Welcome to 2016 at Cambridge Park Public School. We very warmly welcome to all our new students and their families. I hope everyone is settling in well. Please make contact with your child’s teacher or the team supervisor if you have any concerns or questions. The classes for 2016 are outlined below. One class in the K-2 section of the school and the classes from grades 3 to 6 are Stage-based. A Stage is a period of learning, spread out over 2 years in which a child is expected to achieve a pre-determined set of outcomes. Stages reflect and respect the real way in which students learn. The syllabus documents teachers teach from every day are based on stages of learning. The reports that parents receive about their child’s achievements are based on stages of learning. Stage 2 includes Years 3 and 4. Stage 3 includes Years 5 and 6. Stages carry on through into High School as well. If you have any questions about Stages of learning and how they work please feel free to contact me. The Stage based class in K-2 is the Koalas. It is a Year 1/2 class. Sometimes when we don’t have enough students to form complete grade-based classes we form a composite class like the Koalas. So at the end of 2015 when we were planning the school structure we found that we didn’t have enough Year 1 students to form a fourth Year 1 class and we didn’t have enough Year 2 students to form a third Year 2 class. So we needed to combine these two part classes to make the composite. The students in that class do not necessarily have learning problems. If anything, they are selected to go into the class based on their capacity to work independently.

School Structure for 2016 are as follows:;

**Preschool**
- **Team Leader** - Mrs Mackinnon, Assistant Principal
- Mrs Shanahan - Green Tree Frogs 1&2 M - F
- Mrs Anderson - Joeys 1&2 M, T W
- Mrs Myers - Joeys 1&2 W, T, F

**Kindergarten**
- **Team Leader** - Mrs Vancuylenberg, Assistant Principal
- Mrs Sanders & Mrs Junge – Cockatoos
- Mrs Blunden - Echidnas
- Mrs Vancuylenberg – Flying Foxes

**Year One**
- **Team Leader** - Mrs Copeland, Assistant Principal
- Mrs MacKinnon – Sharks
- Mrs Lodge – Blue Tongues
- Mrs Wallace – Paper Daisies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composite Class</th>
<th>Mrs Copeland (M, T, W) &amp; Mrs Fodor (Th, F) - Koalas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year Two</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Copeland, Assistant Principal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td>Miss Pellizzon - Banksias</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Senkeil – Ulysses Butterflies</td>
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<td><strong>Stage Two - Year 3 &amp; 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Scott, Assistant Principal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td>Miss O’ Sullivan - Tasmanian Devils</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Hunt - Dugongs</td>
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<td>Mrs Spry - Bilbies</td>
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<td>Mrs Scott &amp; Mr Thompson - Redbacks</td>
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<td><strong>Stage Three – Year 5 &amp; 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Hines, Assistant Principal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td>Mrs Richards &amp; Mrs Wiggins – Stingrays</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Hines – Geckos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Hansen &amp; Mrs Foord - Wallabies</td>
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<td><strong>Support Unit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Ahuja, Assistant Principal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td>Mrs Ahuja– Fairy penguins</td>
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<td>Mr Blaze – Quokkas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Miss Russell - Sugar Gliders</td>
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<td>Mrs Mayo – Cassowaries</td>
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<td><strong>Learning Assistance Team - Crocodiles</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mr Bourke, Deputy Principal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td>Mrs Hunter - Learning Assistance and Support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Teacher (LaST) M, T, F</td>
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<td>Mrs Devitt Learning Assistance and Support</td>
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<td>Teacher (LaST) M, T, W</td>
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<td>Mrs Ryan Learning Assistance and Support</td>
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<td>Teacher (LaST) M, T</td>
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<td>Mrs Kraljevic - English as a Second Language (ESL)</td>
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<td>(M, T, and Learning Assistance and Support</td>
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<td>Teacher (LaST) W</td>
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<td>Mrs O’Keefe– Reading Recovery teacher M - F</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Hartwig - School Counsellor M, T, F</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Kew - (LaST) M, T, Th</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Release from Face to Face Team – Kangaroos</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Binns, Principal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td>Mrs Hooley M-F</td>
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<td>Mrs Bell M, T, W</td>
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<td>Mrs McGilvray M, T, W</td>
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<td><strong>Teacher Librarian</strong></td>
<td>Mrs Jobson M, T, Th, F</td>
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<td>Mrs Brown W, Th</td>
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<td>Mr Potter W</td>
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<td><strong>Administrative Team – Administration Block</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Sivanadan M, T, W – Lillipilly</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td>TBA – T, F</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family and Community Engagement Officer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Sirmais T, W, Th</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Courtelis - Sugar Gliders</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mrs Nicholas – Cassowaries</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mrs Travers – Quokkas</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mrs Gorman – Fairy Penguins</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Chalker Green Tree Frogs 1 &amp; 2</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Mrs Wells - Joeys 1 &amp; 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I have attached a map of the school with all classroom names on it so that you can find the rooms as you need them.</td>
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<td><strong>School Communication</strong></td>
<td><strong>We try very hard at our school to communicate with our community in as many different ways as possible in an effort to reach everyone.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>We communicate through:</td>
<td><strong>Facebook</strong> – make sure you friend the official site - there is a default one out there**</td>
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<td><strong>Newsletter (Even weeks)</strong></td>
<td><strong>SMS</strong> - we need up – to –date contact numbers for this**</td>
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<td><strong>School Website:</strong></td>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.cambridgpk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au">www.cambridgpk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au</a></strong>. School Newsletter is published each fortnight on this site**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
E-mail: cambridgpk-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au. Each teacher also has a Departmental email address that you can contact them on. The format is usually first name. surname@det.nsw.edu.au eg peter.smith@det.nsw.edu.au. If you are unsure of the teacher’s first name use the general school email address above and it will be forwarded on to the teacher. Just put the teacher’s name in the subject box.

