

TRINITY GARDENS SCHOOL



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Our school values:

Respect
Responsibility
Learning



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Dear Parents and Families,
Welcome back to the start of Term 4.
Later this term staff will work collectively on the configuration of next year's Mainstream classes. I would like to provide the following explanation for how this process works.

The number of classes we have in any one year is entirely dependent upon how many students are actually attending in the new school year. This term, we do our best to estimate the scenario based on what we know, eg Year 7s moving on and new Receptions starting and any other movement. To help us please let us know if your child will *not* be attending Trinity Gardens School next year.

The number of children in any year level determines whether or not the class will be a straight year level or a composite class. There is no deliberate effort for one type of class over another as children learn equally well whether in a composite or a straight class. Sometimes there is a misconception that if students are in a straight class then they will all be at the same academic level. Unfortunately it's not that simple. In any straight class there will be children operating at different academic levels and this is the same as a composite class. The challenge for our staff is to recognise the uniqueness of every child and ensure every child is challenged at their academic level through differentiation and negotiation of the curriculum.

In the class placement process I ask for your trust in our staff who undertake this process in a conscientious manner taking into account a great deal of information about each child. A great deal of time is invested in this process

and takes into consideration the following factors for each child:

- ♦ social and emotional factors
- ♦ learning needs
- ♦ friendship groups
- ♦ gender and ability balance within each class.

You are invited to contribute to the process by writing to me with information about special educational requirements that you would like considered when placing your child in a class. The staff will seriously consider the information provided by parents but **cannot** guarantee that all requests will be met. We aim to place each child with at least one of their friends. Once the classes are set, it is very difficult to make alterations because one change can affect the balance of friendships, gender and learning needs that we try so hard to achieve. *Therefore, late letters cannot be accepted and changes will not be made once classes are made known.* Requests for specific teachers will not be considered.

Please address all letters, marked 'Confidential', to me personally. Letters need to reach me by **Monday 6 November**.

Staff will begin the allocation process during the following week so late letters cannot be accepted.

Kind regards
Marg Erwin
Principal



Term 4 Week 1 19 October 2017

Diary Dates

19 October Thursday

School Blue Light Disco
In the Gym

5.15-6.15pm Yr R-2; 6.30-7.30pm Yr 3-5;
7.45-9pm Yr 6-7

23 October Monday

Rm 4W, 6W, 8W & Cottage Living with
Pets Incursion
6pm Grounds & Facilities Meeting

24 October Tuesday

Fundraising Mtg
Community Connections Mtg
OSHC Mtg

25 October Wednesday

Rm 17A & 18A Animals Anonymouse &
Art w/ Cosmo Antenucci

30 October Monday

Governing Council Meeting, 6.30pm

Week 3 & Week 4

Aquatics & Swimming Skills Lessons
Please check your child's school bag, forms have been sent home this week. Also emailed to all families and available via skoolbag.

8 November Wednesday

Steiner Seminar, 7pm in the Res Ctr
See flyer on skoolbag/website

14 November Tuesday

RM 14J Little sprouts Exc
RAN Volunteer Training @ 1pm

15 November Wednesday

Education Meeting 6.30pm

Week 6

SAPSASA State Cricket Carnival

Diary dates cont'd page 2...

Aquatics & Swimming Skills Lessons

Please check your child's/ren school bag for information and consent forms.

If forms are misplaced - they have been emailed to all families and, are available to download from the skoolbag app.

Diary Dates cont'd from page 1

21 November Tuesday

Fundraising Mtg
Community Connections Mtg
OSHC Mtg

22 November Wednesday

After School Market

27 November Monday

Governing Council Mtg, 6.30pm

Week 7

Aquatics & Swimming Skills Lessons
Please check your child's school bag, forms have been sent home this week. Also emailed to all families and available via skoolbag.

6 December Wednesday

End of Year Celebration

8 December Friday

Volunteer's Morning Tea

11 December Monday

Year 7 Graduation

13 December Wednesday

St Morris Unit Year 7 Graduation

15 December Friday

Steiner Rose Ceremony
End of Term
Early dismissal, 2.05pm

NEWS FROM THE FOREST

NEWS FROM THE FOREST

Check out the Forest Noticeboard

Freshly installed in the Breezeway (next to OSHC), our new noticeboard features a map of Portrush Forest.

We will be adding notes to this map to highlight areas of the Forest and Devitt Oval that need help, whether it's managing weeds or some other gardening tasks.

There is a locked box below the noticeboard with some basic gardening tools, gloves and buckets.



Nursery almost ready

Our plant nursery is nearly ready for classes to start learning about growing! If you are a budding propagator, seed collector, grower etc please get in touch as the more people who can support student learning the better.

Hope you're enjoying this warm spring weather!

Jacqui Hunter
(Friends of Portrush Forest)

School Blue Light Disco

Thursday 19 October 2017

5.15pm-6.15pm Yr R-2

6.30-7.30pm Yr 3-5

7.45-9pm Yr 6-7

Get your dancing shoes on!

GLYNDE MINI MART

PLEASE NOTE AS OF

TERM 4

SUSHI DAY

WILL BE

MONDAYS

(not Fridays)



Hi everyone,

I wanted to recommend a great Volunteer experience to anyone interested in CONNECTING CHILDREN TO NATURE called "Forest Explorers".

The aim of the group is to support parents and friends to deliver simple programs to small groups of students to encourage a deeper understanding of the remarkable Portrush Forest. We meet in the Community Room on Tuesday mornings at 9am for approximately 30mins to share ideas. (DCSI Police Clearance required.)

My personal experience and for all those involved, has been such a joyful and satisfying one, that I was inspired to send out a call, especially to older folk who may have more time on their hands. Having some input from different cultures and perspectives would be enriching for the whole community. Another group of enthusiastic parents get together on Wednesday mornings to work in either the forest itself or finalising a nursery area next to sheds; this is to become an integral part for the school community and beyond, for hands on training in seed collection and plant propagation just to name a couple of concepts.

Yours in having fun in the Forest,

Jo Gabrynowicz
(Grandmother of Annie, Cheryl Cousins, 7W)



Parenting *ideas*

INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true. The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a

sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

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Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW ParentingIdeas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



parentingideas.com.au



... It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school...

It takes strong parenting ...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!" Nice try. But the answer should be "No!".

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- ✔ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- ✔ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- ✔ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- ✔ Consider catching-up on missed work.
- ✔ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.



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MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Spring Fair

Saturday 28 October 2017
10am - 4pm



All welcome - live music,
artisan and food stalls,
children's games and delights.

27 Sims Road, Mount Barker | 