Anzac Day 2015

A big congratulations to our students who attended the Anzac Day ceremonies in Burrawang and Robertson. Our students proudly represented our school in a respectful manner. Thank you!

What’s happening - Junior class

This term our class has begun a Science unit of work called “Push-Pull.” This unit will look at the different forces that make objects move. This week we began by creating a table on the ipads to display information about some different objects. We experimented with how we can make different objects move.

We have also very excitedly been summarising and retelling the texts we have been reading, using the ipads to record. Summarising is one of the 6 comprehension strategies our students have been developing this year.

Our students have been using games and hands on materials in maths to learn and demonstrate their knowledge of numbers. Our Year 1 and 2 students have been working on 3, 4 and even 5 digit numbers, while our Kinders have been working with 2 digit numbers. How exciting to see students who have been wanting to continue their work at lunch time! Very responsible!

What’s happening - Senior Class

The Senior Class has come back to school bounding about with enthusiasm. This is wonderful! The 5D Experience, a reading and writing activity that involved examining author techniques that help readers vividly experience the setting of a story. We looked at how senses help a reader more fully experience the story. I dubbed this the 5D Experience because we were using our ‘5’ senses to add different dimensions and depth to our descriptive writing. The results were amazing!

Our debating learning is underway, with all Year 4, 5 and 6 students participating in a fast-paced ‘sink or swim’ style orientation to debating. As usual our students rose to the challenges presented and our two teams, The Black Eyed Peas (Zamina, Zoe, Jess and Georgia) and The Hornets (Ellie, Aurora, Oscar and Frankie), and our reserve Le, are getting ready to battle it out against each other in Round 1 during the coming weeks.
Last term students loved our ‘Daily Reading Review’, however this term we will be expanding our vocabulary each day by taking turns to lead our ‘Daily Vocabulary Challenge’. Already we have studied the words ‘lonesome’, ‘fastidious’ and ‘pigheaded’. This study has involved:

1. Learning to correctly spell the word by dissecting the letter patterns
2. Using a dictionary to write the meaning of the word
3. Contextualising the word by writing a sentence
4. Using a thesaurus to find synonyms for the word

This fortnight we have also loved learning about ‘irony’. We thoroughly enjoyed making up ‘ironic skits’ and some of us wrote ‘ironic play scripts’. This is a great YouTube video about irony.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqg6RO8c_W0

Public Speaking

Throughout Week 10 of Term 1, the Senior Class was involved in the school finals for the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition. As a whole, the field of speakers raised the bar on last year’s 2014 competition making it challenging to pick winners. Congratulations Bronte and Georgie who took out first and second place, respectively, in the Stage 2 competition, and to Jess and Georgia who placed first and second in the Stage 3 competition. These students were consistently impressive in both the prepared and impromptu sections of the competition. Two students, Breanna and Aurora, also received Highly Commended certificates, narrowly coming in third. An overwhelming show of public speaking talent from all students! Well done Senior Class! The district finals will be held at Bowral Public School on June 11 2015. We wish our four finalists luck.

WHAT’S COMING?

You may have noticed some new signs around our school in this past week. We have been trying to create a sense of suspense and excitement in our students, in what will be a new and exciting 21st century learning initiative at Burrawang. Each week our students will be involved in “Genius Hour.” Genius Hour is a time that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. It provides students a choice in what they learn during a set period of time during school. Students will develop skills in research, planning and communication. Genius Hour will happen each Wednesday afternoon. Our students are very excited about this learning and we look forward to establishing our projects and sharing these later this term. I will share more information about this at next month’s P&C meeting.

Friday’s excursion

Just a reminder that your child needs to be at Moss Vale station at 7.45am. Please send your child in full (regular) uniform. (Not sports uniform). Don’t forget a hat.

Attendance

As you may be aware, teachers mark the roll daily and this is a legal document. We need to ensure that all information is accurately recorded, including partial absences (late arrivals and early pickups). To assist with
better maintaining this information, and to ensure in an evacuation we have this information in one place, we now have replaced the late slips with a book near the front office counter. If you are dropping your child off late, or picking them up early, you will now need to complete the record in this sign in/out book. Don’t forget you need to give a valid reason for these partial absences. No reason given, or reasons that are not acceptable (eg late, slept in) will be recorded as unacceptable or unexplained absence. Please see more information about attendance at the end of the newsletter.

Year 5 Intention to Apply to an Opportunity Class 2016

Opportunity classes cater for highly achieving academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These classes help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Applications for opportunity class placement are considered mainly on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment scores. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Wednesday 22 July 2015.

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2016 please contact the school for details. All applications need to be done online. Applications close on 15 May 2015.

NAPLAN

This year’s NAPLAN dates are below for Years 3 and 5. Please ensure your child is on time to school on these days.

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<th>Tuesday 12 May</th>
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<th>Friday 15 May</th>
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<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>Catch-up Day</td>
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What to do if you child needs to be away on a NAPLAN day?

In the first instance, please notify to school in writing (via email) on the morning of the date of absence. Friday is a designated ‘catch-up’ day, so NAPLAN assessments can be held on this day if necessary.

Does my child need to bring any special equipment?

All materials, including pencils will be supplied. However, it may be a good idea for students to bring a bottle of water, eraser and a sharpener. If students would like to supply their own writing materials, please ensure that these are HB or darker.

Students of the Week

Congratulations to our students of the week.

Week 1 – Harper
- Aurora +
Don't forget!

- SRC will be selling flavoured milk on a Wednesday. Strawberry or chocolate milk $1. Bring your own mug or cup.
- Lost or missing notes can be downloaded from the school’s website.
- Thank you to the parents who have been making online payments. This is a much easier transaction for our office.

No Canteen this week due to our excursion.

News from the Office

Mrs Fryer will be taking long service leave from Tuesday 5 May until Tuesday 9 June. While she is away we will have two school assistants sharing her days. Mrs Colleen Arkapaw and Mrs Sharon Pecanac are both very experienced in School Administration. They are both looking forward to working in our lovely school with the students, parents and staff.

Upcoming events

Don’t forget to check the website for the most up-to-date information.

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<th>Week</th>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Friday 1 May - Sydney Excursion Yrs K to 6</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Friday 8 May - Friday morning formal assembly</td>
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<td>Year 2 sharing</td>
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<td>Mother’s Day activities 2pm</td>
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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.

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 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities