

# Douglas Park Public School



# Information Book

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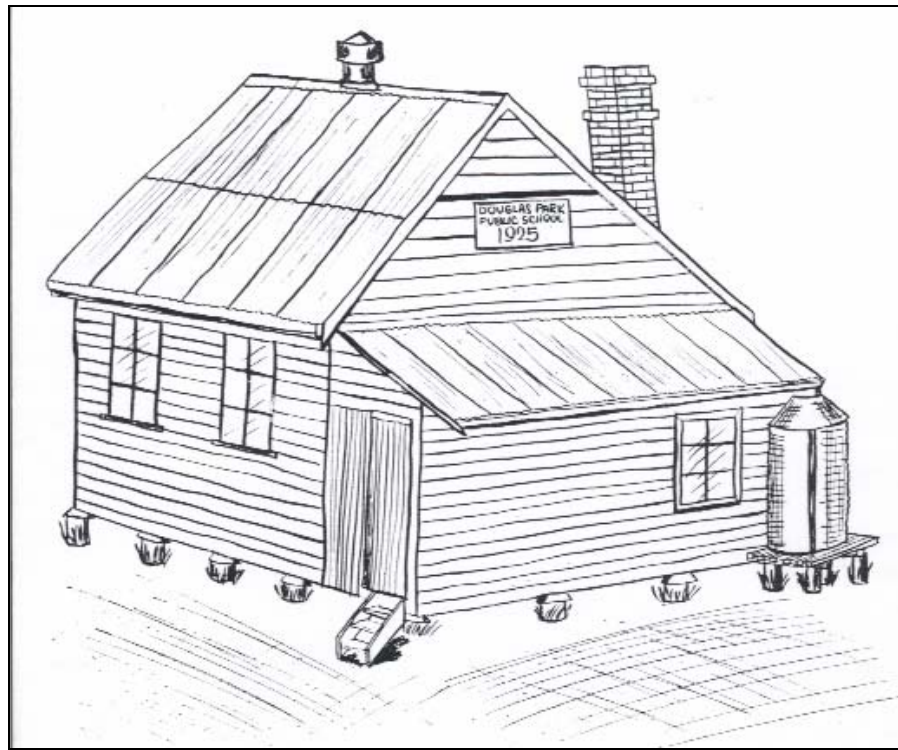
## STAFFING

<b><u>POSITION</u></b>	<b><u>NAME</u></b>
PRINCIPAL	<i>MR DAVE MARTIN</i>
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	<i>MR SCOTT GRENFELL</i>
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	<i>MISS ROBYN TOMLIN</i>
TEACHING STAFF	<i>MRS MAREA BATTYE</i>
	<i>MR RUSSELL PATERSON</i>
	<i>MRS MARGARET TILDEN</i>
	<i>MRS NARELLE MCBRIDE</i>
	<i>MRS MICHELLE MUNDAY</i>
	<i>MRS JOANNE ROCHE</i>
READING RECOVERY TEACHER	<i>MRS JOANNE ROCHE</i>
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER	<i>MRS ROBYN CLARE</i>
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	<i>MRS MARGARET PLUMMER</i>
TEACHERS AIDE	<i>MRS RHONDA SCHELL</i>
TEACHERS AIDE	<i>MRS JODIE JEDRYHOWSKI</i>
COUNSELLOR	<i>MRS SHARON LANE</i>
P & C PRESIDENT	<i>MRS JULIE SAMPHIER</i>
GENERAL ASSISTANT AND CLEANER	<i>MR CHRIS AINSCOUGH</i>

## HISTORY OF DOUGLAS PARK

Douglas Park Public School was established in 1883 and located on Spaniards Hill almost 2 kms from the present site. The current site was occupied in 1923. The wooden buildings, still in use, were the first buildings on site. The village and the school are named after Dr H.G. Douglass an early resident of the area. A cartographer's error resulted in Douglass being spelt with one "s".

### THE ORIGINAL WOODEN BUILDING



## THE SCHOOL BADGE

The school badge is based upon three pioneering families.

The shape - a Spaniard's Helmet.



