

The Wave



Term 1 – Week 9

Principal's Message

Harmony Day

On Tuesday BPS celebrated Harmony Day. It is a day where all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. Harmony Day gives people the opportunity to celebrate what makes each Australian unique and share what we have in common.

The continuing message is Everyone Belongs. It is a time to reflect on where Australians have come from, recognising the traditional owners of this land. It is also about community participation, inclusiveness and respect – celebrating the different cultures that make Australia a great place to live.

Attendance at School

I have attached the Compulsory School Attendance Information for Parents (further in this newsletter) which explains the Department of Education's policy on student attendance, including absences that can be recorded as justified on our school rolls which are legal documents.

Further to this, the information outlines some of the various reasons for absences, including late arrivals and early leavers, divided into those that can be recorded as justified and those that are to be recorded as unjustified. Unjustified absences are those that cannot be accepted by the school as a reasonable excuse for not having your child at school. Attendance at school is compulsory from 9.15am to 3.15pm daily.

If students are arriving late or leaving early, this has a flow on effect upon others, as teaching and learning is interrupted every time this happens. Please make sure students are here all day, every day unless they are unwell or there are exceptional circumstances.

Justified absences include: sick, appointment with a doctor, dentist, paediatrician, or other specialist; family funeral.

Unjustified absences include: slept in, had visitors, someone's birthday, leaving early to travel away.

Bus Travel to and from School

It is important for our students to get on and off the bus each day at Ballina Public School. Our students should not be walking to or from Ballina Coast H/S. All students are expected to remain at school once they arrive in the morning. There have been some instances where students are leaving our school grounds once arriving on the bus. I ask that all parents and carers remind their children that once at school, it is safest to stay within the school grounds, and not walk down the street with high school friends.

To enrol your child in Year 7 for 2024, you will need to complete an Expression of Interest for Year 6 to Year 7 transition. The Expression of Interest (EOI) lets you indicate which school(s) you would like your child to attend in Year 7. The EOI process is now available online. After you submit an EOI and it has been assessed, your child will be offered a place at a high school. If your child will not be attending a NSW Government high school next year, please let us know by completing a Placement Not Required form.

For parents/carers who are not able to complete an application online, a paper EOI form can be collected from the school office.

Kind Regards,
Stacie Luppi

Important Dates

Term 1 - 2023

Week 10

Monday 27th - Thursday

30th March

Royal Far West Visit

Thursday 30th March

Hat Parade

10am

Hall

Friday 31st March

Assembly

10:30am

Hall

Week 11

Tuesday 4th April

Cross Country

Thursday 6th April

Last Day of Term

Term 2 – 2023

Week 3

Tuesday 9th May

Mother's Day Stall

Canteen

Meal Deal

Salad Wrap with your
choice of Ham, Chicken or Cheese

Up & Go
Vanilla or Chocolate

Cereal snacks

Apple

Prize

\$6.50

A big thank you to my wonderful reliable volunteers, Robyn, Mark and Colleen. I couldn't do it with you.
We may be a small team, but we are a good one!

World's Greatest Shave

Hello BPS Community,

I would like to send out a big thank you to all those students who have purchased raffle tickets in support of my fundraising efforts for World's Greatest Shave. You are an awesome bunch.

If anyone would like to support me in my fundraising efforts please see me in the canteen tickets are 50c each or 3 for \$1.00.

Alison from the Canteen

The logo for "World's Greatest Shave" features the words "WORLD'S", "GREATEST", and "SHAVE" stacked vertically in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The text is set against a blue background with a white outline.

Mother's Day Stall – Tuesday 9th May 2023



Raffle Tickets are on sale 50c each or 3 for \$1.00

Gifts ranging from \$1.00 - \$10.00 will be available for purchase on the day.

Classes will have designated times to attend the stall.

NSW Department of Education



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 of 17 years. 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 NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

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 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 NSW Department of Education 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.

Days missed = years lost


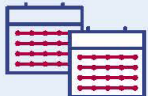
A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per **fortnight**
 = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed

1 day per **week**
 = **8** weeks  = Over **2.5** years missed

More information

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 AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

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

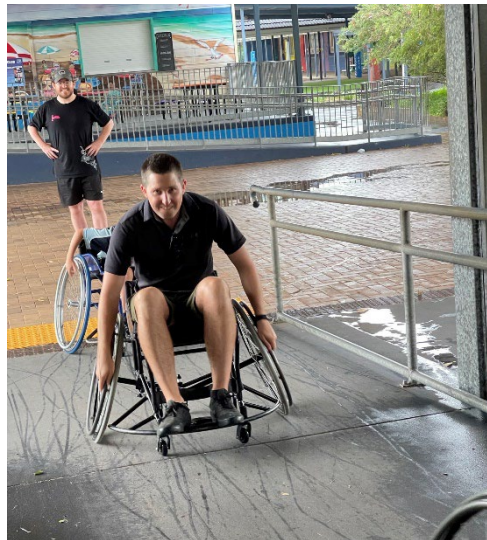
Do you need an interpreter?

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.



