

The Junction News

Newsletter of The Junction Public School



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Term 1 – Week 2

Tuesday 3 February 2015

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Hello everyone. I'd like to offer a very warm welcome to all our families of The Junction Public School. A special welcome to the many new families who have joined us for the first time – it's so great to have you join our wonderful educational community.

Kindergarten students have all settled in extremely well and really appear to be enjoying their first days at school. They are so settled and confident. Thanks to all parents who have prepared them for 'big school' so well. Thank you as well to the Year 6 buddies who are doing a great job in looking after their new young friends.

Staffing

I would like to warmly welcome to our school, a new staff member Sara Willoughby who has joined us from Moree Public School this year, Miss Willoughby will be teaching on Year 5 this year and is looking forward to being a part of our school community.

It is also wonderful to welcome back Laura Chaffey as relieving Assistant Principal on Stage 1 for 2015. Ms Chaffey is also happy to be back and has been warmly greeted by all the students.

Classes 2015

Yesterday we were able to form 24 classes for 2015. Our enrolment numbers have increased from last year – going up one class, but the numbers were fluctuating making it difficult last week to know our exact enrolment. We have been very happy to welcome many new families to our school – but there were also several families who were not able to confirm their enrolment for us until this week, due to house sales and employment opportunities etc. This is the reason we had to wait until this week to form classes. It becomes a very complex situation and we would like to thank the students for their patience.

In trying to form classes we do consider friendship groups, gender balances, ability groups, special needs and try sincerely to do the best that we can, when we are working to a formula of recommended numbers per grade and the number of teachers we have. Sometimes this works out perfectly and at other times you are not always able to put every student exactly where they want to be. If your child is a little anxious about their placement this year, I urge you to leave it for a few weeks and you may find that the friendship groups will establish and their anxieties will lessen considerably. I promise you that lots of thought has gone into this organisation. Change is always a little difficult at times

and once the 'unknown' disappears students become settled and happy.

Your child's class teacher will be holding a parent teacher information session in the coming weeks to explain to you, class organisation for the year, curriculum content, upcoming events for the term and year and to answer any general questions that you may have.

Classes for this year are:

KK- Angie King (AP – Early Stage 1)
KD – Ruth Dewar
KE – Claire Edwards
KH – Maxine Hainsworth / Gillian Neat
1C – Louise Cooper / Rochelle Cromarty
1CF – Phillipa Campbell / Nicole Fuller
1J - Bryce Jackel / Louise Searant
1W – Amy Webster
2B – Holly Burgin
2C – Laura Chaffey (Relieving AP – Stage 1)
2R – Jacqui Russell
2/3W – Chris Ware
3H – Lisa Hughes (AP – Stage 2)
3Mc – Nina McLeod
3K – Karen Read / Karen Corbett
4L – Sharon Ladkin / Aleisha Ladkin / Haydn Corbett
4A – Mark Alcock
4F – Sue Freeman
5/6B – Brenda Briggs (AP – Stage 3)
5S – Erin Smith
5T – Louise Tilse
5W – Sara Willoughby
6C – Jody Cooper
6S – Nick Savage

Music RFF – Michael Jobson
Library/Technology – Sharelle Land
Technology RFF – Rob McTaggart
Reading Recovery – Phillipa Campbell / Nicole Fuller
Learning Support Teacher – Iain Gunter / Haydn Corbett

Deputy Principal – Anne Keating
Office Admin Manager – Dianne Edwards
Admin Officers – Amanda Brake, Angela Bowen, Kath McInnes
Learning Support Officer – Di Edwards, Nareen Rich
General Assistant – Tom Jervis

Demountable Classrooms

During the holidays (7) demountable classrooms were moved and relocated to the back of the new hall in

preparation for the building works for our new classrooms which will begin in a couple of months' time. The building program will deliver modern new permanent classrooms for our Year 3 and 4 classes. It is anticipated that the classrooms will be ready to occupy for the beginning of the 2016 school year. I will provide regular updates to the community on the progress of the building program throughout the year.

It would be helpful this year if parents waiting to collect children from their demountable classrooms of an afternoon, could wait on or near the COLA area of the new hall instead of waiting on the pathway outside the classrooms. There is not enough room on the small pathway for parents to wait here as there are over 200 children in these classrooms. Thank you for your co-operation.

