



Great Work

Last week I had Levi and Maeleigh visit and share some outstanding writing they have been doing in 3-4C. Their writing was sensational and had plenty of onomatopoeia to engage the reader.

Spelling Mastery is in its third week of operation and teachers are so impressed by the organisation and application of our Spelling Mastery Groups. Be sure to ask your child about this new initiative that runs Monday to Thursday for years 1 through to 6.

Congratulations to our swimmers

Last Friday we had 23 of our students go to Murwillumbah Pool to compete in the District Swimming Carnival. Mr Wills report is on the next page. Congratulations to all students with a special mention to Lomani N, Charlie W and Ava B who were all awarded Age Champions in their age categories. Well done!

Update on Infrastructure Improvements

Thanks to better weather, good progress has been made over the last week. A new concrete pathway has now been laid connecting the hall to the rest of the school and a temporary ramp has been added to provide temporary disabled access.

The stockpile of soil containing bonded asbestos material has now been removed and the area has been cleared as safe by a qualified, independent hygienist. That area will now be turfed and fencing will be removed.



That, together with a few small things that are being completed inside, marks the end of stage one of the early works package.

We are now working with SINSW to plan the second stage of early works which will include a permanent ramp for the hall and weather proof cover for the new path which are both planned to be constructed during the Easter holiday break.

Kinder Best Start Assessment feedback

Today, our Kindergarten students will be bringing home their feedback report from the Best Start Assessments that were completed in Week 3 with their classroom teacher. The Best Start Assessment is a state-wide assessment that shows our teachers the literacy and numeracy skills of each student at the beginning of Kindergarten. This assessment is administered in Week 3 at MEPS to ensure there is familiarity with the teacher and provides clear indications of where the students need to go next in their learning. The report provided to parents will outline some things you can do to assist in enhancing their learning at home as well as a Department or Education resource on how you can support your child in literacy and numeracy. In addition, we will be hosting a parent information session in the coming weeks. Please see your child's class teacher to make a time to discuss the report if you have any questions.

Requesting NDIS-funded therapy service for your child at a NSW public school

Attached to this newsletter is information for parents and carers about requesting NDIS-funded therapy service at school for your child. The introduction of the NDIS scheme in 2017 has resulted in a change for the delivery of therapy for students during school hours. With more and more therapists looking to access the school, limited classrooms and an already very full class timetable, we have needed to review and refine our processes.

To assist us in this process, there are four key steps for parents and carers who would like NDIS-funded services delivered in school:

1. Ask the school in writing at murwillump.school@det.nsw.edu.au
2. Meet with school staff to discuss details
3. The principal, with the Learning and Wellbeing Team will consider your request taking into account the needs of your child, other students and the operation of our school.
4. The Learning and Wellbeing Team will advise whether or not the provider can deliver the services at the school.

Please contact Mrs Henderson if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a great week,
Joanna Henderson—Principal

Murwillumbah District Swimming

Last Friday Murwillumbah East had 23 students represent our school at the district swimming carnival. It was a very successful day for MEPS. We came second in the overall school points score, we had 3 District Champions and we have 18 students progressing to the Far North Coast Championships on Wednesday 26 February in Ballina.

Our 3 District champions are:

Junior Girl – Charlie W
11 Years Girl – Ava B
Senior Girl – Lomani N

The team representing MEPS and Murwillumbah district are:

Ava B, Lucas B, Isabella B, Chad W, Alice C, Hunter B, Britta J, Jack C, Zoe J, Harper D, Lomani N, Bailey N, Taleah N, Lachlan N, Emma Q, Drew T, Charlie W and Hudson T.

Congratulations to all who attended the District Carnival and good luck everyone who is off to the FNC Carnival.

Ben Wills - Sports Co-ordinator

SRC Camp

Last Monday an overnight camp was held at Murwillumbah East Public School for our School Councillors and SRC class representatives as part of their Student Leadership Training. The camp included a wide variety of activities including team building, leadership training, problem solving and camp cookery. Students slept inside our school hall.

The components of the leadership training included:- What is a leader? The difference between being a boss and a leader. The 7 habits of a good leader. Being a leader at MEPS and growing as a leader. Students look forward to putting these skills to good use.

A huge thank you to the terrific students who all helped, contributed and ensured that Ms Noble got her beauty sleep! Also, on behalf of the students I would like to thank Karen Walker and Mrs Lincoln for organising behind the scenes and Rebecca Newman for assisting with transport. It was wonderful to have Mrs Henderson to lead the night time game even if we kept the neighbours awake with our shrieks of laughter and screams. A truly enjoyable experience.

Many Thanks
Melissa Noble

Badging

All students will receive badges at our whole school assembly on **Friday 28 February**. This will take place in our school hall at midday. All welcome.

Premiers Reading Challenge 2020

The Challenge 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.

2020 Challenge

The 2020 Premier's Reading Challenge opens on Monday **March 2**. Don't forget you can keep track of books you are reading over the summer to be added to your reading log once the challenge opens. Anything you have read from August 31 2019 can be counted towards the 2020 PRC.

All information can be found at
<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

More information will follow in later newsletters.

Carmel Evans (Teacher Librarian)

Requesting an NDIS-funded therapy service for your child at a NSW public school

Information for parents and carers

This document provides information for parents and carers seeking to have NDIS-funded services delivered at school.

There are 4 key steps for parents and carers who want an NDIS-funded service delivered in school:

- 1. Ask the school in writing**
- 2. Meet with school staff to discuss details**
- 3. The principal considers your request, taking into account the needs of your child, other students and the operations of the school**
- 4. The principal lets you know whether or not the provider can deliver their services at the school.**

NDIS-funded therapy supports and schools

Some children and young people with disability may benefit from allied health and specialist therapies. Examples include physiotherapy, speech pathology and occupational therapy. In most cases, these therapies can be delivered at home or in a therapist's office. Some therapies may be best delivered in school during school time.

The NSW Department of Education and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) recommend that therapy services funded through a child's NDIS support plan are best delivered outside of school time. This allows the school to focus on teaching your child and all other students, and ensures your child does not miss out on important learning time.

Schools work with both parents and allied health providers to meet the needs of students and support their learning and development. This may include sharing information about the student and what activities might work best to support them. In some cases, where it is suitable, this may mean working directly with the provider in the classroom.

The principal is responsible for deciding when and how therapy services are delivered in the school. The principal will make decisions that ensure that the school is able to run to benefit all students and without disrupting learning. The principal will manage any services that come into the school in a way that supports children to continue to take part in classes and school activities.

How to request the service for your child to be provided at school

1. Firstly, make your request to the principal in writing so that there is a record of your request. The principal will consider your request.
2. Meet with the principal or the school staff they nominate. This may be during your normal planning meetings with the school about your child's learning and support.
 - a. You may want to invite the therapy provider to the meeting. Note: Schools will not meet any costs for providers to attend meetings at school.
 - b. Bring all relevant documents and information to the meeting. This may include reports from specialists or therapists, or your child's NDIS support plan.
 - c. Discuss with the school possible days and times for the service to be provided at school.
3. The principal will then need time to consider your request and let you know their decision.

education.nsw.gov.au





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

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

Murwillumbah East

Public School

Term 1 Calendar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

5	FEB 24 Murwillumbah High School visit—Year 6 Wollumbin High School visit—Year 6 Young Leaders Day- Brisbane	FEB 25 Murwillumbah High School Information Evening - 6pm	FEB 26 FNC Swimming Ballina Dance Group 1:15-2:15pm	FEB 27 Visit from Gold Coast Suns Players for Stage 2 & 3	FEB 28 MEPS Big Breakfast 8am SRC Assembly & Badge Presentations 12pm in Hall
6	MAR 2	MAR 3 Wollumbin High School Information Evening - 6pm P&C AGM - 7pm	MAR 4 NC Swimming - Coffs Harbour Dance Group 1:15-2:15pm	MAR 5 SRC Cake Stall SRC and 5-6N Hosting	MAR 6
7	MAR 9	MAR 10	MAR 11 Dance Group 1:15-2:15pm	MAR 12 Whole School Photos	MAR 13
8	MAR 16 Harmony Week	MAR 17	MAR 18 Dance Group 1:15-2:15pm	MAR 19	MAR 20





INSPIRING EVERY STUDENT
EVERY DAY

YEAR 7 2021

INFORMATION EVENING

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY, 2020

6:00 pm in the Library
Principal's Welcome
Talking Technology
Bazaar
Panel

All parents and students welcome

MURWILLUMBAH HIGH SCHOOL

- An innovative, future-focused approach to learning
- Specialist programs, including Music & Agriculture
- A supportive, student-centred learning environment
- Dedicated, expert teaching staff who inspire every student, every day

PRINCIPAL: PETER HOWES

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Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be A Learner

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