



AGPS Newsletter

Week 4 | Term 1

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Welcome from the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2022 school year, it has certainly been a different start. I would like to thank the school community for their understanding as we have begun the school year. We are so fortunate in our community to have people who are always doing their best to support and care for each other.

We also wish to acknowledge the parents who have made online learning possible at home; it's not an easy task, but compliments to you all for your tireless efforts.

Our students have displayed great flexibility and resilience and I'm proud that they have been able to start the year positively.

I'd like to thank our staff for their adaptability and for thoughtfully considering the needs of students to continue the learning program, regardless of whether students started off learning at home or face to face learning.

We have started the year with approximately 438 students in 17 classes across the primary school, and approximately 60 students in the Preschool. We welcome 63 brand new Reception students who started school for the first time. We also welcome our new families who have started their journey with us at Allenby Gardens Primary School. We are excited to have you with us and welcome you to our amazing school community.

Despite the different start to the year with COVID-19, staff and students have been focussing on establishing routines and structures in the classroom that will foster a challenging learning environment.

A class term overview has been sent by your child's class teacher via the Seesaw app which outlines information about what is being taught this term across, daily commitments and routines and the preferred communication method of your child's teacher/s. These updates will be provided at the start of each term.

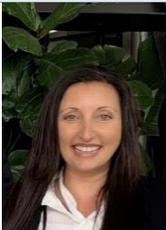
Unfortunately, due to COVID several of our school events are cancelled, one of them being Meet & Greet. Toward the end of this term (COVID pending), we will be holding Parent / Teacher Interviews, where you will be able to hear from your child's teacher about how their first term has been and how they are tracking to date. In the interim, teachers will be providing information via Seesaw regarding the start of the term and the year ahead.

I look forward to getting to know more of you,

Vicky Bitzios

Leadership Team

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the leadership team to the AGPS community.



Vicky Bitzios- Principal



El Mastrangelo-
Deputy Principal



Rita Romano-
Assistant Principal
(Early Years)



Alixe Boardman-
Assistant Principal
(Literacy)



Assistant Principal
(Wellbeing &
Special Education)

“A teacher’s influence doesn’t stay in school. It goes out into the world and cannot truly ever be measured. Every student you inspire to do something great goes on to inspire others. There is no limit to your impact.”

George Couros #BecauseofaTeacher



School Times

Yard supervision from: 8:30 am
School commences: 8:45 am
Recess: 10:35-10:55 am
Lunch: 12:45- 1:25 pm
School Dismissal for all year levels: 3:05pm

Term 1 Key Calendar Dates

We are optimistic that most things over the year will be able to go ahead. Please note that diary dates may be rescheduled or cancelled depending on the directives from our Department.

Play Group begins March 4th

Public Holiday March 14th

Pupil Free Day March 15th

Annual General Meeting/Governing Council
March 15th

Wellbeing & Harmony Week
March 21st – 25th

Swimming Week (Reception – Year 5) April 4th – 8th

Parent-teacher interviews April 4th – 8th (booking information will be sent to families)

End of Term, early dismissal
(Thursday) April 14th

Good Friday April 15th

New Staff

This year we welcome a number of new staff to our school community, Tamera Govett – Area 3 Reception (Thursday and Friday), Voula Pagonis, Greek Teacher (Term 1), Alixe Boardman, Assistant Principal Curriculum, Taylah Letheby The Arts Teacher, Simon Krieg PE Teacher and Sarah Marshall, OSHC Director.

The Gardens Café – Summer Menu Term 1 & 4

QKR app orders need to be placed by 8.30am on the day they are required. We are looking for parent or grandparent volunteers for Mondays, please contact the front office if you are interested. If you have any queries regarding lunch orders, please contact the front office on 8346 1541.

School Improvement Priorities

As a part of the school’s self-review processes staff have worked on developing a renewed 3 year site improvement plan. The purpose of the plan is to document key outcomes and actions in Writing, Reading and Mathematics that focus on strengthening student learning outcomes in these areas. Elements of the plan include:

- all children being stretched in their learning,
- every student making positive growth for each year of schooling
- capacity building of staff to provide a high quality and challenging learning program.

These improvement priorities are documented in the Site Improvement Plan which will be shared at the upcoming Governing Council/Annual General Meeting. The document will then be available on our website along with the 2021 Annual Report.

Playgroup

9.00am to 11.00am in the Preschool area. Due to COVID restrictions activities will be outdoors. Masks must be worn by adults.

For further information please contact Rachel through the Allenby Gardens Playgroup Facebook page.

COVID-19 UPDATE

In relation to the management of COVID-19, the most current advice from the Department for Education is provided below:

The following aspects can resume as of Monday 28th February 2022:

- Day excursions and incursions (held outdoors where possible)
- Playgroup (to be held outdoors)
- Interschool sporting commitments
- Choirs, band practice and instrumental lessons attended by a non-school employed music teacher.
- Community language programs i.e. Greek, Punjabi

We continue to reiterate that it's vitally important you:

- **You keep your child at home if they are:**
 - Unwell
 - Experiencing any COVID symptoms
 - Any other member of the household has COVID-19
 - They are a close contact for a person who has COVID-19 and are required to quarantine

Notify us as soon as possible if your child/ren tests positive for COVID-19.

Leadership may contact you to gather some information from you (e.g., exposure date/test/dates/onset of symptoms) to support contact tracing, with guidance from SA Health.

These COVID safety measures will continue to be in place up until end of week 8.

Governing Council AGM and Parent Involvement

The Governing Council plays an active role in developing school policies, liaising with committees and representing the views of the parent community. *We value the support of parents as partners in education.*

Governing Council will be meeting twice a term on a Tuesday evening (week 3 and week 8) for approximately 60 minutes. The meetings will include a spotlight session relating to the School Improvement Plan along with other related agenda items.

Nominate for Governing Council

I invite parents to consider nominating for membership of the Governing Council 2022/2023 using the nomination form link. [Governing Council Form](#). The nomination period is **open on Monday 28 February up to and including Friday 11 March at 9am**. Contact the front office or email dl.0473.admin@schools.sa.edu.au if you require further information.

Parents are welcome to join the following Governing Council sub-committees:

- Fundraising
- Sport
- Finance
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)

Parents will be announced at the Governing Council at the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 15th March at 6pm in the Gym.

Our Learning SA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, your child might need to learn at home. The Education Department have created lessons for the beginning of term 1, 2022. Visit the website for resources <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/our-learning-sa>



Student Leaders

Last week we began the process for Year 5 and Year 6 House Captain and School Captain. We had over 40 nominations.

Students spent some time in class discussing the process and talking about the qualities and skills that a leader needs to demonstrate and develop. They also talked about other leadership opportunities which will be made available to them as the year progresses if they choose not to nominate or are unsuccessful. The applications were due last week, and we are in the process of reading them.

The selection process this year will involve the following stages:

- A written application and interview with Principal and Deputy Principal
- A staff panel discussion, consisting of a number of teachers, including Specialist Teachers, and leaders

Once we have completed the process over the next week, we will let you know who our House Captains and School Captains will be for 2022

Yard Supervision and Road Safety

Please note that yard supervision at school begins at 8.30am when the gates open. Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) is available each morning if you are unable to supervise your child/ren prior to 8.30am. Please contact OSHC on 0423 475 593 for bookings. Yard duty teachers remain on duty, at both the front and back gates until 3.20pm. Any students who have not been collected will be brought to the office and parents will be contacted.

City of Charles Sturt are frequently driving around the area to ensure all road users are abiding by the rules to ensure that the traffic continues to flow. We thank everyone for their patience and for abiding by the road rules.

