



FALLS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

TALKABOUT

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Term 1 - Week 9

Wednesday 25 March, 2015

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Cyber Safety: I ask that all parents monitor the websites and social media sites that their children visit. During the last week it has been reported to me that inappropriate images have been posted on a student's account on kik by another student at this school. While this image has been removed I want to remind parents and students that it is an offence to post images of a sexual nature on a child's social media account.

I also want to ask that you monitor who your child speaks to on their social media accounts, such as kik. While many of these sites have safeguards to protect our privacy children are innocent and will become 'friends' with many people. Some of these 'friends' may not be who they say they are. Please talk with your children about who they are friends with and what these friends ask them to post about themselves. While posting pictures or videos of themselves may seem innocent it can lead to more.

I am arranging for the NSW Police Youth Liaison Officer to come and speak to our students as well in the near future about this so that we can reinforce the benefits and dangers of social media sites with our students.

I am also including some links to websites that you may find useful when talking to your children about the issues above. The first link is to a DEC website, school a to z:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology> . This website also has links to other articles.

The other website is cybersmart which has information for parents, children and teachers.

<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

If you want to discuss any of the above with me please call the school.

Attendance: Attached with this edition of Talkabout is a flyer about student attendance for school and your legal responsibilities in ensuring your child attends school every day. I ask that you read this carefully and notify the school of any absences for your children as soon as possible.

Lunches: Over the last week or so there have been several students in the senior class who have had no lunch or very little to eat during the day and teachers have given them their own food. Can you please make sure that your child is bringing to school the following: a piece of fruit or vegetables for crunch and sip, food for recess and food for lunch?

While we are happy to provide students with emergency sandwiches to eat we become concerned when it becomes a regular occurrence. Not eating or bringing enough food can be a symptom of poor body image and we want to counter that with encouraging students to eat healthy meals that provide them with the energy to grow and learn.

Easter Hat Parade: This will be held next Tuesday, 31 March at 9.30am. Infant students are encouraged to make and wear an Easter hat while students in Years 3 – 6 can wear crazy hair for the day. Students can wear mufti. All parents are welcome to attend.

Years 3 – 6 will also be involved in an egg decorating competition and display. All students in Years 3 – 6 are invited to decorate a hard boiled or blown egg. Certificates will be awarded for the best decorated egg in each year. Students also have to give their egg a name which must include the word egg. For example an egg's name could be Eggosaurus. I look forward to seeing some fantastic eggs with some creative decorations.

Invoices for School Contributions: You would have received in the mail an invoice for school contributions.

The cost is: single student \$25, family of two or more students \$40. There is also a \$15 workbook fee. The money goes towards the purchase of the Maths workbook used in class. It also helps us to purchase extra art and craft supplies and equipment used in the classrooms. Thank you to those parents who have already paid their contribution.

Enrolment Data and School Funding: Our RAM (Resource Allocation Model) Funding is determined by the information parents provide on their child's enrolment data. Information such as parent education and occupation as well as whether a student identifies as Aboriginal or is from a non-English speaking background all help to determine the extra funding we receive.

Our school was allocated an additional \$50, 000 in 2015 and this was based on 2014 data. The Department will be collecting information in early Term 2 to determine our funding in 2016.

Some parents have not provided the school with their education levels or occupations. To help us ensure we receive the funds that we are entitled to we have posted letters to these parents asking them to provide this information. All information provided is strictly confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than statistically for future funding for your child's education.

ANZAC Day: This year marks the centenary of the Gallipoli landing. As per usual, the school has been invited to participate in the march at Huskisson. ANZAC Day falls at the end of the first week of Term 2 (a Saturday). It would be a fitting tribute by the school to have as many students as possible marching to pay their respects. Our school leaders will be leading the students and lay a wreath on behalf of the school.

We are asked to assemble in Hawke St at 10.00am with the march starting at 10.30am followed by a service in Voyager Park at 11.00am.

High School Enrolments for 2016: Thank you for returning the expression of interest forms by last week. This is the first year where we have not had to chase forms up after the due date. Karen can now get the forms to the high schools this week.

P & C: Congratulations to the new executive of the Falls Creek Public School P&C:

President: James Duke

Vice President: Shaun Russell

Treasurer: Sandra Spencer

Secretary: Donna Wyatt

Correspondence Secretary: Bonnie Cullen

Canteen Co-ordinator: Tamie Harvie

Thank you to the outgoing executive for your work over the last 12 months. I look forward to working with the new executive throughout 2015.

Uniforms: The school has now taken over the sale of school uniforms. There will be handover from the P&C to the school and there are some things we need to put in place. The uniform will not be changing. However, as we do not have anyone to sew the girl's culottes and dresses there will be a slight change in their design. We have to talk to the supplier and are hoping to keep the same material but the design will have to be different to keep costs down.

We hope to do an order for winter uniforms at the start of next term.

If you have any questions or concerns, please come and see me.

Nicole

K/1/2 NEWS

The rain yesterday kept us inside all day and everyone was stir crazy at the end of the day!

Kinder are learning about the letters b and n this week. Year 1 and 2 are learning about the 'eg'

word family. In Maths we are learning about patterns, both with blocks/shapes and numbers. If you look closely enough, there are patterns in everything around us!

It's great to see so many home readers from most Kinders and Year 1 students being returned each day. However, the Year 2s are not changing their home readers regularly. Please check with your child that they have put their home reader in their bag each morning.

I am eagerly awaiting the great Easter Hats from K/1/2 for next week's parade!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please come and see me.

