We currently have advertising space available in the Waratah Whispers. Please contact us for details in advertising your business.
“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.”

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

Feb
22  Kindergarten’s First Full Day 9:30 to 3:30
25  School Swimming Carnival

Mar
21  Harmony Day
23  Easter Parade and “Eggshibition”
24  School Photos
25  Good Friday
28  Easter Monday

Introducing our New Teachers

Hendrika Green, Principal

We welcome Miss Durrant to our staff. She comes with a wide range of experience across a variety of school settings, both within and outside of Australia. With such a wealth of knowledge, we know her impact will soon be noticed.

Miss Durrant (Assistant Principal—Stage One)

My name is Katrina Durrant and I am thrilled to be joining the Engadine Public School Community.

In the words of Nelson Mandela, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. As a teacher, I encourage, mentor, praise, influence, guide, challenge and inspire my students to achieve their highest potential, so that they can become happy and confident members of our society.

In my spare time, I enjoy travelling or planning my next adventure. I have lived, studied and worked in both American and England. However, my heart belongs to the country life of the Northern Tablelands in NSW. I grew up 45kms from Tamworth and enjoyed a fabulous childhood of horse riding, camping and generally being surrounded by cattle, sheep and the dogs.

I began teaching in Sydney schools at the completion of my degree and I have enjoyed the simple pleasures that the city life has to offer. (I can buy milk and bread after 5pm – no milking required!) ha ha.

I look forward to working with the Engadine Community to ensure that our students participate in significant learning experiences of intellectual quality, in a caring learning environment.

We will introduce Mrs Franklin next week.

Thanks to Woolworths

We thank our nearby Woolworths shopping staff, who have provided a great resource to support the learning and engagement of students, through the donation of a series of Dr Suess books for Stage One.

Having been a migrant to Australia, I know a significant part of my learning about rhyming words and decoding for reading success was based on the Dr Suess series.
Notes and Money Due

Book Packs: Overdue — Please finalise any payments for book packs as soon as possible.

Engadine Public School P & C—Everyone Welcome

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 this year will be Monday 15 February, and held at 7:30 pm, 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.

School Safety

Parents and carers are advised that the Department of Education has a policy whereby children are not able to use the playground equipment without the direct supervision of a teacher of the school. Please ensure your children do not use the equipment while unsupervised, whilst you are in the school grounds.

In the interests of child protection and safety we ask that parents do not use the childrens’ toilet facilities. Those who need to use toilet facilities when at school, are asked to use the visitors’ toilet outside the hall.

The toilet facilities outside the Library are for the exclusive use of staff.

When dropping children off at school, or collecting them in the afternoon, it is asked that families ensure students are not required to cross the road without an adult. It is often at the busy time of school pick-up and rushing to attend other extra-curricula activities that incidents occur.

It is always better to be safe, than sorry.

SKOOLBAG

Engadine Public School encourages families to upload the android or iphone APP for Engadine SKOOLBAG. The App is free, and provides access to messages about events at school as notifications. Very handy for updates for events.

New to Skoolbag - KOOL KONTENT

Kool Kontent is a new and exciting area within your Skoolbag App available now for parents, carers and students. Kool Kontent is designed to offer relevant and informative content suitable for all our Skoolbaggers.

We hope you enjoy the informative articles, blogs, links and documents we have sourced so far.

WANTED

Do you have a small jogging trampoline that you no longer use? We are searching for one to be used in the support unit if you have one available. Please contact Ms Dean for more information.
Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, your school is taking part in the Tell Them From Me student survey. We completed this survey last year and got valuable feedback about our school. The 2016 survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students’ personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law. This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time. More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child’s school by 26 February, 2016.

Hendrika Green
Principal
Engadine Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan
Executive Director
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

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CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS AND EVALUATION
E cese@det.nsw.edu.au  www.cese.nsw.gov.au
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being included in this newsletter. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.
Engadine Public Promotes Healthy Lifestyles

- Crunch and Sip is held each morning around 10:30 am. Students are encouraged to bring in vegetables and fruit (non-messy) and water to eat and drink while in the classroom and taking part in lessons.
- Students are encouraged to reduce their litter, by having fruit for their recess, and to pack their lunch into lunch boxes.
- Students are required to sit for the first 10 minutes of recess and lunch to enable them to eat without the distraction of games.
- Students are required to wear hats to play out in the sun.
- Students are encouraged to wear sunscreen when out in the heat for long periods of time.
- Students are encouraged to participate in play, physical education and sports which provide an opportunity to remain active.

Chess Club

Learn how to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Engadine Public School is held on Wednesdays from 8:40am-9:25am. Term 1 lessons will commence on 10th February, 2016.

Chess is the world’s most loved board game. Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment! Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games, with personal feedback from the coach.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, solving puzzles, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part, please pick up an enrolment form from the school office, or you can email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.

