations of second hand items in good condition. If you have any items you wish to donate, please bring them into the Office or direct to the Uniform Shop when it is next open.

### 2016 Book Packs Available for Purchase February 5

Book Packs will again be available in Term 1, 2016. Book Packs will be obtained directly from the suppliers, and we will be organising a **BOOK PACK DAY** on **Friday 5 February**. To help with planning we would like to advise that packs and voluntary contributions will be in the areas of approximately $145 –$200 per class, depending on the actual books purchased. Letters will come home tomorrow.

Online payment can be made through our website or payment can be made by cash, cheque or credit card to the office. Please be aware that credit cards may take a few days to process through your account.
Parents Not Partners

This six session program is for separated parents in conflict over their children—where they should live, how much time they should spend with each parent, what school they should attend, or anything else concerning the children.

Parents who are separated will learn:
- about the effects on children of the ongoing parental conflict
- how to shift focus from the conflict with the other parent to child's needs
- skills to reduce conflict
- about parenting after separation
- how to transform the relationship with the other parent into a business-like partnership
- to better understand the emotional needs of each child in the family

Mondays, 6:30pm to 9:00pm
15 February to 21 March
Cost: $150
Venue: Caringbah Interrelate
Address: 383-385 Port Hacking Road
Caringbah

Bookings Essential – Phone 8522 4408

Relating as Stepfamilies

This three-session program assists couples to manage the demands of life as a stepfamily.

It will assist parents to:
- examine the challenges and positives of stepfamilies
- examine personal beliefs and the effects of holding onto these
- highlight the losses stepfamilies have suffered
- recognise the importance of developing stepfamily rituals
- compare different communication styles

Wednesday, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
22 Feb, 29 Feb & 7 Mar
Cost: $75 per couple
Venue: Caringbah Interrelate
Address: 383 – 385 Port Hacking Rd, Caringbah

Bookings Essential – Phone 8522 4408

Seasons for Growth

This is an eight-week program for children aged 6 to 12 years that have experienced grief and loss in their lives due to a significant change such as death, separation of parents or a natural disaster.

Children will learn:
- to understand and talk about the normal range of emotions experienced during major change, grief and loss
- how to build positive relationships with family and friends
- how they can participate in a caring and confidential network of peers and adults
- about resiliency
- how to plan for a realistic and hope-filled future

Tuesdays, 4:00pm to 5:00pm
16th February to 11th of April
With 1 week break on the 28th of March
Cost: $50 per child
Venue: Caringbah Interrelate
Address: 383-385 Port Hacking Rd Caringbah

Bookings Essential – Phone 8522 4408
Where is my child???

Children are in Last Year’s Classes this week, but may be in different rooms.

KG - Upstairs in A Block (Office Block)
KH - In 1TD (1 Green – G Block)
KR - In KR (Kinder Blue)
1R – In 1R (1 Yellow – G Block)
1TD - In KG (Kinder Red)
1/2 RD In 1/2 RD
2R - Upstairs in A Block (Office Block)
2/3S Upstairs in B Block (Old Band Room -5/6)
3/4B Upstairs in B Block (Old Band Room – 5/6)
3/4W In K Block (Old 2/3 Class – Middle Room)
5/6 D and 5/6 CW in K Block (Near Dernancourt)
New children, Ornisha and Taliyah - K Block
Noah, Jacob and Julian – B Block (Upstairs)
Lily (Kinder Red) Liam –Office Block -upstairs