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A school was established by the Catholic Church in 1862 and named Spaniard's Hill. In 1883 the Department of School Education acquired the school under The Public Instruction Act of 1883. Who was the Spaniard? Jean Baptiste Lehimaz de Arrietta, who arrived in Australia in 1821.

The land, presently Moreton Park, was granted to him for services to the English Government as a spy during the Peninsular War.

The bird - a Major Mitchell Cockatoo.

Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General, built Park Hall, currently St. Mary's Towers, as his main residence. He was granted that land in 1834.

The motto - Jamais arriere. is French, meaning (literally) "never behind/backward". Translation "Look to the future". It was the motto of the Douglass family.

## **THE DOUGLAS PARK SCHOOL SONG**

**We are the children of Douglas Park,  
Our school is small, but we're very smart.  
Set at the foot of the Razorback Hills,  
We learn in friendship the basic skills.  
To honour God and our flag is our rule,  
Prosper forever, Douglas Park School**

**Words and Music by Fran Carter**

### **CONTACTING THE SCHOOL**

**Please use the telephone only when necessary, i.e. emergencies, seeking teacher appointments, unforeseen changes to plans. All matters such as reasons for absences, changes in routines, new address or telephone number are to be put in writing and sent to the relevant class teacher.**

### **SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

**School Uniforms are available from the school. We have a contractor who manufactures for us. The school uniform officer is Mrs Celeste Senior. Please contact the office for her contact details.**

### **SCHOOL HOURS**

**School commences at 9.15 a.m. daily and concludes at 3.00 p.m. Children are required to be in attendance at this time. There is a recess break from 11.15 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. and a lunch break from 1.00 p.m. - 1.45 p.m. Once at school pupils are not permitted to leave the playground without permission.**

## **AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

The school sponsors and supports the provision of on-site, after school care. This is provided by "Fidgety Frogs", a local long day care centre. Quality programs are provided from 3-6 pm. Please contact the centre directly for more information on 46327090.

## **ABSENCES**

Children are required by law to attend school every day and a written explanation is necessary for every absences. Regular attendance is necessary to ensure steady progress, however, unwell children must be cared for at home. On their return to school, children must have a note explaining the reason for their absence. The Home/School Liaison Officer (HSLO) visits the school regularly to check rolls, looking for poor attendance patterns and assessing whether the school and families are complying with the law. Parents receive a "chequebook" supply of absence explanation forms which we suggest you use. Absences longer than 15 days require approval from the Principal.

## **LATE ARRIVALS**

Students arriving late to school should report to the front office and fill out a late note to explain their absence. Parents should also send a signed letter to the class teacher explaining these absences.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

The office is attended from 8.45 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. Monday to Friday for routine matters and inquiries.

## **MONEY COLLECTION**

All the school activity money is to be placed in the white mailbox at the front foyer. Money for canteen lunch days are to be placed in the black box in the front foyer.

## **P & C ASSOCIATION**

The Douglas Park P .& C. meets at the school at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday in each month. Your attendance is recommended in order to provide guidance for the educational programs for our students. The P & C organise lots of fundraising activities. Each year a Mother's Day and Father's Day stall are conducted. All money raised by the P & C is spent directly on the children and is not used for general school revenue.

## **CANTEEN**

A tuck shop operates at recess and lunch every Friday. Each Monday food is on sale at recess and every second Monday lunch is sold. Please Note: Orders for Monday lunches MUST be placed in the black box in the front foyer by Thursday of the previous week!

## **SCHOOL FUNDS**

Apart from government grants, Douglas Park Public School relies on funds from two sources - those raised by the school and those raised by the Parents and Citizens Association. Both funds are administered separately.

Funds raised by the school consist of an annual donation of \$20 per child and a series of fund raising activities conducted by the teaching staff during the year. Such activities might include tuck shop days, bike-a-thon, mufti-days and sporting events. The set amount of \$20 per child is limited to a maximum family contribution of \$40 . The money raised by the school is spent to enhance the child's educational opportunities.

