

**Term 3 - Week 3****Wednesday 29 July, 2015**

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This week is **Education Week**. It is a week where we recognise and celebrate the great things our students are capable of and do at school every day of the school year. Our students are engaged in their learning in all key learning areas and subject areas. While our main focus in the classroom during the day is on literacy and numeracy to help our students acquire the skills needed for lifelong learning, we also work to nurture the creative and sporting sides of our students.

Today we are holding an Art Show between 4.00 – 6.00pm. We want to showcase the creative sides of our students and exhibit their work. All students are proud of their work and have chosen their favourite piece to display. Ms Cullen has also chosen one piece for each student to display. We hope that everyone is able to attend the show and see the great artistic talent we have here at Falls Creek Public School.

District Athletics Carnival: Good luck to our students competing in high jump today at Nowra High School. I know they will do their best and make us proud!

Next Monday all other events are being run at Albion Park. We have organised a bus to share with the other small schools. To help keep costs down the school is subsidising the cost of the bus. Students need to meet at Nowra Hill by 6.45am for the bus to leave at 7.00am. Please return both permission notes (carnival competition and bus travel note) with bus payment to school by Friday.

School Athletics Carnival: This is on this Friday at school. Let's hope the weather is kind to us!

P&C Meeting: The next meeting is tomorrow night at 6.15pm. Meetings are held in the 5/6 room and are child friendly (students are next door in 3/4). I look forward to seeing you there. I will be

Student Attendance: Attached to this edition of Talkabout is a flyer from the Department of Education explaining the importance of students attending school every day and what reasons for absence that will be accepted by the school. If you have any questions about this, please come and see me.

Nicole

K/1/2 NEWS

It was great to see so many students return their homework – 14 out of our 18 students. Well done. Maybe I will get homework from all 18 students this week.

Our learning goals this week are proving to be more challenging for everyone! Everyone has to use a mental strategy to complete an addition sentence and it's tricky!! We'll need to work hard.

We have started using the iPads in the classroom with some free apps so far for Maths, Reading and Spelling. Some students are recording their reading so that they can listen to themselves read. It is a great teaching tool – when students stop laughing at themselves! We are in the process of purchasing some more apps for students to use as well.

I am only in the class for part of today as I have a meeting to attend this afternoon but Ms Porteous will be with the students.

We can't wait to see the Art Show and hopefully we get a sneak peek this afternoon before school is finished!

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

Nicole

3/4 NEWS

Unfortunately Mrs Brown is unwell. Whilst she is recovering Ms Porteous and I have been covering the class. We all wish Mrs Brown a speedy recovering and hope to see her back ASAP.

In Maths we are learning about addition and subtraction. In English we are continuing with our Information Reports.

Health this week and are learning about having a healthy wellbeing and strategies to help us be resilient. In Maths we are learning different strategies to add fractions and students are having good success with this topic. Ask them to model to you a strategy at home.

Dion

MS CULLEN

The students have put in a great effort for the Art Show. We hope you can come along this afternoon between 4.00 – 6.00pm and enjoy some afternoon tea as well as viewing the exhibition.

SPORT NEWS

Good luck to Kameisha, Jye and Kurt who are attending the District high jump today. The carnival itself will be held Monday 3 August (week 4). This event is to be held at Albion Park. We have organised a bus with the other small schools to take us to the event. Our pick up and drop off will be Nowra Hill Public School and we will need to be there at 6:45am.

We have also entered a Touch Football Gala Day that is to be held at the St Georges Basin soccer fields on Tuesday 4 August (yes the day after the Athletics Carnival). Mixed junior and senior teams have been entered into the event with 10 students a side. Students have nominated their interest and permission notes have been sent home. This event will require parent transportation.

Our School Athletics Carnival will be this Friday starting at **10:00am**. If you are able to come along and assist please contact Mrs Morison or myself. The canteen have organised a sausage sizzle for the day.

Yours in Sport,

Dion

☺Thursday 30 July

P & C Meeting 6:15pm

☺Friday 31 July

School Athletics Carnival

WEEK (4)

☺Monday 3 August

District Athletics Carnival

☺Tuesday 4 August

Touch Football Gala Day

☺Thursday 5 August

Assembly 2:15pm

COMING EVENTS

☺Monday 10 August

Year 3-4 Excursion to Bundanon

☺Wednesday 13 August

Shoalhaven Music Festival Rehearsal

☺Monday 24 August - Friday 4 September

School Swimming Scheme

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2016



If you have a child eligible to start school in 2016 could you please contact the school. If you know of any families living in our area who do not have a child currently attending Falls Creek School but are wishing to enrol in 2016 could you please ask them to contact the school.



HEAD LICE ALERT!!

We have been notified that several cases of head lice have been detected among our students.

Please check your children's hair daily and treat immediately if nits are seen. If everyone is vigilant in checking and treating their children's hair daily it will help stop reinfestation. According

do not have to place an order for these. Snacks will still be available.



Unfortunately we have lost a couple of our volunteers due to other commitments. If you (mum, dad, brother, sister, nana, pa or friend) are able to give 4 hours of your time, once a month it would greatly assist in keeping the canteen open twice a week. Please contact the office if you are able to help.

Tamie

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Presented at assembly Thursday 23 July 2015

MERIT AWARDS

K/1/2 Lani Attard, Torlea Blume, Thomas Russell and Liam Fisk.
3/4 Kiara Skinner, Grace Fahey, Ty Fahey and Steven Blume.
5/6 Jayden Lalor, Elvis Oppong, Corey Henkel.

BRIDGE BUILDER AWARDS

Gold Aaron French

QUIET ACHIEVERS

K/1/2 Dejan Sankovic and Blake McDonald.
3/4 Kaleb Flear and Chrystel Buckley
5/6 Aaron French.

