

# The Augusta Star



Augusta  
STATE SCHOOL  
Newsletter 1, 3/2/2017

Welcome to Augusta State School 2017!

## Parent Information Evening

Wednesday 8 February 2017

5pm (session one) and 6pm (session two – a repeat of session one)

Sessions will be held in individual classrooms.

The evening will provide parents with the opportunity to understand the routines, expectations and curriculum at Augusta State School.

*If you wish to discuss your child specifically, please make an appointment with your child's teacher.*

### THANKYOU!

What an amazing start to our seventh year. Our students look amazing in their uniforms and they have settled into class so quickly. Thank you to each and every one of our families for all of the preparation and efforts to ensure children were ready for school.

Classroom routines are quickly being established and your support in ensuring students arrive on time at school is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your patience when driving and walking in and around the school. School drop-off and pick-up times are busy and we appreciate your patience.

Thank you to our P&C who assisted with the 'Tea and Tissues' and over the school holidays with the Uniform Shop. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to Augusta.

### WELCOME

Welcome back to our returning staff and our new staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for ensuring Augusta was ready for the first day. They have done an incredible job.

I would like to welcome our new classroom teachers: Nicole Weatherhead, Lisa Ellwood, Gail Stoner, Tonia Schwarten, Cara Champion, Kara Colgan, Melanie Clark, Georgie Kelley and Kenneth McAdoo. Welcome also to our new teacher aides and support staff.

### SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

School newsletters will be emailed to parents in 2017. Please ensure your email address is kept up to date. Please also upload the QSchool app which will provide updates of the school calendar and uploads of important documents. Our website will be actively updated this year, so please keep an eye on that too! Our P&C have a Facebook page (Parents of Augusta) which is managed by our P&C.

### Communication

This year we are trying to stream line communication process to minimize traffic in the office as much as possible. We will therefore be using email as much as possible. Our first school incursion will be our trial of sending information and invoice via email and parents paying via Bpoint where possible.

Our first incursion is World of Maths – please see page 2

*Empowered to be my  
best today.  
Inspired to be even  
better tomorrow!*

### IMPORTANT NOTES

Please update your contact details (mobile, email) with the office.

**No parking** in the bus zone, pick-up zone, or grassed areas around school.

Staff carpark is ONLY for staff

Parent Information Evening  
Wednesday 8 February 2017

Please avoid bringing nuts and eggs to Augusta.

Augusta has a 'no school hat – no play' policy.

Please ensure your child has a school hat that is clearly named.

Animals should not be brought to school, including at pick-up times.

### Café

To be confirmed after P&C meeting

Please change your child's class in munch monitors.

### DATE CLAIMERS

Parent Information Evening  
Wednesday 8 February 2017  
5pm and 6pm  
Classrooms

Yr 6 Leadership Incursion  
Thursday 9 February 2017  
All day in the performance hall

P&C General Meeting  
Tuesday 21 February 6pm 2017  
Administration



## **WORLD OF MATHS ROADSHOW**

As part of this semester's work, we have proposed World of Maths Roadshow to visit our school. The World of Maths Roadshow is an ideal opportunity for students to see how maths is applied to some real life situations.

Students will gain insight into problem solving, working in teams, and also various maths principles which are part of their curriculum this term.

It is a highly engaging session which will show the children that math's can be fun!

Details of the Roadshow visit are as follows:

**Friday 17 February 2017:** Classes: SB1, SB2, SB3, SB4, DT1, DT2, SD3, SD4

**Wednesday 1 March:** Classes: SC2, SC3, SC4, SD1, SD2

**Thursday 2 March:** Classes: JC1, JC2, JB1, JB2, JB3, SA1, SA2, SA3

**Friday 3 March:** Classes: JB4, JD1, JD2, JD3, JD4, M1

**Friday 10 March:** Classes: PA1, PA2, PA3, PA4, PA5, PA6, SC1, SA4

**COST: \$5.50 per student**

Invoices will be emailed out on Monday 6 February. Please make payment via Bpoint by **Wednesday 15 February, 2017**. If you would like payment to be taken off your centapay account please advise the office via email [office@augustass.eq.edu.au](mailto:office@augustass.eq.edu.au)

We will accept your payment as parent permission for this incursion.

