



PORT WAKEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Term 2 Week 10

End of Term

Today sees the end of yet another busy and productive term. Students have worked hard with their learning and they should feel very proud of their many achievements. I would like to take this opportunity to say that Port Wakefield is very fortunate to have such supportive and caring staff and parents who are always willing to lend a hand and volunteer in any capacity. You all make a difference to the children's experiences and add to the richness of the school. Your efforts never go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do to support the learning and wellbeing of all children at Port Wakefield. It really is appreciated.

Reports

Mid-year reports were sent home yesterday giving you a snapshot of your child's progress in Terms 1 and 2. Please take the time to share the report with your child and celebrate the achievements they have made and discuss the areas that they should work on in Terms 3 and 4. If you have any concerns after reading the reports, please make an appointment with the class teacher who will be more than happy to address these concerns.

Absenteeism

The following chart highlights the impact of non-attendance over time. Viewed in this context the implications of regular absenteeism are startling. The chart shows the cumulative effect of persistent non-attendance over the period of compulsory schooling.

Days Absent	Total days missed	Number of terms missed	Number of Years missed
1 day per week	451	9	2 Years 1 Term
2 days per week	902	18	4 Years 2 Terms
5 days per term	220	5.5	1 Year 1.5 Terms
10 days per term	440	11	2 Years 3 Terms

The long term effects for students who regularly miss school include:

- Gaps in knowledge and understanding from missing basic concepts
- Loss of opportunities for play, social interaction and friendship development
- Lack of continuity resulting in feeling less secure within the school environment
- Increased likelihood of leaving school early without qualifications.

Current School Attendance Summary – Department target 95%

Reception	78% attendance
Year 1	86% attendance
Year 2	82% attendance
Year 3	92% attendance
Year 4	74% attendance
Year 5	86% attendance
Year 6	93% attendance
Whole school	84% attendance



I hope that the children enjoy having some well-earned rest, relaxation and quality family time during the holidays and I look forward to seeing everyone in term 3.

Regards,
Peter Mitchinson.



Country Fire Service Port Wakefield - Visit to PWPS

We were so lucky to have Jess, Lisa and Dee join us from the CFS in Port Wakefield on Wednesday morning, 12th June. They were so generous, spending over two hours with us explaining what being a real-life firefighter in the rural areas is all about.

They explained what the three different coloured uniforms were for. They are for bushfires, buildings and fires on people's farm or property. They let us, try on their big, heavy fire-fighting coats, and use the 'heat gun' to test for hidden 'hot spots' of heat in the surrounding area (good news, there was none!).

We also got to practice putting out a fire with the hose and climb into the truck to have a sit, and look around the back of the truck as well. It was so cool! Thank you Jess, Lisa and Dee for showing us how everything worked, and of course, Captain Warren for organizing to visit!



Parent Club News

There will be some changes to the Parent Club Lunch ordering next term. Lunch orders will be available on Weeks 3, 6 & 9. This is due to low amount of orders coming in. The current menu will not longer be used, instead it will run similar to our special lunch days like Easter, Mother's Day - etc. More information to come next term.

Thanks.... PW Parent Club.

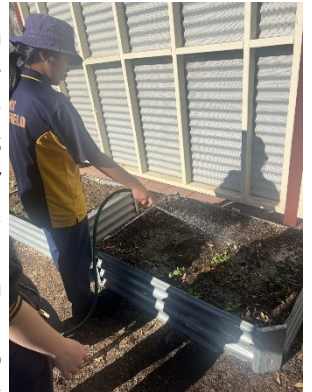
Term 3 2024 Calendar

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul	27-Jul	28-Jul
Week 1			Children's University Visit				
	29-Jul	30-Jul	31-Jul	01-Aug	02-Aug	03-Aug	04-Aug
Week 2							
	05-Aug	06-Aug	07-Aug	08-Aug	09-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug
Week 3		Parent Club Lunch Order Day—TBC	Parent Club Meeting Governing Council Meeting				
	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug	17-Aug	18-Aug
Week 4							
	19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug
Week 5							
	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	01-Sep
Week 6		Parent Club Lunch Order Day—TBC					
	02-Sep	03-Sep	04-Sep	05-Sep	06-Sep	07-Sep	08-Sep
Week 7							
	09-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep	14-Sep	15-Sep
Week 8		Parent Club Meeting Governing Council Meeting					
	16-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep	22-Sep
Week 9		Parent Club Lunch Order Day—TBC					
	23-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep
Week 10					Dismiss at 2pm		

More Gardening with Ashton – our crops are growing!



The MUPS children have been excited to learn that their crops are growing! They can't stop there though, Ashton is reminding them that they have to keep watchful, get rid of the weeds and make sure, even in winter that the vegetables have enough water and nutrients.



Ashton showed them how to test the soil to ensure the plants have enough water, he is

also getting them to measure (most weeks) and chart the growth of the veggies.



