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# ADELONG PUBLIC SCHOOL



## Information Booklet





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# Adelong Public School

## School Vision

### **Knowledge is Gold!**

In partnership with parents, carers and the wider community, we support each student to develop a strong sense of wellbeing. We are committed to equity for all, showing compassion, respect, understanding and inclusiveness, regardless of background or ability. We encourage our students to learn to solve problems, take responsibility, develop resilience, and care for one another.

## Mission Statement

We are a school that:

- focuses on teaching 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills
- makes learning exciting and engaging in a safe environment
- values individuality and creativity
- develops confidence, excellence and leadership skills

## Core Values

### **Be Safe**

- model and follow Departmental, school and class codes of behaviour and conduct
- negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
- take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
- care for self and others
- avoid dangerous behaviour and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

### **Be Respectful**

- treat one another with dignity
- speak and behave courteously
- cooperate with others
- develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
- value the interests, ability and culture of others



## Be Responsible

- be ready and on time to learn
- follow school expectations
- accept the opinions and contributions of others
- use equipment safely
- take responsibility for own actions
- dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code

## Be a Learner

- attend school everyday (unless legally excused)
- arrive at school and class on time
- be prepared for every lesson
- actively participate in learning
- aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning

## School Goals

- To encourage students to become self-directed learners, who use positive core values to create an affirmative vision for themselves and their future, set priorities and evaluate their progress and assume responsibility for their actions.
- To provide students with the skills to become collaborative workers who use effective leadership and group skills to develop and manage interpersonal relationships.
- To develop students who are complex thinkers who identify, access, integrate and use available resources and information to reason, make decisions and solve complex problems in a variety of contexts.
- To encourage students to become community members who give their time, energies and talents to improve the welfare of others and the quality of life in their communities.
- To recognise and develop individuals who create intellectual, artistic, practical and physical products which reflect originality, high standards and the use of advanced technologies.

## School Pledge

I am loyal to my school  
I serve my country  
And I will act honourable towards all people.

## Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are young and free.  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,  
Our home is girt by sea.  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts,  
Of beauty rich and rare.  
In history's page, let every stage,  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,  
We'll toil with hearts and hands.  
To make this Commonwealth of ours,  
Renowned of all the lands.  
For those who've come across the seas,  
We've boundless plains to share.  
With courage let us all combine,  
To Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.



# Staff – 2020

**Principal**

Peter A. Pilgrim

**Class Teachers**

Heidi Casey  
Veronica Thake  
Rebecca Marsh

**Teacher Librarian/RFF**

Amanda Waters

**School Learning Support Coordinator**

Amanda Waters

**School Learning Support Officers**

Kadie McDonald  
Louise Smith  
Kim French

**School Counsellor**

Melissa Thatcher

**School Administration Manager**

Rosann McCormick

**School Administration Officer**

**General Assistant**

Trish Murray

**Cleaner**

Trish Murray

**P&C Executive**

President: Matthew Pearce  
Secretary: Clarissa Hulks  
Treasurer: Lyndal Hannan  
Canteen Supervisor: Maria Contessa

**School Captains**

Hunter Pearce  
Ella Walsh  
Joshua Murdoch  
Makayla Hulks



## Principal's Message

Welcome to Adelong Public School.

At Adelong Public School, we focus on developing the whole child, whilst encouraging them to reach their full potential. A wide range of quality educational programs and experiences provide for the academic, physical and social needs of all students in a safe and caring learning environment.

We have a clear focus on teaching and learning, in particular in the areas of literacy, numeracy, science and technology, and student welfare. From youngest to eldest, all Adelong Public School students are given opportunities to develop their leadership qualities. This is done through our Student Representative Council, leadership program, buddy and peer support groups.

Our students participate in a range of activities that enable them to develop confidence, as well as diverse interests and skills. Our well resourced school, with computers and SMART boards in every classroom, ensures that all students are catered for in a rewarding and quality environment.

Our hard working and highly committed staff are focused on providing a happy, safe and secure environment, where students are encouraged to achieve quality educational outcomes.

This Information Booklet is designed to familiarise you and your child with the procedures and policies of our school, as well as the many programs on offer. It is important that this booklet be read in its entirety.

Cooperation and communication between home and school is an important ingredient to successful learning. Your help is requested to keep us informed of significant information, which may affect your child at school. Please ensure we are able to contact you if the need arises.

We want you and your child to find your time at Adelong Public School to be a positive and rewarding experience. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns.

**Peter A. Pilgrim**  
**Principal**

## General Information

All general enquiries can be made at the school office.

Address: 50 Gilmore Street  
Adelong NSW 2729  
Phone: 02 6946 2053  
Fax: 02 6946 2199  
Email: [adelong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:adelong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Website: [www.adelong-p.school.nsw.gov.au](http://www.adelong-p.school.nsw.gov.au)

Principal: Peter A. Pilgrim  
Administration Manager: Rosann McCormick  
Office hours: 8:30am – 3:30pm

### School Times:

Hours: 9:05am – 3:05pm  
Recess: 11:05am – 11:25am  
Lunch: 1:05pm – 1:50pm

**Children arriving at school prior to 8:40am MUST sit on the bench chairs adjacent to C Block.**

**There is no supervision in the playground before 8:40am or after 3:05pm.**

**Playing in the school grounds is not permitted after 3:05pm.**

## Adelong P&C Association

The Adelong Public School P&C Association is a voluntary group of parents and carers who work to raise money, provide resources and support to the school. In summary, our P&C are actively involved in the following facets of the school:

- promoting a positive learning and social environment
- acting as a liaison between the school and parents
- providing a forum for parents and carers to find out what is happening and what is planned for the school
- raising funds and providing facilities and equipment for the school
- providing services, including the school uniform shop and canteen
- providing support and advice to the Principal





- representing parents, e.g., on school committees and in the development of school policy
- acting on broader educational issues, particularly through its membership with the NSW P&C Federation
- acting on broader community issues that impact on the welfare and safety of students, e.g., traffic and pedestrian safety

Our P&C meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the school library. If you are interested in joining our P&C, please contact the school office for further information.

## Absences

Children who attend school regularly do better than students who are often absent.

Children absent from school are to present a note on their return, indicating the reason for their absence. If a lengthy absence is anticipated, a note or phone call indicating the anticipated length of absence is appreciated.

Absences for travel (family holidays) over 5 school days must be approved by the principal. *Application for Extended Leave-Travel* forms can be obtained from the school office. Completed forms need to be returned with a copy of relevant travel documentation for approval.

**If children arrive late to school, parents must sign-in children at the school office. If children leave early from school, they must be signed-out by parents at the school office.**

Regular attendance is a legal requirement. Children should be at school unless they are sick. Recurrent absences will come to the attention of the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) for investigation and intervention.

## Anti-Bullying Policy

### What is Bullying?

Bullying is any deliberate action that leads a person to feel frightened or unhappy. It includes physical assaults, threats, name calling, emotional torment, sexual and racial taunts and rude gestures.

### Why Stop Bullying?

Bullying is bad for both the bully and victim. Victims suffer from poor self-esteem and low self-

confidence. Research tells us that bullies have difficulty in communicating and relating to their peers and will likely end up with a range of social problems when they leave school.

### Aims of this Policy

The implementation of this policy aims to eliminate all forms of bullying at Adelong Public School. If any student is bullied at our school and we know about it, we will make every effort possible to ensure it does not happen again.

Adelong Public School encourages tolerance, respect, acceptance of differences in others and good citizenship.

### What can students do to stop bullying?

- Respect everyone's right to be happy and safe
- Be friendly and assertive, not aggressive
- Report any bullying to a teacher
- Encourage others to be friends – not bullies

### How parents can support the program

- Talk to your children about the correct sorts of social behaviour.
- Encourage your children to report any types of bullying.
- Encourage children to settle disputes and disagreements without violence or irrational behaviour.
- Contact the school if your child reports bullying to you.

### What the teachers are doing to help

- The staff at Adelong Public School are committed to this policy.
- All staff will act to eliminate bullying from within the school grounds.
- Staff will investigate all reports of bullying and act according to this policy.

### At school we are addressing bullying by:

- Running anti-bullying programs for students in all classes (*The High-Five Anti-Bullying Program*).
- Implementation of proactive programs through the *You Can Do It Program*, recognising and rewarding appropriate and positive student behaviour.
- Initiating a consistent series of consequences for bullying, in all its forms in the school.
- Assisting the victims of bullying through greater access to support.



If a student is involved in bullying another student, he or she will immediately be placed on detention and follow the procedures as laid out in our school Student Welfare/Discipline Policy.

**Serious physical assaults of another student will always result in immediate suspension.**

### Assemblies

School assemblies are held every second Friday at 2:30pm in the school hall. These are run by our school leaders and provide an avenue through which children are given awards, items are presented and news of future events are passed on. Parents are invited to attend these assemblies, which are advertised in the Newsletter and through our website and social media.



### Book Club

Several times throughout the year, the children are offered the chance to purchase books from Scholastic Book Club. There is no compulsion to buy, but it is a great way to encourage "home reading".



### Breakfast Program

Our school Breakfast Program commenced in Term 3 of 2019. The program is operated by the school and receives donations from parents, Coles Tumut, Kelloggs and funding support from Adelong Bendigo Community Bank. The program operates from C Block three days per week from 8:40am – 9:00am.

The program offers support to families and the school by providing a nutritional start to the day. The program encourages the involvement of volunteer parents, carers and the wider community.

### Bus Travel

Adelong Public School is serviced by a school bus service. It is expected that children behave safely and considerately when travelling by transport. Parents need to ensure that their children have the appropriate skills and maturity to travel safely without adult supervision.

All children who are in Kindergarten, Year 1 or Year 2 are entitled to free travel to and from school if there are seats available. Year 3 to Year 6 can use a bus if they live 1.6km from the school. You can find out which bus your child should catch by contacting the bus companies concerned.

#### **Adelong – Sharp's Creek**

B & M Hassett – 02 6946 2389

#### **Adelong – Grahamstown, Mt. Horeb**

B & M Hassett – 02 6946 2389

#### **Adelong – Mt. Adrah, Yaven Creek**

Goode's Coach Service – 02 6947 2636

### Change of Routine

There will be occasions when your child will need to vary his/her daily routine. For example, he/she may have to travel on a different bus or be collected from school by someone other than you.

To prevent unnecessary worry, a written message to the class teacher is needed, briefly explaining the details. A verbal message conveyed by a young child can often become distorted or forgotten.

Sometimes, unavoidable changes to afternoon routines come about during the day. If this



happens, please ring the school office as soon as possible during the day.



## Communication

High quality communication is vital in ensuring that we provide a quality learning environment for your child. We seek to keep you informed in the following ways:

- Fortnightly Newsletter (The Bee Bulletin)
- Parent/Teacher Meetings and Interviews
- P&C Meetings
- School Assemblies
- School functions
- SkoolBag App
- APS Facebook Page
- APS Website



## Canteen

The P&C operates a school canteen each Friday. It commences operation in the second week of Term 1 and is staffed by parent volunteers. Children can order their lunches from 8:35am until 9:05am. Reusable lunch order bags can be

purchased from the canteen. All lunch bags should be brought from home already filled out with their name, class, lunch order and cost clearly marked, and the money placed inside the bag. Summer and winter menu/price lists are sent home for your information through the Newsletter.

## Diagnostic Tests

Sometimes when children seem to be experiencing difficulty in a particular area of learning, the teacher or School Counsellor will conduct a diagnostic test to ascertain in-depth information about the learner. The teacher or specialist may devise this test themselves. The information derived will form the basis of targeted teaching programs to assist the learner.

## Electronic Devices – Mobiles

Mobile phones are strictly not allowed at school or on school excursions. If you have a need for your child to have contact with you after school and you require him/her to have a phone, this must be handed into the school office as soon as your child reaches school and they can collect it from the school office at the end of the school day. At **NO** time is it to be kept in their school bag.

## Emergency Information

A Pupil Information and Emergency Contact Form is issued at the commencement of each school year, or at the time of enrolment. These forms are essential for effective administration and speedy parent contact in case of emergency. Parents and carers are asked to complete all sections of the form. Please notify the school office at any time when address or phone numbers change.

## Enrolment

Children can start Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn five on or before 31 July of that year. Kindergarten applications should be submitted in the year prior to commencement, preferably before September. Documentation providing proof of age (birth certificate or passport), proof of residential address and immunisation is required on enrolment.

Students transferring from other schools or arriving from overseas can apply to enrol at any time,



preference is given to students who live within the school catchment area.



Tours of our school can be arranged at anytime during the school year. Please phone the school office for an appointment.

### Fruit and Vegetable Break

Fruit and Vegetable Break is a set break each morning at 10:00am for students to eat fruit, salad or vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Students 're-fuel' with fruit or vegetables during the morning – assisting physical and mental performance and concentration. All fruit and vegetables are to be pre-cut, making it easier and quicker for the children to eat.

Adelong Foodworks Supermarket kindly donate fruit and vegetables to the school each Monday.



### Health

Children during their school years will come into contact with a variety of diseases.

Generally, parents must use common sense and not send their ill children to school, but if your child becomes ill during the day, we will make all attempts to contact you.

If we can't contact you or your nominated Emergency Contact, and we feel the case is urgent, we will send for the ambulance. The ambulance will take your child to hospital. This service will not cost you anything because the school pays an annual membership for this purpose. If your child has to be transported beyond the local hospital, either you or the hospital becomes responsible for the account.

If your child has a specific condition, which needs particular intervention during school hours, please talk with the office staff or the child's teacher. A note detailing treatment and appropriate permissions must be provided to the school to enable any treatment to be administered. This form can be obtained from the school office staff.

All Kindergarten enrolments are required to provide an immunisation certificate from the doctor or through Tumut Community Health.

### Lost Property

A "lost property box" is located adjacent the Staff Room should you be looking for missing uniforms. Encourage your child to check the box for any lost items.

### Medication

There are strict Departmental guidelines under which school personnel are authorised and enabled to administer prescribed medications to students. This is undertaken on a voluntary basis by office staff. If it is absolutely necessary that your child receives such medication whilst at school, please discuss the procedures with the office staff. Under no circumstances will medication be administered without written authority from a parent or doctor. The decision as to whether administration can appropriately be undertaken by school personnel is always at the discretion of the principal. In some circumstances, you may be requested to attend school to administer medication personally to your child.



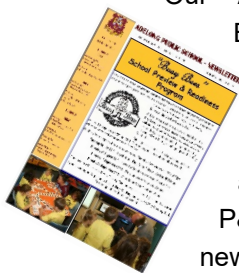
Administration of medication does not extend to over-the-counter medications or pain relievers such as Panadol or Nurofen.

## Money Collection

It may be necessary for your child to bring money to school for excursions, performances, etc. Money should be placed in an envelope with the child's name, class and purpose clearly marked on the front.

Envelopes are handed to the front office, where there is a payment box for permission notes and money. It is preferable that the correct money be included so that students do not have to be responsible for change during school time.

## Newsletter



Our APS Newsletter (The Bee Bulletin) is issued each fortnight. The newsletter is an essential communication as it keeps you informed about upcoming school events, P&C information, community news, excursion information and permission notes.

Please read it carefully and support those activities advertised in it. The Bee Bulletin is issued every second Thursday. A copy can be collected from the school office or downloaded from our website and SkoolBag App.

## Parent Involvement

There are various occasions throughout the year when parents are invited to observe and/or participate in school activities. These range from your child's class to whole school activities. These are advertised through the school newsletter, special notes and SkoolBag App.

All parents who are involved in school activities (including canteen) must have a Working With Children's Check number. This is a requirement of the Department of Education.



## Parent/Teacher Communication

Early in term 1, a "Meet the Teacher" afternoon is held at the school. During this meeting, the classroom teachers outline their expectations for the year, explain routines and make initial contact with parents.

Each term, class teachers distribute a class information sheet that outlines teaching focuses for that term. These are also posted on our school website.

## Parent/Teacher Interviews

School reports are sent home twice a year. Parent/Teacher Interviews are held towards the end of term 2. From time to time you may wish to:

- discuss the progress or welfare of your child
- express concerns about actions of other students
- enquire about school policy or practice
- express general concerns

If you wish to meet with the classroom teacher, support teacher, school counsellor or principal, it is best to make an appointment through our office.

Please note that staff meetings are every Wednesday afternoon between 3:30pm - 4:30pm, so teachers are not usually available during these times.

## Photographs

Annual class photos are taken, with an optional individual photo as well. The class photos are usually worthwhile and inexpensive. Full uniform is to be worn for these photographs.



## Presentation Night

Each year the School Presentation Night is held towards the end of Term 4. Performance, academic, sporting and citizenship awards are presented to students from Kindergarten to Year 6. We also use this time to thank our community for their continued support of our school.



## Safety and Security Procedures

All visitors and volunteers entering our school grounds (between 8:30am – 3:30pm) are required to sign-on at the school office. This includes casual teachers, student teachers, volunteers, visitors, tutors, contractors and scripture teachers.

All volunteers must complete a Volunteer Code of Conduct Declaration before working with students.

No adults may approach students at school without permission of the principal or delegates.

## School Counsellor

The School Counsellor is available to talk to parents and/or children if there are problems relating to the child's academic, emotional or social development. Parental approval is necessary before the School Counsellor can work with students. Concerns should be discussed with the class teacher and/or principal before proceeding to the Counsellor.

## School Rules

Our school rules are clear and easy to remember. They encompass the expectations of safety, respect and involved learning.



## School Uniform

It is expected that all students attending Adelong Public School wear their full school uniform with pride to school each day. This includes the wearing of a school hat and the appropriate footwear as outlined below. Our Sun Protection Policy is 'No hat, play under the COLA'.

The school uniform can be purchased at:

Swans of Tumut  
50 Wynyard Street  
Tumut NSW 2720  
Tel: 02 6947 6500

Second hand uniforms and new hats are available from the P&C Uniform Shop, which is open Mondays between 2:30pm – 3:00pm. A choice of wide brim or bucket hats are available. Black shoes are required for daily use and white or black sneakers for sports days.



### Girls Summer Uniform

Maroon skort or box-pleat skort

Light blue polo shirt with school logo

White ankle socks

### Boys Summer Uniform

Grey or maroon shorts

Light blue polo shirt with school logo

Grey ankle socks





<b>Girls Winter Uniform</b>
Maroon tracksuit pants or maroon trousers
Light blue long sleeved polo shirt
Maroon fleecy jacket/jumper
White ankle socks

<b>Boys Winter Uniform</b>
Grey trousers or maroon tracksuit pants
Light blue long sleeved polo shirt/skivvy
Maroon fleecy jacket/jumper
Grey ankle socks



<b>Girls Sports Uniform</b>
Maroon and blue sport shirt with school logo
Maroon skort
White ankle socks

<b>Boys Sports Uniform</b>
Maroon and blue sport shirt with school logo
Maroon shorts
White ankle socks

## Student Assistance Scheme

Sometimes the school can assist families who are experiencing financial hardships. A small amount of funding is available to assist in the purchase of clothing, payment of excursion costs, etc. For assistance or more information, contact the principal.

## Student Representative Council

Our Student Representative Council (SRC) comprises captains, vice-captains and class representatives from Year 2 to Year 6. The SRC assists with the organisation of many activities and student fundraising. It is an important leadership group that contributes to decision-making and improving facilities for students.

## Student Welfare

Our students prosper in an inclusive learning environment that fosters respect, responsibility and cooperation. All students have the right to grow in an environment that promotes caring for others, integrity and fairness. These values are core to our successful welfare and discipline program.

Student welfare is the responsibility of all students and teachers and is an integral part of all school and classroom activities.

At Adelong Public School, students are encouraged to:

- develop resilience and self-reliance
- take responsibility for their own welfare and behaviour
- contribute to the welfare of others
- contribute to the life of the school community

Our Student Welfare Policy includes:

- expectations of behaviour
- standards of uniform
- anti-bullying policy
- award system
- managing inappropriate behaviour and consequences



## Key Learning Areas

The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) of the Primary Curriculum are as follows:

### English

The aim of the English K-6 syllabus is:

- to encourage positive attitudes towards learning English
- to develop students' ability in using language effectively
- to enable critical reflection on how language works
- communicate through speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing
- use language to shape and make meaning according to purpose, audience and context
- think in ways that are imaginative, creative, interpretive and critical
- express themselves and their relationships with others and their world
- learn and reflect on their learning through their study of English

### Mathematics

Mathematics in Years K-6 aims:

- to develop students' mathematical thinking, understanding, competence and confidence in applying mathematics in problem-solving situations
- to promote their enjoyment and appreciation of mathematics

### History

The History K-6 syllabus aims to:

- provide opportunities to learn about change and continuity
- investigate their connections with the past through personal, family and local community history
- examine significant events and people that shaped Australian colonies and the nation

### Geography

Within Geography students:

- investigate environments and communities across local to global scales
- develop an understanding of being informed, responsible and active citizens
- undertake inquiry-based learning to explore and understand the world

### Science and Technology

Science and Technology in Years K-6 is aimed at developing students' competence, confidence and

responsibility in their interactions with science and technology leading to:

- an enriched view of themselves, society, the environment and the future
- an enthusiasm for further learning in science and technology

### Creative Arts

Creative Arts in Years K-6 is designed:

- to enable students to gain increasing understanding and accomplishment in the visual arts, music, drama and dance
- for students to appreciate the meanings and values that each of the art forms offer personally, culturally and as forms of communication



### Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

The PDHPE syllabus in Years K-6:

- develops the knowledge and understanding, skills and values and attitudes needed to lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives
- forms the basis for students to adopt a responsible and productive role in society

## Opportunities for Students

**Gifted and Talented:** The essence of giftedness is advanced development. Students who are gifted have the potential to perform at levels significantly beyond what we might expect for their age. Approximately 10% of students are gifted in one or more areas.

A student can be intellectually or creatively gifted. A student might be physically gifted or gifted in some area of his/her social/emotional development. Giftedness in any area means ability well beyond the average.





Students who are identified as gifted or having a talent in a particular field are provided extension work, designed to deepen and broaden their understanding and knowledge of an area. We ensure that the curriculum being accessed by students is differentiated to cater to their needs. We have high expectations of our students and provide them with different ways to gather content, to process or make sense of ideas and to create products.

The needs of gifted and talented students at our school are discussed regularly at learning and support meetings.

**University of NSW Tests:** Year 3-6 students can take the state-wide University of NSW tests in maths, English, spelling and writing, science and technology skills. Because these tests require payment, they are optional. The tests are supervised by school staff.

**National Assessment Program of Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN):** The NAPLAN tests began in 2008 and are for all Australian students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. There are four assessment papers – language, writing, reading and mathematics. The tests are conducted on three consecutive days in May each year. Parents receive a personal report detailing their child's results. The school receives information about all its students, as well as information relative to State and Australia-wide averages. In NAPLAN tests, our school consistently score above State averages.

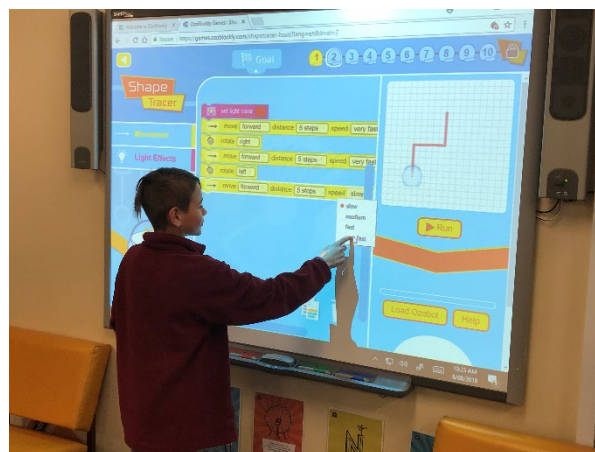
## Support Programs

If class teachers have concerns about individual students in their classes, these students are referred to the Learning Support Team (LST). The LST, consisting of a coordinator, school counsellor, Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) and principal, meet on a fortnightly basis to provide support for students with specific learning needs. At the LST, decisions are made about the appropriate intervention and support for referred students. Students may be referred to the School Counsellor for assessment and/or behaviour management strategies and/or counselling or to the LaST for specific literacy assessments. Referrals are recommended to specialist agencies including speech therapy, occupational therapy,

paediatricians and child psychologists. Support programs are also developed in classes with the support of the LaST to cater for students with specific learning needs.

## STEM Education

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education is a cross-disciplinary approach to teaching that improves students' problem solving and critical analysis skills.



At Adelong Public School, our focus is on action that lifts foundational skills in STEM learning areas, develops mathematical, scientific and technological literacy, and promotes the development of the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of problem solving, critical analysis and creative thinking. Our school recognises the importance of a focus on STEM in the early years and maintaining this focus throughout schooling.



## Opportunities to Develop Skills and Talents

**Creative and Performing Arts:** The development of each pupil's potential in the creative arts is an important ingredient of the school's curriculum. We know that participation in the arts can have a profound positive effect on children's mental and physical development.

**Chess:** Chess is open to all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Interested students meet each week to learn skills and compete against their peers. It requires students to draw on problem solving skills, teaching them how to make difficult and abstract decisions independently as well as fostering critical, creative, and original thinking.

**Debating:** The school provides senior students with training in the specific skills of formal debating. We have interschool debates through the NSW Premiers Debating Competition.



## Sport and Physical Education

Our extensive sports program, with a focus on skill development, prepares our students for their successful participation in interschool competition and helps them continue an active healthy life. We value and promote the importance of teamwork, cooperation and respect.

Students from Years 3-6 have the opportunity to try out for school teams which participate in Summer and Winter inter-school sports competitions coordinated by the Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA).



Our talented students are given the chance to try out for Regional and State representative teams. The school also regularly participates in regional knock-out competitions and special sports events.

Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 engage in game skill activities and gross motor programs. All students are expected to participate in regular fitness activities, which are organised on a class or Stage basis.



Students from Year 2 learn to swim as part of the DoE's Intensive Swimming Program.

The school regularly enlists the expertise of private organisations to provide extra physical educational opportunities for our students. In recent years, students have participated in gymnastics, footsteps, tennis, basketball, netball and cricket.

## Excursions

Excursions are a part of the school curriculum. Learning outside the classroom is as important as learning inside the classroom.





The school has a regular program of excursions, both day and extended, which are designed to extend the children's life experiences into the school's program. Parents are advised of all excursions from the school and permission notes are sent home for each activity beyond the immediate town area. Permission notes must be returned to enable your child to participate in the excursions or sporting activities.



Every second year our Year 5 and Year 6 students participate in a major school camp excursion to Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. This Centre is located on 287 hectares of bushland reserve overlooking the mouth of the Hawkesbury River and includes a delightful beach. The school camp consists of an organised program of sporting and recreational activities encouraging fitness and the worthwhile use of leisure time. In addition, they provide the students with experience in social living through cooperation with other campers. Students are accommodated in dormitories and have the opportunity for an overnight camp (bivouac). Activities include swimming, games, camp cooking, environmental awareness, abseiling, archery, orienteering, bushcraft, bushwalking, canoeing and surf skiing.

The costs of excursions vary considerably depending upon the nature of the excursion, but the school attempts to give adequate notice so families have the opportunity to budget for all expenses. The school makes every attempt to ensure that excursions are accessible to all students and arrangements can be made with the school office or principal to pay the cost in instalments.

## Library

Classes have a set library period each week, during which borrowing for home reading is encouraged. Please note that children may not borrow from the library unless they have a library bag to protect books during travel.

Our school library provides a large range of fiction and non-fiction books suitable for all ages and reading abilities.

Our Librarian assists students to locate books and provides lessons associated with the understanding (comprehension) of content.

Adelong Public School participates in "Book Week" and the "Premier's Reading Challenge" each year.

## Life Education Van

The Murrumbidgee Life Education Centre Van visits Adelong Public School every second year and the programs offered by the van provide an integral element of the curriculum activities for children across the school. All children, Kindergarten to Year 6 are involved in the activities associated with the visit of The Life Education Van.



## Music Program

Adelong Public School offers students the wonderful opportunity to learn the keyboard. This is through private tuition. Should your child be interested in learning the keyboard, please make contact with our school office.

In 2019, Adelong Public School has introduced the recorder. This is a first step towards learning an instrument. Students begin to learn how to read music and make music as part of a group.

## Homework

Children need to develop a habit of doing homework. Homework is usually a revision and reinforcement of work already covered within the class. Approximate guidelines for daily homework are:

- Infants up to 15 minutes
- Junior Primary up to 30 minutes
- Senior Primary up to 45 minutes.

## School Performances

Adelong Public School produces a school performance every second year. This performance is presented to local schools and the community at the local theatre. The productions are quite spectacular and are a wonderful showcase of the talents of our students and teachers.



# Especially for Kindergarten Parents

## The First Year at School

Kindergarten is a very special year for children, their parents and the school. For the first time, children are asked and expected to spend significant periods of time each day away from the security of their own family, to learn to become part of a much bigger 'family' at school.

To help that process of adjustment, it is important that communication between home and school be kept open. The school encourages such contact and will provide many opportunities for parents to participate in the 'school life' of their children.

We particularly welcome our 'new' parents and hope this information supplied in this booklet will be useful to you.

## School Times and Travel

**Kindergarten Students** – over the first few days when escorting your child, it is advisable to leave him/her in the playground to play with the other children. It is harder on both parent and child if parents remain in the playground with the child.

**Playgrounds** are not supervised before 8:40am. In the interests of children's welfare and safety, we ask that they do not arrive before this time.

**Home time** – all children at Adelong Public School finish school at 3:05pm. Parents are to come into the school to collect their children at 3:05pm, no later or earlier. If students are riding bikes or scooters home they have to walk these out of school grounds. Helmets must be worn at all times when riding bikes and scooters.

**Safety of Children** – if you park opposite the school to collect children or to set them down, please escort them across the road. Please discuss appropriate road safety rules with your child.

## Handy hints for Kinder Parents

- Children are very tired in their first weeks of school. Be prepared for irritability or tears

- Some children don't like to talk about school. Don't pressure them. Simple, direct questions get more results rather than very open questions.
- Although a child should be fully toilet trained before commencing school, the new routine may cause the occasional accident. A spare set of clothes put into the school bag is a good precaution.
- In the weeks before your child comes to school, a visit to the public toilet can help him/her adjust to the school toilet situation.
- Check that your child's immunisation program is up to date. A certificate is required by the school.
- Make sure that your child knows what to eat at recess and what to eat at lunch.
- **Label everything** the child owns with a waterproof pen or sew-on label.
- Toys are not permitted at school unless it is for a special news item.
- If you are unsure about something, contact the school and ask.



## Busy Bees Preview Program

Our Busy Bees Preview and Readiness Program runs early in Term 3 each school year. The program allows children and parents to get a taste of school through participating in exciting and engaging activities that include Science, Technology, engineering and Mathematics (STEM), literacy, numeracy, creative arts and sport.





Children engage with robotics, coding and 3D printing. They become involved in interactive reading and viewing, early numeracy games, creative and practical arts and develop their gross motor control through fun sporting activities.



## Kindergarten Orientation

Adelong Public School offers a variety of activities to facilitate familiarisation for you and your child with the learning environment of the school. These include important programs structured for new parents and children.

**School Tours** – personalised school tours run throughout the year. Ring the school for details.

**Parent Information Session** – is held late in Term 3. At this meeting different aspects of interest to you about the Kindergarten year and Adelong Public School will be discussed.

**Kindergarten Orientation Visits** – these involve when children are invited to participate in some familiarisation activities with the Kindergarten teacher in the classroom.

## What Every Child Needs

- School bag – the back-pack style is the best for posture. If possible, mark it in some fashion that makes it easily recognisable by your child.
- Lunch box and plastic drink bottle – clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Library Bag – this can be purchased at the front office at a cost of \$10.00
- Plastic A4 wallet or home reader bag for Home Reader.
- Paint shirt – one of Dad's old shirts or if you sew, a smock with elastic in the sleeves and neck.
- The class teacher will let you know of other supplies needed via a list at the beginning of the school year.

## Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

'Best Start' is a State-wide Kindergarten assessment that helps teachers identify the literacy and numeracy skills of each student in the first week of beginning kindergarten. The assessment will include aspects of writing, reading, comprehension, speaking, phonemic awareness, understanding print concepts, counting skills, arithmetic strategies and pattern recognition. It is designed to provide teachers with information about each child's abilities so they can plan effective teaching and learning programs during the first year at school. It will also provide you with feedback about how you can support your child during their first year at school.



**Please Note:**

The Information in this booklet is correct at the time of printing. It is reviewed regularly to keep it as up to date as possible. However, we cannot guarantee that the names, dates and times mentioned are correct at the time of reading. Changes are always published in the fortnightly Newsletter and advised through our website and social media outlets.



