Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. We value your input and invite you to discuss any suggestions or concerns with the staff. We trust that your association with Watervale Primary School is a positive one.

*We invite you to contact our Principal, Mrs Wendy Burge for further information.*
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Watervale Primary School. The school is an integral part of our community and we are justly proud of it. We pride ourselves on the provision of quality learning opportunities for all our students in a safe, caring environment.

At Watervale Primary School we value:
- Respect
- Honesty
- Excellence and
- Joyfulness

The community is very supportive of our school and provides a network of services for our students.

This booklet provides information on a variety of topics. Please do not hesitate to raise other matters, so that they can be included in the future.

CORE BUSINESS—Teaching and learning

The core business of Watervale Primary School is to provide a supportive and challenging environment where all students can be successful.

This involves quality teaching and learning within the South Australian Curriculum, Standards and Accountability Framework (SACSA).

The SACSA Framework outlines learning outcomes for students and consists of eight areas of study:
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Design and Technology
- Society and Environment
- Health and Physical Education
- LOTE (French)
- The Arts

Essential Learnings

Our world is changing rapidly. Teachers and parents, working together in partnership, face the challenge of preparing learners to develop the personal resources and flexibility to be able to take advantage of future opportunities, possess the capabilities to apply knowledge, skills and experiences to new and different contexts and situations, and to be able to act responsibly with regard to others.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees or Material and Services Charges, are set following the Annual General Meeting of the school each year as part of the budget process. These fees are crucial in supporting the continuing high standards of the school’s curriculum. Fees also include the stationery needed by each student.

School fees are to be paid at the beginning of the year and a notice appears in the newsletter. In 2011 the school fees are $155 per student. Reception students, who begin in later terms are charged proportional fees. These can be ascertained from the School Services Officer when enrolling your child.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Government assistance for school fees is available, subject to means testing. This scheme may be better known to parents as the School Card Scheme.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school or Centrelink.

DAILY FITNESS

Research demonstrates that there is a direct link between student fitness and academic achievement.

At Watervale Primary School our students participate in a whole school Fitness program for approximately twenty minutes each day.

The varied program may include aerobic exercises called Health Hustle, games, running and walking tasks and skill development.
PHOTOGRAPHS

A photographer visits the school annually to photograph students as a class, as individuals and in family groups if requested.

Payment is required before photographs are taken should a family decide to participate. There is no obligation to buy.

Notices appear in the newsletter prior to the time. Photographs are taken at the school.

PROCEDURES FOR FIRE RISK DAYS

We strongly request that you observe the following procedures to ensure the safety of your children.

- On days of declared high fire risk, students will not be released into the care of any adult other than their parent without written or verbal approval of their parent. This is to ensure the safety of your children and your confidence in knowing where they are during high risk.

- If being taken from the school on such a day the parent or delegated adult must inform the front office of their actions.

- In the highly unlikely event that the school is evacuated, your child will be moved to the Watervale Hall under the direction of fire or police authorities. Again please do not remove your child without speaking to a staff person.

The SACSA curriculum, takes up this challenge through identifying five Essential Learnings:

- Futures,
- Identity,
- Interdependence,
- Thinking and
- Communication (including Literacy, Numeracy and Information Technologies).

These understandings, capabilities and dispositions are personal and intellectual qualities, not bodies of knowledge, and they are developed throughout an individual's life. Through developing the skills and understandings of these Essential Learnings, our students prepare to become thoughtful, active, responsive and committed local, national and global citizens.

Teaching

Staff for 2011 are:

Principal: Mrs Wendy Burge
Teachers: Mrs Beverley Venning
          Mrs Sharyn Williams
          Ms Marissa Lloyd
          Mrs Cecily Vandeleur

School Support Officers:
Ms Lisa Battams
Mrs Kathy Mitchell
Mrs Julie Kelly
Mr Terry Richards
Mr Michael Mazzone

All teachers use the SACSA framework when planning learning experiences for students. Each teacher employs a variety of teaching strategies to ensure all students have their learning needs met. In order to provide students with an even greater variety of teaching and learning approaches, staff teach in their area of expertise across all classes. Therefore all students will have time each week with every teacher in the school. The areas of expertise are Science, Music, and French/Cultural Studies.

Each Thursday morning the school runs our Stretch Program to provide extension and support activities for students in many areas of the curriculum.
**BEHAVIOUR CODE**

At Watervale Primary School, we believe that:

1. All children should feel safe, secure and happy in the school environment.
2. All children have the right to learn, feel positive about themselves and feel valued as individuals.
3. Children need the opportunity to develop responsible behaviours and experience the consequences of their decisions.

The school community has developed a clear behaviour code. At Watervale Primary School all members of the community are expected to actively support and use the processes outlined in the Behaviour Code. It is available from the Front Office.