**Parents are able to attend, especially with junior grades (at no cost).**

## SMS SYSTEM

Our SMS system for unexplained absences is now established and working well. Please remember to notify the school if your child is absent for the day. If you receive a message to say that your child is away without an explanation, please respond with your child's name, class and reason for absence. There are occasionally technological issues despite our best efforts so we thank you for your patience as we fine tune the system. Thank you for your support with this important process that helps ensure the safety of all our students.

## MEET THE STAFF AT AUGUSTA

As the school gets bigger it is important that we keep it personalised, so each fortnight in our newsletter we will introduce some of our staff at Augusta. This fortnight we will start with the school executive team.



**Tammy Swane**  
Principal



**Tracie Best**  
Deputy Principal Prep-Yr1



**Therese Rasch**  
Deputy Principal Yr 2-Yr3



**Randell Hardy**  
Deputy Principal Yr 4, 5, 6

## FROM THE DEPUTIES

**Prep** students have been learning the routines of coming to school. They are very good at showing 'whole body listening'. They have been practising how to cut, hold a pencil and follow directions. In Science prep had fun using their senses to investigate the world around them.

**Year one** students have settled well. They have been making new friends and transitioning well between the classrooms, play areas and new eating areas. The year one teachers have been very impressed with the students' behaviour and skills. Everyone is looking forward to an exciting 2017.

**Year two** students have had an exciting start to the year. It has been great to see the focus on good listening skills and using 'whole body listening'. Both students and staff have started the year with enthusiasm and anticipation for the year ahead.

The **year three** cohort are off to a flying start this year with the move into the senior school area. The classes are settled and the children are displaying the work habits and behaviours that we could expect from Year 3 students. Well done everyone for such a great start to the year.

**Year 4** students are currently reading 'The Twits' in English. They are really enjoying listening to all the tricks Mr and Mrs Twit keep playing on each other! At the end of this unit, students will need to write their own chapter to add to the story.

In English **year 5** students are studying the fantasy genre through the use of JK Rowling's book 'Harry Potter.' They are also developing their skills in writing and are eagerly awaiting Writer's Camp next week.

**Year 6** Leadership Day will be held in the school hall on Thursday 9th February. Please ensure that money and forms are returned to the office by Friday 3rd February.

## STUDENT ABSENCES

Should your child be absent from school please email [admin@augustass.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@augustass.eq.edu.au) AND your child's class teacher with an explanation. You may also update student absences on QParents.

Every day counts!

It is vitally important that students attend school every day. It is also important that students arrive at school on-time and ready to learn. Early collection from school also disrupts learning and we encourage families to avoid this as much as possible.

A **low level** of school attendance is associated with:

- ☒ **poor academic achievements;**
- ☒ **early school leaving;**
- ☒ **leaving school with fewer qualifications;**
- ☒ **subsequent unemployment; and**
- ☒ **a lower level of health / life expectancy.**

Absences affect the chances your child has of being successful as an adult. One or two days absent a week in primary school doesn't seem much but...

Missing...	Equals ...	Which is ...	Over 13 years of schooling you child is missing...	If this happens you child may <u>only</u> reach ...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years of schooling	Year 11 standard
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Nearly 2.5 years of schooling	Year 10 standard
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Nearly 5 years of schooling	Year 7 standard
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of schooling	Year 4 standard

## SCHOOL RULES

At Augusta: I am safe, I am respectful, I am responsible and I am the best me I can be. Our students do an amazing job of understanding and following the expectations at Augusta. From time to time a child may make a mistake. If a child does make a mistake, we work with them to understand how they have contributed to the problem and how they are going to fix the problem. When talking about a problem, students are taught to take responsibility and to keep a problem 'small'. If behaviour is more serious than this parents will receive a blue form brought home by the students or a telephone call from the school.

**Being safe at Augusta:**

We have a number of children in our school who suffer from severe anaphylaxis. This is a life threatening condition for these children. Nuts and eggs are the triggers for the affected children. We request that parents do not pack anything with nuts or eggs in them. We understand that this may at times be an inconvenience however we need to do our very best to keep every child safe at Augusta. Your support is appreciated.

**Dogs & Animals at School:**

At Augusta our first concern is always for the welfare and safety of our students. Whilst a dog on a lead may not seem a threat, situations can change rapidly. Please do NOT bring dogs or other animals to school at any time.