Information on Anaphylaxis

This year at The Junction Public School we have a significant number of students throughout the school who have a range of allergies including nut allergies, seafood allergies, egg allergies, fish allergies and grass allergies. Some of these students may have a slight reaction such as skin irritation etc while others may have a more serious allergic reaction which affects their breathing and respiratory system and requires the use of an EpiPen. This is a device which is used to inject adrenalin into the mid-thigh of a student. For some students, without this intervention a severe allergic reaction could be life threatening.

I have been in contact with Hunter Health and their advice is to keep the community informed as I am doing now, to work towards making our school an "allergy friendly" school. This will involve having class teachers talk to all students about the allergies in our school, how we need to be mindful of the foods we have present near these students and how we will work together to make the school environment safe for everyone. Students in some classes may be asked to wash their hands regularly if they have a child who has allergic reactions.

Class teachers may send notes home to inform all parents in a particular class of the specific information relating to allergies in that class. **While we cannot ensure that we have a 'nut-free' environment, we can certainly attempt to make all environments at school 'allergy friendly' by being thoughtful about what food or allergens are brought to school or are near these children at school. It would be very helpful if nuts were not sent to school at all for example.**

If you require further clarification – please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your support.

General School Contributions

Many families have been asking to pay the voluntary school contribution over the last week. The office is happy to accept those contributions now – which are \$50 per child for the year up to a maximum of \$100 per family. The school will receipt your contribution at the time of payment.

Next Tuesday – we will send home with the newsletter a financial payments overview for the year for each grade. This will include costs of maths resource materials, a grammar resource book as well as other specific resources per grade. It will also include indications of costs for targeted grade excursions for the year.

Dogs in School Grounds

Could I remind parents that dogs are not permitted on school grounds under Section 14 of the Companion Animals Act. I would therefore appreciate parents not bringing dogs to school when dropping off or picking up children. As there are over 600 children on site it becomes a safety issue for the children and for the dogs. Thanks.

Wendy Cheek, Principal

BAND NEWS

Our Bands are commencing rehearsals this week. Last week a "Bright Green" note was sent home to all band students with rehearsal days and times. All tutorials should be starting this week. Parents, please ensure that you have contacted your child's tutor to arrange suitable times. Junior Band students will receive their instruments when they have their first individual tutorial. At present we have 146 students in our (3) bands. New instruments have been ordered and should arrive this week.

Band Rehearsal times are:

Junior: (Tuesday 2pm to 3pm) & (Friday 8am to 9am)

Intermediate: (Wed 8am to 9am) & (Friday 2pm to 3pm)

Senior: (Tuesday 8am to 9am) & (Thursday 2pm to 3pm)

Please remember morning rehearsals begin at 8am sharp. Please arrive from 7.50am to begin on time.

Band captains and Vice captains will be elected over the coming weeks and students will be presented with their badges at an upcoming Monday morning assembly. Parents of these students will be advised.

Please note that Band fees are due now:

Hiring and using the school's instrument: \$110 per term; \$220 per semester; \$440 per year.

Using your own instrument: \$100 per term; \$200 per semester; \$400 per year.

Band T-Shirts Band T-shirts have arrived and are available for purchase from The Uniform Shop. They are \$35 – Cash/Chq only.

We are looking forward to another very successful year!

MUSIC INFORMATION YEAR 2 - 6

All students from Year 2 to Year 6 need to bring a recorder for their music lessons each week. These can be purchased from Muso's Corner.

Year 1 students will commence recorder in Term 3.

Mr Jobson

CALENDAR - TERM 1 – 2015**Week 2****Event**

Friday, Feb 6	P & C Meeting – 1.30pm
Saturday, Feb 7	Olive Tree Markets at <u>Civic Park</u> 9am to 3pm

Week 4**Event**

Friday, Feb 20	School Swimming Carnival – The Forum (Year 3 – Year 6) + Competent 8 year old swimmers in Year 2
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Week 5**Event**

Wednesday, Feb 25	Zone Swimming Carnival
Saturday, March 7	Olive Tree Markets at <u>Civic Park</u> 9am-3pm

Week 6**Event**

Tuesday, March 3	P & C Meeting & AGM – 7pm
Thursday, March 5	Regional Swimming Carnival

Week 7**Event**

Tuesday, March 10 th	School Photos
Wednesday, March 11 th	School Photos
Friday, March 13	School Cross Country – Nesca Park - (Year 3 – Year 6) + Competent 8 year old runners in Year 2

Week 9**Event**

Friday, March 27	Zone Cross Country
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SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Date: Friday 20th February

With today's newsletter all students in Year 3 to Year 6 received a 'Bright Blue' Swimming Carnival note. Notes were also given to students in Year 2 who are turning (8 years old) this year and are strong swimmers who can swim 50m. Please send the permission note and money in promptly. Don't forget to post the money/note in the 'Red Box' in the office foyer.

