

# Principal's message

The Athena School is an independent, non-religious school in the heart of Newtown in Sydney's Inner West.

Here at Athena students' interests, talents and abilities are nurtured while we educate in the Australian curriculum in a friendly, enriching environment.

The school's Mission Statement is:

*to use the art of teaching to provide a safe and inspiring environment that identifies and expands each student's talents and interests and motivates them in their pursuit of knowledge, resulting in the student's progression to independence and self-confidence.*

School life is about more than academics. Learning is about more than books and information. We take a holistic approach to learning which involves attention to the all-round development of students intellectually, physically, creatively, spiritually, emotionally, socially, communicatively and all in terms of self-discipline.

We welcome and appreciate parent involvement within the school.

It is through our Quality Assurance Department that we ensure each student is progressing towards the achievement of the school's valuable final goal for each student which is: *a happy student with the educational tools to competently pursue their goals in life*. Our alumni career paths range from teachers to tradesmen and from architects to artists.

Children are best taught in a relaxed and unhurried environment and that is what we provide here at The Athena School.

As you contemplate the education of your child, keep in mind that we at The Athena School have been providing education in Sydney for 30 years. If you have not visited us I invite you to come for a tour.

*Fiona Milne  
Principal*



# Learning at Athena

Our approach is friendly and caring and works to develop a passion for learning in the students. To achieve this, we provide smaller classes with a higher teacher/student ratio and more personalised attention.

The school's educational focus is on nurturing the student's individual talents and encouraging an enquiring mind.

Students at Athena are introduced to a simple, practical method of study from their early school years. By the time they arrive in High School they are developing the skills to independently be able to use this method of study to investigate and research any topic of interest. Furthermore, this method of study results in the students truly understanding what they have learned, so they can put their knowledge to practical use in the workaday world.

*Students at The Athena School are taught so that they can apply what they learn.*

A common problem with students throughout the world is that they cannot *apply* the information they have studied when faced with practical situations.

Students at The Athena School learn to correlate one piece of information to a totally different piece of information taught later on. The information becomes their own, rather than being something they must endure so they can pass a test.

Furthermore, with our Quality Assurance department, we can assist any students who are having difficulty and give them one-on-one assistance to help them get back up to speed. Any students who don't get 100% on their tests are likewise assisted by Quality Assurance. Here the materials they haven't fully grasped are gone over, so that they fully understand the area before they carry on with their studies.

Through this approach we have found students enjoy what they study and find it easier to study as they carry on through school and into life. After all, that is where the child must actually use the data – in *life*.



# Curriculum from Kindy to High School

The Athena School follows the guidelines set out by the Board of Studies, Teaching Educational standards for registered schools, and we incorporate the following subjects into our school curriculum:

- \* Art and Art Appreciation
- \* Computers
- \* Crafts and Manual Skills
- \* Creative Writing
- \* Drama
- \* English Language and Literature
- \* Handwriting
- \* History
- \* Manners, Morals and Ethics
- \* Mathematics
- \* Music
- \* Physical Education and Sport
- \* Reading
- \* Research and Study Skills
- \* Science and Technology
- \* Social Studies
- \* Spelling
- \* Survival Skills.

The application of the Study Technology and philosophy of renowned writer, educator and humanitarian Mr. L. Ron Hubbard, in combination with a carefully prepared individual programme, small classes, a happy and productive atmosphere and a reason to learn, is producing very pleasing results.

## Excursions

Here at Athena, we make it our passion to get out into the world and where ever possible, to see what we are learning about first hand. This brings education to life.



# Ethics and morals

Qualities such as personal integrity, responsibility and respect for self and others are necessary for a happy and worthwhile life, and therefore guidance towards these qualities is considered an important role of the school.

The non-religious moral precepts contained in Mr Hubbard's *The Way to Happiness* are used for this purpose. Included are:

- \* 'Honour and help your parents'
- \* 'Set a good example'
- \* 'Be worthy of trust'
- \* 'Respect the religious beliefs of others', and
- \* 'Try to treat others as you would want them to treat you'.

While the school is not run on authoritarian lines, positive control is used and self-discipline is fostered through the use of the precepts in *The Way to Happiness*. The school has a zero tolerance on bullying.

At Athena we strive for friendliness and approachability between parents and staff to help resolve any concerns relating to the child's progress at school.