School App (see the ladies at the front office for password and how to access this)

Letters home – (Mostly sent home on Thursdays so keep an eye out for these in your child’s bag – even for Year 5 & 6 students!!)

Phone

School sign

Morning assemblies

PBL assemblies (each Odd week)

Face to face

Donna Sirmais - our School and Community Engagement Officer

School Consultative Group

2016 School Calendar

Families will receive the 2016 School Calendar this week. It covers most major events and approximate costings where applicable. If for some reason you don’t receive one, we have also uploaded it to the school website at www.cambridgpk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au.

Interest Groups

At CPPS we run interest groups across the school for 1 hour one afternoon a week. We do this to provide students with an opportunity to expand their interests and hobbies. It also gives them some choice in terms of their learning. In the past the teachers have run activities like Dance, drama, board games, Chess club, simple woodwork, pottery, Drumbeat, digital photography etc. This year we would like to broaden what we can offer by tapping into parent and community expertise. So we are asking for volunteers to run an interest group. Please note that you will not be expected to take groups of students on your own. A teacher will be with you to supervise students and support you in running the interest group activity. An example of the sorts of activities you might run could be Islander Dance group, boys dance group, basket weaving, games skills, sewing - the only limits are your imagination and safety. If you have a particular skill or hobby that you think children might be interested in learning please complete the tear-off slip attached and return it to Mrs Binns asap.

First Aid at School

All of our staff are trained to administer first aid at school when children are injured. That training is updated regularly. Having said that please note that we are unable to treat cuts and abrasions with anything other than water, a band-aide and an ice-pack. This is to prevent the possibility of causing allergic reactions to treatment. We are also unable to administer over the counter medications like Panadol without prescription. So it’s not that we don’t care or don’t want to do more. It’s just that legally we are unable to any more than, water band aids and an ice-pack.

Homework at CPPS

At our school we believe that homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. However, we also believe that parents are best-placed to make decisions about whether or not their children have the capacity or time to complete homework. Keeping this in mind we have an opt-out option for homework. If you do not want your child to complete homework you can “opt-out” by completing the form attached to the homework policy I have included in this newsletter.

Next Issue: What is the PBL level System about and how does it work?

Mrs C Binns
Principal
Working together to build quality relationships, engaging learning environments and life long learners
Early Stage 1 News
Our beautiful Kindergarten students have had a wonderful start to their school lives. By 10:00 am nearly every child was settled and making new friends.
Some students thought that they didn’t need to come back on Thursday, but the teachers convinced them that they had to do some more days before they finish big school!
This Term in Kindergarten we will be learning about lots of interesting things including how things move in Science, basic road safety, child protection and anti-bullying in Personal Development and Health. In Visual arts we will be creating some fireworks. In History we will study how families and friends celebrate events. We will be working really hard on new concepts in English as we learn our sounds and begin recognising some sight words while beginning to learn the many different concepts of reading. In Mathematics we will be looking at number as well as concepts of 2D shapes, weather and days of the week.
We don’t yet know when our library day is but we will let you know in the next week.
On Mondays after lunch the class teachers on Kindergarten are rostered to have release from face-to face (RFF) teaching to attend to administrative tasks associated with being a teacher. At this time the RFF teachers will take over the classes for the remainder of the day.
The RFF teachers are Ms Durant on the Flying Foxes, Mrs Jobson on the Echidnas and Mrs Bell and Mrs McGilvray on the Cockatoos.
Every day your child needs to bring a hat, drink bottle and a spare change of undies/shorts. Please ensure your child’s items are clearly labelled.
We look forward to a wonderful year.

