



Respect

Responsibility

Safe Learning



Bunnings BBQ

It was wonderful to see so many families assisting with the Bunnings BBQ last Sunday. It was a great day and I would like to thank all of those people who organised, worked a shift or bought a sausage sandwich.

SASS Recognition Week

Next week is a chance to recognise the wonderful School Administrative and Support Staff we have at our school. I would really like to acknowledge the ongoing hard work and tireless commitment from Kerry Whetham, Pamela Peterson, David Williams and Cathy Corbett. They do so much for our school, often going well beyond their roles to help our students.

New Lambton Public School Transition

I had a very productive meeting with Mrs Avery and Mr Shaw from New Lambton Public School. The focus of the meeting was supporting our students who will be attending there next year. We are sending home prefilled enrolment forms for those students who have indicated that they will be going to NLPS. Please check that the information is correct, make any necessary changes and return to our office.

On the first transition day, (10 November) we ask that you take identification and proof of residential address to complete the enrolment.

Changes to Enrolment

The school staff are busily preparing for next year. If there are any changes to enrolments for 2017, please contact Mr Swain. This ensures the best forward planning and allocation of resources in support of all students.

Thank You

I would like to thank Petra Newby who gave so generously of her time to assist the students in creating their Father's Day gifts.

Attendance

Please see attached to this newsletter the Department of Education's parent brochure on School Attendance. It outlines the reasons for justified leave as including:

- 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.

Please note that the Department considers 'running late' (or similar) an unjustified absence.

Marshall Street Gate

To ensure student safety, we will now be closing the Marshall Street Gates each morning. I thank you in advance for your support in closing the gate as you enter and leave.



Congratulations to all our award winners

Dates for your Diary

Term 3 Dates	Event
Friday 2 nd September	P&C Trivia Night
Wednesday 14 th September	Kinder 2017 – Parent Information Session
Wednesday 21 st September	Stage 1 Total Excursion
Thursday 22 nd September	Movie Night – 5:30pm start



Respect

Responsibility

Safe Learning



Term 4 Dates	Event
Wednesday 12 th October	Kindergarten Orientation
Wednesday 26 th October	Kindergarten Orientation
Wednesday 9 th November	Kindergarten Orientation
Thursday 10 th November	Year 2 New Lambton Public Transition
Thursday 17 th November	Year 2 New Lambton Public Transition

P&C News

Friday Canteen

Our Friday canteen volunteers for this week are **Sarah Clement** and **Lee Illfield**. Canteen is held between 12:45pm and 1:10pm (recess time). Please make sure you can set up at 12:30pm ready for this time. Thank you.

If you have any queries you can contact the P&C via email nlhipandc@gmail.com

Bunnings BBQ

A big thank you to everyone who helped out on Sunday at the BBQ. Over \$1,800 was made to put towards playground improvements at the school. A special thank you to Rob for doing such a great job organising the day!

Canteen Volunteers Needed for Term 4

Due to swimming running on Friday next term the Friday canteen is moving to Thursday for all of Term 4.

If you are able to help serve canteen between 12:30pm–1:20pm on a Thursday please let the P&C know either by filling out the form on Skoolbag, emailing the P&C nlhipandc@gmail.com or dropping a note into the P&C Dropbox outside the office. Please get in touch before Friday 9th September so a roster can be created before the end of term. Thank you.

Out of Uniform

Next Monday 5th September is an out of uniform day. Please bring a gold coin donation to go towards our World Vision Child, Jesman. Thanks.

Operation Christmas Child

This year our school is taking part in *Operation Christmas Child*. This is a Samaritans Purse initiative which sends Christmas gifts to children in developing countries like Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and so many more.

For a lot of children this might be the first present they ever get. To be involved you can either get a Christmas Child shoe box from the office for 50c or just pack your own shoe box with lid (no bigger than A4). We have brochures available on what can be packed (eg t-shirts, stickers etc), what can't (eg things that leak such as toothpaste and shampoo, bubbles or breakable items) and labels that need to be attached on the outside. Each shoe box needs \$9 for postage of the box overseas. This can be enclosed in the shoebox or paid online at www.operationchristmaschild.org.au. If you pay online you can print out a label which allows you to track where your shoebox ends up going.

We will be collecting the boxes at the end of October (so you and your child have the school holidays to pack some Christmas presents in the shoe box). Please get involved if you can- you can select the gender and age group (2–4, 5–9, 10–14) with your child and even track where the gift goes.

For more info, speak with Val Gent, Sarah Clement or Jess Dawes or get online www.operationchristmaschild.org.au

Morning Tea

Only a few more weeks of school! If you're looking for something to do this Thursday after drop off, pop into the Library for a cuppa and some morning tea.

P&C Meeting

The next P&C meeting is next Wednesday 7th September at 7:30pm in the Resource room (next to staff room). Everyone is welcome – you don't have to be a member. P&C meetings are a great way to keep up to date with what's happening in our school. Hope to see you there.

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? What if my child has to be away from school?

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
- gives students time to greet their friends before class
- reduces classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

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.





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.

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 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 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

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/attendance.php>

The school leaving age

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

For further advice contact

Educational services

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement and
Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5356

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

Do you need an interpreter?

If you need help with English and would like further information please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on **131 450** and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

©May 2015

NSW Department of Education