## Community Work

Being of service to his or her community plays a big part in the upbringing of a child in today's world.

Many of Athena's students are Drug-Free Ambassadors and help in encouraging young people to lead drug-free lives.

Other organizations which are proudly supported by our students include:

- \* Youth for Human Rights
- \* Clean Up Australia Day
- \* The Cat Protection Society
- \* Harmony Day.



# What is the daily schedule at Athena?

8.15am	School gates unlocked
8.58am	Bell rings, students line up for class
9.00am	Class Roll Call
10.00am	Break for fruit/vegies and water snack only
10.15am	Class resumes
11.30am	Lunch Break—eat lunch then play
12.25pm	Bell rings, students line up for class
12.30pm	Class Roll Call
2.00pm	Afternoon Break—snack and play
2.25pm	Bell rings, students line up for class
2.30pm	Class Roll Call
3.15pm	School day ends for Primary
3.30pm	School day ends for High School
5.00pm	School gates locked for day

*Note:* Our cafeteria (we call it 'Tuck Shop') is open at lunch time, at the afternoon break and after school. Students must pay for any food they wish to have from 'Tuck Shop'.



# Term dates 2017

- TERM 1**    **RESUMES Tuesday 31st January**  
**BREAKS Friday 7th April**  
(Monday 30th January is Teachers' Curriculum Day)
- TERM 2**    **RESUMES Wednesday 26th April**  
**BREAKS Friday 30th June**  
(Monday 24th April is Teachers Curriculum Day)  
(Tuesday 25th April is ANZAC DAY)
- TERM 3**    **RESUMES Tuesday 18th July**  
**BREAKS Friday 22nd September**  
(Monday 17th July is Teachers' Curriculum Day)
- TERM 4**    **RESUMES Tuesday 10th October**  
**BREAKS Friday 15th December**  
(Monday 9th October is Teachers' Curriculum Day)

*NOTE:* Students do not attend school on Curriculum Days

# Australian Residents Fee Schedule 2017

## Application Fee

\$120 non-refundable application fee is required to process each new enrolment. This includes a personal assessment by our Quality Assurance Division.

## Enrolment Fee

\$1,000 non-refundable enrolment fee is required upon enrolment of the first child in the Athena School. The enrolment fee is a one-off payment per family.

## Fee Security Deposit

\$1,000 fee security deposit for the first child in the family and \$500 for each extra child in that family, payable upon confirmation of entry into the school at all levels. This is refundable at the request of the parent/guardian, net of any unpaid fees, only when the student leaves the school.

## Tuition Fees per term (there are four terms in a school year)

	Tuition Fees	Materials/Excursion/IT Support	Total
Primary School	\$2,430	\$300	\$2,730
High School	\$2,800	\$420	\$3,220

Please note that it is expected that High School students will bring their own device to school.

## Discounts

*Sibling Discount:* 20% discount will be given to the paying parent/guardian for the 2nd child, with 40% discount for the 3rd child. Each subsequent child will be free, if all are attending the school at the same time.

There is no discount on Materials/ Excursion Fees.

## Terms of payment

All parents/guardians are asked to read the terms and conditions of payment carefully. Should there be any confusion on the subject, please contact the Bursar or Office Manager.

*EITHER:* Total term's fees (includes Materials/Excursion Fee) payable in advance before start of term (9.00am on the first day of term), which attracts a 5% discount on the Tuition Fees.

*OR:* Two payments per term, i.e. first payment prior to start of term and second payment halfway through the term.

Any requests for different payment arrangements need to be put in writing for approval by the Executive Council of the School. Late fees are handled as per the Fees in Arrears section below.

## **Terms and Conditions of enrolment**

### *NON-ATTENDANCE*

Fees are payable for the whole term of enrolment. No deduction may be made for non-attendance, for any reason.

### *WITHDRAWAL*

Parents/guardians must give four weeks' written notice of withdrawal of a student or forfeit 4 weeks' fees in lieu.

### *FEES IN ARREARS*

Fees in arrears will immediately incur a forfeit of all discounts. A charge of \$50 per month is attached to all fees overdue (charged on the 1st day of each month).

### *Authorised by*

The Executive Council of The Athena School

### *Approved by*

The Board of Directors of The Athena School