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.

Pause, Prompt & Praise Training

Parents, Grandparents and volunteers please join us for Pause, Prompt & Praise training session to support students’ reading on Wednesday, 24th February at 2.15 in the science room. The strategies you will learn are:

- Research based and extensively trialled to ensure effectiveness
- Suitable for pre-school and school aged children
**Canteen**

The canteen is open Wednesday to Friday weekly.

During term 1 the canteen may open ON HOT DAYS at lunchtime on Mondays & Tuesday’s for ICEBLOCKS ONLY.

**School Banking — Thursdays**

School banking is on Thursday. Books will be returned by Monday afternoon this year. For larger amounts or busy families, deposit books can be posted in the locked banking slot in the office at anytime to be processed on the following Friday.

This term’s new rewards are the Flying Snake Tail or the Wildlife Writer Set (2 pencils and a long flexible eraser). Rewards cards are available in the school office, on the “Notes” rack. In addition, ET DVDs, Frisbees, rockets and money boxes can still be ordered.

New bankers are welcome, at any time. Please bring your labelled (name & class) Dollarmites deposit book and money to school on Thursday.

For those wishing to open new accounts, a representative from the Commonwealth Bank will be available on Thursday 25th February, from 9am outside the Art room. Parents will only need their Drivers Licence to open an account on this day.

Existing Commonwealth Bank customers can also open accounts for their children online (just send the account name account number and your money in an envelope the first week). Accounts can also be opened in person at any Commonwealth Bank.

**Uniform Shop**

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.

**The School Opal Card**

If you are the parent or guardian of a NSW school student, you may be eligible for free or subsidised travel for the student’s travel between home and school under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS).

Students up to the end of Year 2, are entitled to free travel to school automatically and upon application will receive a pass through the mail, at school.

If you have a child who is in Year 3 or above and you wish to use the bus services, you need to apply on-line at [https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/](https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/) Those students who live too close to qualify for a full pass, may receive a pass for subsidised travel on the bus. Opal cards should be received in the first two weeks of school. If you have applied and have not received yours in this time, please make sure you advise the school 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.

## Approaching and Joining In

Don’t just sit and wait — go ahead and join in!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dos</th>
<th>Don’ts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Look for people who seem friendly and who are by themselves or in small groups</td>
<td>✓ Don’t approach large groups as they are usually harder to join in with.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Stand near them and wait for a good moment (Eg: a pause in the game or conversation)</td>
<td>✓ Don’t barge straight in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Smile, look in their eyes and say hello. Use their name if you know it.</td>
<td>✓ Don’t wait around too long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Make a positive comment about the game (Eg: &quot;This is a great game.&quot;) or the topic of their conversation.</td>
<td>✓ Don’t have a sad or sour look on your face.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ If the individual or group response is good, just start doing what they are doing, or talk about what they are talking about.</td>
<td>✓ Don’t look down on the ground.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ Don’t say bad things about the game.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ Don’t try to take over the game or the conversation.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Don’t interrupt if someone else is talking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Don’t try to change the game or the topic of conversation.</td>
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</tbody>
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Parents, we ask that you too go through these skills with your children, and discuss the dos and don’ts. Perhaps you can ask them if they have tried some of the strategies and what the result was. Children learn best when they are supported from both school and home with a consistent message. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
Fussy Primary School Eaters

Bookings essential. Book online today!

When
Thursday 18 February
6.00pm - 7.15pm

Where
Caringbah Library
376-378 Port Hacking Road
Phone 9524 3803 for details

Got a picky eater at home?
Find out how to get your primary school aged child to stop avoiding their vegetables and try new, healthy dishes.

Presented by Linda from the Love Real Food Group.

Library Services
Enquiries: 9710 0351

Sutherland Shire Council
MindQuest

On Saturday 2nd and 3rd April, the 78th NSW Talent Enrichment Weekend MindQuest will be held for primary students from Years 1-6 at St George Girls High School. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with above average ability with a special interest.

Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 37 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, art and much, much more. Many of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and student’s evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience.

Closing date: Friday 4 March 2016
The cost of the weekend is $190 (including GST)
Contact your school for a brochure or Shelagh Poray on 02 4232 2494

Disney Film Festival

Event Cinemas Miranda is holding a Disney Film Festival for 4 weeks, showcasing a Disney Film Festival each week. The beloved Disney Animation films will be in season for a limited time only with screening sessions each Saturday and Sunday from February 20th until March 13th.

We encourage you to dress as your favourite Disney Animation character and will experience a fun family session filled with activities and prizes amongst the joy of a special Disney Animation cinematic experience.

Contact your school for a brochure or Shelagh Poray on 02 4232 2494
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 of children of the ongoing parental conflict
- how to shift focus from the conflict with the other parent to the 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

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
15th 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

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 9:00pm
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