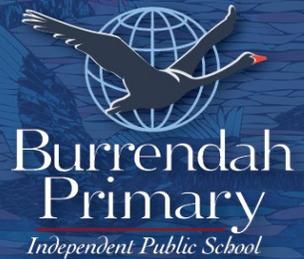


Burrendah Bulletin



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From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to Burrendah Primary School for our existing families. Welcome to Burrendah for our new families. It is great to see our students eager and ready to learn. We have five new staff in 2019. Our new classroom teachers are Mrs Skinner (Room 18, Year 1), Mrs Witcher (Room 7, Year 5) and Mrs Griffiths (sharing Year 6, Room 4 with Mr Crouch). Ms Wong (Kwok), an Education Assistant Special Needs, has come across from Castlereagh School for Term 1. Mrs Barr is the Education Assistant in Room 15 for Term 1.

The staff of Burrendah Primary School have spent a great deal of time and energy in developing this year's class lists. As always we have a number of split (or composite) classes. I have included an information sheet in this school update on split classes at Burrendah Primary School. Please see the classroom teacher if you would like more information on your child's class placement or have additional information that you would like to share with your child's teacher. Mrs Horoch, Deputy Principal, is the leader of Kindergarten to Year 3. Mr Bradshaw is the leader of Year 4 to Year 6. Please do not hesitate to make an appoint with Mrs Horoch, Mr Bradshaw or myself if you would like further information regarding your child.

We are closely monitoring our enrolment numbers as we are close to capacity based on our 25 classroom structure. Our 2019 funding is dependent on our enrolments on the 15th February, our census day. Once our funding is known we will then be able to determine if there is sufficient funding to increase our number of classrooms to cater for future growth later in the year or if we continue with our current structure for 2019.

I am working with the Department of Education regarding Out of School Hours Care (OSHC). There is a complex legal process between the Department on our behalf and an OSHC service provider. There has also been a great deal of groundwork already done by members of the School Board who are on a subcommittee regarding OSHC. We are hopeful that an OSHC service will be able to commence in Term 2 this year.

Over the next fortnight we will be hosting our Parent Information Meetings. Some classes will be having their meeting just with their class parents where others are having year level meetings. Please see the information below for the date of either your child's class or your child's year level meeting. More information will be available in this Thursday's newsletter.

Monday 11 th February	Tuesday 12 th February	Wednesday 13 th February	Thursday 14 th February
K Rm 14 - 3:15pm	Year 2 - 5:00pm	K Rm 13 Both Groups - 3:30pm	Rm 16a - 9:00am
Year 4 - 5:00pm		Rm 15 - 9:00am (EAL/D Room)	Rm 16b - 3:15pm
		Year 3 - 4:00pm	Year 1 - 3:30pm
	Tuesday 19 th February		
	Year 5 - 5:00pm		
	Year 6 - 5:30pm		
	Year 6 Camp—6:00pm School Hall		

Janine Kinniment
4th February 2019

Split Grades at Burrendah Primary School

Information for Parents

Sometimes parents express concerns when their child has been allocated to a split grade (composite) class and believe that it may be a disadvantage to their child. It is important that you, as parents, are aware that contrary to these beliefs there is no disadvantage to a student being in a composite class.

Our classes are formed by teachers and school leaders sitting and placing students with a range of information available see page 5 of our 2019 Parent Information Booklet and on our webpage - Policies - Classroom Placement Policies.

Why do you create split classes?

There will almost always be a need to run **composite classrooms** at Burrendah Primary School. Funding is allocated to public schools on a per student basis and this is calculated by the number of students we have enrolled on the census date in February.

The size of each year's cohort can vary considerably depending on enrolments but we still only receive a total amount of funding for the overall number of students. This means that in order to ensure that all classes are an appropriate size, **composite** classes may need to be formed. For example if we had a total of 40 Year 5 students and have funding for one teacher with approximately 32 students, we do not have funding to employ one more Year 5 teacher to teach the remaining 8 students. Instead a split class is formed with the 8 Year 5 students and another year level.

How does the school decide the classes each year?

The principal and the staff take into consideration the student numbers and individual needs in each year group, the recommended class sizes for each year group and the total number of staff the budget can afford. Various scenarios are examined by staff and evaluated based on the needs throughout the whole school. The final decision is made by the Principal.

How do teachers cater academically for more than one grade in a class?

Teachers are trained and skilled at delivering the required curriculum to each of the year levels. Each year the curriculum builds upon the curriculum from the year before so, in order to cater for the different needs of students, teachers are consistently differentiating the curriculum to suit all student's individual needs.

What about socially?

Children benefit enormously from having friends outside of their year group. It allows them to develop a wider group of friends which gives them more options in the playground, greater connections across the school and can benefit them within the wider community. It helps them build social skills which has long term effects for building resiliency. Children in composite classes have nothing to fear but plenty to enjoy. Some parents are concerned that their child will lose friendships with the bulk of other students in their year group. Some students may choose to only play with students from their class but there is no evidence that this has negative long term effects. Most children quickly adapt to new classes and reform friendships in subsequent years.

Excursions:

Excursions are generally organised by individual classes not by year groups. This is because excursions are related to class programs. Sometimes two classes will choose to coordinate aspects of their program and will plan excursions together. This does not mean that it is appropriate for all classes of that year level to attend as they may be engaged in a different program or theme unrelated to the other class's topic and excursion.

Some programs are offered to year groups rather than classes, for example Year 6 camp. These excursions will specify that these are offered to this year group rather than a specific class.

Still have concerns?

If you still have concerns, talk to your child's teacher about the program they are offering and how your child will be catered for.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing partnership in your child's learning development.