JP Gardening with Ashton (and well, everyone helped)

A few weeks' ago, it was the Junior Primary's turn to add to our garden. We have plenty veggies growing, so they planted little flowers which we are hoping will make our garden look pretty as well as be productive with yummy 'things' to eat. Everyone in the JP got a turn digging and planting, even our Kindy transition children.



PCW news from Jody & Ashton - cont.



Gawler Show Competitions are here....

Perhaps, you haven't gone to the Gawler Show before? Then you might not know that the Gawler Show is always well attended and always a highlight, is the Gawler Show Competitions, especially the kids' sections.

In recent years, the numbers of entries have been declining, so here's where **Port Wakefield Primary School children could 'seize the day' and enter to represent their school proudly!** Let's show them what PWPS kids can do (and parents, of course can keep the children 'gainfully' occupied while you do all that important 'adulting' that needs to be done during the holidays).

There are many categories to enter: **School Posters, Art, Junior Handicrafts (including needlework, 5D diamond painting, woodwork, and a special kids Lego master's section), literary (short stories and poems) and Photography as well as Produce and cookery.**

Entry form closing dates and some actual work entry dates start closing from mid-August onwards, with the final delivery of entries the Thursday afternoon and Friday night just before the **show on Saturday 24th August and Sunday 25th August.**

FAQs (I know you or the kids are going to ask).

How much is the competition entry cost?

Free for entries that go in as individual or group entries representing their school

Q. Who is going to organise these entry forms, dropping off and picking up all the stuff and getting the awards (if we win anything)?

A. I guess that will be me, Jody and Ashton, I have had years of practice facilitating show entries working at a big Gawler primary school. I know the rules and entering procedure.

If I made something for the Children's University, can I enter it in the Gawler Show Competition?

Of course, if we can find a category for it, and we always can. And I will be asking for you all to consider CU art and handiwork I have seen.

Q. If I made something for a Gawler Show Competition, can I claim Children's University hours for it?

Yep, and you will earn more CU hours if you give me an oral or written report on how you build it, and what you might do with after the show.

Where do I find out more?

Be quick, ask Jody for printed information on categories or check out for yourself (like now) at <https://gawlershow.org.au/competitions/>

A word of caution – entries must go through the school to be free, otherwise normal entry costs apply.

Well, that's it for now ☐

I am ready for a break, see you, off to Darwin....in the way, I will see what NT interesting learning destinations I can find :0

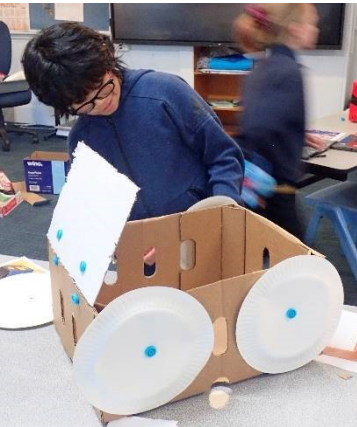
Want to contact us, use Jody's email? Jody's email: jody.byerley386@schools.sa.edu.au

Jody and Ashton Chambers Pastoral Care Worker PCW PWPS

NEW CU CLUB with Ashton

The biggest news with our new Children's University Program is that Ashton has started a **CU Club after school from 3:20 to 3:50pm on Tuesdays during the school terms 2-3**. The idea behind this is to give children a supportive time to earn CU hours and ask questions about the program. Occasionally, this will be supported by other staff, such as Jody and Mr. Mitchinson. Generally speaking, each child will earn 30 minutes for just attending, and then earn as much as 1-hour worth of time on various projects.

This week **Ashton showed the kids how to use the Make-do cardboard construction set**, the kids got 30 minutes of CU time for 'having a go' with the system, and another 30 minutes if they built something. Meantime, **Jody** showed children how to **review games for fun and suitability to age group**, and **JP children experimented with what 'floats'**, working out which objects they had in the classroom and kitchen would float in water and which would sink. Parents and caregivers are welcome to come to support your child.



Last week, the children worked on secret 'kid' experiments with bubbles and 'fireworks' in a glass, for more details you will have to ask the children or check out the CU portal online.

If your child is part of the CU and wishes to join the club, please see Ashton or Jody, or the front office for a parent consent form.

Final Tally of TERM 2 CU Hours

Term 2 CU hours finalised on
Sunday 30th June

It is exciting to see that we already have some children have started earning CU hours, a few are even close to graduating with 30 CU hours
Student Term 2 CU hours can be viewed:

On **Classroom CU Term 2 Student Total CU hours List**, which went up in JP, MUPS and in the front office on Tuesday.

FAQ's here:

Wait just a MINUTE... What does this mean for children's hours earned in week 10?

Don't stress any and all hours earned this week will be added to the term 3 hours total, as will CU hours have earned in the term 2 holidays.

A reminder about Requirements for Graduation

A reminder that participation of individual children in the Children's University (CU) program **does not guarantee that they will attend a graduation**, all Owen CU children need to **earn at least 30 hours** in the program this year to graduate and receive a graduation certificate and attend the Graduation Ceremony at Adelaide University.