PLAYGROUND STARS WINNERS

friends, adventure and sharing thoughts and our ideas together.

Throughout all of the schools that attended the day with us, boys and girls were asked to divide into four groups that were full of people you may not have met before or someone you'd like to get to know. We stayed in these groups for the whole day.

Our volunteering supervisors had set up all sorts of different incredible interactive games and activities involving lots of hard working teamwork and our ability to think together and plan strategies. The four groups we had rotated around and completed each activity and swiftly moved on to the next.

During half of the day, we all sat down and had some lunch and snacks. What was good about this is that often people would move from their own school and sit with someone different.

We voted that making new friends and the activity "Sand Sculptures" seemed to be the best part of the day and activity for the year sixers and myself.

Since only one group was doing an activity at a time, when we would get to an activity we would split into even smaller groups. Sand Sculpture groups would split into about four to five people. Everyone was willing to share and participate. We had to form a sculpture that had three or more connections using the sand, bark, sticks, rocks, leaves, anything around us.

We were sad to see the day end. I could see everyone was tired, and I'm sure everyone had a good sleep.

Olivia Mckibbin

**Mrs Robinson spotted
this special visitor to
our school this**



MASCOT DESIGN COMPETITION: Design the festival's

RIVER MASCOT

The Shoalhaven River Festival Committee is inviting adults and students in the Shoalhaven area to enter a competition to design a river mascot for the 2015 Shoalhaven River Festival.

PRIZES:
iPads have been donated by Southern Stones Bar & Rock Grill and Telstra's Business Centre Nowra for the best overall design in the following groups:
Under 12, 12-18 and over 18 years



HOW TO ENTER:

- For further information and assistance please email: shoalhavenrivermascot@gmail.com
- Final entries must be received by 30 September 2015.
- The Shoalhaven River Festival Committee will have exclusive rights to the design.

www.shoalhavenriverfestival.com.au

BUSINESS CENTRE NOWRA

Southern Stones Bar & Rockgrill

FREE EVENT

Options for People with a Disability

Local schools performing

Date: Wednesday 12th August
Time: 10am – 2pm
Venue: Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre

Information, products and services from local business

Come along to find out about the wide range of services, supports and community connections that are available in the Shoalhaven

Sample bags, lucky door prize, refreshments for sale at the Entertainment Café, plenty of parking

This is a community event where people of the Shoalhaven can find out about the variety of services available for children, teens, elderly, Aboriginal, family, mental health and wellbeing. Plus lots more!

Shoalhaven DISABILITY FORUM

Triple P
Positive Parenting Program

at Sanctuary Point Connect

FREE Positive Parenting Program Workshop for parents of children aged 0-12 years

Learn about general parenting issues, children's behaviours and how to recognise and manage situations. Enhance your skills, knowledge and confidence in

5 sessions on Tuesdays, commencing 4th August, 2015
4th August, 11th August, 18th August, 25th August, 1st September

Afternoon sessions from 1.00pm to 2.45pm
@ Sanctuary Point Youth & Community Centre
34 Paradise Beach Rd, Sanctuary Point

INCLUDES FREE CHILDCARE

Sanctuary Point connect



Keeping Kids In Mind

A Course for Parents Experiencing Conflict after Separation

Parents love their children and want the best for them. However, after separation, parenting often gets much tougher. **Keeping Kids in Mind is a 5 week course for separated parents who are experiencing on-going conflict.**

FREE WORKSHOP includes childcare for 0-5 aged children

The course is designed to:

- Assist parents to see through their children's eyes the experience of parental separation.
- Develop greater understanding about how to support children following family separation

The course covers the following topics:

- Grief and Loss after Separation
- The Hidden World of Children
- Rebuilding Resilience
- Bridging the Gap
- Looking Back and Moving Forward

Five Sessions on Wednesdays, 10.00am to 12.30pm
19th August, 26th August, 2nd September
9th September, 16th September

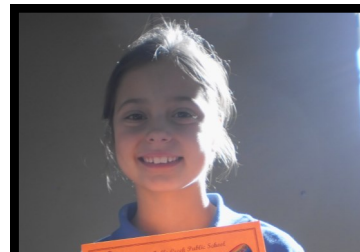
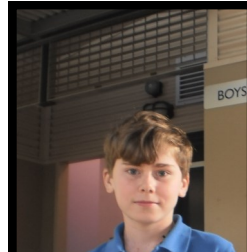
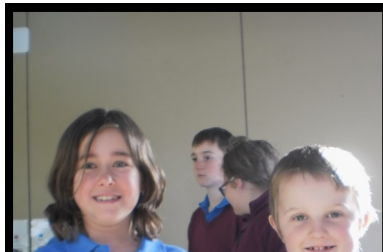
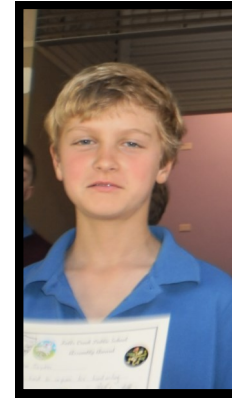
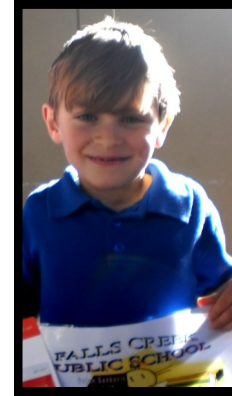
All participants must register their interest in attending the course and participate in a pre-group interview prior to the course.

Supported Playgroup

Nowra Family Support Service invites Parents, Grandparents & Caregivers with children under 5 years of age



23 July 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

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

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.





school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

**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

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

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

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/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