Welcome...

to the first edition of our new look newsletter to start us off for 2015 and also to our families both new and old. Most things need a revamp every now and then, and not only have we done this with our newsletter, but also with our classroom set up. We invite you to poke your head in at some stage to see how both our K-2 and 3-6 groups are working. We have set up a collaborative work space, with areas for small groups or for larger ones to come together. This allows for much greater flexibility with our groupings. Mr Bogatek and I will be leading the learning in the room together, with many opportunities to work with small groups for explicit teaching sessions. This way of working is
inline with 21st century learning and creates some exciting learning opportunities. Attached to the newsletter you will find our new weekly schedule - which is how things will run on a ‘normal’ week, but don’t forget we are always subject to change and need to also work around sports carnivals, swimming lessons, excursions, special visitors etc.....

Our science topics this term are: Schoolyard Safari for the K-2 group, where we will investigate living things and Marvellous Micro-organisms for the year 3-6 students. For History, our K-2’s will be exploring Personal and Family Histories and the 3-6 group will be looking at First Contacts. Exciting learning ahead!

Rivers Swimming Carnival
This Friday is the Rivers swimming carnival. Please note that this carnival is only for students turning 8 this year and older. Our younger students will remain at school for a normal day of learning with Mr Griffiths. The permission note, with the details for this went out with students last week.
Did you know?
If your child had on average just 1 day off school each week, then by the end of year 6 they would have missed a whole year of school? That would mean missing out on a lot of learning. Regular attendance is very important.

General Permission
This note is attached to the newsletter and is important to get back to us - even if you have filled one in on previous years you will need to do an updated version for 2015.

Home Reading
Home reading is an important part of our strategy for learning to read, and later becomes essential in helping build our skills for reading to learn. It is something we do from Kindergarten all the way through to year 6. I like to get our home reading off to a start early on in the year, however our reading log books, where we keep a record of our reading have not arrived yet. In the meantime we can still be reading books from home and books from the library. Encourage some reading every day.

If you have home reader bags from last year at home can you please send them in so that we can do a stocktake on who has a bag and who needs one, and I can get them prepared and ready for as soon as our reading log books arrive.

Afternoon Routine
We have a routine in the afternoon, designed to keep the departure from school a safe and happy one.

• Students leave classroom area to pack belongings in their bags
• Students leave bag room and sit on the seats outside the classroom
• Teacher assembles students into 3 lines, a bus line, a front gate line and a side gate line
• Teacher says any final messages and says good afternoon to children and dismisses each line one at a time.
• Children at the side gate line are then able to walk to/with waiting parents for departure at the side gate
• Children in the bus line walk to bus followed by students leaving by front gate
• Bus children get on the bus first and when the bus has departed the teacher will farewell the remaining children who are on foot/bikes
• We understand that sometimes parents can be in a rush to get away, in these circumstance you may leave with your children before the teacher dismissal as long as you have made contact
**Important Staff Development Day Change**

The Monaro Group of Schools has made an important change to the school dates this year. The last day of term 1, Thursday 2nd April (the day before Good Friday) will be a staff development day. This will mean that teachers will be attending important workshops and information sessions that will enhance the future learning of students. **Students will not come to school on this day** - however to make up for this day teachers will not be having their regular staff development day on the 17th December. The 17th December will be the last day for children at school this year - not the 16th as you may see publicised on the departments website. This will be discussed again as we get closer to the end of term to avoid any confusion.

**with the teacher.**

By sticking to this routine we have a better way of keeping track to make sure that students are where they need to be and who they are with.

**New and Updated Policies**

The policies at Adaminaby Public school are constantly being reviewed and updated and from time to time we also need to introduce new policies. As discussed at P&C meetings last year we found it necessary to implement an electronic mobile devices policy. With the input and comments from parents along with consultation from staff and in accordance with department policy, this has now been written and is ready to implement. You will find a copy of this attached to your newsletter. We have also reviewed our playground supervision policy and have included that for your interest as well.

**Swimming Lessons**

We are in the process of organising swimming lessons with Michelle. They will be on a Friday and start in a couple of weeks time, as the pool is booked and busy at the moment with swimming carnivals. More details will be provided as this is finalised.

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Science - Chelsea

*On the weekend I played on the iPad and I made a farm and I coloured my sheep and I made a house too.*

Literacy - Patrick