

NEWSLETTER

Urbenville Public School

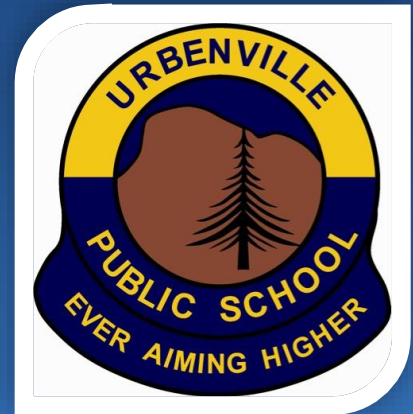
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Principal – Christopher Sifko



*The count down is on until the
Keith Urban Experience!*

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to our staff, students and learning community to what will be our most exciting and fun filled term yet for our small school. We have a number of fun and engaging activities and events planned for this term, which our students and staff have been working incredibly hard towards. Most notably, our Keith Urban Concert Experience, and believe it or not, another visit to our small school from a very special guest!

I look forward to building on the momentum from last term and keep that bar of expectation raised high for our students as we 'Ever Aim Higher' in our learning, our attitudes and our lives.

It is with great pleasure that I can now announce Miss J has been awarded the position of Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction here at Urbenville Public School. The wealth of experience in teaching, programming and leadership will continue to contribute and drive the amazing things we are doing at our small school.

Congratulations
Miss J!

Dates

TERM 4, 2022

WEEK 1

Monday 10th Oct – First day back

Wednesday 12th Oct – No canteen

WEEK 2

Tuesday 18th Oct – Breakfast Club

Wednesday 19th Oct - Canteen

Thursday 20th Oct – Breakfast Club

Friday 21st Oct – Breakfast Club

WEEK 3

Tuesday 25th Oct – Breakfast Club

Wednesday 26th Oct - Canteen

Thursday 27th Oct – Breakfast Club

Friday 28th Oct – Breakfast Club

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION – Commencing Friday Week 1

Kindy 'O' will commence as of week 1, Friday 14th October. The students and staff are extremely excited to participate in this valuable initiative and expand our growing family of little champions.



DATES	TIMES	WHAT TO BRING
Session 1 & 2 Friday 14 th October Friday 21 st October	9:00-10:15pm	✓ Fruit for fruit break ✓ Full school uniform (to be supplied)
Session 3, 4, 5 Friday 28 th October Friday 4 th November Friday 11 th November	9:00-11:20am	✓ Fruit for fruit break ✓ Food and drink for recess ✓ Full school uniform (to be supplied)
Session 6 & 7 Friday 18 th November Friday 25 th November	9:00-1:40pm	✓ Fruit for fruit break ✓ Food and drink for recess & lunch ✓ Full school uniform (to be supplied)
Session 8, 9 & 10 Friday 2 nd December Friday 9 th December Friday 16 th December	9:00-3:00pm	✓ Fruit for fruit break ✓ Food and drink for recess & lunch ✓ Full school uniform (to be supplied)

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2022 – Monday 19th December

As we near the end of the year, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and notify you of a date change for the last day of Term 4 classes. Students will now finish school on **Friday 16 December 2022**. This is due to an additional School Development Day announced for staff across NSW public schools.



School Development Days allow our staff to participate in professional learning that was put on hold due to COVID-19 staffing pressures and plan ahead for 2023 to ensure we meet the needs of our students. With this change, we ask that you arrange alternative care for your child on Monday 19 December.

KEITH URBAN CONCERT AND NOTE OF INTENT

A reminder to parents about the note that was sent home regarding the Keith Urban Experience. We are asking you to engage in an honest conversation with your child/ren regarding whether they will cope in a concert environment, and for some, spending the night away for the first time.



Our next P&C meeting is scheduled for next Thursday 20th. This will be a great forum to discuss any questions, concerns or queries parents might have. If you cannot make this meeting, please contact the school and we will endeavour to work with families to ensure no student misses out on this once in a lifetime opportunity.

