

KEEPING YOU IN

the loop

20 SEP 2023



Southern
Grove
PRIMARY



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Dear parents and carers

'Every minute, of every school day counts.'

Every day that a student does not attend school can have a negative impact on their learning. To ensure every student is able to experience success with their learning, students are expected to have a regular attendance rate of 90% or more.

Since 2020 we have seen a big change in our school's regular attendance rate. Pre-Covid our regular attendance rate was 86.7% and we saw this drop as low as 52.6% in the midst of Covid. This semester our regular attendance rate is 66.1% which is below that of 'like' and 'WA Public' schools and is considerably lower than the expected 90% or above.

In our new Business Plan 2024-2027 we will be focusing on working with our families and students to increase our regular attendance rate to at least 90% or above.

We understand that absences due to illness, injury or family emergencies are unavoidable however we are requesting that families refrain from taking their children out of school for holidays or any reason, other than illness, injury, specialist appointments or emergencies, during the school term to ensure your child experiences success with their learning.

The table below sets out how much equivalent school is missed through non-attendance.

Period of Absence (Years 1-10)	Rate of Attendance	Equivalent School Missed	Educational Risk
Average of 5 Days per term	90% or above	1 Year	
1 Day Per Week	80%	2 Years	Indicated At-Risk
1.5 Days a week	70%	3 Years	Moderate Risk
2 Days Per Week	60%	4 Years	Moderate Risk
3 Days per Week	40%	6 years	Severe Risk
5 Weeks per term	50%	5 Years	Severe Risk

Every day off adds up and one family holiday during the school term, or year, can have a big impact on your child. Please support your child with their learning journey by ensuring they are at school every day!



Warm regards
Bec Burns

GALLERY IN THE GROVE

Thank you to the parents and family members who came along to this event. Ms Bird did an outstanding job of displaying pieces of your children's artwork for you to enjoy. It is fabulous to see the development in our student's artistic skills over the years. I would like to thank the students and Ms Bird for the great amount of time, effort and passion that goes into every piece of art and into creating the displays for this event.

WE SAY GOODBYE, GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of Mr Evan Willey's departure from Southern Grove at the end of this year. Since joining our school in 2019 as the foundational Physical Education teacher, Evan has been a cherished and esteemed member of our staff. His impact on our sports program has been significant, and his sport classes were always a favourite among our students. In 2021, Mr. Willey's leadership talents were acknowledged, leading him to take on the role of deputy principal, where he has excelled as a vital member of our executive team.

Evan has made the difficult decision to return to teaching Health and Physical Education in a high school setting. We express our gratitude for his dedicated work, the meaningful relationships he has forged, and the unwavering effort he has invested in every aspect of his role at Southern Grove. His absence will be felt throughout our school community, and we extend our best wishes to Evan as he embarks on his return to teaching and any future endeavours that come his way.

We will also farewell Miss Louise Rowe, Mrs Genevieve Daniels and Mrs Christine Marcelli at the end of the year. These teachers have been an integral part of the Southern Grove team and have not only imparted knowledge but have also played a crucial role in shaping the character and growth of countless students. Their contributions extend beyond the classroom, as they have actively participated in various school activities, events, and initiatives. We thank them for their tireless dedication and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

INTERSCHOOL CARNIVAL

We are extremely proud of the sportsmanship our students displayed at the Interschool Carnival this year. We received positive comments from other principals who commended our students on their good sportsmanship and behaviour.

Our students all did their personal best and at the end of the day we were in 4th position and had 6 medal winners. A big congratulations to Mr McNamara, the students and the staff who were involved in the event.

COMPASS

The Compass app is our main form of communication and is a one stop shop for all school information. It is important that you update the Compass app regularly. A reminder to do this should pop up on your phone or tablet. If you are unable to get the app or are having any issue or questions with using Compass please come along to our 'Compass Help' workshop on Thursday 23rd November from 2:15 – 2:45pm.

EMAILS

Our staff receive a substantial number of emails every day. We have an expectation that emails will be responded to by staff within 24 hours during working hours. Teaching staff and allied professionals are unable to respond to emails during their teaching time, however, will ensure they have responded within the 24-hour time frame. This may include a response such as *'Thank you for your email. I will investigate the situation and provide you with more information when I have all the details.'* An informed response should follow within the next 24-48 hours.'



CELEBRATE CONCERT

Our Christmas themed end of year concert will be held on Tuesday 5th December starting at 5:00pm and concluding by 7:15 pm. Our students will need to be in their classrooms at 4:45pm to allow us to start the concert on time. This event is one of our favourites and is a real celebration of our year. Stay tuned for more information!

IS YOUR CHILD LEAVING SOUTHERN GROVE?

If you are moving house or your child/ren are moving schools please let us know as soon as possible. To make sure we get our class structures and staffing correct we need to have precise student numbers. Please click on this link and complete the form [Changing Schools in 2024 | Southern Grove Primary](#)

BOOK FAIR

Our Book Fair starts on Friday 17 November and ends on Wednesday 22 November. This is a great opportunity to support our school by purchasing books for your children, they make excellent Christmas presents!

BOOK FRIENDS

Thank you so much to the families who have donated books for our chosen charity. These books will be given to less fortunate children who do not own or have access to any books. We will continue to collect books up until Friday 1st December for those families who would still like to donate.

REPORTS

Our teachers are very busy writing the end of year student reports. These will be emailed home on Tuesday 12 December 2023. Please remember to download these reports as you will only have access to them for 4 weeks.

OUR OVAL

As you will have noticed our school oval is in extremely poor condition with patches of grass missing and uneven ground. We are currently working with Central Office to get support in the remediation of our oval. Our big picture hope is to be able to fence our oval to prevent its use by the community over the weekends and after school. This will reduce the amount of traffic on the oval and keep it in good condition once it is restored. To remediate the grass and fence the oval will be a huge cost to the school therefore we are applying for grants to fund this project. Let's hope we can get the help we need to get our oval back into great condition!

TINKERING ITEMS

We are in desperate need of items for our tinkering investigation areas for 2024. If you have any old toasters, irons, blenders, printers (ink cartridge removed), DVD players, kettles, clocks, fans or mechanical toys please cut the cords off and bring them into the administration office.

We would also love any nails, screws, nuts and bolts, locks and keys, chains, pliers, screw drivers etc that you do not want. We go through these items at the rate of knots every term!

Coming
up-

WEEK

EVENT DATE

SIX

17th-22nd NOV: Book Fair

SEVEN

22nd NOV: Kindy Parent Session

EIGHT

28th NOV: Pre Primary Parent Session
1st DEC: Celebration Assembly

NINE

5th DEC: Celebration Concert + P&C Raffle
8th DEC: Year 6 Farewell

