



Public School

INFORMATION BOOKLET

2016



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Welcome to Palinyewah Public School. Our school is set in a rural environment on the Darling River between Wentworth and Pooncarie. Palinyewah Public School offers quality education through its focus on individuals, receiving strong support from the parent body and the wider community.

Along with Buronga, Dareton, Gol Gol, Pomona and Wentworth Public Schools, and Coomealla High School, Palinyewah Public School is part of the Sunraysia Learning Community. Combined activities are planned and conducted for students so that they have the opportunity to meet other students on a regular basis for sporting events, special celebrations and curriculum based experiences.

The school has three main buildings:-

- the classroom
- the library which is also used as an additional classroom and for video conferencing
- the administration and kitchen area

The school caters for the individual needs of the students, through thorough teaching and learning programs developed by the Principal and additional teachers, supported by the School Learning Support Officers (SLSO).

The office is administered by a part-time School Administrative Manager (SAM).

Staff

Mrs Debbie Francis:	Teaching Principal
Mrs Jann Lawrence:	Teacher (<i>part time</i>)
Mr Donald Robinson:	Teacher Music (<i>part time</i>)
Ms Diane Lovell:	School Administration Manager School Learning Support Officer
Mr Graham Wall:	General Assistant
Mr Mark Francis:	Cleaner

Vision Statement:

- We are committed to nurture and challenge students' intellectual and imaginative capabilities in a progressive and diverse learning community that is dedicated to delivering quality education.
- We care for students with genuine respect, enlightened discipline and sensitivity. Student wellbeing is important and every student is valued and provided a safe, supportive and respectful environment in which to grow and develop.
- We strive to maximise student potential and prepare students for future learning and beyond where they are empowered to contribute to society with fairness, tolerance, integrity and knowledge.

School Motto: **From little things big things grow**

School Plan Strategic Directions:

- ❖ High Expectations, Quality Learning
- ❖ Quality Teaching, Building Capacity
- ❖ Community Partnerships

Art:

The school supplies aprons for the students to wear when undertaking art activities. Most paints and materials used in art can be washed out of clothing using *cold* water.

Asthma Friendly School:

Palinyewah Public School is recognised as an asthma friendly school. This means that staff members are trained in procedures for dealing with asthma awareness in students as well as raising awareness in students and parents. This training is updated according to the requirements of the Asthma Foundation NSW.

Assemblies:

A morning assembly is held each day commencing at 9:00am. Brief information may be given or sought at this time.

Formal assemblies are conducted in the main classroom by our school student leaders at different times. Parents and family members are very welcome to attend these assemblies. Dates and times will be advertised through the school newsletter.

At these assemblies merit awards and any special achievements are presented, announcements are made and students are given the opportunity to share their work.

Attendance:

Regular attendance at school is important to ensure satisfactory progress is being made in all aspects of school development. By law, parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school within seven school days of the absence. A written explanation is preferred, but via phone or email is also acceptable.

Parents of students who are absent from school for unexplained periods may be referred to the Department of Education Home School Liaison Officer.

Bell Times:

School Commences:	9:00am
Recess:	11:00am to 11:30am
Lunch:	1:00pm to 2:00pm
School Concludes:	3:15pm

The school bus drops the children at school at 8:15am and collects them after school at about 3:45pm.

Staff members provide supervision for students catching the bus, with other students walking, riding or being collected by parents.

Book Club:

Children are offered the opportunity to purchase books of good value each term through Scholastic Book Club. Lists of books are sent home with children when the school receives them, and if families wish to purchase any of the titles available, orders are returned to school, with payment,

The school receives points from all orders which can be used to acquire additional library resources.



Bus:

Students requiring travel to or from school by bus will need to complete an application for travel. These are available at the school and need to be returned to the school on completion. It is also necessary for parents to contact the bus company to arrange a suitable pick-up point.

Students travelling on buses are bound by the Code of Conduct for travel by bus.

Curriculum:

Key Learning Areas (KLA's) for K-Year 6 are:

- English
 - *Speaking and Listening*
 - *Writing and Responding*
 - *Reading and Viewing*
 - *Spelling*
 - *Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary*
 - *Handwriting and using digital technologies*
 - Thinking Imaginatively, creatively, interpretively and critically
 - Expressing Themselves
 - Reflecting on Learning
- Mathematics
 - *Number & Algebra*
 - *Measurement and Geometry*
 - *Statistics and Probability*
- Science and Technology
- History & Geography
- Creative and Practical Arts
 - *Art*
 - *Music and Dance*
 - *Drama*
- Personal Development, Health & Physical Education



Emergency Contact & Ambulances:

Parents need to provide an emergency contact should the main caregiver be unavailable when the need arises. This information needs to be kept up to date.

Palinyewah Public School contributes to the NSW Ambulance Fund covering the cost of transporting students with urgent medical needs within NSW and Victoria where necessary. An ambulance will be called if staff believe that a student's health is at risk. Parents or emergency contact persons will also be contacted as soon as possible with regard to the child's health concerns.

Ambulance cover is not provided for non-school events or adults volunteering at school, and it is advisable that families consider their own ambulance cover where possible.

Emergency Evacuations

The Department of Education has instructed schools to devise a school emergency plan. In order for students and staff to become familiar with procedures, practice evacuations are organised at least once every 6 months. All families are encouraged to develop their own plans in case an emergency arises at home.

Enrolment:

Children may enrol in Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn five years of age on or before July 31 in that year. A birth certificate or other identity documents providing proof of age is required on enrolment. An immunisation history statement is also required.

Students transferring from other schools can enrol at any time.

Families will need to complete an 'Application to Enrol' form. This supplies the school with your child and family details as well as medical information which the school may need in an emergency.

If your family name, address, phone numbers or doctor changes, please inform the school.

Excursions:

Our school participates in excursions to enrich the children's learning experiences. These excursions may be as part of a whole school activity or in smaller group situations, and include sporting, cultural and academic activities.

Prompt return of permission notes and any associated costs is appreciated to assist with organising transport. If there are any concerns related to the costs of an excursion please contact the school.

At present Year 3, 4 and 5 students participate in major overnight excursions with students from Buronga. Year 6 students participate in an excursion to Canberra with students from the Sunraysia schools.

Food at School:

The students are encouraged to bring food which is healthy and 'wrap free' for recess and lunch. Please do not send lollies or chocolates to school – these are best kept for treats at home. Students are not allowed to share or swap food at school.

Students participate in "Crunch and Sip" at 8.55 am where they can eat a piece of fruit or vegetables along with drinking water.

Parents and caregivers are asked to notify the school of any food related issues their child might suffer.

As we are a small school, students are able to have food from home heated in the microwave or their sandwiches toasted.

The P&C run a canteen two days each week where students may order hot food and / or cold drinks. Price lists are sent home at the beginning of each year or as prices change.

Year 5 students also organise ice blocks (summer) and toasted cheese sandwiches (winter) for purchase on various days. The funds raised go towards the Year 6 farewell dinner each year.

Hats – Sun Smart Policy:

In accordance with Cancer Council guidelines, children are encouraged to wear maroon broad brimmed hats when outside during Terms 1 and 4. These are available from the school.

The school has a “NO HAT - PLAY IN THE SHADE” policy in effect during these terms to restrict exposure to sunlight. As a further preventative measure, sunscreen (SPF 30) is provided for children’s use at school. Children are encouraged to continue wearing their hats during Terms 2 and 3.

Headlice

Headlice are sometimes found in children’s hair and, while they do not present a major health concern we ask that headlice be treated before children come to school.

It is helpful if you can notify the school if your child has headlice so that appropriate advice may be issued to other families. Information about your child is kept confidential. Contact the school or a pharmacy for advice regarding appropriate treatment.

Home Learning / Home Reading Scheme:

Home Learning is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practice, extension and consolidation of work done in class. Home Learning provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information sources. Also, it establishes steady habits of study, concentration and self-discipline, while strengthening home - school links.

Home Learning may vary in nature, but an expectation that children read at home each night exists across all grades. Kindergarten - Year 2 children will be able to select from a variety of readers to take home each night, while children in Years 3-6 are encouraged to select items from the readers, Library or utilise other reading material available at home.

Illness:

From time to time infectious diseases become evident in schools. The school will follow procedures as set by the Department of Education and Communities in dealing with such an outbreak. Information sought upon enrolment as to the immunisation status of children being enrolled is used in circumstances such as this.

Children who are ill need to be kept at home to allow them to rest and recover, whilst also helping to stop the spread of the illness to other students. If you child has an infectious disease please notify the school so that appropriate information can be provided to families.

