

A Settled Start to the New School Year

A month into the new school year, it is very pleasing for me to report that everyone seems settled and industrious in their new classes. At the start of this year, we welcomed back many familiar faces and extended a warm welcome to new families who have joined us. As usual, there promises to be a multitude of events and activities to engage the children as we continue this term. I encourage all of them to work hard to achieve their very best in all that they do.

We appreciate that there is a lot of information going out at the same time. It's been so busy that I am only just beginning to have time to collate everything to pass on. Much of this information, along with the following 'Upcoming Events' newsletter will be displayed in shorter chunks on our blog if you prefer accessing it in this way. Either way, be sure to keep an eye on your child's class noticeboard, along with posters displayed in the walkways, to ensure you are up-to-date with the latest news and know what is coming up, week by week.

Kind regards, *Miss Sian*. (Principal) principal@provoprimary.com

We would just like to take this opportunity to say a few thank yous to our Provo Primary volunteers and supporters – youth and adults alike and update you on some playground news.

PTA News:

Nobody can do everything – but everyone can do something!

Thank you to the 20+ parents/teachers who have already put down their names to help organise our many PTA activities this year. We thank you in advance for your support.

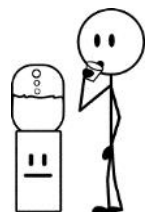
With key people now in place for most events, opportunities for others to join in with their support will present themselves when the activities come around throughout the year. Many of you have expressed that you are happy to step up when the time comes—thank you!

We are still looking for someone to take the role of President who will be responsible for overseeing the calendar of events and coordinating with the individuals/groups to ensure that things are organised and run smoothly. If planning and forward thinking are your strengths, this could be the role for you!

There are some Class Reps still outstanding so please see the sign up sheet outside your classroom next week to see if your support is needed here.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and run the PTA refreshment bar at the recent PHL Skate Night. A great start to our PTA support, showing how many hands can make light work!

Thank you PTA for our new emergency water top-up coolers. We are excited to see how these trial over the month of October and how to move forward, covering this ongoing expense.



School News:

International Coastal Clean-up Day, 2016

Over 400 bags of rubbish were collected country-wide!



20 children and adults from Provo Primary came out to support the clean-up at the Children's Park organised by DECR. A very big Provo Primary thank you to these individuals for joining in! Amy Avenant, the Environment Outreach Coordinator, from DECR has also passed on her thanks for making International Coastal Clean-up Day, 2016 a great success!

Reading/General Expectation Meetings



Thank you to everyone who attended our recent class Reading/General Expectation Meetings. We hope that these were both informative and helpful as we continue to strive to collaborate between school and home. The Year 1 Reading Meeting will take place this week – see your email inbox and Mrs. Amanda on Monday for details.

Clubs and Lunches



Our after-school club programme starts next week. Take a look at the exciting new range of [clubs](#) on offer and sign up on [IsleHelp](#).

We are pleased to announce that we will be continuing our School lunch programme with Crust Bakery. Your feedback during the trial has been much appreciated in helping us tweak the menu. Please sign up for October / the rest of the term on IsleHelp.

Playground News:

You may have noticed that a few developments in our playground enhancement project have made over the summer.

Forts, Gazebos and Imaginary Play:

Our two older forts were replaced with a large fort kindly donated by Natalie Zaidan and Ryan Jones. Funded by The PTA, the new play structure was repositioned, repaired, painted and generally spruced up by Cesar Castillo and the team at Environmental Arts.

As a bonus, we were then able to attach one of the old slides – a winning combination making it all the more exciting for the children! I am sure you will agree it looks absolutely fantastic and it is certainly a welcome upgrade to the playground. A big thank you to Natalie, Ryan, Cesar, our school maintenance team and the PTA who all collaborated on this project.

Environmental Arts also installed some artificial grass that had been donated by a client. One piece was laid in the garden gazebo area and the other in our newly replaced shaded area at the back of the Year 2 classroom. These areas now look stunning and are actively being used as a result.



Loose Parts: Progress is also underway with our 'Loose Parts' play area outside the JK Pelican room. Loose parts are easily moved materials that may be used by children while playing. They can be carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, taken apart and put back together in multiple ways.

We are currently busy collecting 'loose parts' – wood off-cuts, plumbing piping, conduit piping, cable and rope spindles, tyres etc. Jim Dunlop (Estel Plumbing) is gathering a collection of interlocking piping for us and various construction companies are passing on off-cuts and left over materials – thank you Damon Trotman (Horton Construction), Jamie Bachelder and Stephanie Gaudet (TCI Millworks), The Shore Club and Solie Williams (Provo Electric). We have a storage area set up and our water barrel that will collect and supply water for water play is up and running. Supplies will need to continue to be topped up so if you have any materials to offer or can assist with their collection and delivery, please let us know. **We are especially interested in gathering more scooter tyres and strong crates/containers for storage!**

Over the next couple of weeks, the Year 1 and 3 classes will be working together to help us develop the area and label all of the storage containers. Hopefully before mid-term, our 'Loose Parts' area should be fully up and running with the children actively able to engage in creative play.



We also still have plans for our wooden tepee, boat and our imaginary play village area to be created and to place the other slide in a new inventive way. During National Heritage Month we will be engaging in a number of playground projects which hopefully will link in with these plans and help us to bring them to reality. So there are even more exciting playground enhancements to look forward to ahead!

Soccer Netting: *Have you noticed our new soccer netting behind the goal on the field perimeter fence?* It's difficult to spot but it's really helpful in catching those 'rare' off-goal shots that previously flew into the bush. A big thank you to our parents who donated this and also to Chris Bryan and Projotech for donating time and resources for the installation of this.

Early Years Playground: In the Early Years playground, the new PTA funded trikes and Jingle Jam fort, parachute and stepping stones are a big success with our younger children!

Thank you everyone! Our Playground Enhancement Project is a wonderful reminder of how our community can come together to improve this essential and invaluable

As always, if you have any questions or queries concerning the school or your child/children, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher or contact me at school.

Miss Sian (Principal)

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Remember to keep checking our School Blog to see a glimpse of what is going on around the school.

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