IF THERE ARE ANY PARENTS WHO CAN HELP WITH TIMEKEEPING ON THE DAY COULD YOU PLEASE SEE MRS COOPER (CLASS 6C).

FROM THE OFFICE.....**Office Hours - 8.30AM TO 3.15PM****Money collection for excursions & events**

All money will come straight to the office, this includes:- Dance fees, Band fees, School books, Excursion money etc.

There is a 'Red' Payment Box in the school foyer as you walk in the door – please post payments in this box.

For this to work successfully, we ask that any money that is sent into school be in a sealed envelope with your **"Child's name and class"** on the front and details of what event you are paying. Permission notes will be stamped paid and given to the teacher. A receipt will be issued and handed back to the child by the teacher.

Please remember if you use envelopes to send in money that you sticky tape the ends to avoid coins sliding out. Plastic lunch bags that seal are ideal. The school accepts cash (exact amount is appreciated-we do not have a float-money is banked every day), cheque or we have Eftpos facilities in the office. Please note that the Eftpos facility is only available for school payments and not P & C – such as the Uniform Shop.

School lunch orders should still be given to the class teacher first thing in the morning.

Absences

If your child is absent from school, whether it be sick leave or holiday leave you need to notify the teacher/school in writing. If you know your child will be away for any reason, you may send the note in prior to the leave. You are only required to phone the school for sickness if your child is away over (3) days in succession. A note on your child's return to school is necessary.

If you are going away and the leave is over (5) school days, you must complete an "Exemption Leave Form" from the office prior to your leave.

Late Arrivals / Early Leavers

School hours are from 9am to 3pm. First assembly is at 8.55am. If children arrive later than 9am, parents are requested to accompany them to the office to provide late arrivals information to office staff. A 'Purple Partial Slip' is then taken to the class teacher. An occasional late absence is understandable, but continual late absences impact upon the learning of children and you will be contacted about these. Similarly, if children leave early for the day, parents are required to go to the office first and a 'Purple Partial slip' is then given to the class teacher when children are collected from the classroom. The 'Purple Partial Slip' indicates to the teacher you have been to the office to have the partial leave processed on the computer.

COMPUTER/GENERAL EXCURSION NOTES and TECHNOLOGY NOTE

With today's newsletter, all students Kindergarten to Year 6 will receive a "Blue General Permission Note" and a "Beige" Technology Note". All these notes need to be completed on both sides and returned to the class teacher by this week!

Please return these forms promptly. Thank you.

STARSTRUCK 2015

We are calling for expressions of interest from Year 5 and Year 6 students to participate in the Starstruck 2015 dance group. Similar to last year, there are a limited number of places and the dance group will be selected through an audition process. Students interested in auditioning will receive a permission note this week which must be returned by Monday 9th February. Please read through all of the information carefully to ensure you are aware of all involved responsibilities. The commitment by both parents and students is a big one, but the rewards are great too! The children will have to work very hard as part of a co-operative team and be good ambassadors for our school. Auditions will begin next Tuesday during lunchtime.

CANTEEN NEWS

Welcome back everyone! A new "2015 Hot Pink Summer menu" is going home with today's newsletter. Please destroy your "2014 Apricot Summer menu". Thank you

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform shop is open on Mondays from 8.45am to about 9.15am in the Old School Hall.

Payment for Uniform Orders is by Cash or Cheque only –

Cheques payable to: The Junction School P & C.

THERE ARE NO EFTPOS FACILITIES FOR THE UNIFORM SHOP.

The school Band Shirts are now available from the Uniform Shop. The cost will be \$35.00 per shirt.

Thank you to all the wonderful mums who have helped over the past week in our very busy Uniform Shop: Kim Forbes, Kendall Long, Sarah Harden, Monica Mamonto, Vera Moore and Monique Watson.

Donna Reay, Co-ordinator

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking will commence again next week! Newcastle Permanent Building Society and Commonwealth Bank offer banking to our students. Parent volunteers, Tanya Fitzgerald and Jackie Murnain process the money on the banks' behalf in our school library immediately after roll call on Mondays.

Information on this service will be given to Kinder parents at the Kinder Information Sessions or you may open an account at either bank and start Monday banking.

P & C NEWS

We trust everyone had a happy and safe holidays. We welcome all new families to TJPS, and everyone to the new school year!

