



# Newsletter

## Dates for your Diary

### May

Tuesday 29	Science – ICAS
Tuesday 29	Robocup — Dungog High 9:15am to 2:30pm
Thursday 31	Deposit for Stage 2 camp due (\$100)
Thursday 31	Play in a day - Yrs 4,5 & 6

### June

Friday 1	William's Dairy - Kindergarten
Friday 8	Play in a day - Yrs 4,5 & 6
Wednesday 13	Spelling-ICAS
Thursday 14	Writing –ICAS

### July

Tuesday 31	English-ICAS
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### August

Tuesday 14	Mathematics-ICAS
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### September

Tuesday 11	Meerkat Production at school
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### November

Monday 12	Surf School — Stockton
Monday 19	Swim School -
Friday 30	Maitland Pool

### December

December 7	Vacy School Extravaganza Dungog High School
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## Principal's Report

Congratulations to Mrs Beasley and the Year Six boys in the recorder group: Bailey, Cooper, Dallas, River and Jack, who performed at the Sydney Opera House last Sunday night. I am sure from the reports that I have received, that you all played well and represented yourself and your school with pride. What a fabulous experience for you all and one that was only made possible by the commitment of Mrs Beasley. We thank you all for your hard work and look forward to hearing you perform for the parents in the near future.

This week has seen our 3 Way Conferencing sessions take place for the first time. All of the staff have enjoyed sitting with both the students and their parents to work on their learning goals and progressions. If you are able to email the school with any feedback regarding the process, it would be most appreciated. If you did not meet with your child's teacher, please make sure that you contact the school to organise a face to face time or a telephone interview.

Congratulations to our Netball and Soccer sporting teams who played with great spirit over the past weeks. Although we didn't get any wins, we certainly had a great time playing. Thank you to our parent coaches, Glenn Butler and Kristy Grainger for sharing their expertise and giving up their time for our students

Over the past semester, our staff have been attending professional learning sessions in the afternoon regarding the implementation of academic writing strategies within the school. This professional learning is being put into place so that a common language within the art of writing can be used by all the schools in our learning management group so that the transition into high school, where more academic writing is needed, is made easier. These extra hours (two, three hour afternoon sessions), will take the place of the very last day of Term Four (Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December) staff development day. This day is a pupil free day and doing these hours throughout the year will enable the teaching staff to be exempt from attending.

Kind Regards

Karen Fonti

Relieving Principal

# Save the Date



## Canteen Helpers—May

Mon 28	Ann & Shayne
Thurs 31	Jillian & Karen

## P & C Dates for your diary

29 May	P & C Meeting 7pm
9 September	Vacy Village Carnival
20 October	Cutting Day

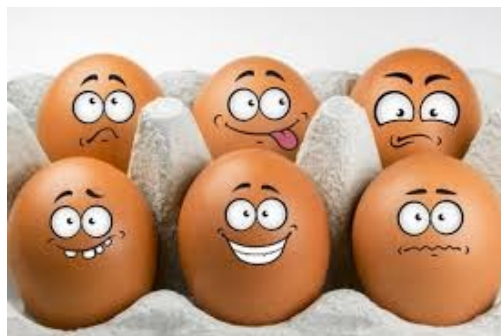
## Canteen News

We need volunteers for the following dates otherwise the canteen will be closed. The dates are 4, 18, 21, 28 June and 5 July. If you are able to help on these days please give Tanya a call on 0429800608. Thank you

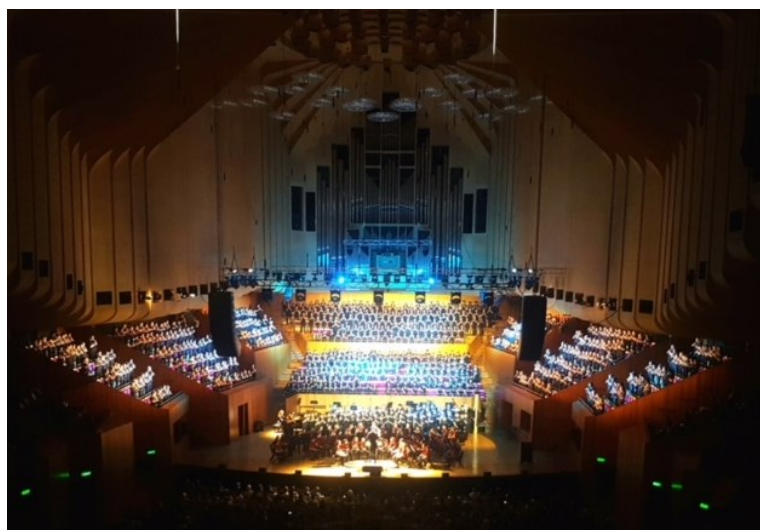


## Leftover Egg Cartons

We have loads of leftover egg cartons from Tocal. If anyone would like some, you have until Thursday 31 May for collection.



## Our students performing at the Opera House on Sunday the 20th May







Thank you Mr Butler



## STEAM

It's official ... pigs can fly! STEAM activities with students from 3/4/5P and 5/6B this week proved that small rubber pigs can get some serious air when hurled from specially-designed launchers.

The students were tasked with designing and constructing launchers with limited materials - six paddle pop sticks, a paper cup, two elastic bands, 60cm of string, 60cm of tape and a plastic spoon. They didn't have to use all of the materials, but were not allowed to add anything extra.

Some amazing constructions evolved as the students tested their contraptions and made adjustments before the official launch-off. Eva and Fay achieved the longest launch in 3/4/5P with 4.4m and the 5/6B trio of River, Toby and Jack M blew the competition away with an incredible 20m launch.

A special thanks goes to Kindergarten for the loan of their pigs.

Ms Hartigan.





## Children's Crossings

Children's crossings are usually part-time crossings that operate before and after school hours, or at other times that may be approved by local councils. Aside from these times, the area is not a pedestrian crossing.

*When in use, red flags displaying the words **CHILDREN CROSSING** are used. Drivers must slow down and halt before the stop line when a pedestrian is on the crossing or waiting to cross – and remain stopped until all pedestrians leave the crossing.*

Some pedestrian crossings are used as children's crossings at some times during the day. The display of CHILDREN CROSSING flags means that the children's crossing is operating. When the flags are not displayed the crossing operates as a normal pedestrian crossing.



### **Good for Kids** good for life

#### WASTE-FREE LUNCHES

When packing your child's lunchbox it's important to think about nutrition, but we can also look after the environment too!

Waste-free means only packing items that can be recycled or composted. That means no plastic wrap, no foil, no zip lock bags and no packaged foods.



Here are some ideas for packing a waste-free lunch:

- Invest in some small containers or a lunchbox with a variety of compartments.
- Use paper bags as they can be recycled.
- Use a reusable bottle for water and milk.
- Buy in bulk and transfer into smaller reusable containers for food like yoghurt and rice crackers.



PHONE 49246299

### **Good for Kids** good for life

#### HOW MUCH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DO KIDS NEED?

Do you know how much physical activity your child should participate in each day?

Children aged 5-12 years should spend at least 60 minutes in moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.

Moderate intensity activities include fast walking or riding a bike or scooter.

Vigorous intensity activities make you 'huff and puff' and include running, chasing and playing tag, and organised sports such as soccer or netball.



PHONE 49246299





# 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](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au)

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NSW Department of Education and Communities