## **SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**

Students line up at 9.10 a.m. each morning to enable a 9.15 a.m. start to the school day. Friday morning assembly (9.20 am) is a special time for the students as Merit Certificates are presented. Students also sing "Advance Australia Fair" and the "Douglas Park School Song". Parents are welcome to come to the school at 9.15 am for the Friday Assembly (every second week) as students are very proud to see their parents showing interest in them at school. Please join in the singing, but stand away from the class lines to avoid distraction to the students. Dates for K-6 assembly are given in the term calendar. The time of this assembly may vary.

## **CONVEYANCE SUBSIDY**

If you reside over 1.6 km from the school you may be eligible for conveyance subsidy, to drive your child to school, or a bus pass for free bus travel. Special conditions apply for students in Years K-2. Students in K-2 who live less than 1.6 km from the school are eligible for subsidy. Please call at the office for further details and an application form for conveyance subsidy and bus pass.

## **FOOD AT SCHOOL**

Please do not give too much food to your child as students often become distressed if they cannot eat all that has been packed for them. A snack for recess, packed separately from lunch, will avoid confusion at eating times. Recess is in fact only a short break from schoolwork and only a light snack or piece of fruit is required.

Douglas Park is a nut free school. Nuts or derivatives, peanut butter etc. can cause severe allergic reactions in some children. Please do not give your child these foods, especially in foods brought for special occasions (birthdays etc) where they can be shared.

## **COMMUNICATION**

A newsletter is published fortnightly and is distributed on the Thursday of the Assembly Week to the youngest student in the family. The newsletter will also be available to download from our school website at [www](http://www). Notes from the school will be sent home with the newsletter

## **INFORMATION CARD**

Parents are asked to complete an information card each year. This has telephone and contacts for each child. This card is kept in the office.

## **SCRIPTURE**

Ecumenical scripture classes are conducted on Thursday mornings. Parents who do not wish their child to attend these classes, must seek prior exemption in writing from the Principal.

## **CHANGES IN ROUTINE**

If you wish to take your child out of school, or contact him/her during the day, please contact the relevant teacher at an appropriate time to avoid unnecessary disruptions to classroom routine. Should you wish to have your child home for lunch please send a note to the teacher concerned. If you are collecting your child early please sign your child out at the school office and take notification to the class teacher. If your child is late for school please sign in at the school office.

## **FAMILY LAW AND THE SCHOOL**

Any court document needs to be sighted by the school. No restricted access can be undertaken without the legal documents. These will be photocopied, notarised and held confidentially with necessary student records.

## **TOYS AND JEWELLERY AT SCHOOL**

Anything brought to school is your child's responsibility. To avoid distress, please do not let him/her bring precious or expensive belongings to play with in the playground. If something special is brought to show classmates, it should be left in the classroom all day. It would be appreciated if girls with pierced ears wear studs or sleepers only. Drop earrings are dangerous during play.

Jewellery and ornamentation are unnecessary at school. Children are actively discouraged from wearing make-up, nail polish and wristbands etc. Iphones, mobile phones and electronic games are generally not needed or encouraged at school. If your child needs to bring one of these , please contact your child's teacher.

## **MONEY**

All money for activities and excursions organised by Douglas Park Public School are to be placed in the white mailbox in the front foyer enclosed in your child's plastic bag provided with the name of your child, their class, the activity and amount enclosed indicated on the permission slip. If possible could you please send in the correct money, as there is no change kept at the school. All money is banked every day so that no money is kept on the premises overnight.

## **MEDICATIONS**

Should your child require medication either long or short term you will need to discuss this with your child's teacher.

If your child requires short-term medication you will need to fill in a request form (see attached form). However, if possible, it would be advisable to have medication that can be administered before and after school.

If your child requires long term medication you will need to discuss their needs with Mrs Hayman. There are quite a number of forms that will need to be completed for your child to be able to be medicated.

Forms that we will require to be completed include:

- ✓ Permission by you to administer the medication
- ✓ Deed of Indemnity
- ✓ Request to the Prescribing Dr verifying the medical condition.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the class teacher or the principal regarding any concerns you have about your child's welfare so that the best possible care can be given to your child.

