Hello everyone and welcome to Upper Sandy Creek Primary for 2017. The staff and I are very excited about the year ahead. We hope you all had a relaxing break. There will be many great and interesting things happening and the group of students we have, will really benefit. Our staff this year includes; Deanne, who provides literacy support and teaches Art and Music. Glenda who is our classroom teacher of 5 days per fortnight and our Indonesian specialist. Noelene who is our Business Manager and works every second Tuesday.

We have two new enrolments this year and we are thrilled to have them at our school. Byron is in year 3 and Chloe is in year 4. We welcome Byron and Chloe and their families to our school community.

This term we will be travelling to Eskdale on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to participate in swimming sessions over the next 2 weeks. On these days we will leave USC at around 11.35am. Our students will have swimming sessions from 1pm-2pm. Our swimming carnival will be on Friday the 17th at Eskdale PS. This term we also have our Year 5/6 camp. The dates for the camp are 27th-30th of March, the last week of term. We will travelling to Canberra. More information will be sent home shortly. Canberra camps are always a real highlight for our students.

Our first School Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday the 21st of February. School Council Meetings typically start at 6.00pm and we aim to have the meeting for 1 hour. For our first meeting we encourage all parents to attend. Agendas will be sent home the Friday before the council meeting. Any questions regarding School Council can be made to the school.

I am really looking forward to the year, and I think we have a great bunch of students. If you have any questions, queries or would like to just drop in, our doors are always open.

Our topic this term is 'Our Nation'. Students will be learning about Australia, significant events that shaped our nation, Federation, migration and important individuals during this time.

Students will be determining 3 questions they have about our nation, and with support from the teachers, complete a major project which will be presented to parents and students at the end of term. Our students will be encouraged and supported to use their time in class to complete their projects.

In our writing sessions we will also be looking at each of our own families and researching and writing about them. Your child will, over the coming weeks be asking some question at home to help them at school with the writing tasks.

In numeracy we will focus on developing mental strategies in our students to work with numbers in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have Bob returning to teach the students guitar, ukulele and singing.
**UPPER SANDY CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**OUR SCHOOL VALUES**
- **Respect**
- **Honesty and Fairness**
- **Care and Compassion**
- **Responsibility**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME READING**

At Upper Sandy Creek we encourage our students to be active with their reading. Helping your child establish a regular routine of home reading, at a set time, with an adult has a big impact on their schooling. It not only improves their reading but gives them a huge shot of self confidence and a sense of achievement. Students come to school positive and enjoy talking with their peers and teachers about books they have just finished.

It has been proven that reading 6 to 7 nights per week with a child, improves their literacy capabilities to almost a year ahead of those who are not being read to. This is a fact.

We encourage all our parents to share time with their children to develop a love of books and reading. This is our gift as parents to our children and our responsibility to help them develop good habits with reading.

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**SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE STUDENTS OF 2017**

**Meadow** - On the holidays we went to see my baby cousin in Melbourne. We also saw my Nanny and Poppy. We also stayed for dinner one night and the next night we went out for dinner. When I came back to school I was excited to show everyone my new socks, shoes and my wobbly tooth.

**Tyler** - I got a new game on the holidays. It is called Dinoworld. I like the game. School has been great all day. I love writing and I am excited about writing and doing some maths. I like using the computer that has 2 screens, you can do 2 things at once.

**Byron** - I was pretty nervous yesterday starting at my new school. But after a while I felt comfortable. The other kids here are really kind and I like playing with them all. I am looking forward to coming to school this year.

**Angel** - We have a few new people here at school that I have made friends with. We have been doing some fun writing and maths has been pretty good too.

**Chloe** - Over the holidays my dog, Violet, had pups! She had 10 pups! We are keeping 2 and plan on selling the rest. She is a blue and white Staffy. All the pups are cute. It has been a really good start to school. I enjoyed music today and am looking forward to using the computers more.

**Lucas** - On the holidays I went to Boat Haven to visit Veronica, she is my friend. I had a sleep over in the tent and went swimming a lot! I got a new set of school shoes and I am looking forward to when swimming starts. It has been good to be back at school and I am excited about the year ahead.