**Principal’s Reflections**

**School Attendance Policy**

A reviewed “Student Attendance in Government Schools Procedures” was launched in 2015 for all NSW Government students (PD 2005 0259) and replaces the 2010 procedures. The Hyper link to this document is below:


**Introduction**

Regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to achieve their potential, and increase their career and life options. Schools in partnerships with parents are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, record and monitor part and whole day absences.

**What are the responsibilities of parents?**

**Parents must ensure:**

2.1. their children of compulsory school age are enrolled in a government or registered non-government school or, registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) for Home Schooling.

2.2. their children who are enrolled at school attend every day the school is open for instruction.

2.3. they provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence through means such as telephone call, written note, text message or email. The 7 day timeframe for explaining absences is a requirement of the Education Act (1990).

2.4. they work in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school. This includes communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child’s attendance or engagement with school.

**Definitions**

23.1. Parent: Includes a carer or other person having the care or custody of a child or young person.

23.2. Unexplained absence: A student absence where a parent provides no acceptable reason for a student’s non-attendance.

23.3. Truancy: The absence of a student from school without the knowledge or permission of their parent or carer.

23.4. Parent condoned absence: When a parent or carer causes a student to be absent from school without acceptable reason.
FOR YOUR CALENDAR

TERM 1

March
- Wednesdays – Tennis
- Thurs 5 Mar – NRL Clinic Visit
- Fri 6 Mar – Crazy Hair Day
- Tues 10 Mar - P&C AGM
- Fri 20 Mar – Cross Country
- Mon 23 Mar – Young Leaders Sydney
- Wed 25 Mar – Small Schools Carnival

April
- Wed 1 Apr – Back up date for Small Schools Carnival
- Thurs 2 Apr – Easter Celebrations

TERM 1 finishes Thursday 2nd April 2015
TERM 2 starts for students, Tuesday 21st April 2015

SCHOOL INFORMATION

SMALL SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
Wednesday 25 March at Woodberry Oval
Starts at 9am students will need to be dropped off at the oval and collected when it finishes.
Primary carnival finishes approx. 2.30pm while the infants carnival will finish approx. 1.00pm.
Canteen will be available.

CRAZY HAIR DAY
Shave for the Cure will be held this Friday 6th March.
Come along to school with your craziest hair design and colours all for gold coin donation.
Prizes will be given for the craziest hair.

HATS
Please remember we have a NO HAT NO PLAY policy. If your child does not have a full brim hat with them they will be asked to play under the COLA or in another shaded area. It is also required for sporting activities which is part of the curriculum. Hats are available from the office at a cost of $9.

STUDENT ABSENCES
Please remember to send in a note or fill out a green slip (available at the office) when your child returns to school after an absence.

EARLY AND LATE ARRIVAL NOTES
As you are aware, the Department of Education and Communities has made significant changes to the School Attendance Policy. If you are bringing your child to school late or collecting them early you need to provide an explanation.
If you are not bringing your child to the office to fill out a late arrivals slip, you will need to send along a note explaining the lateness.

BOOK PACK INFORMATION
Book pack prices are $35.00 for all classes. This fee includes all books, stationery items, photocopying, internet access, art and craft consumables.

P & C INFORMATION

CANTEEN DAYS
Please note lunches are now available from the canteen on:
TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS only.
Canteen price list are available from the office.

P&C Annual General Meeting
Please note the P&C AGM will be on Tuesday 10 March. Suggestions slips can be picked up from the office.

Easter Donations
Our Easter raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 2nd April. We are asking for donations of eggs, baskets, stuffed bunnies or anything representing Easter. Donations can be left at the office at any time. Tickets will be sent home shortly.
COMMUNITY INFORMATION

AN INVITATION TO CARERS

Do you provide care and support to another person?
You are invited to Carer Connections
Take the Opportunity to Connect with other Carers and listen to our Guest Speaker!

Carers are usually family members or friends who provide support to children or adults who have a disability, mental illness, chronic condition or who are frail aged.

GUEST SPEAKER:
Kathie Nickerson, Clinical Nurse Specialist
Hunter Integrated Pain Service (Hunter New England Health)

TOPIC: “The Meaning of Chronic Pain: and Hunter Integrated Pain Service’s approach to Improving Life”

VENUE: East Maitland Bowling Club, Bank Street, East Maitland
TIME: 10.00am - 12.00pm
COST: Free - includes Morning Tea
WHEN: Monday 23 March 2015
RSVP: Wednesday 18 March 2015

For more information or to Register Contact:
HNE Carer Education & Support Program – Hunter
On: 4921 4898 or 1300 887 776
Or Email: Carer.Advisor@health.nsw.gov.au
(We ask that you RSVP for catering purposes)

Sensory Movie Day - Reading Cinema

Maitland
"Penguins of Madagascar"
11am Sunday 15th March 2015
Tickets $8 each
Children 2 years and under are free
Companion I.D. card is accepted
For families with special needs,
Children are free to move, no seating allocation.
Lighting on Dim, Sound Lowered.
Tickets available to purchase on the day
Siblings and extended family welcome
any questions contact: Chanelle at sensory.maitland@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

If you are interested in playing SOCCER for fun on Saturday mornings
BERESFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB still has some vacancies for 5 to 11 year olds.
For further information call
Sue 49664018
All 5-7 year olds receive shin pads and a ball.