Sports Ability Program

On Tuesday, David Johnson (DJ) from Social Futures, who is also a Paralympian, facilitated a Sports Ability program with our Stage 3 students. This program focused on teaching students about disability awareness and inclusion. The students had the opportunity to participate in a range of wheelchair activities and listened to DJ talk about his disability, his challenges as well as his achievements.



Milkiri

Last week we had Richard from Social Futures, a Ngemba man and storyteller, use his cultural knowledge and experience to help Stage 3 students understand disability inclusion from an Aboriginal cultural perspective. Richard used stories and activities to introduce different cultural artifacts, symbols and principles relate to inclusion: all community members have valuable roles in their family, kinship and community, regardless of disability or difference; everyone takes care of each other; and all are connected to Country in mind, body and spirit.

Mrs Cameron
Teacher



Bundjalung Language

In the coming weeks we will be sharing a series of Meeting and Greeting words you can use with your family at home and in the community.

Today's word is:

Jingee la
Hello

For the full lesson exploring Meeting and Greeting words, feel free to follow the link provided <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-32udEy90Q>

Harmony Day – Tuesday 21st March

Thank you to everyone who wore orange to school on Tuesday to show support for 'Harmony Day' 2023. Everyone looked wonderful.



Hat Parade

Thursday 30th March 2023

Commencing @10 am

(Please arrive and be seated at 9.55am)

School Hall

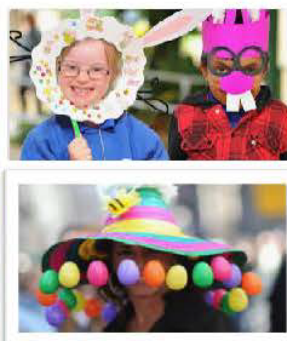
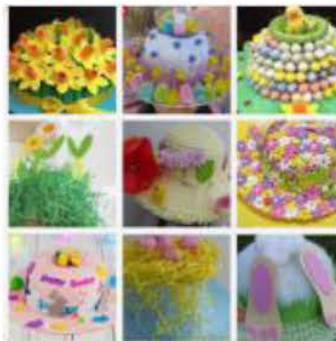
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Design and create a hat at home.

Bring your hat to school and then parade it at the special '**HAT**' assembly.

(Stage 3 has the option to design and create a hat poster)

Check out these great ideas!



Earth Hour – Friday 24th March

The SRC leaders will be asking every class to turn their lights off (and any unnecessary electricals) for just 1 hour. The aim of Earth Hour is to spark conversations about climate change and inspire action to protect our natural world. By working together, we can help shape a bright future for us all.



Notice from Australia Federal Police

Published November 2022



This is sextortion.
It's a scam.
And it's trending.
You can make it stop.

- ✓ Do stop the chat
- ✓ Do take screenshots of the text and profile
- ✓ Do block the account and report it to the platform
- ✓ Do report to the ACCCE
- ✓ Do get support

- ✗ Don't send more images
- ✗ Don't pay
- ✗ Don't respond to demands
- ✗ Don't enter into further communication
- ✗ Don't think you're alone

If you're under 18, we can help.
The Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation is here to keep children and young people safe from online sexual exploitation and abuse.

 To report or get help: accce.gov.au

If you're in a life-threatening situation, call Triple Zero (000).

The eSafety Commissioner can help to remove naked or sexual images shared online without your consent: [eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)



Community Notices

PLAY NETBALL!

Welcoming new and old, boys and girls to the 2023 Winter Season

LENNOX HEAD NETBALL CLUB

TWO WEEKS LEFT TO REGISTER!!!

WWW.LENNOXHEADNETBALL.COM.AU

SEASON START SCHEDULED: 22 APRIL 2023

OWEN STREET BALLINA

UNIFORMS AVAILABLE @ SPORTSPOWER BALLINA!



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

PLEASE BRING

- Food
- Drink
- Sunscreen
- Towel (For Water Balloon Catching)

Location: Missingham Park, Ballina
Dates: 11th April **Time:** 9am - 3pm
Price: \$59 **Age:** 5-12
Includes Participant Pack
Contact: melissa.norup@cricketnsw.com.au

Search: Sydney Sixers Holiday Program - Ballina

SYD SIXER EASTER EGG HUNT

REGISTER HERE

Global Beats Byron Bay

HARMONY WEEK

World Music Lantern Parade

Famiy Friendly Free Event

March 2023 Free

BYS presents Free Lantern Workshops

Friday 24th 3:00 - 5:00 pm @ Byron YAC
 Saturday 25th 5:00 - 7:00pm @ Railway park

Lantern Parade

Saturday 25th @ Byron Twilight Market
 Workshop, Performance, Parade

Next term May 2023

As Byron Multicultural is planning following

Winter Lantern Parade

Free Taiko Trial towards the Parade
 and following new beginner courses

WED 5:30 pm @ Ballina
 THU 3:30 pm @ BBPS
 FRI 4 pm @ Byron YAC

Register to the workshops, also leave you interests

BYS **BYRON TWILIGHT MARKET** **BYRON TAIKO** **CREATIVE KIDS** **FOR FOLLOWING COURSE**

info@byrontaiko.com