DOUGLAS PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL  
111 Camden Road  
DOUGLAS PARK NSW 2569  
Telephone 02-46327261 Facsimile 02-46327440

**REQUEST TO ADMINISTER SHORT TERM MEDICATION**

Dear Mr Martin

I request that Douglas Park Public School administer the prescribed medication listed below to my child during school hours.

**Student's Name:** .....

**Class:** .....

**Prescribing Doctor:** .....

**Medical Condition:** .....

**Period of Treatment:** From ..... To .....

**Name of Medication:** .....

**Dosage:** .....

**Times of Administration:** .....

**Special Instructions:** .....

**Self Administered:** YES [ ] NO [ ]

I accept and agree to observe the conditions imposed by the school and understand and agree that it is my own responsibility to inform the Principal on any changes involved the administration of the medication.

Signed: .....  
**Parent/Guardian**

Date: .....

## HEALTH

A child who is not healthy cannot concentrate on his/her work at school. If your child is unwell, please keep him/her at home until he/she is completely well enough to return to school. Remember to have your child immunised before enrolment.

### SOME COMMON CHILDHOOD DISEASES WHICH WILL KEEP STUDENTS AT HOME

<b><u>CHICKEN POX:</u></b>	Excluded for 5 days after spots appear.
<b><u>CONJUNCTIVITIS:</u></b>	Excluded until discharge from eyes has stopped.
<b><u>GERMAN MEASLES:</u></b>	Excluded for 6 days after appearance of rash.
<b><u>HEAD LICE:</u></b>	Excluded until hair is completely clear of Lice and eggs.
<b><u>HEPATITIS:</u></b>	Re-admitted to school with medical certificate.
<b><u>IMPETIGO:</u></b>	Excluded if on exposed surface such as scalp, hands, legs. May return if sores completely covered by a clean dressing.
<b><u>MEASLES:</u></b>	Excluded for 5 days after appearance of rash.
<b><u>RINGWORM:</u></b>	The sore should always be covered with a light dressing unless medical advice is to the contrary.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The purpose of Douglas Park Public School is to prepare and educate students for life.**

**To achieve this we are committed to: -**

- \* implement a challenging curriculum in the six key learning areas,**
- \* striving for excellence and high standards,**
- \* maintaining a caring environment and**
- \* establishing close links between Douglas Park Pre-School and Camden High School.**

## **GOALS**

- 1. The development of a challenging curriculum in the six key learning areas.**
- 2. To develop more effective communication with parents and the community.**
- 3. To develop research skills and provide access to up-to-date technology.**
- 4. To cater for the unique needs of the individual child whether it be to stimulate and program for talented students or to help motivate and encourage students with learning difficulties.**
- 5. To create a greater awareness and tolerance of Australia's people as a multi-cultural society.**
- 6. To establish close links with Camden High School.**
- 7. To explore all possibilities to increase sporting experiences and skills for all students.**

## WELFARE AND DISCIPLINE POLICY (EXTRACT)

### RATIONALE

At Douglas Park Public School we believe that in order to educate children for life we need to provide them with:

- \* high but realistic behavioural and academic expectations
- \* a quality education
- \* a safe, happy and caring environment free from disruptive behaviour
- \* a unified approach by parents and teachers
- \* an understanding of fairness, respect and dignity
- \* opportunities to achieve their academic, social and cultural potential through carefully assessed needs
- \* a positive example set through good role modelling from all members of the school community

### AIMS

This policy aims to :-

- \* provide clear guidelines to help solve discipline problems in the classroom and the playground i.e. code of behaviour
- \* assist children to be "friendly, courteous and kind"
- \* assist in resolving conflict in a peaceful manner,
- \* raise education standards and achievement,
- \* provide a safe, fair and caring environment for all school community members,
- \* raise the self esteem of all students,
- \* empower children with greater life skills,
- \* promote tolerance, co-operation and differences.

