Dear Parents,
Welcome back to school for 2017 and welcome to our first electronically delivered newsletter! Please let us know of any additional / new email addresses for school communication. Many thanks to the parents who joined us for Acquaintance Evening on Tuesday.

Welcome to New Staff & Students
We welcomed 86 new Receptions to our school this week. We also welcomed 35 students who transferred from other schools. Parents of these students will have found our Acquaintance Evening on Tuesday a useful way of gaining more information about our school. We welcome you and trust that you greatly enjoy your time at GGPS.

We have 4 new staff members starting at Golden Grove this year. We welcome:

- Nathan Fryer – Permanently appointed Middle School teacher, HB21, Year 7
- Norma Howson - Assistant Principal, 3 Year tenure
- Sophie D’Aloia - 1 year appointment, HB9, Reception
- Alexandra Habbershaw – 1 year appointment, SSO

Annual General Meeting
Our AGM will be held in Week 4, Monday 20th February. At this meeting, the 2016 Annual Report will be presented and information will be provided regarding our learning priorities for this year. The 2017 Governing Council will also be elected at this meeting. All persons who are parents of the school are eligible to nominate for election as a councillor.

Nominations for election as a councillor are to be made:

- On a nomination form (available from the school office)
- By self-nomination or through nomination by another parent
- By Friday 17th February, 2017 (returned to school office)

If the number of persons nominating for election as a councillor is the same or less than the number of vacancies to be filled by election, the Principal may declare that the vacancies have been filled by the persons nominated.

If the number of persons nominating is greater than the number of vacancies to be filled, ballot conditions will apply and voting (by ballot paper) by parents of the school will be undertaken.

Scrutineers (independent of the election) will be present at the counting of the vote. Once votes are counted, the Principal will declare the candidates elected.
### Classroom Door Opening Times

Our school day begins at 8:50am. While some teachers open their doors earlier than this, our requirement is that doors will open by 8:50am and that learning begins shortly after morning routines are taken care of.

### Like Us on Facebook!

We have implemented a number of strategies to improve our communication and late last year we launched a Facebook page. To access our information, search for Golden Grove Primary School on Facebook. Our page is the one with our logo as the Profile Picture. Once you “Like” our page, click on “Liked” on our cover page and select “Get Notifications”. This will ensure you receive our posts and all of the information we share on our page. We look forward to being able to connect more widely with our community in this way.

### Toilet Facilities

Parents wishing to use toilet facilities, including those with young children wishing to use the toilet, are asked to use the Disabled Toilets which are located at the bottom of the stairs in our main buildings (through double glass doors). Student toilets are for student use only.

### School Volunteers

Many of our parents and guardians volunteer at our school to support their child’s learning.

To make it easier for parents and guardians to volunteer their time, the Department for Education and Child Development has updated its relevant history screening policy and procedures. As a result, parents and guardians who volunteer to directly support their child will no longer require a relevant history screening.

A screening is still necessary for parents and guardians who are volunteering at school camps and sleep overs, as well as those hosting billets and homestay students.

As has always been the case, a screening is not needed to attend single events or activities at our school. These include concerts, fundraisers, swimming week or sports day.

Screenings are just one measure used to help keep children safe. Everyone who works with children play a part in child protection, including watching out for inappropriate behaviour. Volunteers will still be required to attend a volunteer training session to be fully informed of volunteer obligations with regards to “Responding to Abuse & Neglect” as volunteers are mandated notifiers. Training sessions are advertised via our Term Planner.


If you have any questions about screening or these changes, please speak with school staff.

### School Safety

With our large pedestrian population it is essential that road users and pedestrians exercise care and caution especially during peak before and after school times. We request, in particular, that all pedestrians use the two school crossings that are operated by traffic monitors each morning and afternoon.
The role of the Class Parent at Golden Grove Primary School is one that is highly valued by our school community. At the beginning of each year, classes are asked to identify 1 or 2 class parents that can liaise between home and school, particularly for those parents who find it difficult to get to school on a regular basis. There is often some ambiguity about what the role entails and the process used to identify class parents so we hope the following information will clarify this.

Class Parents are suggested to:
- Attend (or already have attended) a Volunteer training session.
- Be available to attend one Class Parent meeting per term. This will enable you to update parents in your class with any relevant information. It also means that you will be able to bring up any issues from other parents to the larger class parent body.
- Introduce yourself to the class via a letter.
- Catch up with the class teacher every few weeks to see if they need any help with anything or if they have any information that they would like you to relay to parents.
- Organise catch ups after school, in holidays and weekends to get to know each other (optional).
- Help with class activities if possible, in negotiation with class teacher.
- Participate in Mother’s Day/Father’s Day stall. Tasks involved include setting up/dropping off box in class, wrap presents, remind parents, help on stall etc.
- Assist with the class assembly if needed and organise morning tea afterwards. This involves checking with the teacher about whether students should be involved or just parents, book staffroom with Barb/Karla, put a note out inviting parents to attend, asking them to bring a plate.
- Welcome new families to the class if they arrive through the year.
- Try to direct parent enquiries to the correct person.

If you wish to nominate for Class Parent please respond electronically; by emailing your name and the class for which you would like to be Class Parent to Barbara.Rankin10@schools.sa.edu.au

Nominations will be looked at centrally and brokered to ensure all classes have fair representation. We will notify you as soon as possible in readiness for the first Class Parent meeting in Week 3 (Wednesday 9am, 15th Feb)

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Our canteen volunteers are currently too few in number and we urgently need help. Whether you are a Parent, Grandparent, Aunt or Uncle, if you would like to offer some time to the canteen on a weekly, fortnightly or casual basis, please contact Jenny or Jacqui in the canteen – they would love to hear from you!

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Parents are asked to text the school regarding student absences providing the student’s name, homebase and reason for absence to 0416 906 270 at any time. (not just school hours). Please add this number to your phone contacts.

If a student remains absent without an explanation by 10am each day, the attendance system will activate a text message to the parent. Parents can simply reply by text or by phoning the school.

0416 906 270
Is your child taking up the Challenge in 2017??

If so, please ensure they fill in their student reading records as they read their books and get them signed off as they go. Please make sure your child hands the completed record to their teacher or the school contact person by: **Friday 8 September.**

The Challenge is to read **12 books in total.**

In:

- Reception to Year 7, **8** of these books are to be from the Challenge booklists, available on our website, and **4** of their own choice.
- Years 8 and 9, students read **4** books from the Challenge lists and **8** of their own choice.
- Years 10 to 12, students read **12** books of their own choice, and these can include prescribed texts and any other texts from their studies.

Student reading record sheets are available from your child's teacher or from the school library.

Your son/daughter can also Rate a Read, reviewing the books that they are reading and sending this in to us on the website. We award 1 winner every month with a book prize and their first name and school are entered on our website. We also have a student blog section for posting and sharing thoughts about the Challenge and the books that they are reading - encourage your children to have a go!

Enjoy the Challenge!
Yours Sincerely,
Mark Williams

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*Literacy is everyone's business*