

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 WEEK 2: TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2019

What a great start to 2019!

Welcome again, everyone, to another year of learning and community involvement at this beautiful school! The teachers and I have been so impressed by the way all students - from the youngest to the oldest - have settled into their new classrooms and routines in just four days. I would like to particularly mention the Year 6 'buddies' who have done an amazing job assisting Mrs Mills with our 21 new Kindergarten students. We have 156 students enrolled in the school at this point, which allows us to have 7 classes. A note sent home yesterday informed you of your child's permanent class and teacher for the year.

Very soon you will receive a note about our parent / teacher information sessions and welcome back barbecue which will take place next week. These sessions are an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, and to hear about the plans and programs for the class. At that meeting, your child's teacher will let you know the best way to get in contact. In the meantime, if there is something you wish to discuss with the teacher, please phone the school and a message will be passed on. Open communication is definitely the best way we can support your child's learning, so please do not hesitate to let us know if you would like a chat.

I'd like to take the opportunity to open the discussion about composite classes, also known as multi-age classes (i.e where there is more than one grade in a 'class'). Sometimes parents have questions about the reason behind the formation of composite classes, and the way the classes impact on learning.

The first and most important thing to say is that composite classes do not appear to have any negative impact on learning. A lot of research has been done into composite classes in Australia and around the world and that research has found that there are, to date, no significant negatives to report. In fact quite the opposite is true. One report lists the following positive outcomes from multi-age classes;

- Changing the focus of learning from achieving a certain 'grade' to individual personal best alters the nature of the learning experience to lead children to value learning and the learning process.
- Students develop a greater respect for individual differences across the board.
- Older students provide a model of appropriate behaviour for the younger students – this also means fewer behaviour problems in the classroom because

younger students integrate quickly into established class routines as modelled by the older students.

- Younger students are able to seek help from a wider range of people rather than relying on the teacher to help them all the time.

Multi-age classes are formed for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they help to balance numbers (for example, if a school has a small number in one grade and then a large number in the next grade. By forming two composite classes, both classes can have a reasonable number, which ensures equity for all students). Sometimes mixed age classes balance gender inequities between two grades. Sometimes, particularly in smaller schools, there are just not enough children in each grade, and they have to be combined, as schools are allocated teachers on overall numbers, not individual grades. And sometimes, multi-age classes are formed because some students simply learn better away from the distraction of others, and composite classes can facilitate different groupings that benefit everyone.



Some of our 2019 Kindy students already working hard in the classroom!

For the staff at Uki Public School, providing an optimal learning environment for each student is the most important thing we can do. The teachers and I are very confident that we have created such an environment with the classes we have formed this year. Under the care of our outstanding teachers, I am sure that your children will thrive in their classes in 2019. If you have any further questions, please have a look at the following websites.

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/school/primary/starting-school/the-parents-guide-to-composite-classes/news-story/31a65e6c0fb57afc8cd242dddb2e88d1>

<https://www.smh.com.au/education/many-parents-dislike-composite-classes-but-the-evidence-does-not-support-their-anxiety-20150413-1mk4g9.html>

I also urge you to attend P&C meetings, where I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have about this matter, or any other.

School Captains 2019

Our School Captain process for this year was delayed at the end of 2018 due to illness in the school. But fortunately everyone is now back fit and well, so we can proceed! Today our 7 applicants for the role of School Captain 2019 wrote their speeches, which they will deliver to students in Years 3 - 6 tomorrow morning. Parents and carers are welcome to attend the speeches, which will take place at 9:45am in the OEC. Following the speeches, students will then vote for the two captains! Good luck to all applicants!

Introducing our new staff members

At the end of 2018, I informed the school community about new permanent appointments to the school. Renee Mills needs no further introduction, having taught very successfully at the school for many years. I'd like to congratulate Renee again on her permanent appointment by Merit Selection, and thank her for the outstanding job she continues to do at Uki.



Mr Andy Williams was also successful in gaining a permanent appointment by Merit Selection. Mr Williams was at Uki PS in Term 3 and 4 as a Learning Assistance Teacher, and we're absolutely thrilled that he is able to join the staff permanently. Mr Williams will be class teacher of 5/6W.



We're also delighted to welcome Miss Loueen Adams to Uki Public School. Miss Adams was successful in gaining a service transfer to the school, and will be working in all classes in the role of Learning and Support Teacher. She will also be teaching 5/6O when Mrs O'Regan is fulfilling her Assistant Principal duties. We're very fortunate to have secured such an experienced and talented teacher, and I know you will join with me in making Miss Adams very welcome.



Swimming Carnival

We're excited to announce that Uki Public School will be holding a Swimming Carnival for the first time in many years! The carnival will take place on Tuesday 19 February at the Tweed Aquatic Centre. It will involve all children in Years 3 to 6, and students in Year 2 who turn 8 in 2019. More information and a request for parent helpers will come very soon in a note, but save the date!

Rachel Watkins
Principal

COMING UP... Calendar

2019

Week 2

| | | |
|-------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 5 Feb | Wed | School Captain speeches 9.45am |
|-------|-----|--------------------------------|

Week 4

| | | |
|--------|------|----------------------------------|
| 18 Feb | Mon | P&C AGM 6pm |
| 19 Feb | Tues | Uki PS Swimming Carnival |
| 20 Feb | Wed | M'bah District Swimming Carnival |

Parents & Citizens Association Annual General Meeting 2019

18 February 2019, 6pm

New members welcome and encouraged!
Held in the school staffroom

Yamaha Trumpet - Excellent Condition

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SIGN-ON DAY

SATURDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

11AM - 2PM

@ MURWILLUMBAH
LEAGUES CLUB

Training starts on
Tuesday 12th February - 4.30pm

Sign on now at www.playnrl.com

U6 - U16'S

Boys & girls (up to U12 yrs)

Possible

U14 & U16 Girls Leagues
Comp.

Register your interest

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CANTEEN NEWS

We are still aiming for opening next week (week 3). Please drop your volunteer time sheet back to the office ASAP so I can get a roster drawn up.

Please keep an eye out for the 2019 Canteen Menu. There have been a few changes to products, some price rises on a few items and most excitingly....NEW PRODUCTS!

There are lots of new exciting little changes so please have a look. I have tried to make sure the menu this year is more detailed with allergy info, I'd love to hear what you think.

If you haven't already, I really would like to invite you to sign up to the canteen online ordering system, it is so very easy to use for Parents and Volunteers alike. It can be found at myschoolconnect.com.au or available as an app on your smartphone.

Thank you

Danni Woods—Canteen Coordinator

SIGN ON

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13-18yrs \$175, >18yrs \$390

ONLINE
playfootball.com.au
& then search for 'Uki Pythons FC'

IN PERSON
@ Uki Sports & Recreation Club
Saturday 9th Feb, 9am - 12pm
Sunday 17th Feb, 9am - 12pm
Wednesday 6th March, 5pm - 8pm

Miniros, Youth, Men's & Women's Teams

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40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 23rd February 2019

from 4pm at the Vic Bianchetti Sports Field, Uki

\$20 per person; includes meal and entertainment

Children under 16 free ~ All welcome!

Live band ~ Jumping Castle ~ Bar



Tickets and 40th Anniversary Shirts can be
purchased at Touch Football (club house bar) on

Wednesday, from 5.30pm onwards,
prior to the event.

OR...RSVP to Belinda 0413057125

or Carol 0438 135 898

and then purchase your ticket at the door.



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