Mrs VanCuylenberg
Kindergarten Supervisor

Stage 1 News
Welcome back to Cambridge Park Public School and what promises to be a very exciting year. Most students have settled extremely well into their new classes. All the students appear well rested and eager to engage in the learning programs planned for this year.
All Stage 1 teachers are busily assessing their students spelling, reading and numeracy skills to ensure they are implementing programs best suited to their students individual needs.
This term Stage 1’s English theme is ‘Let’s Be Friends’. There will be a focus on Characterisation. All of Stage 1 will be implementing L3. Year 1 staff will continue further developing their training, with Year 2 teachers beginning their professional development in this area. The Science and Technology unit is ‘Material World’. The PDHPE unit is ‘Interpersonal Relationships’ with a focus on Getting Along With Others. This year we are all eager to begin developing programs and teaching from the new Department History and Geography Syllabus documents. This term we are teaching History focusing on ‘Aspects Of The Past Still Evident In Penrith’.
An excursion to Life Education is planned for Stage 1 in weeks 4 and 5. Please ensure you check the date of your particular class. Year 2 Banksias, Ulysses Butterflies and the Year 2 children from the Koalas will be attending on Wednesday 17th February. Year 1 Sharks, Blue Tongues, Paper Daisies and the Year 1 Koalas will be attending on Monday 22nd February.
If you would like further information or need to speak with your child’s teacher about any concerns please contact the office to make an appointment.

Mrs Copeland
Stage 1 Supervisor
Stage 2 News
Welcome back to school for 2016 everyone! This year is an exciting time for Stage 2. Four Stage 2 classes including; Bilbies in Room 17 with Mrs N Spry, Dugongs in Room 18 with Ms C Hunt, Tasmanian Devils in Room 19 with Miss K O’Sullivan and the Redbacks in Room 24 with Mrs A Scott and Mr M. Thompson.

The Redback room is made up of approximately 60 students and will be set up as a team teaching, agile learning environment. The class has two teachers and will combine two classes into one learning environment capable of accommodating a larger student group.

Over the next couple of weeks students will be settling into their new classes and will be participating in a number of assessment tasks in English and Mathematics. This is to assist our teachers in getting to know their students and their current level of ability.

Students will be studying an English unit this term they will be learning about how to write a compelling narrative and exposition.

In the next few weeks levelled Maths groups will begin. Your child may be working with another teacher during this time to ensure their academic needs are being catered for. Maths groups will occur 3 times a week. Mathematics will also occur within each class.

If you are having any problems with supplying class requirements please do not hesitate to speak to your child’s teacher.

Mrs Scott
Stage 2 Supervisor

Preschool
Welcome to our new preschool students we are all looking forward to having a wonderful year full of learning and laughter.

Just a friendly reminder that if your child requires a medical health plan for Asthma or any other medical condition they won’t be able to start in our preschool until these plans are in place.

Also all students attending the preschool must have a current Immunisation certificate from Medicare before they can start.

Thank you for your cooperation with these matters.

Mrs MacKinnon
Preschool Supervisor

Anaphylaxis and Us
As mentioned in previous newsletters we have several children and staff members at our school who are anaphylactic. If you are sending food to school to be shared with other children eg: birthday cakes or cakes for sale, please be very careful to read the ingredients and ensure that they do not contain peanuts, tree nuts and nut products. Some of our children are also allergic to eggs and milk. Please also send in the packet ingredients so that we can check them for ourselves.

Other ways to support us to keep everyone safe are:

1. Talk to your children about allergies and how serious they can be for some people so they must not ever share their food with other children. Its not mean to not share food its keeping people safe.

2. Discuss how important it is to wash hands before and after eating so that food allergens don’t get transferred onto other people or their food.

Thank you for working with us to keep our children safe.
Policy Statement
Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. It can also give parents some insight into classroom work and provides an opportunity for them to support their child’s learning.

Statement of Purpose
Homework should be
- Relevant and age-appropriate
- Consistent across stage/grade in format and content and
- Practice of skills learned in the classroom, although teachers may include a challenge question to extend students.