## OUTCOMES

- \* Students will understand acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in classroom and playground through the code of behaviour.
- \* Students will understand they are responsible for their own actions and realise the consequences of those actions.
- \* Students will better understand the issues/concepts of fairness, safety, respect, dignity and tolerance.
- \* Students will better understand their rights, responsibilities and the rights of others.
- \* Parents and teachers will have a clearer understanding of their responsibilities with regard to learning, safety, respect and resolution of conflict.
- \* Teachers will adopt a unified, consistent approach to classroom and playground discipline, rewards and sanctions.
- \* Students will contribute to the decision making of the school and their own learning.
- \* Students will be able to learn without disruption from unruly behaviour.
- \* Students will be supported through appropriate programs when needed.
- \* Students will better know and understand the school's organisation.
- \* Students will feel valued as learners.
- \* Students are able to make informed choices about their involvement at school.
- \* Students will strive for their personal best.

## School Rules

- \* **Be Kind**
- \* **Be Safe**
- \* **Be Co-operative**
- \* **Show Respect**

## THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM

The curriculum is all the learning experiences that take place under the auspices of the school.

### THE SIX KEY LEARNING AREAS

There are six key learning areas in the primary curriculum,

1. **English:**
  - ❖ Reading
  - ❖ Writing
  - ❖ Talking and Listening
  
2. **Mathematics:**
  - ❖ Number
  - ❖ Space
  - ❖ Measurement
  - ❖ Chance and Data
  
3. **Science and Technology:**
  - ❖ Science Education and
  - ❖ Technology Education
  
4. **Human Society and its Environment:**
  - ❖ Change and Continuity
  - ❖ Cultures
  - ❖ Environments
  - ❖ Social Systems
  
5. **Creative and Practical Arts:**
  - ❖ Music
  - ❖ Visual Arts
  - ❖ Drama
  
6. **Health, Physical Education and Personal Development:**
  - ❖ Health Education
  - ❖ Physical Education
  - ❖ Personal Development

## **THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM continued**

**In each K – 6 syllabus, outcomes are arranged in stages. Syllabus outcomes are statements of the knowledge, skills and understandings expected to be gained by most students by the end of a stage as a result of effective teaching and learning.**

**These stages are:**

**Early Stage 1 – Kindergarten**

**Stage 1     - Years 1 and 2**

**Stage 2     - Years 3 and 4**

**Stage 3     - Years 5 and 6**

**Although most students will achieve the outcomes of each stage in the years listed above, there are some students who have learning needs that will dictate they will be working towards outcomes at an earlier or later stage.**

**Each outcome is accompanied by a set of indicators. An indicator is a statement of the behaviour that students might display as they work towards the achievement of syllabus outcomes.**

**The curriculum documents issued in these major learning areas, by the Department of Education and Training, form the basis for the planned learning experiences and contain explicit expectations for the learning opportunities which all students in primary schools should experience.**

**It is absolutely essential that every student in every primary school in New South Wales be provided with significant opportunities for learning in all of the six major learning areas in every year as he or she progresses through the primary school. These experiences must be provided in keeping with the stage of development and potential of each individual student.**

## UNIFORM POLICY

### Rationale

The community expects that schools will insist on sensible standards of clothing, good grooming and personal cleanliness. The Department of Education and Training requires students to conform to acceptable general standards of dress including the school's particular uniform requirements. The wearing of a school uniform makes a valuable contribution towards fulfilling these expectations and requirements. In addition, school uniforms foster pride in the school, assist in the development and maintenance of tone and good conduct, and reduce to a minimum undesirable distinctions because of clothing between children in the same school. By providing identification, school uniforms also help to increase security for children travelling to and from school.

### Implementation

The Department of Education and Training supports the wearing of school uniforms. Principals will involve the school community in decisions about school uniforms. Where the school community supports the wearing of school uniform, Principals will advise parents at the time of enrolment of the requirements for school uniform. The Principal will then advise parents when their children are not abiding by these requirements.

Where a school community agrees on a school uniform and/or a general standard of dress then the Principal will be responsible to ensure that students comply with those requirements.

### General Standard of Dress

Apart from the question of school uniforms, the setting of sensible standard of dress, good grooming and personal cleanliness are especially important when students are participating in excursions or otherwise representing their school. Community expectations with regard to student dress include the need for modesty and the absence of offensive slogans or words on clothing or belongings.