**Travelling to and from School:**

Please remind your child to be safe when travelling to and from school. Students riding bikes and scooters must wear helmets and follow the road rules. It is the responsibility of students to secure their bikes or scooters in the school bike racks using their own locking device. If your child walks to school please remind them to be safe, responsible and respectful at all times.

**Parking:**

The bus zone at the Brittain's Road frontage to the school is for bus parking only. Many of our students in years one to seven use the school bus service. The 'bus zone' is not available for car parking at any time. Please do not park in the bus zone.

Please do not park on any of the grassed areas (e.g. the roundabout, the end of the school carpark and the footpaths) as these are not parking areas.

The Staff carpark is for staff only. Please do not use the staff carpark when accessing Outside Hours School Care.

**Carpark & Drop-off zone:**

Please do not leave your car when it is parked in the drop-off zone. Collecting students between 2:35 and 2:45 will help ease congestion. Please consider this, particularly if you have students in the senior school. Thankyou.

**MUSIC**

STRINGS – Lessons commenced in week 2 with Miss Bronte Hopsick in the Instrumental Room of the music block on TUESDAYS. Senior String Ensemble will start from week 3 and will this year be held of an afternoon 2:30 – 3:15pm in M1. Junior String Ensemble will also commence in week 3 and will be held in the Instrumental Room at 2nd lunch break on Tuesdays.

BAND – Lessons commenced in week 2 with Mr James Humphry in the Instrumental Room of the music block on Thursdays. Senior Band will commence from week 3, rehearsals will be held in the Hall 7:45-8:25am. Junior Band rehearsals will not commence until Term 2.

GUITAR – Lessons commence in week 3 with Mr Grant Davies in the music block on MONDAYS. Please see Ms Rolfe if you wish to sign up for lessons. Costs are \$15 per half hour lesson in small groups or \$30 per half hour for individual lessons.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

Students in year 6 have been offered the opportunity to apply for a Student Leadership role at the school. Applications will be distributed to students in the near future.

Year 6 leadership incursion will be held on Thursday 9 February, please ensure you have returned your child's permission form and payment by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

## PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Our first P&C meeting for 2017 will be held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 in the Administration block, commencing at 6pm. Please feel very welcome to attend. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday each month.

## CAFÉ

CAFÉ opening times for 2017 will be discussed at the February P&C meeting and communicated ASAP.

### **FAMILIES WHO ARE ALREADY REGISTERED ARE REMINDED THAT THEY NEED TO CHANGE THEIR CHILD'S CLASS NAME BEFORE ORDERING. THANK YOU!**

If you are intending on using the Café (tuckshop) for your children please set up your account.

*Please follow this process to open your account:*

1. Go to: [www.munchmonitor.com](http://www.munchmonitor.com)
2. Enter the initial username: **augusta** Enter the password: **munch4300**
3. Click 'sign up'
4. Enter your own email address and a password. Click 'create your account'.
5. An important email will be sent to you almost immediately.
6. Find the email and click the link to activate your account. (Check your 'junk mail' folder in case the email is treated as spam.)
7. Enter your own email address and password then click 'Activate My Account'.
8. Follow the steps to complete the set up.
9. Once you have put money into your account, you can order on-line whenever it suits you. Money can be credited to your Munch Monitor account using either your **debit** card or your **credit** card.
10. You can include a photo of your child in your family profile if you wish.
11. Please ensure you detail any allergies that your child has.

*There is assistance available through the email: [help@munchmonitor.com](mailto:help@munchmonitor.com)*

**If you are available to volunteer on any Monday, please complete the information form in the office.** When you complete the form, we will need your name, email, phone and available times on and dates of a Monday. Please note unfortunately children cannot be in the Café due to Workplace Health and Safety Regulations.

## LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

A number of lunchtime clubs will be offered to students this term. Clubs include dance, art, junior playground, leadership and library. Students will be advised when and where these activities will occur.

## MEDICATION

If your child requires medication to be administered at school, paperwork must be completed at the office before we can give your child any medication. All medication must be labelled by a pharmacist.

## BEGINNING AND END OF SCHOOL DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Students should not be at school prior to 8am. If families need for their children to be at school before that time, please use our Outside Hours School Care facilities. Contact [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au) for details.