The school has a responsibility to:
- Distribute the homework policy to parents at the commencement of each school year.
- Review the policy every two years

Teachers have a responsibility to
- Set relevant appropriate homework.
- Mark the set homework when it is handed in on time
- Ensure consistency across the stage
- Ensure homework content complies with the school homework policy
- Maintain records or homework achievement and opt in/out selection
- Communicate with parents/caregivers when necessary

Students have a responsibility to
- Complete homework to the best of their ability
- Collect and return homework (including upon return from an absence)
- Consult with the teacher if requiring assistance

Parents have a responsibility to
- Select opt in/out option
- Monitor/check/assist with homework
- Support student in completing homework
- Provide student with appropriate location, resources and time to complete homework
- Seek teacher assistance if student is struggling
- Recognise and encourage student effort and achievement
- Support student responsibility in collecting and returning homework

Homework Schedule
Distribute: Monday
Return: Teacher’s choice
ES1 = 5-10min, 3-4 times weekly including reading
Stg 1 = 5-10min, 3-4 times weekly including reading
Stg 2 = 15-20min, 3-4 times weekly including reading
Stg3 = 20-30 min 3-4 times weekly including reading
Support = needs based
Content of Homework
Teachers can select from the activities below:

Early Stage 1
- **Home Reader + Monitoring Card**
- Jolly Phonics - sound and sight word cards - independent/guided practice based on classwork
- Sight Word cards - colour coded and provided on an individual basis
- **Worksheet** with literacy and numeracy activities based on classwork
- Adjustable to emerging student/class needs

Stage 1
Year 1
- Spelling/Phonics based on classwork
- **Numeracy** based on classwork
- **Home Reader + Monitoring Card**
- Reading - repeated reading
- Literacy - based on relevant classwork
- Weekly sheet

Year 2
- **Spelling List** provided weekly – Look/Cover/Write/Check
- Literacy - based on spelling, grammar, classwork
- **Home Reader + Monitoring Card**
- **Number Charts** – provided a range of counting activities i.e: counting on, counting back, differentiated by skill level
- Term instruction sheet

Stage 2
- Reading – repeated reading passage or independent reading
- Spelling – list and activities based on list
- Times Tables practice
- Numeracy – based on classwork
- **Homework Grid with 6 activities provided** – students asked to complete 2-4 activities. Activities include exercise, household chores, handwriting, plan a healthy meal for the family etc.

Stage 3
- 15 min reading – students’ choice – parents sign to indicate activity completed
- **Homework Grid with 6-8 activities provided** – students asked to complete 4 activities. Activities include exercise, household chores, handwriting, plan a healthy meal for the family etc.
- **Spelling List**
- Numeracy revising based on classwork
- Repeated reading passage

Opt Out Option
Parents are best placed to make decisions regarding their child’s out of school activities and their capacity to complete homework. In light of this parents may choose to “opt-out” of the homework program.

An “opt-out” note will be sent home each year with a copy of the Homework policy. If an “opt-out” note is not returned, the school will assume that parents want their children to participate in the homework program.
Opt-out Option

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Homework provides students with an opportunity to practice classroom learning and develop self-management and study skills. It also provides parents with some idea of what skills and knowledge children are learning in the classroom.

However the school recognises that parents are best placed to make decisions about whether or not their children have the capacity or time to complete homework. If you do not want your child to participate in the homework program please complete the form below and return it to your child’s teacher.

Homework Opt-out
I do not want my child ___________________________ of class ______________________ to participate in the homework program this year.

____________________________________________
Parent/carer signature                        Date

Newsletter

All newsletter will be emailed to families each fortnight. If you wish to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter please complete the bottom section and return to the office.

Child's name _____________________________ Class _____________________________

☐ I wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter

____________________________________________
Parent/Caregiver

Interest Groups Volunteer

I would be happy to donate 1 hour per week of my time to take an interest group in
______________________________. I understand that the school will supply any required materials and that a qualified teacher will be present at all times to support me and supervise students.

Name: _______________________________ Contact Number ____________________________

Working together to build quality relationships, engaging learning environments and life long learners
For your convenience when your child is absent from school please complete the note below and return to your child’s teacher.

ABSENCE EXPLANATION NOTE

STUDENT’S NAME ............................................................... CLASS .......................  
DATES OF ABSENCE .......................................................  
REASON ........................................................................  

PARENT/CAREGIVER’S NAME .............................................  
SIGNED ........................................................... DATE ......................................

Working together to build quality relationships, engaging learning environments and life long learners.