It is the responsibility of the Principal of each school, in consultation with community, to determine acceptable general standards of dress and grooming and to ensure that this information is conveyed to parents and students. Parents will be made aware that failure to meet these standards will involve disciplinary action which may prevent students from participating in excursions, sports visits and other representative events.

Source - Memoranda, New South Wales Department of Education and Training

### **Standard Uniform**

**THE UNIFORM CAN BE PURCHASED BY CONTACTING MRS CELESTE SENIOR, THE SCHOOL UNIFORM OFFICER.**

**DOUGLAS PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

**Boys**

**Summer**

Grey Shorts  
White Polo shirt  
Red sloppy jo  
Grey socks  
Black Shoes  
Red Hat

**Winter**

Grey Trousers  
White Polo  
Red Sloppy jo  
Grey socks  
Red Hat  
Red Taslon Jacket  
Black Shoes

**Sports**

Red Shorts  
White Polo  
White Socks  
Joggers  
Red Sloppy jo (winter)  
Red Taslon pants (winter)

**Girls**

**Summer**

Dress-red & white check  
Shorts- red & white check  
White polo  
Red sloppy jo  
White socks  
Black shoes  
Red Hat

**Winter**

Grey Trousers/grey tunic  
White polo  
Red Sloppy jo  
White socks  
Black shoes  
Red Hat  
Red Taslon Jacket

**Sports**

Red Shorts or red Netball Skirt  
White polo  
White socks  
Joggers  
Red sloppy jo (winter)  
Red taslon pants (winter)

**Ear Rings:** Studs or sleepers only.

**Hair:** Neatly groomed so that a hat may be comfortably worn.

**Nail Polish:** Not permitted

**Rings:** Low profile signet rings only.

## **HATS POLICY**

### **Rationale**

There is sufficient medical evidence to suggest that the wearing of a hat while outdoors, will assist in the prevention of sun related skin disorders.

### **Aims**

To promote the wearing of a hat with a wide brim while outdoors.

To encourage children to be responsible for ensuring that a hat is worn while outdoors.

To include a hat as part of the school uniform.

### **Implementation**

Children wearing a hat will be permitted to play in the playground.

Children not wearing a hat will play in one of the two sheltered areas.

At recess and lunch, children not wearing a hat will sit in the breezeway.

Teachers will encourage children to wear a hat and set a positive example while outdoors.

### **Monitoring**

Teachers will monitor non-compliance of this policy.

Children who fail to observe this policy will be placed on detention.

### **School Hat**

Red Slouch Hat

## SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Teachers have the responsibility to ensure that students are supervised in such a manner that risk to the students is minimised. In order to meet this responsibility Douglas Park School has the following supervision practices:

### Playground supervision:

8:45am - 9:15am        - one teacher  
11:15am - 11:30am    - one teacher  
1:00pm - 1:15pm      - one teacher  
1:15pm - 1:45pm      - two teachers

### Note:

8:45 - 9:15am and 11:00 - 11:15am:

Ball games are limited to the use of tennis balls.

All fixed equipment is out of bounds.

1:15pm - 1:45pm - one teacher is responsible for playground supervision and one teacher supervises fixed equipment.

### Before 8:45am supervision

Students arriving before 8:45am are directed to assemble on the verandah of Room 2.

No child should arrive at school before 8.30 am.

### After School Supervision:

3:00 - 3:30pm Bus Duty

All students sit on the verandah. The teacher on bus duty may decide to allow students to play.

Any student not collected by 3:10pm is taken to the office foyer.

### FIXED PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Our school has a variety of fixed climbing equipment. Children are encouraged to use this equipment as it assists in the development of:

- \* hand/eye co-ordination
- \* strengthening and mobility
- \* self confidence

There are just a few simple rules for the students to observe.

#### 1. Equipment is out of bounds

- \* before 9.15 a.m.
- \* from 11.15 to 11.30 a.m. and
- \* after 3.00 p.m.

