School closure dates for 2016

The School Council has approved the following closure days for 2016:

- **Term 2 Week 3 Tuesday 17 May** - Sheena Cameron professional learning on reading comprehension.
- **Term 2 Week 7 Tuesday 14 June** - Partnership Day
- **Term 3 Week 1 Monday 25 July** – Partnership Day

A further closure day for the Royal Adelaide Show in Term 3 and school review day in Term 4 will be announced closer to the dates.

Reports

First Impression reports for mainstream students and Set-
ting In reports for the Intensive English Language Centre students will be sent home towards the end of Term 1. These reports are designed to give a snapshot as to how your child is settling into school and their behavioural and emotional wellbeing. A Midyear Report will be sent home, followed by interviews and will enable you to gain an understanding of how your child is progressing academically and will be graded against the outcomes in the Australian Curriculum.

The Final Report of the year is handed out in Term 4 and provides a summative assessment of your child’s year. These are our formal reporting schedules however you are welcome and encouraged to keep in close contact with your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns. You can request meetings and of course come in when you can to see what your child’s
Acquaintance Night and Family Picnic

Acquaintance Night was a huge success and it was delightful to see so many families enjoying the picnic at the park afterwards. It was a lovely opportunity to meet new families and to make new friends. A big thank you to all of the staff for their input into the evening, preparing class information for families and supporting the picnic afterwards. If you could not make it, please approach your child’s teacher to gather any information that may have been distributed.

An important element of the night was the parent volunteer register and nominations for the Parent and Community Engagement Group. This group requires at least 2 representatives from each mainstream class to support community involvement and engagement. If you would like more information about this role please see your child’s teacher or access information from our website.

From the principal cont...

been doing. Close partnerships between home and school lead to greater engagement and achievement.

Annual General Meeting

PLEASE HELP! VOLUNTEER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL in 2016. We need enthusiastic and dedicated members of our school community to be part of our dynamic council. Find out what’s going on. Be involved in educational decision making. Get to know the staff and community. How to join
1) Fill in the nomination form on Page 4 or contact the school and leave your details with Rod at the front desk OR
2) attend the AGM on the 21st of March.
Council meetings are normally held once a month during school terms on a Monday night.

Early finish on Easter Thursday
In accordance with the Education Act School council has endorsed the decision to finish early on Thursday the 24th March which is Easter Thursday. School will finish at 2.15pm, one hour earlier than normal. This will also happen on the last day of each term. Out of School Hours care will be commencing at 2.30 pm on these days. If you require support or need to make alternative arrangements please contact Deb or Gyllian at school.

Deb O’Neill

Curriculum changes

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program
There have been some changes to the requirements involving the registration and authorisation for being an International Baccalaureate school. The Norwood Morialta Cluster, of which we are a part, will cease in its present state from July 2016. Norwood Morialta High School will offer the IB programme for its year 8, 9 and 10 students which is a 3 year program. They have made the decision that they will re-register as one school without the other 3 primary sites as of July 2016. Staff discussed the possibility of continuing and offering the Primary Years Program as an alternative but have decided to use the Australian Curriculum as a basis for our Inquiry units from Reception to Year 7. This was not an easy decision and involved a lot of discussion and deliberation. As a result we have decided to start the year without the International Baccalaureate Program and proceed with the Australian Curriculum. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Upper Primary staff over the years, particularly Deb McMahon and Alison Hicks who were both integral in the success of the program over many years at Gilles Street.
Access to water and participation in aquatic activities in, on and around the water plays a significant part in the lives of Australians. Pool, rivers, lakes and beaches provide opportunities to enjoy a variety of sport and recreational activities including swimming, canoeing, sailing, surfing, windsurfing, snorkelling, kayaking, water skiing, knee boarding, use of boats, fishing etc. Participation in these activities can also lead to employment opportunities.

What is Water Safety Education?
Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) Water Safety Education program provides an educational experience that:

- is designed to encourage students to think for themselves, make good decisions and understand the consequences through simulated open water scenarios and personal survival strategies
- promotes confidence and awareness by providing opportunities for student to develop skills and knowledge that can help to keep them and others safe in a variety of aquatic environments
- focuses on what primary school children are able to learn in their school program to ensure they are able to save themselves in potentially dangerous situations

The program is based on the belief that “If we only have one opportunity to teach kids what they should do if they fall into open water, these are the key skills they actually need to learn”.

