Welcome to our new P&C team
Thank you to everyone who attending last week’s P&C meeting. It was a very positive evening… and guess what? We now have a new P&C president. Congratulations Daniela Zepeda! This is such an important role and it is understandable that anyone would have reservations about taking it on. When she accepted the position, it was pleasing to see how warmly she was greeted and how quickly support was offered. I hope that the greater parent community will also ensure that she and her P&C team are given assistance as they work to improve the school and learning environment for the children.

We can now officially say a huge THANK YOU to Kate Derbidge, who has been holding the fort since last year. Kate has had such an impact on the P&C and the school during her two and a half years as P&C President and I would most sincerely like to thank her on your behalf and personally. Kate will continue to be an active member of the P&C and will provide invaluable guidance to Daniela.

More thank yous
• to all those who helped distribute the mulch around the school grounds. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Thank you for coordinating the working bee Kat Israel.
• for being more considerate and compliant in the carparks.

Parent –Teacher information evening – tomorrow
Thank you to all parents who attended last week’s parent information evenings. It is especially rewarding to the teachers to have good attendance when they go to some effort to prepare for the evening.

Tomorrow week we have information sessions for:
Year 1 & Year 2 - Wednesday 18 February at 4.30-5.15pm
Year 3 & Year 4 - Wednesday 18 February at 6.15-7.00pm

We would really prefer not to have any children at the school or in the classrooms. If you are unable to arrange an alternative, you may bring your school age children to the playground area. They should bring a game to play or something to do. However, if your child brings an electronic device to play, school staff will not take any responsibility for the appropriateness of the games accessed or for the care of the device.

Band Information Evening – tomorrow
There will be a Band Information session for parents of all band members on Wednesday evening from 5.15-6.15pm in the school hall. Please be punctual.

A new three year plan
The school is currently finalising its 2015-2017 Management Plan. It has been developed from last year’s research and data collection from students, parents and staff. The plan has three strategic directions:
• An open, visionary community culture driving quality learning
  Purpose - to increase the capacity of all stakeholders across the community to lead, manage, plan and develop effective programs that enhance student learning and well-being, and to develop greater leadership capacity for guiding and managing whole school improvement.
• Curious, successful, lifelong learners who engage with the world and its possibilities
  Purpose - to ensure all students are appropriately engaged and challenged through quality teaching designed to meet student learning needs.
• Confident, resilient, responsible citizens
  Purpose - to ensure the wellbeing of all students by creating an environment that values tolerance, collaboration, initiative, risk-taking and exploration

There is a big focus on building resilience and creativity in the students, and having relevant, effective professional learning for staff.

Staff Development Day on Saturday
The staff of NRPS will be at work on Saturday participating in a valuable professional learning workshop (in lieu of the last Friday in December). A guest presenter, Simon Brooks, will be launching a series of 4 sessions on Creative and Critical Thinking. As part of their training teachers will be implementing strategies in the classroom to encourage students to be more creative and apply a range of thinking skills.

Pedestrian Safety
Our caring and vigilant crossing lady would like everyone reminded about pedestrian safety. Lane Cove Road, Cox’s Road, school driveways and entrance to Cox’s Mall carpark are particularly busy and dangerous spots and young children should not be crossing on their own.

Hold hands with children in and around traffic, until they are at least 10 years old. If your hands are full, make sure children hold onto a shopping trolley, pram, bag, or even your arm or sleeve. Kids are always watching – they want to be just like adults – so make sure you set a good example. While walking, talk with children about why it is necessary to stop, and what you need to look and listen for. Explain where it is safer to cross and why. Remember that wherever a car may be moving can be dangerous. This includes quiet and busy streets, traffic lights, roundabouts, pedestrian crossings, footpaths, driveways, car parks and around schools.

http://www.kidsafensw.org/

One of the most important reasons for students to engage in the pedestrian safety training workshops is to ensure the wellbeing of all students by providing them with valuable practical tools to improve pedestrian safety.

Student training workshops will be launching a series of 4 sessions on Creative and Critical Thinking. As part of their training teachers will be implementing strategies in the classroom to encourage students to be more creative and apply a range of thinking skills.