BREAKFAST CLUB – Commences Week 2 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

We are pleased to recommence our Breakfast Club Wellbeing initiative on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Breakfast Club will commence at 8:20 am and conclude by 9:00 am promptly ready for lessons in the classroom.



SPECIAL GUEST ATTENDING SOON – How Exciting!

I cannot divulge too much information, nor do I want to advertise the date as I want it to be a surprise for the students, however we will be receiving a visit from a very special guest this term. I guess all that **K.U** we've been singing in class has drawn a bit of attention and our school has made a new special friend!



LIGHTS FOR LEARNING – Friday 28th October

Students in Stages 2 and 3 will have the opportunity to participate in the *Origin Energy Foundation's* Lights for Learning – Solar Buddy lights program. This year, we have invited our friends from Old Bonalbo PS over to Urbenville to engage in this exciting and meaningful program. This immersive learning experience starts with a compelling presentation, followed by the assembly of Solar Buddy lights, and finally making a connection with the recipients of the completed solar lights through writing a letter to accompany their gift. (*for more information, please see attached information sheet*) Thank you to Emma Cartwright and the team at Origin Energy for delivering this valuable learning experience.



P&C MEETING – Thursday 20th October

Our next P&C meeting will be held on **Thursday 20th October 2022**. Come along and take part in our meetings as we are always looking for fresh input on ways to help support our school and the students. All parent and community members welcome. See you there!!



CHANGES TO COVID-19 ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS IN SCHOOLS - TERM 4

I want to provide you with an update on our COVID-smart settings, particularly with the latest change to isolation requirements and what this will mean for our school. Please review the following information and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have further questions.

On 30 September, National Cabinet announced that from Friday 14 October 2022, people who test positive to COVID-19 do not need to isolate. In line with this announcement, the NSW Department of Education have worked with NSW Health to support all schools to adapt to this change while continuing to prioritise student and staff wellbeing by minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmissions.

Students and staff should continue to stay home when sick. It is expected that when isolation requirements end on Friday 14 October, those currently in isolation will be advised by NSW Health that they may exit isolation. For our students and staff who have tested positive this does not mean they should attend school on Friday. Students, staff and visitors should only attend school when they are symptom free. We strongly encourage all students, staff and visitors to follow the [guidance issued by NSW Health](#) External link. We will continue to send home students or staff displaying symptoms.

Anyone who believes they have been exposed to COVID-19 is strongly recommended to monitor for symptoms and test if they have any concerns, as well as wear a mask. We will continue to support our families to use rapid antigen tests (RATs) if symptomatic or if you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19. RAT testing may help identify the infection early and is important if you are in contact with people at greater risk of serious illness if exposed to COVID-19.

We are continuing our COVID-smart measures. Our school will continue to operate with our baseline COVID-smart measures in place throughout Term 4 to minimise transmission and keep our school open. This includes a combination of layered safety measures such as maintaining hygiene and cleaning practices, using rapid antigen testing (RAT) when experiencing symptoms, maximising natural ventilation, strongly encouraged vaccinations and strongly encouraging mask-wearing particularly when indoors and/or physical distancing is not possible.

In certain circumstances, NSW Health and the Department of Education may advise that additional COVID-smart measures be temporarily reintroduced at our school. We will provide further details of any changes to COVID-smart measures at our school, if/when required. Reporting requirements from 14 October - Please continue to notify your school if your child tests positive to COVID-19 as we will continue to notify the school community of any known positive cases to prioritise student and staff safety and wellbeing.

For further information about the COVID-smart measures in place this term refer to the department's [Advice for families](#) page. Please note that all of our school's changes to isolation requirements are based on the recommendations from NSW Health. Anyone who tests positive to COVID-19 or suspects that they have been in contact with a positive case should continue to follow the [latest health advice](#)[External link](#).