Nicole

3/4 NEWS

We have no news for 3/4 this week as Mrs Brown is not well, we wish her a speedy recovery and hopefully we will see her back at school next week.

5/6 NEWS

This week in 5/6 we have been continuing to learn about fractions and have also been revising length, in particular perimeter. We conducted a science experiment on the microorganism yeast and students recorded their observations with some interesting results. In English we are continuing to practice and conduct our speeches in preparation for a class debate. We are also learning about our second super 6 comprehension strategy of predicting. These strategies help students to connect with a text and comprehend its content.

Home readers are still being returned irregularly, notes will be going home early next week regarding readers that have not been returned for some time.

Thankyou for your support

Dion

MS CULLEN

Last week students in 5/6 had a great time creating music compositions. Each child independently wrote a small song that they will be performing on their recorders for the class tomorrow. During Visual Arts, 5/6 are studying artworks by Sidney Nolan and Julian Ashton. Year 3/4 are focusing upon the visual features of insects. K/1/2 are discussing traditional folk stories that have been told through time in families.

SPORT NEWS

Cross Country carnivals are commencing early next term, including the FISST (small schools carnival) and our own Falls Creek school carnival. Eager students have already started training which is great to see.

Shoalhaven Football School Holiday Clinic will be held 16 & 17 April at the South Nowra soccer fields. 9 am –12 noon cost for each clinic is \$70. Ages 5 –13 years.

For more information email mjonno1@bigpond.com.au

Yours in Sport, Dion Lalor

WOOLWORTHS DOMINO STARS PROMOTION

Currently Woolworths is running a promotion where you can collect 1 domino for every \$20 spent. If you shop at Woolworths and don't want the dominos could you please collect them and send in to the school.



CANTEEN ROSTER

Friday 27 March - Jason Elliott

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS Presented at assembly Thursday 19 March 2015

MERIT AWARDS

- K/1/2 Layla Ryan, Jakob Duke, Dejan Sankovic, Torlea Blume, Brayden Cullen, Liam Henkel, Casey Lalor and Liam Fisk.
- 3/4 Grace Fahey, Emily Bloxsome, Sam Ramsay and Steven Blume.
- 5/6 Corey Henkel, Tahlia Taylor-Thomas, Jye Picker and Lachlan Flear.

BRIDGE BUILDER AWARDS

- Bronze Khe-Sanh Duke, Thomas Russell, Jonas Duke, Akasha Duke, Sam Ramsay and Rhey Luke.
- Silver Aaron French, Elvis Oppong, Chrystel Buckley and Sealisha Buckley.

PLAYGROUND STARS WINNERS

Jakob Duke, Akasha Duke, Sam Ramsay, Evie Finch, Tahlia Taylor-Thomas and Chrystel Buckley.

WHAT'S ON THIS TERM

THIS WEEK (9)

☺Wednesday 25 March

Responsible Pet Program K/1/2 11:30am

WEEK (10)

☺Tuesday 31 March

Easter Hat Parade 9:30am

☺Thursday 2 April

Assembly 2:15pm

LAST DAY OF TERM 1

COMING EVENTS

☺Saturday 25 April

ANZAC Day March 10:00am

☺Tuesday 21 April

Students return to school

☺Monday 4 May

Life Education visit

P & C NEWS

EASTER RAFFLE Thank you to those people who have sent in donations for the raffle already, just remember the more donations we receive the more prizes we have! Keep your eyes out for stuffed toys, chocolate eggs, chickens etc. Please bring any donations to the office. If you need more raffle tickets please contact the office. Our Easter Hat /Crazy Hair Parade is on Tuesday 31 March.

Easter Raffle

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5



BULB FUNDRAISER If you would like to support our bulb fundraiser and grow beautiful flowers for spring, please fill out the order form and return it to school by the end of term (2 April).

COMMUNITY NEWS



Kids Korner Vacation Care

Enrolling now for the Easter Break School Holidays

7th & 17th April 2015. Find our full program on the
WEBSITE www.childcarenowra.com.au or Phone. 44 231 346

Available
from the
office



The Stewart House keyring torch is fun
and practical.

The keyring features the new Stewart House
logo and a real working
LED miniature torch.

\$3
EACH

FREE MULCH!!! If you
would like some mulch for your garden
please contact Mrs Morison in the office.

FREE KIDS DENTAL*

A \$1000 benefit for
eligible kids to use on
selected dental services
every 2 calendar years.

Contact us to check if
your child is eligible
for the Child Dental
Benefits Schedule!

PacificSmilesDENTAL

visit pacificsmilesdental.com.au to book an appointment



Department of
Primary Industries



Kids' fishing workshop



Kids 8-14 years old are invited to come and learn to fish safely and responsibly.
Instructors are experienced volunteers and staff from the Department of Primary Industries.

The day runs from 10 am-2 pm and involves fishing techniques, bag & size limits,
fish handling for catch & release.

COST: \$40 PER CHILD, and includes
rod & reel combination, shirt, hat, tackle box and show bag — all to take home!

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. Maximum 25 participants.

Locations and DATES

Greenwell Point

Tuesday 13th January 2015

Wednesday 8th April 2015

To book, ring Stephen Thurstan, Primary Industries NSW, Ph 02 4220 8484

or 0438 245 190 or e-mail stephen.thurstan@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Workshop details are on the web:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/workshop>

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 19 MARCH 2015





Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





**My child won't go to school.
What should I do?**

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/goto/school/a-z/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leaving-school/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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