It is the parent's role to:

- Understand and support the school’s Behaviour Code and be familiar with school rules and consequences
- Forward relevant information to the school, which will assist teachers to address children’s needs
- Be open to discussing children’s behaviour
- Attend meetings arranged with the school to negotiate specific actions/consequences for their child’s behaviour
- Encourage children to behave appropriately
- Encourage children to accept responsibility for their behaviour
- Encourage children to accept any consequence in line with the Behaviour Code

At the beginning of every year, teachers and students develop their class Code of Cooperation which outlines the guidelines for maintaining a positive learning environment.

Positive consequences for appropriate behaviour will be clearly developed.

Appropriate behaviour in the yard will be recognised with stickers presented at the end of lunch assembly. Whole school stickers will be celebrated through Fun Days.

At the conclusion of each term the Light House Award is presented to a student who has demonstrated, through their actions in both the classroom and playground during the term, the school values of respect, honesty, excellence and joyfulness.

**SPORTS DAY**

Our Combined Sports Day is held towards the end of Term 3 with the following schools: Watervale, Auburn, Farrell Flat, Robertstown and Booborowie.

The morning events are a range of sports and students are allocated to composite teams made up from students from all participating schools. Parents are reminded that the rules are modified and may appear a little different to what is expected.

During the afternoon students compete for the school in a range of events including long runs, sprints and team games. All students are expected to participate and parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from the oval. The location rotates around the school changing every second year. In 2010/11 the sports days will be hosted by Farrell Flat Primary School.

**SWIMMING**

As part of the Physical Education program, students receive swimming lessons, usually held over five days early in the first term.

The R-2 students receive ten sessions of twenty two minute instruction, plus safety activities. The Year 3-7 students receive ten sessions of forty five minute instruction.

Children are transported by bus to the Riverton pool. Parents pay for entrance to the pool. The school budgets for the cost of bus travel and in order to minimise the cost the school has two sessions on the same afternoon. Information and consent forms are usually sent home with the newsletter at the beginning of each year.

Whilst parents are very welcome to come and watch and help the younger children with their drying and dressing there is unfortunately no space on the bus and they will need to travel privately to the pool.
ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

LUNCH ORDERS
Children can have their lunch/recess supplied at school from the Watervale General Store. Lunch monitors collect the orders early in the day and deliver the food to the classrooms. Price lists are available from the Front Office and price updates are included with the newsletter. If ordering for recess, please mark the item “RECESS”.

In the winter terms students may bring food to school to be reheated in the school microwave under adult supervision. Students are not permitted to heat food on the stove or in the oven.

Students are supervised for the eating of lunch prior to playtime. Lunch that is not eaten is placed back in the child’s lunch box so that the parents are informed.

When lunch orders have been forgotten, a child will be supplied with food in a variety of ways.

If your child has any specific food allergies, please advise staff so that it can be recorded on the school records.

BOOK CLUB
Ashton Scholastic offers a ‘mail order’ type of book club. The students are given pamphlets showing the books etc on offer and they are able to order anything of their choice. Payment is made when ordering at the Front Office. The due date is shown on the pamphlets.

TIMETABLE
In order to assist students in following the routines of school life and organising themselves, the bell will ring at the following times each day.

8:50 am Lessons commence
10:40 am Recess commences
11:00 am Lessons commence
12:30 pm Lunch commences: eating time
12:40 pm Play begins
1:15 pm First bell—Clean up, toilet and drink
1:20 pm Second bell—Assemble as whole school
3:30 pm School ends
On the last day of each term school dismisses at 2:30 pm

Students are supervised at the school from 8.30 am. If you need to bring your child to school prior to this time you must make arrangements with staff to ensure their safety.

Please collect your children promptly after school. If you will be late, notify the school on 88430186 so that your child is informed and distress minimised.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES
On occasions students and parents have issues that cause concern. It is important that these concerns are raised with the class teacher or principal to ensure a positive outcome.

Watervale Primary School has a grievance process that is outlined in the Behaviour Policy:

Please make an appointment with the person concerned. It is to the benefit of all concerned if an indication of the purpose of the meeting can be provided. This allows background information of details to be gathered and assists to make the meeting more effective.
COMMUNICATION

Communication is fundamental to our ability to care effectively for your child.

Some examples of occasions when it is advisable to inform staff are:

- A child recovering from a temperature or sickness, in case of a relapse
- A child who hurts themselves at home, so we can watch for symptoms or deterioration at school
- Any family changes: Traumas often result in changes in a child’s behaviour.

It is an essential requirement that you notify us when your child is absent from school and to provide us with a reason that will be documented in our official records. Poor attendance at school affects children’s learning and social development. Information can be shared via telephone calls, written notes or by a personal approach to a teacher. Confidentiality is assured. It is vital for us to have details of how to contact you, should an emergency or sickness arise. Up to date contact names and telephone numbers are essential. Please ensure that your family information at school is current.

School Newsletters

The school publishes and distributes a fortnightly newsletter to all parents. This year the newsletters are sent home on Wednesdays. Newsletters contain samples of children’s work, information on events, meetings and community notices. It is our major way of communicating information to all families.

Newsletters are given to the eldest child of the family at the school unless parents have requested alternative arrangements.

The school also publishes “Hello Watervale” which gives information about the school and activities to the whole community. If you would like to receive either of these publications, prior to your child beginning school, please let the Front Office staff know.