Students should arrive at school between 8:15 and 8:25. The front gate at school will be opened by staff at 2:25pm each day, with the exception of Wednesdays when it will be opened for parade at 1:55pm (side gate at the far end of Administration). These arrangements ensure maximum teaching and learning time for all of our students.

From time to time we understand that children need to be collected from school early, or arrive late. Please avoid this as much as possible. Late arrivals and early departures of students must be recorded in administration. Students who are leaving school before 2:30 must be collected from administration. Learning commences at 8:30am. Thankyou for your support.

## **HOMEWORK**

Every child at Augusta should read every night. If your child is not yet an independent reader, please read to or with your child. Please record this in your child's **'Reading Stars'** record sheet (communication book). Students will be recognised for their consistent efforts with certificates after each 25 nights.

Over the coming weeks your child will be given their usernames & passwords for web-based programs. The passwords will be included in each student's communication book. Class teachers will provide further information on how these programs are best used at the Parent-Teacher Information evening.

## **PARENT INFORMATION SESSION – VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT**

Volunteers at Augusta State School are asked to attend an information session about Code of Conduct in Education Queensland Schools. Please register your interest / RSVP with Administration or via email. All volunteers at Augusta State School are also asked to have a Volunteer's 'Suitability Card', otherwise known as a Blue Card. Anyone wishing to volunteer in our school can collect an application from Administration.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Please ensure your residential address, email address, contact phone numbers and emergency contact details are up to date.

Our newsletter is emailed each fortnight. If you haven't received an email for a few weeks, please email: [admin@augustass.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@augustass.eq.edu.au) to check the address is correct. Thank you.

## **UNIFORM**

Augusta State School is a uniform School. Please ensure students are in uniform, which consists of enclosed shoes (joggers/runners, No shoes with wheels or flashing lights), white socks, navy School shorts and School shirt with a School hat. School hats are available in the Uniform Shop. Please ensure hats are clearly named.

***Thankyou to our P&C volunteers who have assisted during the school holidays and during the first two weeks at school. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.***

## **PARADE**

Parade will continue on Wednesday afternoons starting at 1:55pm. Parade is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the great things happening at Augusta. We appreciate that the afternoon is a challenging time to have parade however the 'am' sessions are prime learning time. If, during parade, younger

siblings become upset, or conversations must be had, it would be greatly appreciated if you could move away from the direct stage area, as students are easily distracted. Thankyou to the parents who have already attended our parade and for following the plan to keep pathways clear to help us get the students back to their classrooms. Your support is appreciated.

#### **VALUABLES AT SCHOOL**

A reminder that valuables, including toys, should not be brought to school. If students bring mobile phones/ipods or other electronic devices to school, these devices must be turned off and brought to the office on arrival at school, and collected from the office at 2:30pm. Please avoid sending these devices as much as possible.

#### **LOST PROPERTY**

Please visit the Resource Centre (Library) for lost property.

#### **HEALTHY LUNCHESES**

Thank you for providing healthy lunches and snacks for your children. Please avoid nut and egg products in school lunchboxes. We encourage students to drink water throughout the day. Please make sure your child has a water bottle every day.

#### **BOOMERANG BOOK & BRAG BOOK**

Thankyou for your support in helping students to develop the habit of having their Boomerang & Brag books every day. These books help your child to communicate the celebrations and achievements of their day, as well as enabling us to update families with important messages.

Class newsletters will also be included in your child's Boomerang Book. These newsletters will provide families with updates about curriculum, routines and upcoming events. Please take the time to read these newsletters.

#### **STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME**

Thank you to the families who have already settled their Student Resource Scheme payments. Payments can be made on Monday - Thursday mornings at the school's cash window. Cash, credit card and cheque are all welcome. Invoices for 2017 will be issued during the month of February.

Families wishing to make payment arrangements, including Centrelink deductions should see Deb in Administration to complete applicable forms.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

For the safety of our students, please continue to drive safely in our school car park. Even when there are not many cars around, please drive slowly and carefully, being mindful and looking after the safety of pedestrians through the school carpark and on surrounding roads.

As Queensland Government policy indicates, there is no smoking or consumption of alcohol on Education Queensland premises, which includes the school grounds and the school carpark. Thankyou.