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http://www.kidsafensw.org/
Coming events for Term 1

**Week 4**
- Mon 16 February: Museum meeting 5.15pm
- Wed 18 February: 4.30-5.15 Parent/Teacher evening - Year 1&2, 5.15-6.15 Band Information Meeting, 6.15-7.00 Parent/Teacher evening - Year 3&4
- Thu 19 February: Dance2BeFit – Years K-4, Whole school assembly – 2.20pm
- Sat 21 February: Council Bi-elections

**Week 5**
- Mon 23 February: Stage 3 Incursion – Tinkering with Electricity
- Thu 26 February: Dance2BeFit – Years K-6

**Week 6**
- Tue 3 March: Walk-a-thon
- Wed 4 March: Stage 3 Excursion – CARES Bike Safety
- Thu 5 March: Dance2BeFit – Years K-4, Whole school assembly – 2.20pm

**Week 7**
- Mon 9 March: Stage 2 – Schoolhouse Museum visit
- Tue 10 March: Zone Swimming Carnival, P&C meeting – 7.00pm – staffroom
- Thu 12 March: Selective High School placement test, Dance2BeFit – Years K-6

**Week 8**
- Wed 18 March: Disco K-2 5.00-6.15pm/ 3-6 6.30-8.00pm
- Thu 19 March: Dance2BeFit – Years K-4, Whole school assembly – 2.20pm
- Fri 20 March: National Day of Action – Say no to bullying

**Week 9**
- Mon 23 March: Young Leaders Day – Year 6 attend
- Wed 25 March: School Photos
- Thu 26 March: Dance2BeFit – Years K-6
- Fri 27 March: Schools Clean-up day
- Sat 28 March: State Election

**Week 10**
- Thu 2 April: Stage 3 – Schoolhouse Museum visit, Dance2BeFit – Years K-4, Whole school assembly – 2.20pm, Last day of term

P&C Committee News

**P&C Meeting Dates for 2015**
It was great to see some new faces at our first 2015 P&C meeting last week. Below are the dates for the meetings planned for this year and all parents are welcome to attend. Our meetings are held in the staffroom (Administration Block) at 7.00pm and we finish at 8.50pm. Parents are not required to stay for the whole meeting. It was great to hear Erika’s monthly report and the plans for this year.

Term 1 – 10 February, 10 March
Term 2 – 12 May, 9 June
Term 3 – 14 July, 11 August, 8 September
Term 4 – 13 October, 10 November (AGM), 1 December

NOTE: Our final meeting for the year is held a week early due to the School Presentation Day being on the second Tuesday in December.

P&C Team News

**P&C President – Daniela Zepeda**
Congratulations to Daniela Zepeda who has been nominated as President for the P&C for 2015. As most of you will know, Daniela comes with a wealth of experience organising events with a massive focus on “FUN”. We have already seen her in action at our Welcome Breakfast in Week 2 with her lovely balloon art and she has made significant contributions to our previous P&C events with face painting and jumping castles so it looks like we are in for a great year. Thank you Daniela, for volunteering your time to help the P&C and the School.

**Fundraising Co-ordinator – Rachel Devenish**
Congratulations to Rachel Devenish who has been nominated as the P&C Fundraising Co-ordinator for 2015. Rachel has just started at North Ryde Public School, so please make her welcome and see if you can assist her, as we plan for our events during the year.

**Class Parents – 2015**
Each year, the P&C and the school ask one parent to volunteer on behalf of their child’s class, to be the class parent. The class parent provides assistance to the teacher and the P&C team to distribute the occasional email or communication to all parents within the class.

As the class parent:
- You will hold the confidential contact details of the parents of your child’s class.
- All communication will be either in person, by phone or by email (BCC – blind copies would be used to ensure security of personal information.)
- You will be the contact person for the class teacher. If the teacher needs helpers or some task done, you will contact your group of parents, seeking volunteers to assist.
- You will also be the contact person for the school’s parent body, the P&C. If the P&C requires helpers or assistance for a social or fundraising event, you will be asked to email your class of parents for volunteers. For example: if the P&C needs help with events such as, the Walk-a-thon, Mother’s Day stall, Garden working bee, disco evening, etc.
- Being involved with the P&C is a great way to meet other parents and it is where some life-long friendships are formed.

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**Please Volunteer**

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**Tennis Court Hire**
The school tennis court is available for hire after school and on weekends. To make a booking, please contact Lynne-Marie Bowon on 0402 488 432
What’s in store for 2015

- **Walk-a-thon – Tuesday 3 March**
  This is our biggest fundraising event each year and our P&C will be talking tonight about what this money will go towards this year.

We always welcome parents, carers or grandparents to join us for this fun event. If you are available please feel free to come along and cheer the kids on, and lend a hand too.

We need assistance to:
- Set up the course around the school
- Stamp lap cards
- Pack up the course

Further information about the Walk-a-thon will be coming home in a couple of weeks. Thank you to Jannet Pawsey, Chaitali Desai and Amanda Moscos for co-ordinating this event.

If you are available to help out please, contact Jannet Pawsey (fundraising.nrps@gmail.com)

Last year we introduced the option of online donations and this proved to be very successful. We will therefore continue to offer this as an option this year. This means that you have the chance to email those long-distance friends and family and ask them to donate online. We hope this encourages a wider network of donors. Students will still have the opportunity to receive cash donations as well.

We will send out sponsorship forms and more information later this week, so please keep an eye out for these.

- **Disco – Wednesday 18 March**
  It is already that time again, get on those dancing shoes and practice your moves in your dance-to-b-fit classes because the NRPS disco is fast approaching. The students really enjoy this evening particularly when the teachers get down and groove along to the music too, whilst the parents enjoy a bit of social time over a simple meal near the COLA.

Aime Papadopoulos has kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the Disco for this year and she will be calling for assistance to help co-ordinate this event in the next couple of weeks.

- **Council Elections – Saturday 28 March**
  North Ryde Public School is again going to be used as a voting site for the upcoming elections. The P&C will be sending out emails shortly to ask for assistance to hold a cake stall, Craft Stall, Book Stall and perhaps also our ice-cream cart. This event will require a number of parents to offer assistance to help on the stalls during the day. More details shortly.

School Student Banking

Sumera Danish has kindly offered to continue this very important service to our students.

Sumera will be setting up in the COLA area on Monday mornings so if you have any questions about how to take part in the Student Banking Program. Please come and see Sumera.

Student Banking started this week

Uniform Shop News

Thank you to everyone who has purchased uniforms this year and for your patience while we learn the ropes. We are enjoying the role and have learnt a lot already but couldn’t have made it this far without a loyal band of volunteers. If you would like to join us in the excitement of a Uniform Shop shift, please email us at uniforms.nrps@gmail.com to let us know you are interested.

And if the thought of serving in the shop on a Friday leaves you speechless, but you still want to help and you have an hour to spare some other time in the week, we would love to have you to pack an order or sort and price our used items. It is very easy and we will show you how.

A big thank you to our volunteers last week – Kate Gillies, Tania Thomson, Sam Culham, Sam Al Jabr, Kate Derbridge, Rosemary Howells, Natalie Wren and Natasha Kruger.

Avoid the queue

It’s great to see the online orders increasing. It is the easiest way to arrange an order – just pay by EFT/direct bank transfer and we will organise the rest and email you when your order is ready to collect.

Details how are available on the price list/order form found on the school website.

Second Hand Items

We all know how fast kids grow out of their clothes! We have a range of second hand items, some of which look brand new (while others show signs of their pre-loved status). Feel free to come in on Friday morning or afternoon and see if we have something right for your child.

If you can’t get there yourself, send us an email at uniforms.nrps@gmail.com and we will check for you and let you know. Our supplies are constantly changing, so there are no guarantees but we will certainly try.

Also, if you have second hand items you would like to donate, please let us know and we will arrange a way to collect it from you. All the money goes straight back to supporting our school AND it is a great way to declutter the kids rooms!

School Newsletter Term 1 Week 4 17 February 2015

The importance of hats

Hats have been worn since at least 3200 BC, as shown in a Thebes tomb painting of a man wearing a straw hat. At the moment it feels like we have been waiting this long for the arrival of the size 53cm and 55cm hats! We hope to have some good news for you soon and we appreciate your patience.

Good news - raincoats

The small and medium raincoats are back in stock. Large sizes are still available.

Feel free to contact us at any time on uniforms.nrps@gmail.com and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Trish Cleary and Emma Underwood
Band News

Band Information Evening
There will be a Band Information Evening for parents of all band members on Wednesday evening from 5.15-6.15pm in the school hall. Please be punctual, as there is a lot of information to pass on about this year's program. The conductor Imelda Crimmins, Mrs Southam and the Band Committee will be there to answer your questions.

For those parents who can't make it, Key Music Australia has a comprehensive online portal. It is the first place to go to find out about the costs of participating in the band, how a band program works, instrument assembly and care, and other answers to your questions. Portal: http://myschoolband.com.au/

Also please read the 2015 Band Information Booklet at https://www.sites.google.com/site/nrpspc/band/band-booklet

Should you have any further questions, please email northrydepsband@gmail.com

Calling all parents of band students!
At the end of last year, all parents of 2015 band students were asked to complete a Band Parent Support Forum. If you have not returned yours to the school office, please do so, as we need your help to ensure the smooth running of band activities in 2015.

If you are a new family and the parent of a child in Year 3-6 who is joining a band this year, please ask for a form at the office.

Term 1 Band Rehearsals
- Performance Band – Mondays 8.00-9.00am
- Concert Band – Tuesdays 3.10-4.10pm
- Training Band – Tues 8.00-9.00am (starting later, when ready)

Students are expected to be in the hall by 7.50am or 3.00pm for set-up and roll call. All students must help set up the chairs and pack away afterwards. Parents are encouraged to supervise and help where possible.

Instrument Lessons
All instrument lessons commenced last Friday. We are very grateful to conductor, Imelda Crimmins, the P&C and Key Music Australia for issuing everyone’s instruments. A special thank you to Mrs Southam and Key Music Australia for creating the lessons timetable.

On Friday an Instrument Hire Agreement and a Band Code of Conduct were sent home with your child. Please complete them and return to the school office promptly.

Where do the children put their instruments?
- On band lesson days, instruments should be stored safely inside their classroom (or in the staffroom if there is a specific reason) – not outside or on verandahs.
- On tutorial day – Friday – all instruments are to be put on the long timber benches inside the hall. They will remain there all day (except lesson time) and should be collected at the end of the day. Any instruments forgotten will be moved to the office.

Sunday's Working Bee
Thank you to those people who so generously gave up their time over the weekend to work in the school gardens and improve the space for all our children. We had a small but very determined team, who worked tirelessly for hours on Sunday to spread the woodchips. We also had keen helpers come and prune and weed some of the gardens on Saturday, and I must give special thanks to Lucia and Elijah who spent several extra hours on Sunday evening after the working bee planting over 20 plants, some of which were left over from Imagination Island, and some kindly donated by Laurie Maldones.

It was especially lovely to see some of our new Kindy families at the working bee. I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to get to know others from our community.

We still have a sizeable pile of woodchips left which need to be spread. If you have a wheelbarrow, a shovel and a spare hour any time over the next two weeks, please consider coming to school and helping. Email me, and I'll give you details of where the wood chips need to go.

Many thanks again to the following people:
- Ximena Cabezas, Pablo and Augustin Valenzuela
- Medha Gurram, Vikas Gurram and Family
- Timothy, Susan, Tasmyn and Nyssa Kemsley
- Graham and Ken Marshall
- Serena Gahagan and Fiona Hulme
- Lucia and Elijah Israel, with their friend Samuel

If you weren't able to come on the weekend, but would like to help keep our grounds looking great, please remember to sign up for our watering roster. There are still many spots to be filled between now and the Easter holidays. To choose a spot on the roster, use this link: http://vols.pt/J7srU1

Kat Israel - KatIsrael@gmail.com
Thank you parents, students and staff for your support of the canteen.

Please be advised that Sushi will not be available on Wednesday this week (supplier issues).

A friendly reminder to parents. Please ensure that you select the correct school break when ordering your child's food. Parents seem to be accidently clicking the wrong item, as we are getting a fair few lunch orders being placed online as recess orders. Thank you.

Skoolbag messages – on your phone or by email
It is highly recommended that you install the Skoolbag app onto your phone or join the Skoolbag email list. It will ensure that you always have information about school events and access to a school calendar and the school newsletter.

- For the smartphone app search for 'North Ryde Public School'. On the phone, don’t forget to choose the groups that you want to receive messages about. (Go to more – set up)

or

- To join the Skoolbag email list go to the ‘Parents’ page of our website and click on ‘Skoolbag Communication Centre’. Click on ‘Subscribe for email’ (top righthand corner) and follow the prompts.

Friendships to boost your child’s learning
If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/how-friendships-boost-your-childs-learning

Helping your Kindy kid succeed at school
A great way to kick off your child's formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/helping-kindy-kids-succeed-at-school

Speech problems
All kids learn how to talk and listen at different rates but did you know there's a general pattern to your child's language development? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/speech-problems

Schoolhouse Museum News
Introducing the NSW Schoolhouse Museum

North Ryde Public School is 137 years old! The first school building was built in 1877 and 45 pupils enrolled on 25th January 1878. This first building, its adjoining 1883 and 1910 extensions and adjacent wooden building now house the NSW Schoolhouse Museum of Public Education. The museum has restored school rooms, original school furniture and a comprehensive collection of objects and artefacts relating to early schooling in NSW.

The museum is a popular excursion venue for schools across Sydney. It will be open for school visits on Mon-Fri in Term 1 commencing on Tuesday 24th February.

You are invited to our open afternoon for NRPS families on Monday 23rd February from 2.00-4.00pm if you would like to take a look before or after school pick-up. Browse our website for more images.

The Schoolhouse Museum team

Term 1 school invoices
Thank you to all the people who have already paid their invoice. Your prompt payment is greatly appreciated. Please remember that your child’s participation in activities is dependent on payment. Payments are due Friday 27 February. Thank you.
Library News

Children are made readers in the laps of their parents.
- Emilie Buchwald

Wondering what kinds of things the kids get up to in the library at lunchtime? It’s jam-packed with stuff to do – from creating the best voice for a book character to checking out the latest digital tools, from designing great questions for research to getting lost in an amazing story, from playing games to inventing a brand new idea. We’ve got something for everybody!

Plus, borrowing is up and running for 2015. Meet last week’s Brilliant Borrowers from KA – ready to read with brand-new library bags!

2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is a NSW government initiative that "aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten-Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools."

https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

The PRC runs from the beginning of March to the end of August. Participation is not compulsory but we do strongly encourage students of all reading abilities to enter (including those not yet able to read on their own). Registration for the PRC opens on 2 March and more details will be sent home shortly. If you’d like to find out more in the meantime, please visit the PRC website at the above address.

Ms Kate Bowyer - Teacher-Librarian

2015 Performance dance group

For 2015 we will have one Year 3-6 performance dance group. Thank you and well done to all the students who auditioned. Mrs Whelan and Mrs Margiotta found it extremely difficult to select only 24 from the 68 students who tried out. While we know there were many very disappointed students, we are pleased to be able to offer a possible alternative – Wakakirri.

Wakakirri

Last week students from Years 3-6 were given a note explaining Wakakirri, with an expression of interest. Students are asked to return any expressions of interest slips to the office ASAP so that we can confirm our school’s participation in this performance opportunity.

Wakakirri is a non-compulsory extra-curricular activity for interested students in Years 3-6. Participation numbers are limited and done on a first in first served basis, however preference will be given to students who have not been selected for the school’s performance dance group.

Wakakirri is an annual performing arts festival for primary schools. Each year hundreds of schools across Australia perform in Professional Theatres for audiences of family, friends and the official Wakakirri ‘search’ Panel.

You can find out more about Wakakirri at www.wakakirri.com

Morning supervision

Please note that there is teacher supervision at school from 8.40am. Students should not be at school before this time. If a student does arrive before 8.40am, he/she should sit passively in the COLA area until a teacher is on duty.
Summer PSSA Draw 2015
There are five Term 1 games only, competition recommences in Term 3 on Friday 4th September. PSSA fees are $7 a week for Semester 1 or you can pay for Summer PSSA Term 1 altogether which will be $35. Cricket games begin at 12:45pm approx. Teeball and softball games are 12:45pm and 1:45pm approx.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Softball/ T-ball Opponent</th>
<th>Softball/ T-Ball Venue</th>
<th>Cricket Opponent</th>
<th>Jnr Cricket Venue</th>
<th>Snr Cricket Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round 1 13 Feb</td>
<td>Denistone East</td>
<td>Meadowbank Park</td>
<td>Gladesville</td>
<td>Westminster</td>
<td>Monash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round 2 20 Feb</td>
<td>Kent Rd</td>
<td>Kent Rd PS</td>
<td>Eastwood Heights</td>
<td>Morrison Bay</td>
<td>Morrison Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round 3 27 Feb</td>
<td>Melrose Park</td>
<td>Magdala Oval</td>
<td>Denistone East</td>
<td>North Ryde RSL</td>
<td>North Ryde Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round 4 6 March</td>
<td>Putney</td>
<td>Morrison Bay</td>
<td>Hunters Hill</td>
<td>North Ryde RSL</td>
<td>North Ryde Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round 5 13 March</td>
<td>Truscott St</td>
<td>Magdala Oval</td>
<td>Ryde East</td>
<td>Ryde East PS</td>
<td>Gannan Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>Ryde PSSA Zone Winter team selections-rugby league, soccer &amp; netball - Meadowbank Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>Tryouts for North Ryde PS Winter PSSA teams- soccer, netball and Tiger Tag</td>
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Summer PSSA – started last Friday
Congratulations to all our teams. A big thank you to the coaches for helping our students prepare.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>NRPS v Denisstone East</th>
<th>Players of the match</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Softball girls</td>
<td>Lost</td>
<td>Michaela, Jewel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball mixed</td>
<td>0 - 3</td>
<td>Will J, Jake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBall girls</td>
<td>11 - 4</td>
<td>Natasha, Elly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBall boys</td>
<td>10 - 4</td>
<td>Elijah, Armani</td>
</tr>
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</table>

‘Tell Them From Me’ student survey
This term, our school is taking part in the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve. The survey is completed online and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education and Communities, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), will have access to data from across the State and will run a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research will look at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child’s school by Friday 27 February.

Homemade circuits – well done

Community news

Taekwondo/Self Defence lessons

A reminder that Taekwondo/Self Defence lessons are commencing tomorrow Wednesday 11 February in the school hall from 3.15-4.15pm.

Vacancies are still available to start tomorrow or next Wednesday by contacting John Gill on 0490189891 or email admin@motivationalmasters.com.au

Website: www.selfdefenceaustralia.com.au
High schools

Year 5 and 6 students should be investigating high schools now. There are Open days at most High Schools in Sydney. Make time to visit and ask questions about what they have to offer.

2015 College Information Tour Dates

Parents are requested to present to Reception in A Block to sign in and receive a welcome pack. You will then be directed to the location of meeting.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Tour Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tour – Open to all years</td>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>9:30 – 11:30am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yr 7 2016 Non Selective Tour</td>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>9:30 – 11:30am</td>
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<td>Yr 7 2016 Selective Tour</td>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>3:30 – 5:00pm</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tour – Open to all years</td>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>9:30 – 11:30am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tour – Open to all years</td>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>3:30 – 5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tour – Open to all years</td>
<td>15 July</td>
<td>9:30 – 11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yrs 8 – 12 Selective only Tour</td>
<td>22 July</td>
<td>3:30 – 5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tour – Open to all years</td>
<td>19 August</td>
<td>9:30 – 11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Yr 7 2017 Selective Only Tour</td>
<td>21 October</td>
<td>3:30 – 5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tour – Open to all years</td>
<td>18 November</td>
<td>3:30 – 5:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bookings are essential as numbers are limited.

**Should you need to cancel your booking we require you to contact the office on 9809 4884.
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 achieving 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
- Gives 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.

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.

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

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

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 131 538

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 02 441 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au
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NSW Department of Education and Communities