You may notice that the DECD program is different in emphasis from other “Learn to Swim” programs your child may access outside DECD. It is important that children learn the skill and knowledge and gain the understanding and ability to make good decisions around water and keep themselves and others safe.

Our WSE program is scheduled for Weeks 6 & 7 (March 7 - 18). Your child’s teacher will be able to inform you of when your child will be at the Unley Swimming Centre (Ethel St, Forestville). You will have received both an aquatic and school consent form with an invoice that includes costs for both the pool and transportation between school and the Unley Swimming Centre. Please ensure that both consents (including any relevant medical information) are returned as soon as possible to your child’s teacher/s.

The DECD Water Safety Education program is a curriculum based program and as such the direct relationship is between the instructors and the school.

If you are attending please see your child’s teacher for a parent badge. Please direct any questions in regards to the program to the classroom teacher.

Photography by parents is not allowed given the difficulty in ensuring other children are not identifiable in their photos.

Please ensure students come prepared with a CLEARLY NAMED hat, bathers (one piece), rashie/t-shirt, towel and sunscreen each day.

If you have any questions please contact Gyllian Godfrey on 8223 5184.
Redgum Book Club

Students will be receiving Redgum Book Club catalogues next week. Redgum Book Club is an Australian owned and operated children’s book club. Their team are passionate about providing engaging and educational books to kids and promoting Australian products. They are proud to promote the unique work of emerging and award winning Australian children’s authors and illustrators and independent Australian publishers.

They provide a fresh offering in the children's book market by promoting a mix of high quality products including books with strong Australian content and current popular titles. We will not be accepting orders through the front office for this book club. Please ORDER ONLINE at www.redgumbookclub.com.au. However, you may choose to have the order delivered to school by selecting this option at checkout.

Volunteering at GSPS

Anyone can offer to volunteer. People from all ages and backgrounds can contribute to sharing their life skills and experiences. Volunteers can assist in many ways including reading, mentoring, coaching and lending a hand on excursions and/or helping out in the library.

If you are only volunteering in your child's classroom for reading, assisting in outdoor activities, coaching your child's sports team, attending one-off events, assisting on excursions or visiting you do not require the relevant history screening checks. However there are some instances where screening will be required. Please see your child's teacher for more information or a form to begin the relevant history screening online process. Alternatively contact Gyllian Godfrey at the school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!!

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM 2016/2017

I ____________________________________________

wish to nominate as a member of Gilles Street Primary School Council for the 2016/2017 years (most council members serve for a 2 year period, however those wishing to only serve 1 year are welcome to nominate)

Or

I do not wish to nominate for school council but would like to assist at other times during the year

Name ______________________________________

Best Contact Phone Number____________________

Email address __________________________________

Child/Childrens' names and class/es ____________________________
________________________________________________________________
Adelaide High School is South Australia’s Special Interest Language School. Each year up to 60 students are accepted into Year 8 through the Special Language Program. These students are committed to study 2 languages other than English at least until the end of Year 10. Students who are part of the Special Language Entry program may select 2 languages from the following languages currently on offer in our curriculum: French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Modern Greek, Spanish.

Special Language entry is based on:

- The applicant’s most recent school report
- A Confidential Primary School Report including Year 7 and Language teacher comments
- Performance in a series of aptitude tests held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016
- If shortlisted, performance in interview held form Wednesday, May 17 to Friday, May 19, 2016

Applications forms are available from the Adelaide High School website www.adelaidehs.sa.edu.au OR Adelaide High School OR the Front Office at school and must be to Adelaide High School by WEDNESDAY APRIL 13, 2016.

Payment for Language testing is $60 (GST inc). This is non-refundable and covers the cost of administering and marking of ACER tests. (the school is required to pay ACER for test papers and marking).

More information is available at the Adelaide High School Open Night, Wednesday March 23, 2016 5.30 pm - 8.00 pm
A not for profit charity at Gepps Cross specialising in sourcing and selling of low cost groceries for people on low income and families in need. We sell groceries, fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy products and Easyfeast meal packs and we provide bread daily for free.

Community Food SA is a community based Christian charity run by volunteers and provides a service to:

- All who are struggling to make ends meet.
- Pensioners, the unemployed, sole parents, students, part time workers, people with a disability and others with a low income.

We are a SunSmart school. For up to date UV information please visit our home page www.gillesstps.sa.edu.au