Information Technology:

All students have access on a daily basis to a variety of technology, such as computers and iPads, in the classroom. Learning about information technology is integrated into other key learning areas. Specific skills are taught also as part of scheduled weekly sessions. Instruction in use of digital devices such as the camera, video and Interactive White Board occurs from the early stages of school.



Kindergarten Orientation Program:

An Orientation Program is conducted during Term 4 for children enrolling the following year.

This time is beneficial in a number of ways. It allows the children to become familiar with the formal routine of the school, and to start to form relationships with other students. It also allows the teachers to assess each child’s readiness for the following Kindergarten year.

Library:

The students have a half hour Library lesson every week. They can borrow up to two books from the library provided they have a durable library bag in which to transport these books to and from school. A library bag is supplied to each child when they commence school.

Books may be borrowed for up to two weeks. Parents are asked to make sure books are treated with respect and any damage reported to the school when the book is returned.



Medical Information and Medication:

On enrolment, you are asked to advise the school of any special medical conditions that may impact on your child at school. Separate medical information is requested for attending excursions. Health care plans are required for students who suffer from asthma, anaphylaxis or other life threatening conditions.

Should your child require medication for an illness, and it is appropriate for your child to be at school, the medication should be delivered to the teacher with a note of explanation. The medication must be provided in the original labelled container. Medication is not kept at school, apart from asthma relievers to be used in emergencies.

Newsletter:

Palinyewah Public School produces a regular newsletter, the "Palinyewah Post", which is distributed within the school and community. This newsletter aims to promote school activities, and recognise student achievements along with providing information about coming events or activities.

The school newsletter is sent home with the oldest child in each family.

The newsletter can be read each week on the school website. Previous newsletters are also archived on the website.



P&C Association:

The Palinyewah P&C Association meets during the term. Meetings commence at 9.30am. All members of our school community are encouraged to attend these meetings.

The P&C undertakes a variety of fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Your support of these events is encouraged and appreciated. The funds raised go back into the school to support the students.

The Executive for 2016 is:- President: Mrs Stacey Byrnes
Secretary: Mrs Mel Strachan
Treasurer: Mrs Rachel Strachan

Parent Helpers and Volunteers:

Parents as partners in education are appreciated. Your skills are valued. Help can be given in many areas: reading, craft, maths, sport etc. If you would like to help, just let the school know.

Palinyewah Public School welcomes volunteers who come into class to help teach specific skills to the students or assist with lessons. Special projects scheduled from time to time require the assistance of parent or community members who have special expertise.

Parents are also needed at various times to assist with transport to and from excursions. This helps to greatly reduce costs to families.

Volunteers are required to complete the NSW Working With Children Check through the RMS, and should sign the visitor's book at time of visit.

Parent - Teacher Interviews:

All families within our school are encouraged to contact the school at any time during the school year to arrange an appointment to discuss their child's progress. Teachers welcome discussion with parents in the interest of the children. The best time for an interview is generally after school, however where this is not convenient attempts will be made to arrange a mutually acceptable time.

As an important part of our annual reporting system, parents are invited to attend an interview with the class teacher and their child during Term 2. Parents also have the option to request an interview in Term 4.

Performances:

From time to time the school will elect to attend or host visits from various performers which may include drama, dance, music / song, language, poetry, environmental studies, science, sport etc. Parents will be informed of these events and any associated fee to cover costs.

Personal Development Program:

This program deals with sensitive issues relating to 'growing up' which is part of the Stage 3 section of the PDHPE syllabus and in line with the Board of Studies requirements for all schools. Involving health professionals, this program is offered once a year to students in Years 5 and 6.

Presentation Night:

Presentation Night is held in December each year. All students are involved in a performance on the night.

Prizes and awards are presented to students for various achievements accomplished throughout the year.

Presentation Night is enjoyed by the wider school community. The school receives valuable donations for the purchase of awards to support this activity.

Religious Instruction:

Non-denominational scripture lessons are provided by visiting presenters at different times of the year, with special functions held to celebrate Easter and Christmas when possible. Parents and caregivers will be informed of the timing of these sessions through the newsletter. Parents and caregivers can choose to opt out of this program by informing the school in writing.

Reports:

Written student reports are sent home at the end of Semesters 1 (Term 2) and 2 (Term 4). These reports provide an indication of student achievement as assessed and noted by the classroom teacher. Comment on individual student effort in learning and overall contribution to the school community is included.

School Counsellor:

Help is available for problems or concerns that you may have about the development of your child. Our School Counsellor is available to follow up on the needs of children referred by teachers for assessment of learning difficulties, behaviour and/or social adjustment problems. Parents are informed by note when the School Counsellor is going to work with their child. The Counsellor usually contacts parents after pupil assessment.

School Equipment Requirements:

The school will supply:-

- a Home Reading carry bag to facilitate the transporting of readers to and from school – this bag is provided by the P&C and must be returned to the school when the student leaves
- a library bag
- stationery items e.g. exercise books, coloured and lead pencils, erasers and rulers, pens

Please keep textas, coloured pens and markers for home use.



School Photographs:

School photographs are arranged each year and families are given the opportunity to purchase these if they so wish. These are usually taken during Term 3 although times may vary.

Student Clothing and Property:

- Please make sure all articles, especially lunch boxes, drink bottles, jumpers and jackets are clearly and permanently marked.
- It is best to leave treasured and valuable toys, jewellery and books at home. They are easily damaged or lost. If your child wishes to bring something special for 'News' please inform the teachers and the item can be stored safely during the day.
- Encourage your child to take responsibility for their belongings by ensuring items are put away after use. Staff will encourage students to place items inside their school bags when not being used.
- Every effort is made to return any 'lost' property to its owner.

Any dangerous items such as pocket-knives MUST NOT be brought to School.

Student Representative Council (SRC):

The Student Representative Council involves all students. A meeting is held at the beginning of each term. SRC gives the students an opportunity to discuss issues around the school, make requests, fundraise, and to help to plan special events and activities for the school body. Meetings are led by the school leaders. The SRC can also, as a group, decide on key responsibilities that are needed within the school and select students for these.

Support Teacher Learning:

Palinyewah Public School has funding to implement a small component of extra support for students with specific learning needs. Children experiencing a learning difficulty may be taken through a developmental program to assist their required need(s) and enhance any aspect of their schoolwork.

Sport and PE:

Once a week the children have sport, and PE lessons occur at various times during the week. These activities form part of our PE/Health/PD program in which all children are required to participate.

Sports uniform is to be worn on the timetabled sports day.

All students from K-6 participate in School Cross Country, Swimming, and Athletics, when we join with other local schools for Carnival Days.

Opportunities arise at various times to participate in specialist coaching clinics with visiting trainers.

Students in Years 2-6 have the opportunity to participate in a number of sporting activities in the Murray Darling PSSA Region.

Our intensive swimming lessons are held in term 1 each year. All children attend ten swimming sessions usually covering a two week period.

Sporting Schools Australia assists in meeting the costs of specialist sports coaches and clinics. Due to the availability of the funding Palinyewah students are able to undertake a wide variety of sporting activities to help develop their fundamental motor skills and knowledge of the skills needed.



Uniform:

Palinyewah Public School colours are maroon and white.

Summer

Maroon polo shirt

Black shorts

White socks

Black school shoes or joggers

Maroon broad brimmed hat

Winter

Black trousers or tracksuit pants

Maroon skivvy or polo shirt

Maroon fleecy jumper or jacket

Black school shoes or joggers

Sports Uniform

Maroon and white polo shirt

Black shorts or skort

White socks

Joggers

Black tracksuit pants with maroon jumper or jacket



Most of the uniform items can be ordered through the P&C from the LW Reid catalogue.

Non-logo items, such as shorts, pants and skorts are also available through various clothing retailers in Mildura. A limited clothing pool is available at the school.

Non-Uniform (Mufti) Days are held throughout the year, often in association with minor fundraising activities, particularly for charities. Details of planned mufti days will be communicated through the newsletter.

Year 6 – Placement into Year 7:

Students attending Palinyewah Public School in Year 6 have the opportunity to attend Coomealla High School as part of the Linkages 2 Learning program aimed at providing transition for these students. Additional activities are held at Coomealla High each year to assist in the transition to High School.

Any Questions or Concerns:

If you have any further questions about school life at Palinyewah Public School, please ask the Principal or other teaching staff. They will be happy to assist you.

Palinyewah Public School

Students and Staff 2016

