

No 01/09 – February 5, 2009

Milgate Calendar	
February	
10	ESL General Parent info Session 9am-10.30am in Staffroom
11	No Preps at School today
11	FRED info session 9.15am-10am
16	District Swimming
17	Extra Ordinary School Council Meeting
17	Parent Info Evening Level 2: 7pm – 8pm Level 4: 8pm - 9pm
18	Parent Info Evening 7pm – 9pm Level 3: 7pm – 8pm
19	Principal's Afternoon Tea - 2:45pm
23	G.T.K.Y. Meetings
24	School Council Meeting
26	Parent Helper Course 9.15 – 10am

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back!!! I am very excited to be back at Milgate. Whilst I enjoyed my term as Principal of another primary school late last year it feels good to be home. The staff returned to school last week to 3 days of intensive professional learning as well as setting up their classrooms and preparing for the term ahead. They are to be congratulated on their commitment and enthusiasm especially in the heatwave. All we could think of was how fortunate we were that the students were not at school during those sweltering conditions. Thankfully the weather has not been so extreme this week and school has had a smooth start. There were 70 new Preps and can you believe it, not one tear from either child or parent



At the end of the week the Education Department sent out guidelines for schools to cope with extreme heat conditions and they are as follows:

- There is no provision for the closure of schools during days of heavy rain or extreme heat. However, the midday recess may be reduced to not less than thirty minutes and dismissal time adjusted accordingly.
- Students should not be sent home unless there is someone at home to look after them.
- Teachers must remain on duty until the normal time to supervise those students who remain at school.
- Schools should take hot weather precautions that best suit the conditions in their school. The most effective strategies will vary from school to school.
- Schools are responsible for developing policies and procedures to care for students who attend schools on days of extreme weather conditions. These could include, for example, rescheduling outdoor activities or moving them from outdoors to indoors, allowing students to stay indoors during lunchtimes or shortening lunchtimes so students can go home early.

This has implications for us as a school as detailed in the last dot point. We will notify you of our own specific guidelines as they are developed.

It goes without saying that all children should have a broad brimmed hat at school to protect them from the harsh summer rays. Milgate is a Sunsmart school and we remain vigilant in ensuring children maintain maximum protection at all times.

In addition to the eager Preps who began on Monday, we welcomed 16 new students across the school. We also welcome back Krissy Wong in Year 2 after her year at a school closer to her home and Trina Williamson, a very experienced teacher into the Year 5 area. Erika Bienert who was to take one of the Year 6 classes picked up a position as a Leading Teacher in the Region and we congratulate her on her promotion. Whilst we will miss her we have been fortunate to secure the services of Anna Hallett who comes to us from Yarra Glen PS. Anna is a highly experienced senior teacher who has quickly fitted in to the Year 6 team. Michael Maguire has joined us in the role of Integration Aide and we look forward to adding a male to our group of Educational Support Staff. Our staff now consists of an enviable blend of experienced and new teachers and boasts a range of considerable talent. You can rest assured that all staff has the children's best interest at heart; their greatest reward comes from watching each individual grow and develop to the best of their ability. We are indeed fortunate in the calibre of our teachers. All of them are prepared to, and often do, go that extra mile to help the students in their care.



I appreciate your feedback and am always open to suggestions as to how to improve our school. My door is always open and I am very happy to discuss any areas of concern or suggestions you may have. I am keen to reinstate the Principal Afternoon Tea sessions that were held at Milgate not too long ago. My

first one will be on Thursday 19 February at 2:45pm and I extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to attend (toddlers welcome).

If you have a particular issue regarding your child's education I would encourage you to first seek advice from your child's class teacher. If the matter is still not resolved then please make an appointment to see our Assistant Principal (Liz Barr) or myself and we will endeavour to resolve it to everyone's satisfaction.



This will be a busy term and there will be many opportunities for you to visit the school and become involved in your child's education. Information evenings will be held mid February (please check diary dates for specific times for your level) and Getting to Know You Meetings will be held during the week of February 25. I strongly encourage you to attend both of these events as the research shows that when parents become involved in their child's education student performance increases tremendously.

Jan Marinakos
Acting Principal

