

FALLS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

TALKABOUT

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Term 1 - Week 7

Wednesday 14 March 2018

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

School Photos: These are on tomorrow, Thursday 15 March. Please ensure all order forms are returned in the photo envelope by tomorrow. Students are expected to wear full summer uniform.

Wi-Fi Upgrade: As part of the Connecting Country Schools Program from the Department of Education we are receiving an upgrade to our school Wi-Fi system. This includes replacing existing Wi-Fi ports and having extra ones installed. Please see the attached flyer from the Department about the benefits of the program for our school and students.

Easter Hat Parade: This will be held on Tuesday 27 March at 9.30am. Students in K-2 will make / decorate their hats at home. The pre-school students have been invited too. It will be finished by 10.30am. Parents and grandparents are invited to attend.

Attendance: I am again attaching the Department's flyer on student attendance to reinforce with you the importance of your children attending school every day. Currently, we have several students who are averaging one day off each week with no explanation from their parents for the absences. I will be contacting those parents individually to discuss how to ensure our students attend school each day. Every student absence needs to be explained, either by a written note or a phone call to school.

Under the Education Act, parents are legally obligated to send their children to school once they turn 6. As Principal, I am legally obligated to follow the Department's policies and implement procedures at school that ensure daily attendance to school of all students. I must also work with parents in ensuring students attend school each day.

Please come and speak to me if you have any questions about this.

Parking / driving on Vidler Road (repeat): I have noticed some parents performing U-turns in front of the bus at home time on several occasions over the last few weeks. This is illegal and

attracts heavy fines. We do have the council rangers and police patrol Vidler Road without notice and I would hate for parents to be fined. The U-turn bay at the southern end of Vidler Road should be used by all vehicles at all times.

Evacuation Drills: As part of our WHS practices at the school we are supposed to carry out regular evacuation and lockdown drills to prepare staff and students for an emergency. We conducted an evacuation drill last Thursday. I am pleased to report that this drill was extremely successful. Students moved safely and sensibly to the evacuation point and followed all teacher directions.

Life Education Van: Happy Harold is visiting the school on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 May. The P&C will be paying for each child to attend the van during this time. We thank the P&C for their kind donation.

Please come and see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Nicole

K/2 BLUE

Library Day: Our library day is on Monday. Please make sure your child brings in their library book (in a bag) every Monday so they can borrow a new book each week.

Maths: this week we are learning about fractions. Kinder have been learning about making equal parts when dividing shapes into 2. Year 1 are learning about halves of shapes and collections of objects while Year 2 have been doing this, as well as learning about quarters. You will be happy to know all students understand the importance of making each part equal – so they should all be able to share equally with their siblings!

Ms Humphreys

Kindy students wearing their rainbow bird masks.

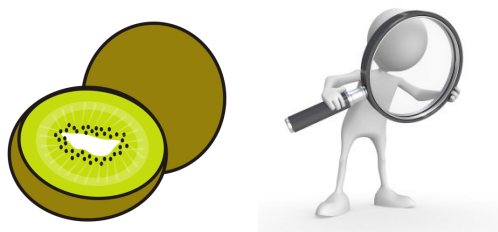


PBL Playground Stars

Playground stars are regularly handed out to students observed demonstrating our school values Safety, Trust, Achieve and Respect. These playground stars are placed within a box and then 6 names are drawn out at upcoming assemblies. Drawn students receive a canteen voucher. This week the areas of focus are assemblies and the toilets.

This week during PE, 3/6 are practicing their rugby league skills for the upcoming gala day and K/2 are studying the fundamental movement skill of skipping. During Science K/2 have been conducting experiments to observe the changes to different forms of heated and cooled foods such as popcorn, chocolate and bread. 3/6 are exploring the development of fruits and seeds, and their role in the plant life cycle.

Ms Cullen



Stewart House

Stewart House envelopes for the Stewart House Donation drive have been distributed today. If you would like to donate to a worthy cause that supports our students and families, please enclose your donation and return to the school office.

Book Club



Book Club issue 2 has been handed out today and if you would like to place an order please return to school by Monday 26 March.

SPORT

NRL

This Friday 16th March we are planning to attend the Rod Wishart and Paul McGregor Cups for grades 3/4 and 5/6 at the Bomaderry sporting complex. We will be leaving school at 9:05am for a 9:30 introduction with first games commencing at 10:00.

