

WELCOME BACK



Karonga
School

Friday, 9 February 2018

Principal's Message

Hello parents and friends of Karonga. Our first newsletter will come home next week but I was keen to let you know of a number of things that help us start off the New Year.

Parents will be well aware of our vision – why we do what we do at Karonga. **We believe all children can learn.** To this end our school provides quality, individualised education in a positive and supportive environment through the implementation of meaningful learning experiences which encourage resilience and independence. We are committed to developing partnerships with families and community that support students to become life-long learners and valued members of society.

It has been lovely to see everyone return from a long Christmas break. We congratulate our new students on a successful transition. Welcome Mustafa, Jordan, Kuoc and Christopher with Brendan and Genesis set to join us next week. We look forward to some fabulous achievements from you at Karonga School.

Staffing

As is always the case we start the new year with a number of staff changes. Dr Geoffrey Wilmshurst has taken up an opportunity to extend his work in tertiary education vacating the Assistant Principal position. The position was advertised at the end of 2017 and filled through a merit selection process. I am pleased to welcome Mr Murray Graves to Karonga. Murray comes to us with experience in numerous special education settings supporting a wide variety of student needs. Murray has a passion for working with families to meet the needs of his students and will be a great asset to the Karonga team. Murray takes on his leadership role and will be teaching Room 6.

We have retained a number of excellent temporary teachers with Sarah McNaughton teaching in Room 1, Susan Wu in Room 13 and Anita Terry in Room 5. We welcome Roxanna Pop as an SLSO in Room 6. Welcome back Pragati in Room 7 and Debbie in Room 4.

Meet the teacher night

Parents are invited to meet with the teaching and some support staff on Wednesday 21st February. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain insight into the new class / new year and some of the things your child will experience in 2018.

Room Allocation

All classes have settled well with their new teachers and support officers. During the first week executive and teaching staff have been observing the function of different classes to ensure that we have allocated the right spaces to meet the complex needs of many of our students.

Health Care Plans

Teachers are working carefully through current student documentation to ensure continuity of support. As part of this process Health Care Plans are being reviewed. Parents and carers of students with an Individual Health Care Plan will have

the opportunity to support this process by reviewing your child's plan during PLP meetings or at another agreed time.

Ambulance Forms

Thank you to those parents who have returned the ambulance forms for updating. These forms are generated from the Department of Education database and it is important we review and update any incorrect information. If you have not yet returned the forms I encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

Personalised Learning Plans

"Research demonstrates that effective schools have high levels of parental and community involvement. This involvement is strongly related to improved student learning, attendance and behaviour. Family involvement can have a major impact on student learning..."

Department of Education – "Family-School Partnerships Framework" pg. 2

We are looking forward to continuing the partnership in education we share through the development of Personalised Learning Plans for all students. These plans form the foundation of teaching and learning in the classroom. Teachers have begun the year's teaching program using information shared through our handover processes. The refinement of these programs will come after our parents have provided their valuable input.

Karonga Fair: Save the date – Saturday 24th March

We are really looking forward to the second running of the Karonga Fair. We need your help;

- We need you to share/like and generally spread the word on all social media.
- Donations needed for the 'White Elephant' stall. This is a second hand stall selling good quality used items. It's a great chance to have a spring clean and help the school. We'll be sending more information re: donations in the coming weeks.
- Come along on the day, have some fun, jump on the bouncy castle, play with the animals **[all free of charge for Karonga students]**. It will be a great day out for all.

This year we're trialling the fair on the oval at the Pennant Parade entrance, we'll need you feedback about how well this works for our wheelchair users.

We have an exciting year ahead. I'm very much looking forward to the journey with our whole Karonga community.

Mark