Non-COVID-19 Vaccinations reminder from NSW Health - Due to the ongoing pandemic and stay-at-home orders that were in place over the previous two years, NSW Health have noted that some children and young people have missed out on the non-COVID school-based vaccination programs that they would have taken part in. The department would like to remind parents and carers to make sure that all of their child's vaccinations are up-to-date, including other non-COVID vaccinations. If you are unsure about whether your child has missed any vaccinations, speak to your GP or go to [NSW Health's Immunisation requirements in primary and secondary schools](#)[External link](#).

Parents and carers who have children with persistent or ongoing [symptoms of COVID-19](#)[External link](#) are encouraged to have these assessed by their local health care professional. These symptoms may be related to other illnesses that require treatment and management by a doctor. For more information on vaccinations refer to [Vaccination requirements for school sites](#) or the [Australian Governments COVID-19 vaccines](#)[External link](#).

On behalf of our school, I want to thank you again for your ongoing support in helping to keep our students, staff and community safe. I'd like to wish all our students and their families a great start to Term 4.

Lights for Learning – a facilitated **STEM** education program

Designed by educators, aligned with ACARA, and mapped to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, students will learn about extreme energy poverty - experienced by 786 million people around the world. They will explore the role of renewable energy in helping to combat the four pillars of disadvantage associated with energy poverty - education, health, environment, and economics.

How does it work?

This immersive learning experience starts with a compelling presentation, followed by the assembly of SolarBuddy lights, and finally making a connection with the recipients of the completed solar lights through writing a letter to accompany their gift.

Students will be guided through this journey to global citizenship by Origin's volunteers, who will share their knowledge of renewable technologies and real-world experience of STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths), including its potential humanitarian impact. Our volunteers are Origin employees from across the business and have been trained in delivering this program

Designed for children, the assembled SolarBuddy lights are easy to operate, carry and charge. Without them, remote communities rely on dangerous and unsustainable sources of fuel like kerosene, diesel, wood or candles. The lights assembled by students at your school will help children from remote communities in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu to study safely when the sun goes down, improving their prospects of using education to break the cycle of poverty, and protecting their health.

Why is this important?

1.4 billion people globally don't have access to electricity.

Energy poverty causes catastrophic health, environmental and economic outcomes and greatly limits children's learning potential.

SolarBuddy's evaluation study shows that students are studying up to 78% longer with a solar light, their families are less dependent on toxic fuels like diesel and kerosene and are spending less on expensive lighting like candles and batteries as well as decreasing their CO2 emissions.

Australian children tell us they feel good about doing something positive for those less fortunate, at the same time developing capabilities in accordance with the Australian Curriculum:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Personal and social capability
- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding

"I feel so special that I'm in this class and able to help people overseas in Papua New Guinea who aren't as privileged as us, and I'm just so thankful I can help them today."
Heather, Year 6 - Narangba Valley Primary



How much does it cost?

The Lights for Learning program is run by Origin's philanthropic arm, the [Origin Energy Foundation](#). We've partnered with [SolarBuddy](#), an Australian-based non-profit organisation working to improve the educational opportunities of children throughout the South Pacific, South East Asia and Africa, by distributing portable solar lights. The Origin Energy Foundation will fund up to 50 lights to be assembled by students at your school, allowing up to 150 students to participate in the program free of charge. Additional lights can be purchased by your school, if required.

What does the school provide?

Volunteer presenters will need access to audio-visual equipment and preferably the Internet.

Students should have a flat surface on which to assemble the lights and write letters – preferably seated at desks or tables.

About the Origin Energy Foundation

We are a philanthropic foundation, established by Origin Energy in 2010. We believe education has the power to transform lives and improve communities.

We support education programs that help Australian children become the best that they can be. Encouraging greater diversity in 'STEM' education is one of our key focus areas.

Find out more about our work at originfoundation.org.au and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Next steps:

If you would like to arrange a Lights for Learning workshop for your school, please provide the following information to your Origin contact or directly to info@originfoundation.com.au

- School address
- School contact name and number
- 2 or 3 preferred dates, or a window of dates
- Number of students
- Year level



**Come and join our
small
school family**



ENROL NOW!