



Sheoak Grove Primary School Newsletter

Welcome to Sheoak Grove! We have had an awesome build up to opening, but now our first week as a completely functioning primary school is complete and we are all in to our school year we can build toward four great terms of school together. It seems a very short time ago that we set up our initial few months in T25 at Baldivis Primary School, and I am very pleased and proud to have all of our families with us.

Our students have been fantastic this week in getting to know each other and navigating their way around their new surroundings. What a wonderful foundation group of students we have! It has been a delight to see everybody finally in our school and enjoying the surrounds.

Everyone seems to be settling into Sheoak Grove well, and I am really looking forward to seeing the school culture we build develop over our first 12 months together in this wonderful environment.

This is an interim newsletter until our Connect portal is functioning. Once that is up and running all of our newsletters will be found at two locations, on Connect and our website. Our newsletters will only be accessed online. If you would like a hard copy, please make arrangements for that through our office.

Pre-opening Events

Thank you to everyone who took advantage of our Kindy Orientation Day in late January. They were great sessions that allowed our youngest students the chance to have a look at what they could expect when they started school for the very first time. Thank you to our staff who made sure the opportunity was available for our families.

We had a really successful open afternoon the day after that, with the vast majority of our families enjoying the chance to come up and have their first look through our fantastic facilities and in many cases, getting to meet each other for the first time.

Staff

I am very proud to lead our foundation staff group. Like our students, they have all come from a range of schools across our system. Their work together over our initial School Development Days was fantastic and the manner in which they have all embraced our new school has been wonderful. Each and every one of them is an outstanding professional in their own right, and together they will form a very strong foundation for our staff group to build on over the next decade or so. I want to acknowledge their hard work and thank them for ensuring a very smooth start to our school.

I particularly want to acknowledge the work of our Deputy, Mrs Donna Oliver, our Manager of Corporate Services, Mrs Mandy Martin and our Library Officer, Mrs Anne Gray for their outstanding work over the second part of 2019 in preparing for the opening of Sheoak Grove and the eventual shift to our school over January.

You can find a full list of our current staff on our website at

<https://sheoakgroveps.wa.edu.au/about/our-staff>

Enrolments

We continue to take new enrolments from within our Local Intake Area every day. Those of you who have been enrolled with us for a while will know that we set up with the lowest class sizes we could in order to accommodate growth as effectively as

possible. When our office opened again on January 22 we had 225 students, and we are now moving through the 260 mark. This accounts for more than a whole class of students.

Obviously, we cannot absorb that type of growth sustainably without creating a new class. I want to clearly indicate to you all that I expect that will happen within the first part of this term. February 21 is our 'census day' where we will have a definitive answer to the total number of students we will be funded for. This will allow us to drop our class sizes again and have room for the growth that we expect across the rest of the school year. While it will not guarantee that we will not face this situation again throughout 2020, it will help to minimise the chances of it.

When it happens, our new class will be placed in the area of the school that is most effective in helping us to manage expected future growth. Enrolments between now and February 21 will necessarily influence that decision. You can be assured however, that the composition of the new class will be clearly communicated and allow us to deliver the most effective teaching and learning program we can during 2020.

Please note that this is very unlikely to affect our Kindy and Pre-Primary classes.

Upcoming Events

Official Opening

All of our parents are invited to attend our **Official Opening on February 21, 2020**. The Hon Mark McGowan, Premier of Western Australia will open our school and

the Hon Sue Ellery, Education Minister will also be present. It will be held in our Covered Assembly building from 10:15 am until 10:45 am when the Premier and Minister will be invited to tour our school facilities. It would be wonderful to have you join us if it is possible.

Whole School Photo

You might be aware that we have postponed our first whole school photo for a few weeks until we can be sure that all of our families have had the opportunity to access our uniforms. Given the enrolment rate we are still experiencing, that has proven to be a good move! We will make the arrangements for that known in the coming fortnight. Our Kindy students who wouldn't normally be attending on the day we organise will be invited to come up to school for the photo.

Assemblies

Our whole school assemblies will be held fortnightly on even weeks of term. They will be held in our Covered Assembly Area on Friday mornings. We will wait to start these assemblies until after our Official Opening, and given the information provided above about the possibility of a new class, our first whole school assembly will be in week 6 of this term.

Connect

As you may well already know, we will be using the Connect portal to communicate with our parent community. This will begin within the next few weeks once our data base is settled. Parents will be able to log in to find all of the organisational and relevant policy statements as well as receive

important messages and information from individual classes. Please go onto our website for access to further information about Connect at <https://sheoakgroveps.wa.edu.au/parents/connect>

Our Board and P&C

I would like to again extend a great deal of gratitude and acknowledge the efforts of all of our parents who worked on our Steering Committee during the second semester of 2019. Many of those parents now form the nucleus of our School Board and our P&C and I'd like to thank each and every person who has volunteered to take on a role. You can find information about both of these groups on our website. I would encourage anyone who is interested to come along to our first P&C meeting of the year on February 17. Details about that will follow soon.

Parent Communication

Please remember that the first public source for information about our school is our website at <https://sheoakgroveps.wa.edu.au> Our blog has served its purpose and has now been disabled. Until our Connect page is up, the other source of information will be through our social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. If you have any questions though, or want information that you can't source from our webpage, the best way to contact us is to phone us on 9523 5400 or to email us at sheoakgrove.ps@education.wa.edu.au

Term Planner

Our website calendar will hold all of the information you will need for our school events, and when Connect is in play, it will also have information regarding specific

classrooms. While we will produce a term planner next week, parents should always defer to these two sites for updates and additions.

Car Parking & School Gates

We have three large car parks for parent use at the moment. Please refer to our website for parking arrangements and locations at <https://sheoakgroveps.wa.edu.au/parents/parking>

Our gates will be locked in the morning from 9 am and re-opened at 2:40 pm. Parent and visitor access to our school through the day needs to be through our administration office where each visitor will be asked to sign in and out of our school.

Contributions and Charges

Thank you to all of our families who have paid their contributions already. This contribution is very important to us, particularly in our foundation year, and helps us to fund resources that complement our learning programs. The contributions can be made in cash at our office or by direct debit into our account:

Bank:	ANZ
Account Name:	Sheoak Grove Primary School
Account Details:	BSB: 016-010 Acc No: 317335044

Please enter the family name and room number/s as a reference. Please also consider emailing us to confirm your payment at sheoakgrove.ps@education.wa.edu.au

We will soon have EFTPOS at our school office, so parents will very welcome to come in to use that facility to make the

contribution at drop off or pick up time from that point.

Our contributions are \$60 for students from Kindy to Year 6. There is also a \$10 family P&C contribution. Our schedule was distributed in term four of 2019 and will be placed on our website for reference very soon.

Out of School Hours Care

The YMCA OSHC started at Sheoak Grove this week. It will operate at our school out of Block 3. If you are interested in using this service, please check the information on our website at

<https://sheoakgroveps.wa.edu.au/parents/oshc>

It is important to note that the YMCA OHSC is not run by our school or our Department, but is a separate entity.

It's been wonderful to see you all at Sheoak Grove this week. It has been very exciting and a great relief to see everything actually happen this month.

Thank your all for your support in opening our fantastic school.

I look forward to what the next few weeks bring us!

Craig Stanners
Principal