TRANSITIONS

Preschool/school Transition

Students who attend local preschools receive information about the school and have an opportunity to visit the school when there are organised visits or through an appointment with the Principal. A transition program, usually consisting of four visits, is negotiated between parents and the Reception teacher, taking into consideration each child’s needs. In order to enable smooth entry into the school and minimise disruption to the class, students usually begin at Watervale Primary at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. The minimum time for Reception is three terms and the maximum is six terms.

Primary/Secondary School Transition

Students attending the local secondary schools will commence an orientation program in the final term of the school year. This is usually done in association with students from other feeder schools. Notices for these are communicated to parents through the newsletter or a specific note home.

At the end of the year, all students leaving the school for their secondary education have a graduation dinner or similar special event.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

The weekly school assemblies are run entirely by the senior students and are a celebration of students’ learning and achievements. In 2011 the school assemblies are held each Thursday afternoon at 3:00 pm in the Resource Centre. All parents and friends are welcome to attend.

A special assembly is also held at 2:00 pm on the last day of each term.
SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Children are coming to school to work and play. Therefore they need to be dressed in clothing which is easy to take on and off, allows for ease of movement, and is comfortable, hardwearing and washable. We strongly encourage students to dress in the school colours.

This school supports parents by offering school uniform items in the school colours of red, white, grey and navy. These are offered through the newsletter, usually about once a term and are of good quality and reasonably priced.

Parent Body operates this service for the parents and also has stocks of some items on hand, including school bags with the school logo. Parent Body also has a selection of good quality second hand clothing for sale.

So that belongings can be identified easily, we ask parents to clearly name their child’s property, including cups, hats and drink containers.

Watervale Primary School has a Sun Safe policy. This means that all children must wear a hat of appropriate style, either broad-brimmed or bucket hat, when they are outside at all times. Baseball caps are not appropriate. This policy applies for all terms of the year and Parent Body are able to assist with these items in the school colours.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FUN DAYS

As part of the Behaviour Code, the whole school receives a reward in the form of Fun Days. The reward is decided through the decision making processes of the SRC and is usually held locally and is either no cost or very minimal cost to parents. These are advertised to parents through the newsletter or in a specific note sent home.

SCHOOL CONCERT

At the end of the year, the students perform for the parents and community in a school concert. The concert is held locally and is followed by a shared supper. At the concert, the students in years 6/7 who are leaving the school to attend secondary school are presented with a memento by the School Council Chairperson. The leadership by our senior students is also recognised.

EXCURSIONS

Excursions are arranged by teachers to support or extend the learning program for students. Either the newsletter or a specific note home will inform you of these. Where the whole school is involved, travel is usually by bus and subsidised through our rurality funding. On occasions when only a limited number of children are involved, such as orientation programs, sporting clinics, shared programs with neighbouring schools or single class excursions, parents may be asked to provide private transport.

CAMPS

Teachers are responsible for the organisation of camps for students. Camps will be based on educational grounds and cost is kept to a minimum to encourage all students to participate. Parents are notified early to assist planning and to encourage participation. Arrangements for payments over time is also available.
PARENT PARTICIPATION

In Watervale Primary School, parents are welcome and encouraged to be involved! Teachers look for support in the classrooms to promote student learning.

In the Early Years classroom, parents are encouraged to share reading time with children between 8.50 am and 9.00 am every morning. This may take the form of hearing children read, helping them select readers or library books, playing word games, reading to them or discussing what they have read.

Parents may like to volunteer their skills to scribe stories for younger children, type stories on the computer, teach craft skills, maintain the library, talk to children about their skills, supervise cooking sessions, help with excursions or share gardening expertise. The list is endless. Please talk to the class teacher to see how you can be involved in the day to day activities.

The newsletter gives information about special events planned at the school.
Children love it when they have family support at these events.
Watch the newsletter for this information.
Some of these are
- Combined Sports Day
- Concert
- Book Week
- Elective days

The school values parent support so please volunteer wherever possible.

Parent Involvement in School Governance

Parents can contribute greatly and be actively involved in decision making through service on a range of committees.

These include
- Governing Council
  The council works with the Principal to develop policies, account for finances and represents the parent view on school management and educational matters. Members are nominated and voted onto this committee at the Annual General Meeting.

- PAWS—Parents at Watervale School
  Its role is the support of the pastoral care of our students, fundraising for the provision of resources for student learning and supporting activities that strengthen our school community. All parents are welcome to attend the meetings, usually held monthly in the afternoon at the school.

- Finance Committee
  This is a committee established by the Governing Council to develop and manage our school budget. Parents are invited to express interest in their involvement.

- Asset Management Committee
  This committee meets at least once per term. Their purpose is to maintain and improve the school grounds, support the development of information technology in our school curriculum, and make recommendations about our school website.

In addition, all parents are asked at various times to respond to surveys from the school. In order to make decisions regarding future directions, we need to have everybody’s response. These are usually attached to newsletters.

If you would like further information about parent participation, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal or staff for assistance.