I would like to welcome all new students and returning students and families to Drummond Memorial Public School for the 2016 school year. There were a number of new enrolments last week and I welcome them to the Drummond school community.

It is wonderful to be back at Drummond this year and over the next few weeks I look forward to meeting the many new students and their families who enrolled during 2015 and working with the staff on the new curriculum.

This year promises to be one of even greater opportunity and higher achievements for our students, and meeting our commitment that we provide every opportunity for your child in 2016. We have plans in place for a huge year of ‘learning and working together’.

The P & C committee, teachers and I are already making plans for a great year. There are a few major events planned for this year: the Variety Bash, being one of the biggest. They will be here in August and this is a wonderful opportunity to show case our school. Please watch out for information later in the year so you don’t miss this event. We will be participating in two fantastic music programs; Growing through song and Side by Side which NECOM will be running and also Sista Speak with Mrs Heidi Waters.

We start the term with the Swimming Carnival which is this coming Thursday 4.2.16, from 10am – 2pm at the Uralla pool. We have a few seats on the bus for parents, so if you would like to attend the carnival and travel on the bus please complete the section on the permission note and return it quickly. Permission notes were sent out last week. If you didn’t get one please ask your child to collect one from their teacher. Student turning 8 years old this year and above should be attending the carnival.

Remember if the note is on Gold/yellow paper it means it needs your attention and be returned to school.

Drummond Memorial Public School, 250 Rusden Street, ARMIDALE, NSW 2350
Principal: Mrs Julianne Crompton
Assistant Principal: Mrs L Clarke Relieving Assistant Principal: Ms Kate Richardson
School Captains: Lisa Morrell and Leikiesha Weatherall
Telephone: (02) 6772 3736 • Facsimile: (02) 6771 2275

Email: drummondm-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
It’s Not OK to Be Away ........ OR to be LATE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS ABOUT STUDENT ATTENDANCE...

Regular school attendance enables students to maximize their full educational potential and to actively participate and engage in their learning. At Drummond Memorial Public School, it is important that students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age. When a child misses school or are regularly late, not only is their learning and academic progress impeded, they also miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

If your child is 30 minutes late to school every day that amounts to 2 ½ hours of prime learning time they miss each week. If your child misses just one day per week that equates to ten days of learning each term, and over a whole year that equates to nearly a whole term. That is a lot of time away from school and learning opportunities.

As a school community we have high expectations that ALL students with the support of their parents/carers will attend school every day, arrive on time and be ready for learning.

Government legislation requires students between 6-17 years of age be enrolled at a school and to attend each day that instruction is provided. Under the Education Reform Act 1990, it is your duty as parent or carer to ensure your child attends school and these obligations are fulfilled.

Under the legislation our school is required to contact parents for all UNEXPLAINED absences and seek reasons after two days of the student returning to school. I understand that sometimes family life is busy and some parents forget to inform the school as to why their child has been away however, I ask that parents/carers try to be vigilant in contacting the school by note or a phone call to explain any absence. There is an absence note on the last page of the newsletter, place it on the fridge until it is needed.

We will be working very closely with Mrs Leesa Moore, the Department of Education, Home School Liaison Officer this year to ensure all students are attending school regularly, not late or having unexplained absences. Mrs Moore will exam our attendance records each term and we will be following up on any patterns of non-attendance, late students and the number of students with unexplained absences.

When the absence is genuine, due to family extenuating circumstances or illness please send in a short note or phone the school explaining the absence. Please support your child in regular attendance.

Presently the staff for 2016 will be:

Mrs Jenny Platts – Kindergarten,
Miss Rachel Rich Year 1,
Miss Amy Jones Year 1/2,
Mrs Lynn Clarke and Mrs Harwood 2/3,
Mr Darren Lester Year 3/4,
Mrs Jenna Walsh 4/5,
Kate Richardson Year 6.
Mr Clifford Cutmore-Aboriginal Education Officer,
Mrs Bronwyn Beard -Learning Support Teacher (LaST),
Mrs Justine Watts-Library,
Mrs Fay Paris - ESL teacher,
Miss Susie Caton- Reading Recovery and RFF.

Welcome back to all our students and hello to parents and carers from DMPS P & C

We hope you have had a relaxing holiday break and are fresh and ready for a great 2016.

Your P & C have been working through out the holidays on some new ideas for fundraising and activities this year. We will keep everybody updated as the year unfolds.

For now some notices from us:

The clothing pool will be operating Monday mornings (8:30-9:30) and Thursday afternoons (2:30-3:30) during school term. We stock new and quality secondhand uniforms at reasonable prices.

School banking will start again in week three. Banking day will be Monday so please bring your bank book to the front office Monday mornings. They will be processed overnight and returned to the office for collection on Tuesday. A flyer with more information will come home next week.

And finally our first meeting for the year will be held at the school in the staffroom on Tuesday, 16 February at 6:30 PM. We would love to see some new faces and welcome input from anyone who has an interest in the school, the students and the community.

Thank you for your ongoing support we are looking forward to a big year!