Welcome Back
Welcome back to Surrey Downs R-7 School and the new school year. This year we have started with our planned 10 classes, with 217 students in total. This year we would like to welcome Claudia Sigalla to our SSO team. Claudia has been working at Adelaide East and will be working across the site. Lauren Totani and Karen Meddle, two regular TRTs, join our teaching team in part-time roles and will be working across rooms 5, 8 and 15. Lastly, I would like to welcome Chloe Copp who will be working with us as an ACEO (Aboriginal Community Education Officer) in Terms 1 and 3 of this year. Chloe works in a similar role at Banksia Park International High School and will be with us on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

We would also like to welcome the following children to our School community and wish them all a very successful year:

In Room 1 - Denver
In Room 4 - Hope
In Room 5 - Bailey, Kaleb, Aayesha, Chayse, Declan, Charli, Payton, Skaipe, Reese,  
Jyden, Basil, Jaziah, Breanna, Kaley, Jacob, Oskar, Kobie, William, Bella, Rachael,  
Brooklyn, Samuel and Jett
In Room 6 – Aston and Tamara
In Room 7 - Aiden
In Room 8 - Hannah and Ashton
In Room 11 - Scarlett and Kaiden
In Room 15 - Luca
In Room 18 - Isabella
In Room 21 - Trent

GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM

Next Monday, 15th February, is our AGM. This will be held in the staffroom at 7pm. At this meeting we present the Annual Report which summarises events, progress and achievements for 2015. We will also elect the Governing Council for 2016. Surrey Downs R-7 Governing Council can have up to 14 members made up of 1 Principal, 1 staff member, 11 elected parents and 1 Special Education representative. Most of these positions are for a 2 year term. The role of the Governing Council is to work with the Principal to govern the school. This means that members think and talk about what is happening in the school and make plans for the future. The Governing Council consult with, and represent, our school parents and are the voice of our families. We meet twice a term in the evening for about 1½ hours. We also have sub committees that meet at other times and then report back to the Governing Council. Whilst a number of our members are keen to re-nominate there will still be several parent vacancies. Please contact the front office if you would like more information, or just come along on the night.

Attendance
Thank you to the parents who have helped their child start the new year well by being on time. Being at school every day and on time is critical to academic achievement and social success. I really want to emphasise how important it is for your child to be at school and ready to start their day when the bell goes at 8.50am. If children arrive at school after the 8.50am bell they need to go to the front office and sign in before going to their class.

Cathy McAuley

GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM – Monday 15th February 7pm
Learning Potential App
There is a free app called Learning Potential, developed by the Federal Government, with more than 160 hints and ideas for parents to help their children with their learning. It’s very popular, with over 110,000 downloads since its launch in August 2015. Additional content and functional improvements will continue this year. It is available for both Android and Apple devices.

One of the topics covered is “How you can best help your kids in school” and talks about the profound influence a parent or carer has over their child’s educational future. It goes on to say “Parent engagement in education is about parents being positively involved in their child’s learning and school community — to help them learn and enjoy school. As a parent, you and your family play an important role in supporting your child’s education. The earlier you and your family become engaged, the better it is for your child’s learning. Parent engagement is more than being involved and informed about school activities. It is actively engaging with your child’s learning, both in the home and at school. When schools and families work together, children do better and stay in school longer. “

The Learning Potential app says there are things parents can do to be positively involved in their child’s learning, which will help their children do better at school, be more engaged with their school work, go to school more regularly and have better behaviour and social skills. “There are simple things you can do to support your child’s education. It doesn’t take much to make a big difference. “Research has identified five ways that you can make a big difference to your child’s learning.” They are:

1. Set positive expectations
2. Have regular conversations
3. Support good study habits
4. Encourage reading
5. Build a partnership with your child’s teachers

For more information visit www.learningpotential.gov.au.

Road Safety information from SAPOL
You’ve probably ironed their uniforms and packed their lunches, but have you taken the time to talk with your kids about road safety?

Children are among our most vulnerable road users. They have difficulty recognising hazards, and in their excitement to return to school, it’s likely that road safety will be the farthest thing from their minds!

Young children should not be left to navigate traffic without an accompanying adult.

Ensure your children know the STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK procedure.

STOP one step back from the kerb, or the shoulder of the road if there is no kerb.

LOOK in all directions for approaching traffic.

LISTEN in all directions for approaching traffic.

THINK about whether it is safe to cross the road – when the road is clear, or all the traffic has stopped.

School Banking
Don’t forget that Wednesday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

There will be an account opening session outside the front office on Wednesday February 17th from 2:30-3:30pm if you are interested in your children joining this program.

Changes to Screening requirements
Many of our parents and guardians volunteer at our school to support their child’s learning. To make it easier for parents and guardians to volunteer their time, DECD has updated its relevant history screening policy and procedures. As a result, parents and guardians who volunteer to directly support their child will no longer require a relevant history screening. This will mean many of our volunteers can help out sooner.

A screening is still necessary for parents and guardians who are volunteering at school camps and sleep overs, as well as those hosting billets and homestay students.

As has always been the case, a screening is not needed to attend single events or activities at our school. These include concerts, fundraisers, swimming week or sports day.

Screenings are just one measure used to help keep children safe. Everyone who works with children plays a part in child protection, including watching out for inappropriate behaviour.

Find out more about relevant history screening and keeping children safe at www.decd.sa.gov.au.

If you have any questions about screening or these changes, please speak with school staff.

A great way to begin your engagement with the school, and your child/ren’s teacher/s, this year is to attend ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT. This night is a fabulous opportunity to meet teachers and to visit other important learning spaces across the school. Please join us 6-7pm on Tuesday February 16th.
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Welcome back everyone. What an awesome start to the year. I have loved meeting all our new Reception children and new children in other classes. It has been great to see the rest of our students too as we begin the 2016 school year.

For those of you I have not yet met, let me introduce myself. My name is Barb Page and I am the Pastoral Care Worker here at Surrey Downs R-7 School. I am originally from Queensland. My husband and I moved to Adelaide in 1982 for a year. We are still here! Our children were born here! We love Adelaide. We have two adult sons (whom we love and like ☺) and the best daughter in law ever. In the first week of July, if all goes to plan, we will be first time grandparents. (My name will be Granny B ☻). I love walking, reading, listening to people’s stories and catching up with friends and family.

I’ve had about 30 years of experience working with families and children as a volunteer and in a professional capacity. I began my employment at Surrey Downs R-7 School in October 2011. I completed a Cert IV in Youth Work to assist me in my role.

As I mentioned, I am a Pastoral Care Worker or PCW. I am employed by Schools Ministry Group to provide a Chaplaincy Service in the school community, offering additional support as needed, on behalf of the local combined Christian community.

My regular school days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Some of my responsibilities include running a breakfast club, parent morning teas, Year 7 Gardening group, recruiting volunteers, special community events such as the Pancake Breakfast and the Biggest Morning Tea. On Tuesdays and Fridays I have an open office at lunch times for children to visit and do activities. The office is located in building 5 and opens up on to the asphalt playground between buildings 4 and 5. I also go on camps and excursions. I am a listening ear for children, staff and parents and provide support, resources and references where needed.

Please don’t hesitate to come and say g’day. Many of your faces and stories are familiar. C S Lewis, author of the Chronicles of Narnia once wrote: “You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” This year my goal and dream is to learn and remember all your names as well!

Barb Page
PCW ☻

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.
Chinese Proverb: