



## **From The Principal**

Dear Annandale Community,

A warm welcome to new students and families who have joined our school over the past few weeks. Annandale PS is dedicated to maximising each individual's potential through the shared joy of learning and teaching within a supportive community.

Our delightful Kindergarten students have now been at school for nearly 20 weeks. Our awesome Year 6 students have only 20 weeks left at Annandale before they leave us to go to high school.

Phew, I feel exhausted! What a great term we've had. Thank you to our wonderful Annandale learning community for making learning fun, based on high expectations, healthy relationships and for assisting our students to have enhanced learning outcomes. Thank you to the amazing children, dynamic parent body and talented & dedicated staff. Enjoy a well earned rest and thank you!

Have a wonderful holiday Annandale families and we'll see you back at school next term.

Public Education inspires all young people to achieve their best!

**Craig Nielsen**  
**Principal**

## **STUDENT REPORTS**

The new written reports include:

- the Department's endorsed word descriptions from Outstanding to Limited to describe student achievement in each subject studied.
- information on achievement in areas of learning within a subject .
- achievement in English and Mathematics across grades 1-6.
- a comment from a student's teacher on

each subject.

- information about participation in other school activities.
- information about social development and commitment to learning including effort.
- student attendance.

Note: Children in Kindergarten will not receive grades. Neither will children with significant learning difficulties, or those who have recently arrived in Australia and are learning English as a second language.

At Annandale PS, what does the word descriptors mean?

### **Sound Achievement**

Shows that the student has achieved most of the skills, values and knowledge intended by the teacher when they planned the learning program for the semester. This student may have required extra revision or individual teaching but he/she has understood most of the concepts and has demonstrated achievement of the learning goals.

**Parents should not be worried about a child's progress if he or she has received this grade. Your child is on track in this area. His/Her performance is sound.**

### **High Achievement**

Shows that the student has performed very well with the work presented consistently achieving the skills, values and knowledge intended by the teacher when he/she planned the learning program for the semester. This student has demonstrated in all of the assessments and daily tasks that there is no difficulty being experienced in meeting the learning goals.

**Your child is performing at a high level in this area.**

## **Outstanding**

Shows that the student is easily demonstrating the skills, values and knowledge intended by the teacher when they planned the learning program for the semester. In fact the student is showing far more than has been required.

**Your child is performing at an outstanding level in this area.**

## **Basic**

Shows that the student is currently experiencing some difficulty in achieving the skills, values and knowledge intended by the teacher when he/she planned the learning program for the semester. There are some gaps in the understanding of the concepts that have been taught during the semester and there is evidence that this has been occurring in daily tasks and in assessments.

**Your child is having some difficulty coping with the work in this area at this time.**

## **Limited**

Shows that the student is currently demonstrating in his/her assessments and daily class tasks that a lot of difficulty is being experienced. This student will most likely have had additional assistance from the school and will need ongoing support from home and school.

**Your child is finding learning very difficult at this time in this area.**

## **NEW ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES**

The new attendance legislation ensures that parents who fail to send their children to school, or who after 2 days absence have not contacted the school, will be followed up with a letter. Continued unexplained absences will result in more serious consequences. If you are planning an overseas holiday it is now mandatory to apply to the Regional Director for leave permission if the time away will exceed 15 days in a year. Forms are available from the office.

Lateness is still a problem in our school. It is crucial that children are in their classrooms for the welcome and establishment phase of the day.

## **NATIONAL TREE DAY 25 JULY**

National Tree Day is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event and a day for all Australians to help out by planting native trees and shrubs at a Tree Day site in their local area. National Tree Day seeks to inspire, educate and recruit Australians to actively care for our unique land and create future generations of committed environmental carers.

More information visit

[www.treeday.planetark.com](http://www.treeday.planetark.com)

## **CORE VALUES IN NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS**

The Federal and State governments recognise the importance of the following core values to the community. These values represent the aspirations and beliefs of the Australian community as a whole, including its concern for equity, excellence and the promotion of a caring, civil and just society.

They are common to a range of secular and religious world-views and are found in most cultures.

The following examples illustrate the core values in school community and classroom contexts.

[Integrity](#)  
[Excellence](#)  
[Respect](#)  
[Responsibility](#)  
[Cooperation](#)  
[Participation](#)  
[Care](#)  
[Fairness](#)  
[Democracy](#)

## **NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK - WHAT IS NAIDOC?**

NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia in the first full week in July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities

during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has become the name of the week itself.

The week is celebrated not just in the Indigenous community but also in increasing numbers of government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces.

NAIDOC celebrates the survival of indigenous culture and the indigenous contribution to modern Australia. All Australians are encouraged to participate in NAIDOC Week activities.

**NAIDOC Week celebrations for 2008 will be held from Monday, 07 July.**

### **ROAD & TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Families and friends of the school are reminded not to use the school driveway or school car park to drop off or collect children immediately before or after school.

This can be a dangerous practice as we have children and families entering and leaving the school site to gain access to Trafalgar Street

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

**It is important that the school be notified if you change your address, telephone number (at home or at work), emergency contact details, medical conditions, or custody or access orders. Please notify changes in writing to the school office.**

### **LEARNING CONTRIBUTIONS**

Thank you to all parents who have given generously to the school by paying a voluntary school contribution and payment of dance and performance fees. The money is very much appreciated. It is used for classroom supplies, additional learning opportunities for students and providing additional support to students and staff.

### **HOMEWORK AND THE INTERNET**

There are a few simple ways of checking out whether or not a website is the real deal:

1. Find out who wrote the information on the site and check their qualifications. A reliable website should include details of the people behind it, if you can't find this information relatively easily, then proceed with caution.
2. Determine how old the information is and how often it is updated. Many sites include a line at the bottom of the main page to say this. If the

information is more than a few years old you may be better off searching for a more up-to-date site.

Look for bias contained in the information. Some websites might appear to be neutral in their tone but if you dig a little deeper you may find that they are sponsored or even created by a company with a vested interest.

More advice at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au)

### **ECO TIP - HOLIDAY TIME**

- When picnicking, make sure you and your children take your rubbish away with you or use the bins provided in order to keep our parks, waterways and beaches clean.
- When bushwalking, keep to designated tracks and trails. Avoid sensitive vegetation such as dunes and wetlands.
- When camping, minimise use of fires, particularly in high conservation areas. Obey all fire bans and restrictions.
- Dogs are not allowed in a national park. Dogs might chase and kill wildlife but also their faeces can carry diseases that are harmful to wildlife.

More tips at [www.livingthing.net.au](http://www.livingthing.net.au)

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS COMING UP**

**Term 2 finishes on July 4.**

**School returns for Term 3 on Tuesday, July 22.**

### **TIPS WHEN TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN**

- The back seat of the car is the safest place for a child to travel.
- Sleeping children should remain buckled up into the appropriate seatbelt or child restraint.
- Children should get in and out of the car through the left rear door – the 'safety' door.

More tips at [www.community.nsw.gov.au](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au)

### **SCHOOL DIARY**

**Tues. 01/7/08** 11.30am Musica Viva

**Monday, 21 July - student free Staff Development Day.**

**Tuesday, 22 July - Students return to school.**

## **MUSIC NEWS**

### **Fantastic Performance by the Training Band in Assembly**

Congratulations Training Band on a fantastic performance in assembly. You sounded and looked very professional. Thank you to Melanie who donates her time to work with the children.

### **Senior Band**

In Week 1 of term 3 we will again be having the Sydney University Wind Orchestra will again be performing and conducting a workshop with the Senior Band students. The performance will be called Bandakadabra. The whole school will again be invited to watch the performance for a gold coin donation.

Senior Band will rehearse as normal in Week 10. In Week 1 Term 3, there will be no morning rehearsal, but children will need to bring their instruments for the Bandakadabra workshop.

### **Sensational Performance by the Recorder Consort**

Congratulations to the Recorder Consort for a fantastic performance at the Sydney Opera House on Thursday the 12th June. What an opportunity! The children performed Psalm 100 with the Opera House 1100 pipe organ and Brass Ensemble. The "High Road" was performed with 200 String Players and "Rising Sun Over the Arid Land" was performed with Japanese Taiko drums and Matthew Doyle on didgeridoo.

Our children were great ambassadors for the school. Thank you to Lyn Elias who accompanied us for the day and to the parents who joined us for dinner and the performance.

**Narelle Derwent**  
**Music Coordinator**