

Lansdowne Public School

Weekly Newsletter Number 18

Tuesday 12 June 2012



Our much anticipated Athletics Carnival was postponed from last Friday 8 June because of wet grounds. Has now been postponed again as the grounds are still boggy and the new date will be Monday 18 June. Please come along and cheer for our students.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

The weather has not been kind and our carnival once again has been postponed. We will try again for **MONDAY 18TH JUNE!**

Attendance - We have had many students away due to illness and family circumstance over the past few weeks. Attached to the newsletter is a fact sheet that has been put together for parents by the department. Mrs Robinson does a fantastic job of following up absences to make sure our rolls (which are legal documents) are up to date and accurate. One of the great supports she offers are notebooks with prepared slips that you just need to fill in. A copy of these notebooks is attached to the newsletter for your convenience.

Every Student, Every School - Please find attached to the newsletter another department document which is a fact sheet for parents and community to explain the new strategy to support students with additional learning needs. This strategy and associated funding will commence next term. This will also impact on some programs and the ways in which we support identified students at Lansdowne. Starting next term and for the next 15 weeks we are trialling a designated support class for stage 2 and 3 students. Mr Price will be taking this group from 9:00 to 11:00 am, Monday through to Thursday. We will welcome Ms Margret O'Brien who will be working with 34P on literacy each morning and then releasing class teachers in the afternoon for the weekly release from face to face teaching. Our thinking is to give students intense and focussed support to close some of the achievement gaps they are experiencing.

Supermarket Promotion - We are accepting the various vouchers and stickers associated with the two major supermarket promotions. Any contributions can be left at the office or at the supermarket which has one of our boxes.

Soccer Knockout - We send our team away on Friday (hopefully) to the local district knockout carnival and then they will travel to Peats Ridge on the central coast the following week. Thank you to Mr Price for his management and coaching of the team and also to our families who assist with transport.

Bush Tucker Garden - I hope to have a meeting this Thursday with representatives from our local AECG to discuss location and what plants we should include in our garden. The meeting should be at 1:00pm if anyone is interested in coming along. The garden is being funded through a grant organised by the AECG.

Tennis Club and Play Area - Shelley Murray has been working with members of our local community to refresh and renew the tennis club and surrounds for community use. She is having a promotion of the work so far through the local paper and has invited anyone interested to meet at the courts on Thursday at 3:15pm to be included in the photo for the paper. Students must be accompanied by an adult.

Rain, rain go away! Positive thoughts please everyone.

Kind regards,
Christine Wild

TERM 2 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS TO REMEMBER		
WEEK 8	Friday 15 June	Soccer Gala Day Mr Price and our team of players from 56W and 34P Whole School Assembly commencing at 2.20pm
WEEK 9	Monday 18 June	Lansdowne Athletics Carnival here at the school
	Tuesday 19 June	P&C Meeting tonight at 6.00pm at the school
	Friday 22 June	Small Schools Athletics Carnival in Taree at the Recreation Grounds, Mr Price and Mrs Gilchrist will be attending with our team
WEEK 10	Wednes 27 June	Student of the Week Morning Tea at 11.00am for Term 2 Student Reports go home today
	Friday 29 June	Whole School Assembly 2.20pm <i>This is the last day of school for Term 2</i>
TERM HOLIDAYS FROM 30 JUNE TO 15 JULY		
TERM 3 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS TO REMEMBER		
WEEK 1	Monday 16 July	Staff Development Day – Students do not attend on this day
	Tuesday 17 July	Students return to commence Term 3

P&C NEWS

The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday evening the 19th June.
The meeting will commence at 6.00pm.

CANTEEN NEWS

Our Athletics Carnival has again been postponed as the grounds are very boggy. The carnival will now be on next Monday 18 June. **FOOD ORDERS** to be in by this Thursday please as we still need to purchase everything needed for Monday.

PIE DRIVE ORDER FORMS

Yellow order forms for the P&C Family Pie Drive and Sausage Roll and Lamington Drive were sent out last week. Please have your orders in to the office by Tuesday 19 June and they will be delivered on Tuesday 26 June for pickup.

HEAD LICE ARE ON THE MOVE AGAIN:

Just to let our parents and carers know that head lice have been detected in one or two of our classes. Please keep an eye out for these little pests and take the appropriate action as soon as you can. If we all work together we can help to stop them recurring as often as they are at the moment.

MANNING MYALL MUSIC CAMP 2012:

We have had word from the Regional Arts Coordinator, Peter Piaud, that students in years 4-6 can still register for the Manning Myall Music Camp to be held at Camp Elim (via Forster) from Sunday 14 October to Wednesday 17 October. Please note that applications close Thursday 19 July with Final payments due Thursday 13 September 2012. Forms are available at the school office for any students who are singers or instrumentalists and who are interested in this camp. The cost is \$250 and there are places for up to 85 singers and instrumentalists of all standards.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS NEWSLETTER:

- **Department of Education and Communities** – Information Sheet about the new approach for meeting the learning and support needs of students with disabilities in all NSW public schools.
- **Department of Education and Communities** – Information Sheet about the Compulsory Student Attendance Policy.
- **Lansdowne Public School booklet of notes to explain absences** – there are 6 numbered explanation notes in the booklet and a new booklet will be issued when we receive the number 6 note.



Education &
Communities

Public Schools NSW

Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents



Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?

The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- make and keep friendships.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

- send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

What are school Principals responsible for?

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent's explanations for their child's absences. Principals may request further information from parents for long or frequent absences, even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help. Sometimes, the school will ask support staff and other agencies to assist.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department may take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken.

■ Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences

Parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a meeting with school personnel and other regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree.

If the school and other regional officers have tried to help improve a child's attendance, without success, parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a compulsory attendance conference. The conference will be run by a trained conference convenor. The aim of the conference is for the school, parents (and sometimes their child) and other identified agencies ("the parties") to further identify the issues which are impacting on a child's attendance.

The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child's attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.

■ Applications to the Children's Court – A Compulsory Schooling Order

Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court's powers.

■ Prosecution in the Local Court

If all attempts by schools and regional support staff fail to improve a student's attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of \$11,000.

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

Policy, Information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/Index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided, where possible, for parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents/carers who use sign language. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the telephone number: 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

See the website address:

http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/help_with_translating/



Education &
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Public Schools NSW

Support for students with disability in regular classrooms: a factsheet for parents and carers

Every Student, Every School: Learning and Support

The Department of Education and Communities is implementing a new approach for meeting the additional learning and support needs of students with disability in all NSW public schools, through its strategy Every Student, Every School.

Many students with disability have additional learning and support needs. The level and type of support that each student needs is different. Many students need adjustments in their day to day learning. A small number of students need more intensive or specialised support.

Every Student, Every School aims to provide better outcomes for all students with disability. It will provide more immediate support for students and their classroom teachers, increase the expertise of teachers, significantly reduce administration and improve the coordination of educational services to students in regular classes who have additional learning and support needs.

To achieve this, Every Student, Every School will build a Learning and Support Framework in all NSW public schools to improve support for students with disability, wherever they enrol.

This Learning and Support Framework will ensure that students receive the highest quality education from trained teachers and support staff who are focused on personalising each student's learning experience. It will strengthen the capacity of all public schools to meet obligations to students under the *Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005*.

A wide range of projects will be put in place during 2012 and 2013 to establish the Learning and Support Framework and assist all public schools to better meet the diverse educational needs of their students, including those with disability.

For more information about the Learning and Support Framework and details about the full range of projects being implemented in our schools, please go to our website at www.det.nsw.edu.au/every-student-every-school

Increased training and support for teachers and staff to better meet the needs of students with disability

Every Student, Every School has a strong focus on building the professional knowledge and understanding of teachers, school leaders and support staff.

This focus will build the skills and knowledge of all staff to better understand and respond to the needs of students with disability and to effectively work in consultation with students and their parents or carers.

More support for students with disability in regular classes

Many students with disability are enrolled in regular classes in mainstream schools. Every Student, Every School aims to improve the capacity of schools to respond more immediately and effectively to the needs of all students, including those with and without a formally diagnosed disability.

From the start of Term 3, 2012, every regular NSW public school will have a specialist Learning and Support Teacher working directly in the school. These specialist teachers will provide additional support for students and their classroom teachers, when and where it is needed. Over 400 public schools will have a specialist teacher for the first time.

Each regular public school will also receive flexible funding to support students with additional needs in learning and behaviour, regardless of the cause.

The school will use these funds to support students and their teachers. This may include using funds for extra teacher time, school learning and support officer (previously called teachers' aide) time and release for teachers to undertake planning and programming or additional training.

The allocation of specialist teacher time and flexible funding support for schools under Every Student, Every School has been calculated on the most recent data on school enrolments and an index of student learning need.

Schools may also work with other local schools to share or pool their specialist resources to meet the needs of students, according to their local needs and priorities.

Students will not need a formal diagnosis, confirmation of disability, or a separate funding application in order to receive additional support for their learning through resources provided under Every Student, Every School. This includes students with mild intellectual disability, students with a language disorder or delay, and students with autism or mental health disorders who have lower level needs for additional learning support.

Learning and Support Teams

Each school's learning and support team will play a key role in planning how learning and support resources are used and how best to meet the specific learning and support needs of students.

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education. The learning and support team will work in consultation with parents and carers to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.

Support for students with moderate, high or complex needs

Students with confirmed disability in regular classes who have moderate, high or complex learning and support needs will continue to be supported through the Integration Funding Support Program. This is funded separately from Every Student, Every School.

This program provides additional support to schools for students with:

- moderate or severe intellectual disability
- moderate, high or complex needs in autism or mental health disorders

- physical disability
- hearing impairment; and
- vision impairment.

In addition, the Department of Education and Communities will continue to provide specialist support for students with confirmed disability through support classes that operate in special schools and in some regular schools across the State.

Your child's school principal can provide you with more information about accessing these programs and services.

Local implementation of learning and support

Each region has established a team, lead by a School Education Director responsible for leading and coordinating Every Student, Every School in its schools.

Regional teams are working closely with principals to plan and implement Learning and Support in the school.

Need more information?

Your child's school can provide you with information about Every Student, Every School and how it will be implemented in the school.

The school can also provide you with details on learning and support arrangements for your child.

Further information about Every Student, Every School can be obtained through your local regional implementation team.

Further information including Regional contact details:

www.det.nsw.edu.au/every-student-every-school