#### 2. A child must be able to climb onto the equipment unaided

- \* a friend cannot help by lifting and
- \* garbage bins must not be used to gain extra height

#### 3. While using the equipment students must not interfere with the free movement of other students or touch a child who is on the equipment.

## **EXCURSIONS**

Excursions are conducted by this school if -

1. they are relevant to classroom lessons, or
2. they provide a significant experience, students may not otherwise enjoy, or
3. they add to the cultural enrichment of the students or
4. they may provide a stimulus for future lessons.

When an excursion is organised cost, supervision, and safety are considered.

Wherever possible, at least one month's notice is given, prior to the excursion to assist families in meeting the necessary expense. Costs are kept to a minimum.

In the main, supervision will be provided by school staff. Should it be necessary to seek assistance from parents in this matter, a specific request will be made by the Principal. Should parents be asked to assist, the assisting parents will assume the responsibilities of a member of staff of the school. Because of this, pre-school students are of necessity, excluded. Parents will not be assigned to their child's group.

Should an excursion have any elements of danger, then parental assistance will be requested. However, the final decision of the number of parents will rest with the Principal. A ratio of 1 adult to 10 students is the usual figure.

Kindergarten students are able to travel safely with the staff of the school.

Excursions should not be regarded as a "day out" for the students. They are an integral part of the school's organisation.

All students will wear the appropriate clothing.

### **EXCEPTIONS**

If an excursion requires clothing other than the above, teachers will advise parents of the change. Should parents at any time not wish to involve their child in an excursion then the consent note for that particular excursion should be returned with the relevant section signed.

Excursions will be cancelled if the number of participants is insufficient to defray the costs.

Should a child be unable to attend the excursion a refund of the recoverable costs will be made. That part of the cost which represent either -

- a) bus fares, or
- b) advance admission payments

cannot be refunded. These are shared equally among all participants.

Any refund would require a price increase for participants attending.

A child placed on detention during the week of an excursion that is less than 3 days will not be permitted to go. In the case of 4 & 5 day excursions, a child placed on detention in the week before the excursion will not be permitted to attend that excursion.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Where a student whose family is experiencing financial difficulty which may affect their ability to participate in a school activity which a cost involved, the school has limited funds that can be sourced to assist in cases of genuine financial difficulty. Please contact the school office to apply for this assistance. Applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

## **SPORT HOUSES**

Children are allocated to a sport house in Kindergarten. It is not usual for their house to be changed at a later date.

The names of the houses and their colours are:

Mitchell.....Yellow

Macarthur.....Green

McWilliam.....Blue

The names of the houses are derived from the names of prominent locals of the past. At athletic / swimming carnivals the students are encouraged to wear a T-shirt in the colour of their house.

## **HOME AND SCHOOL**

A child spends more time out of school than in it and so parents are their first and most important teachers. Learning begins with their earliest experiences. Listening and talking are a vital part of all learning and are the foundations for reading and writing. Your child's attitude to learning, school and other people will be formed in your home - what is valued by you will also be valued by them. There is a very strong relationship between home encouragement and school achievement, especially in reading. The co-operation of home and school working together will be of benefit to your child.

## **K-2 ACTIVITIES YOU COULD ENCOURAGE AT HOME**

1. Outdoor play - skipping, dancing, rolling, climbing, catching, throwing, jumping, hopping, etc.
2. Play with water and sand using different sized and shaped containers.
3. Modelling with play dough or plasticine.
4. Play with dress - up clothes, boxes of odds and ends - encourage them to use their imagination.
5. Drawing and painting with large crayons and brushes on large pieces of paper.
6. Cutting out and pasting.
7. Play with construction toys.

## **HANDWRITING**

When writing for your child, it is most helpful if you write the same way, as he/she will be taught at school. This will avoid confusion for him/her.

All letters are shown with arrows to indicate how they are to be formed.

HANDWRITING continued...

u v w a d g q c e o  
f j s n r m h k b p l t i x z

U C G O Q J S  
B P R D I L E F H T  
A V W M N K Y X Z

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
The quick brown fox jumps over  
the lazy dog.