Some Maths for you: There is **11 weeks left of school** until the deadline of the start of Term 4, week 1 (Tuesday 15th October because this is Jody's first day back at school for term 4). With a **consistent effort of 2-3 hours a week**, you will easily **make 30 hours for Bronze** (the first graduation level). This calculation doesn't even count the term 2 or term 3 school holidays. However, if children haven't started earning CU hours, it will get harder make 30 hours the longer earning hours is delayed. To avoid disappointment, please start earning some points on the school holidays.



This is an ideal time for CU families to get their Term 2, hours **up to date!**

Please bring in passports for stamping and make my little 'CU' stamp very happy

This is especially important if you have stamps from a Live LEARNING DESTINATION e.g. museums, which I do not know about yet.... if I don't know about it, it doesn't get counted!!

Hours for Week 10 will be added next term



TERM 2 HOLIDAYS – KIDS INFORMATION

'I'm bored, what can I do?'

You're 'messing with' poor Jody right now, aren't you!!

There's the list for Term 2 Holidays:

If you have an 'adult handy with wheels', go to a Live Learning Destination and earn CU hours

Local Live Learning Destinations are available at the following: the **Community Balaklava Library**, both **Balaklava Museum sites**, **Centenary Hall and Urlwin Park** (2nd and 4th Sunday of Each Month, 2.30pm - 4.30pm / Other times by appointment), and **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary**, at **Port Gawler** as well as a host of things to see and learn about **in Clare**.

Check out your CU Portal – use the Learning Destination drop-down for specific locations and events.

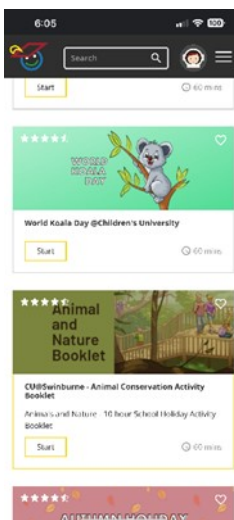
Don't have an adult handy? and now it is raining outside.... all hope is lost! Don't worry.... check out your....

CU portal – There is a host of things to *make, do and learn* about on your learning portals...watch interesting videos on Antarctic Science, platypus', crazy animal facts, answer the brief questions and collect hours whilst having fun.

But I'm not allowed to use the internet when parents are busy or internet is only on phones where we live.... also, no problem!

Jody has a full range of **already printed off** and **'ready to go'** CU portal stuff to 'pick up and go' **in the Aquarium**, (some do require internet access, but this is to briefly look at pre-selected URL addresses). However, a lot just, require, *a pen, a few coloured pencils and paper* (usually A4 or only the actual booklet itself to write on) and a good imagination (as the information you will learn from is included in the booklet).

There are booklets of **football codes, planets, gardening, past and future inventions, animals and specialized school holiday booklets** as well as instructions on kids' experiments (this is top secret...shhhhh!)





Children's University Graduation for Port Wakefield PS (Owen PS will be attending this as well).

Tuesday 5th November 2024 at **Adelaide University** meeting from **5:15pm to 7:30pm**, more details closer to the date.

Graduation gown measuring up day – likely to be early in term 3, TBA.

Term 3, week 1, Tuesday Lunchtime - Special CU Lunchtime Activity DAY – Tuesday 23rd July at 3:20pm at the **Port Wakefield PS CU Club**, **Dr. Luca** will make return visit as guest host of a surprise CU activity suitable for Receptions to Year 6s, 'set to get your heads spinning' with ideas.

Term 3 School Holidays SPECIAL EVENT

Port Wakefield PS (together with Owen PS) have been invited to a special CU activity event at The Roseworthy Campus of Adelaide University, for *a tour and a range of STEM activities* which **will earn 4 BIG CU Hours!!!**

This is being arranged for **Wednesday 2nd October**. Please keep this date booked in your diaries, more information on exact times as soon as I have them.

Educational Explorer Awards

We would like to **congratulate all our Educational Explorer Award winners, Moses, Rue, Aria, Emileigh, Archie and Oscar** who received their certificates and pins on **Tuesday**. However, if you missed out, do not despair, as **there are 4 more award pins to be handed out in week 6 of Term 3**. These are not necessarily given out to the top CU hours earners but, to those who have put in 'above and beyond' effort at the start or middle section of time into their CU journey during our first year of Children's University Participation.



Other Admin facts

Will Jody be marking CU portal work over the Term 2 holidays?

As I will be in NT outback and interstate for almost the entire term 2 school holidays, I will not be marking any CU portal work.

We have forgotten, how do we gain access to the CU portal again?

The CU portal website is <https://cuaportal.com/>

Login and password information is written on the back of the front cover of your child(ren)'s learning passport.

A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDRENS' UNIVERSITY WORK OF ALL SORTS.....and the activities available on the CU portal online.