P&C MEETING – 6th February at 1.30pm

Our first P&C meeting for the year is this **Friday 6th February at 1.30pm**. It will likely be in one of the Year 5 or 6 classrooms off the main COLA (assuming it's not raining, and the older kids are at sport).

All members of our school community are welcome to attend any of the P&C meetings. It's a great way to find out what is going on behind the scenes at our school, and to be an integral part of what makes our school tick. Our P&C needs a diverse range of voices and opinions to provide input to the many and varied activities.

P&C AGM – 3rd March at 7pm

Our next P&C meeting after this will be **Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm** in the staff room. This will also be our AGM. Please start thinking about where you might like to help out this coming year. Positions that will be available include President, Vice-President (there are two VP positions), Treasurer and Secretary. We can also have up to about six executive officers. Other roles where people can help are in social media / web communications, school gardens, uniform shop, and anywhere else that you think you have something to offer. With such a big school, it takes a tribe to make things happen behind the scenes, and any assistance, big or small, is always welcome.

To be eligible to vote, you need to become a member of TJPS P&C Association - annual subs are \$1. You become eligible to vote at the meeting after you join. A copy of the P&C's constitution can be found on the P&C section of the school website

If anyone thinks they may like to help out on the P&C this year, but aren't sure how - then please contact me and I'll be happy to chat about the various roles that are available / ways that people can help out. The current P&C is made up of a diverse group of busy people - and new voices and ideas are always welcome into the mix.

VOLUNTEER LISTS & CLASS LISTS 2015

In the coming weeks we will send home the annual "call for volunteers" form based on the events that we think we might be running for the year, and also the class lists form. If anyone is able to help collate the information as it comes back in, please let me know.

CROSS COUNTRY BBQ – 13TH March

This year, the P&C will run a BBQ back at school at 1pm after the Cross Country (Years 3-6). All students in (K-6) will have the opportunity to purchase a sausage sandwich (\$2) and drink (\$1). We will need someone to please co-

ordinate and also people to help on the day. Please let me know how you can help.

ELECTION DAY – 28TH MARCH (TBC) – BBQ, Cake Stall & Book Fair

We are expecting to be a polling place again for the State election, which we think will be held on 28th March (TBC). In addition to a cake stall and BBQ, we are looking to also run a Book Fair. We will need a lot of help to pull these events off. We will need separate co-ordinators for each of the cake stall, BBQ and book fair, we will need donations of books (please don't send in yet), along with cakes and slices etc. And we will need a deep roster of people to help out throughout the day, including setting up of the book fair on the Friday afternoon / evening, if we can pull it off. Please let me know how you can help.

EASTER RAFFLE – Traditionally our Easter raffle has comprised families donating prizes of easter treats, bundling these up into numerous prizes and the selling of tickets. For this to go ahead, we will need a co-ordinator to volunteer very soon. Please let me know ASAP if you can help, so that we can determine if this will go ahead this year.

FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEERING 2015

As most of you will be aware, the P&C is no longer running our monthly BBQs at the Olive Tree Markets, which will now be held at Civic Park (first market this Saturday 7th Feb). This means that we need to get creative with other means of fundraising, as our P&C has historically been a very generous supporter of TJPS through targeted raising of funds for school resources.

This year, there is the potential for us to need to contribute significant funds to the school. With the building works programme due to commence during the year, the P&C may be called on to provide financial support for items like air conditioning, landscaping and other ancillary items, so that more of the allocated funds can be directed to bricks and mortar.

In addition to the events listed above, the P&C is gearing up for a major event with our Spring Fair in October, and we will again run our holiday raffle.

2015 will be the year of volunteering at TJPS, and we will be relying on many people stepping up to help throughout the year.

Our school community is usually very good at people volunteering to help – we are a very generous school community when it comes to providing our time. What we are especially going to need this year, is people stepping up to co-ordinate events. There are enough of us around to provide support and guidance to all of our event coordinators – so please don't worry about putting your hand up for things based on "I've not done it before" - we're a very supportive group, and just need a hand with sharing some of the load (and background knowledge) around. Sometimes it can be a great idea to

grab a friend and have two or three of you coordinating an event. Or if you are new to the area, it's a great way to meet people.

CAMP AUSTRALIA - OOSH

Hopefully families that are registering for After School Care via Camp Australia are now having more success with access to online bookings etc. We have been working hard with Camp Australia to iron out glitches that we became aware of during the holidays. There will be a natural transition period as they get set up into the new service, and I ask everyone to be patient and reasonable in their expectations during this time. However, if there are any concerns that parents have that they feel need resolving, then please contact me and we will work together through the appropriate channels as needed. However, please make Felicity, Shane and any other Camp Australia staff welcome as they join our school community and get themselves oriented.

SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

Please note that Council has identified TJPS as one of several schools which they will be visiting over February and March as part of a targeted school zone safety program. Some of you may be aware that Council rangers have already been seen patrolling last week. Please familiarise yourself with the various parking restrictions around our school, and please make a concerted effort to only ever park in safe places. While most parents do the right thing, too often some parents are dropping off and picking up children in areas that place the safety of theirs and other children at risk. I have personally seen some very close near-misses around our school over the years. If we can all do the right thing, it helps protect the youngest members of our school community and all of the families who enter and leave our school grounds each day. If anyone is aware of safety issues in the streets surrounding our school, which may benefit from the P&C making representations to Council, then please let me know.

ARE YOU ON THE P&C EMAIL LIST?

If not, here's some of the things you missed over the holidays:

- Updates about registering for after school care with Camp Australia
- An urgent alert relating to social media use by children from our school; and
- A call for help for the Welcome Morning Tea for new parents.

If you thought you were on the list, but didn't receive the above information, then it is possible we don't have current details for you.

If you'd like to be on the P&C email list, please drop us a line to junctionpandc@hotmail.com and we'll add you on. If at any time you no longer wish to be on the list, we will be happy to remove you, on your request.

THANK YOU:

Thank you everyone who helped with our welcome morning tea for new families last week, particularly Karen Goldrick, Monica Mamonto, Leone Cook, Emma Morson, Suki Kwon, Pili Vasquez, along with everyone who donated cakes /slices and anyone else who helped welcome new parents to our school.

Julie Wharton
Acting P&C President

Want to keep up with P&C news “on the go”? You can:



“Like”
The Junction
Public School
P&C
on Facebook



“Follow”

@TJPS_PandC
on Twitter

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**South Newcastle Junior Rugby League**

Registrations are now open for all new and returning players.

In 2015, registrations will be 100% completed on-line. Registration links can be found on the South's Facebook page or website.

On-line registration assistance days will be held at South Newcastle Leagues Club (Llewellyn Street, Merewether), Sunday 8th February 2015 (2pm – 4pm) and Thursday 13th February 2015 from 6pm – 8pm for those who may not have access to “on-line”.

On Sunday 22nd February 2015, a final registration day is planned from 2pm – 4pm

Mini League age groups from under 6's to Under 8's,
Mod League age groups from Under 9's to Under 12's
International from U13's to U18's

Enquiries: Please contact Scott Hallett at scotthlitt@yahoo.com.au or Graeme Fitzgerald on: 0407 093 662.

French Classes – (5-12 year olds)

Fun after school program here at The Junction Public School on Monday and Tuesday from 3.20pm to 4.20pm. Register your interest by phone or email:

Phone: 0402 818034
or sandra.peachey@lcclubs.com.au

Olive Tree Markets

The Olive Tree Markets will make their debut at Civic Park this Saturday 7th February – 9am to 3pm!

Update: The Junction Public School Spring Fair- 31st October 2015

The P&C Association is progressing with plans for **The Junction Public School Spring Fair 2015.**

The Fair represents the single largest fundraising and logistical undertaking next year and the P&C is keen to enlist the support of as many talented people within the school community as possible.

The team needs additional volunteers so if you can contribute your time and ideas to help deliver a successful event, please contact Suki Kwon at email:tjpsspringfair@gmail.com

Become a Spring Fair Supporter.

The P&C would be delighted to receive support for the Fair from members of the school community by means of an ‘expression of interest’ (EOIs) for ‘Supporter’ opportunities for the Spring Fair 2015. We welcome support (financial or ‘in-kind’ equipment etc.) from small business owners or from parents employed in larger businesses who feel that support for the school would fit their organisation’s marketing and community-support objectives.

To register your interest, please contact Eloise Fleck at email:

sponsorshiptjpsspringfair@gmail.com before March 1 after which time we will approach the wider business community to canvas for support.

Please note that in order to align with the school values and ethos all Supporter EOIs will be assessed against the [P&C fundraising framework](#)

We're on Facebook

To keep abreast of the latest news on the Spring Fair please visit our Facebook page, **The Junction Public School Spring Fair 2015 at:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Junction-Public-School-Spring-Fair-2015/374092879432389>

Mary Henry (email: marketingtjpsspringfair@gmail.com)