We still require transport for students to attend the event.

AFL

Next week on Wednesday 21st March Stage 2 students in Grades 3 and 4 have been invited to attend the AFL Auskick Gala Day. There is a \$2 cost for this event to be held at Nowra showgrounds. Please see permission notes that went home earlier in the week. We will also require parent transport to this event.

Yours in sport

Dion

3/6 PURPLE

This past fortnight in English we have been working on writing short narratives using our spelling words and modality and personal pro-nouns in grammar. In Maths we have started to explore patterns and algebra and units of measurement using rulers, trundle wheels and tape measures in the playground.



Senior students were very excited to have completed constructing a natural dwelling using sticks, bark and vines.



Education

Connecting Country Schools

WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY FOR NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introducing Connecting Country Schools

Modern teaching practices require reliable access to the internet and online learning materials. Schools need strong and extensive wireless infrastructure to support future focused learning.

Regional schools offer quality teaching and learning experiences enriched by online tools and digital resources.

The 2017/18 state budget included funding to improve wireless services and internet access in regional schools. Additional funding has also been allocated for local area network remediation and other special projects.

Connecting Country Schools will upgrade wireless services in more than 13,000 learning spaces in more than 900 regional schools.

For Students

We live in a digital age where our students need new knowledge and skills to succeed in their studies today and their lives ahead.

To hold digital-age jobs, our students will need to think critically, solve problems creatively, work in teams, communicate clearly in a range of media and continue to learn new and ever-evolving technologies.

Improved wireless and internet services will give students more chances to connect and collaborate and greater access to online knowledge databases, streaming media, educational institutions and experts.

For Teachers

Immediate and reliable access to digital resources, anywhere, anytime on mobile devices, is at the heart of flexible, responsive, future focused learning.

This access is essential to student centred pedagogical approaches such as inquiry, project and problem based learning.

Network reliant technologies such as virtual reality, robotics and artificial intelligence will soon be common in K-12 classrooms.

Together with increasing use of cloud based software and storage solutions, these new tools and new ways of teaching require new standards of wireless connectivity.

For Schools

Improved wireless services will also ensure schools can make full use of resources such as the new web-based school library system.

It will allow better support for secondary students enrolled in vocational courses at TAFE through improved access to online course materials.

Schools will also have access to new tools to monitor and manage their ICT, and analytics about the use of technology across their sites.

An innovation fund will be offered to support further investment in locally sourced solutions, and the sharing of excellence between schools across the state.

For Communities

Connecting Country Schools will also deliver a range of benefits beyond the school gate.

The Department of Education is engaging suppliers to deliver and support the program, creating jobs across the state.

Schools will be encouraged to use this core infrastructure to build a smart and connected school, as a centre for both learning excellence and community engagement.

Implementation

Pilots have been run across the state to test the new equipment, the delivery and support model for Connecting Country Schools.

The full rollout will commence in Term 1, 2018, with a plan to implement the new environment at 50 schools per month through to mid-2019.

We will liaise with schools on the delivery schedule to ensure timing suits the school's needs.

Regular updates, training, support and resources to make the best use of the new environment will also be delivered throughout the transition.



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:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

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 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Presented at assembly Wednesday 7 March 2018

MERIT AWARDS

K/2 Blue - Lexie Biggs, Abigail Findlay, Lacey Fisher, Jai Henkel, Audrey Waller and Jackson Xuereb.

3-6 Purple - Kizac Bowling, Chrystel Buckley, Vimbai Dickson, Oscar Gregg, Casey Lalor, Blake McDonald, Kiho Luke and Miah Campbell.

STAR AWARDS

Silver - Abigail Findlay

PLAYGROUND STAR AWARDS

Elira Malone, Mason McNab, Isabella Barker, Elke James, Lacey Fisher and Ryleigh Wild.



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

The Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool is a Community Based not for profit organisation operating for 41 years in the Shoalhaven area.

We provide educational programs designed for preschool children aged between 3 - 5 years, by fully qualified staff in a caring environment. Allow your child to make new friends within the local area. Subsidy available.

We operate from Falls Creek Public School Hall on Tuesdays of the school term.

PRESCHOOL HOURS: 9.00am - 3.00pm

ADDITIONAL HOURS: 8.00am - 9.00am

All enquiries please phone our office on **44230571/0432274244** or call in at our venue.