Welcome to 2016

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome families, students and the wider community back for the commencement of the 2016 year. A record 309 students walked through the front gates and like all first days of school yesterday was one of sadness, happiness and nervous moments as students left their parents and went off into an unknown classroom. Over the next week it is important to remember that your child is adjusting to a new routine, making new friendships and is constantly put in uncomfortable situations. Your child will benefit with a calm after school and night time routine to help wind down from the day and catch up on some much needed sleep.

Our fortnightly newsletter will now be emailed home, put on our school website, put on our Facebook page and sent home via our app on School Stream. We are trialling a paperless newsletter this Term. Feedback is always welcome.

In the coming weeks you will receive a newsletter from your child’s teacher outlining what will be taught and the routines that are put in place to help students in the classroom. 2016 poses to be yet another year of developments with $90,000 allocated to facility upgrades and a further $60,000 allocated to further technology improvements. Maths and Reading will again be our priority and parent information sessions will be held to communicate what is taught to students. I am extremely pleased with the staff that we have recruited and I am sure that you will find all staff welcoming and professional and it will benefit your child’s education.

Adam Wilson

Parent Information Night—AGM

Monday the 15th of February will be our parent information night. This will be an opportunity for parents to come along and hear from teachers and the learning that is planned for 2016. Like last year teachers will be delivering the information in Learning Teams. This ensures that the information being shared is consistent across classes and parents can receive the same message. Parents will be able to meet with their child’s teacher individually after the session if required. The format for the night will be:

5:00—5:20 Reception students in the Reception classes
5:25—5:45 Year 1-2 students in Miss Cairns’ room
5:50—6:10 Year 3-5 students in Miss Dumont’s room
6:15—6:35 Year 6-7 students (including Mr McInnes’s class) in Mrs Martins class

The AGM will follow at 6:40 in the staff room. There are several positions vacant and it would be great to have a good representation of parents. If you would like to nominate then please return this tear off slip to the office, or email me at adam.wilson36@schools.sa.edu.au

There will be a free sausage sizzle throughout the night, outside of the year 1-2 unit. Come along, meet your child’s teacher and have a sausage.

Governing Council Nomination

I, _______________________________ wish to nominate myself or _______________________________ to be on the Stirling North Primary School Governing Council for 2016.
Parent Club 2016

It was released late last month by the Minister of Education that parent volunteers would no longer need to go through the rigour of having police checks if volunteering their time on school grounds. I find this decision a welcome relief. The school puts in protective measures to ensure that volunteers have the appropriate induction and are never left alone or “out of site” from a staff member. With this in mind I continue my focus to open the school gates and allow parents in to classrooms to assist teachers and be part of the education process.

2016 will also see the introduction of a formalised Parent club. An effective parent club is one where parents get together to plan fundraising and whole school events to better the educational experience of their children. It is also a way that parents can contribute and be involved in some of the key decisions that occur on the school calendar.

Next Wednesday, the 10th of February I will be hosting a morning tea in the staffroom at 8:45 for any parent that would like to be involved in some capacity on our new Parent club. It is not a big commitment with most meetings being informal, and an opportunity to have a coffee and a few biscuits.

If you can’t make the meeting next Wednesday and are keen to be involved then please speak to me or contact me on adam.wilson36@schools.sa.edu.au.

DMC—Decision Making Committee

Last year saw the introduction of our Decision Making Committee. This committee met fortnightly to discuss any events or proposals that staff, students or parents wanted to put on the school calendar. This process ensured that events were well planned and proposals were communicated via the newsletter prior to the committee meeting. It is important that we have a equitable representation of all stakeholders on this committee. The committee is made up of:

- Principal and Deputy Principal
- 2 non teaching reps
- 2 teaching reps
- 2 parent reps

Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 4:15 every fortnight. These meetings are generally 15 minutes and it is a great way to have a say on what is approved or disapproved for school events. If you are interested in being on this committee then please see me.

Adam Wilson

Canteen

This year the canteen will be open 5 days a week starting next Monday. The Monday special will be hot dogs. The Wednesday special will be advertised early in the week. This week we will be having Nachos for $3. We are always looking for volunteers for the canteen. Volunteers do not need to commit regularly and we are happy for any contribution. Please see Denise for more information.