



B.C.S. BULLETIN

Be Respectful

Be Safe

Be a Learner

Term 4 Week 7
November 24, 2025

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We are very excited to announce that Mr Stolk is now a father! Congratulations to him and his partner on the safe arrival of their son.

There are several activities and excursions in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on your email/School Bytes so you can give permission and make payments promptly. The whole-school excursion this Friday means there are no classes running at school. Likewise, the same will occur in Week 9 for Stage 4 & 5 when they visit Tenterfield.

Next Tuesday we welcome our incoming Year 7s on their transition day. They will undertake activities and lessons to get to know each other, the school and staff.

Another exciting initiative is the K-12 careers expo, hosted by our school for West of the Range schools. Students will have the opportunity to meet local employers, talk with tertiary institutions and employment agencies, along with fun, hands-on experiences.

We are pleased to welcome some new staff. Ms Peta Perrin and Mr Peter Matthews have been with us for two weeks in secondary in the areas of Geography/Technology and Photography/PDHPE/Maths. Ms Pauline Jackwitz will join us next week as Head Teacher Welfare. Coming from Inverell, Ms Jackwitz has a wealth of experience to share.

New social media laws for children under 16 years come into effect on December 10. Please take the time to learn about these and have conversations with your children.
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/social-media-age-restrictions>

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our presentation assembly in Week 10.

Only 31 sleeps until Christmas!!

DATES TO REMEMBER			
NOV 25	Final 'Take off into Kindy' 9- 12:55pm Parents invited to join us for lunch	15	Year 6 Graduation Dinner @ Bonalbo Bowling Club
28	Whole-school excursion to Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary	16	K-12 Rewards Excursion @ Ballina Climbing Jungle
DEC 2	Year 6-7 Transition Day	18	End of Year Presentation Assembly 11:30am
4	'West of the Range' Career Expo @ BCS	19	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 2025 Whole-school Bonalbo Pool Party
8- 12	Primary Swim Scheme	TERM 1 2026	
10	Final P & C Meeting 3.30pm for the year	JAN 27-30	Staff Development Days – no students
12	St 4 & 5 History Excursion @ Tenterfield	FEB 2	All students begin

Please read below for our emergency management arrangements for the bushfire danger period.

Our school is in a bushfire prone area and is identified as Category 2 on the NSW Department of Education's bushfire risk register.

This means our school will be non-operational when the NSW Rural Fire Service declares catastrophic fire danger ratings for our area or as directed by the NSW Department of Education in consultation with emergency services due to local bushfire activity or in higher risk conditions. We recommend all our families follow the NSW Rural Fire Service advice and ensure your family knows what to do if there is a fire. Develop a fire plan and discuss with your family using <https://www.myfireplan.com.au/>

NSW Department of Education

Bushfire danger period information for parents and carers

Fact sheet

This fact sheet provides information for parents and carers about arrangements for the danger period.

The NSW Department of Education has engaged external experts to conduct assessments of all NSW government schools, to identify schools at greater risk of impact from bushfires.

To support the health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff, the department, in consultation with NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), will direct the school to temporarily cease operations on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating has been declared for your school's NSW fire area. Alternative learning arrangements will be put in place for these days.

Schools may be made non-operational due to changing risk conditions and the relevant advice from emergency services.



What is a Fire Danger Rating?

Fire Danger Ratings describe the potential level of danger should a fire start. The ratings are determined by a combination of factors including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought.

For further information on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System.

Fire Danger Rating sign





When will I know if my child's school has been made non-operational?

A Fire Danger Rating is issued for the following day. This means that schools, including onsite preschools, will be notified after school hours that it will be non-operational the following day. Your school will notify you as soon as possible by the preferred method of communication.

Parents and carers are requested to:

- provide up-to-date home and after-hours contact details to your school
- stay up-to-date with news and local media through the bushfire danger period.

Consider whether your home is safe from bushfires and grassfires, and be prepared to relocate to a safer place well in advance. Find more information and resources from the NSW RFS.

We appreciate your cooperation during the bushfire season. For further information about Fire Danger Ratings and the bushfire danger period, please refer to 'NSW Rural Fire Service'

The department's 'School operational status' webpage provides up to date information during bushfires and grassfire emergencies.

Please contact your school with any additional questions.



NSW Education Parent App

Get the free NSW Education Parent App to receive operational status updates for NSW public schools.



What education arrangements will be in place if the school is non-operational?

When non-operational, your school will advise of alternative learning arrangements, including any relocation or learning from home plans.



Learn more

Be prepared and ensure you have a bushfire survival plan in place. The NSW RFS has resources for all residents to plan and prepare for the bushfire season.

THE FACTS ABOUT VAPING

Vapes are electronic devices designed to deliver an aerosol into the lungs. There are many different styles of vapes available and they can be difficult to spot.

Vapes may contain harmful chemicals that aren't listed on the pack. When inhaled, the aerosol from vapes can contain over 200 chemicals. Vapes almost always contain nicotine, even if the label doesn't say so.

A misunderstanding about vapes is that they are harmless compared to cigarettes. This is not true. **Vapes are not safe.**

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE VAPING?



Almost all vapes contain nicotine making them **very addictive.**

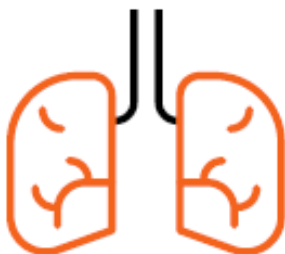


The nicotine in a 6,000 puff vape can
= MORE THAN 400 cigarettes



Vapes can contain the same **harmful chemicals** found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, weed killer and bug spray.

VAPES ARE A RISK TO MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH



Some chemicals in vapes can **cause cancer, heart disease and lung disease.**

Vaping can **reduce a young person's fitness.**

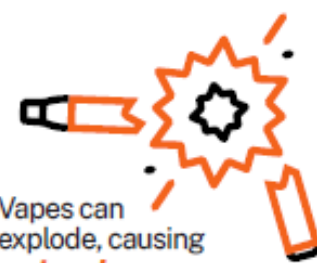


Nicotine can cause changes to a young person's **brain development**, and negatively affect **learning, concentration and memory.**

Vaping can increase a young person's risk of **depression and anxiety.**



Young people who vape are **5 times** as likely to take up smoking cigarettes.



Vapes can explode, causing **serious burns.**



Do you know what they're vaping?
Get the facts at health.nsw.gov.au/vaping



VAPES APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

The flavours (such as strawberry-watermelon, blueberry ice, grape, mango magic and banana buzz) and colourful packaging used for vapes make them appealing to young people. **Almost all vapes contain nicotine, which young people can become addicted to very quickly.**

Tobacco companies are continuously looking for new customers. Vapes are a new way to get young people addicted to nicotine.



TALK TO YOUR YOUNG PERSON ABOUT VAPES

Some young people may see vaping as a normal or safe thing to do, but that is not the case. **Vapes are not safe.**

It is important to let your young person know the risks of vaping.

Try to start the conversation with your young person in a relaxed easy-going way, perhaps taking the cue from around you, such as a note from school, a news story about it, or seeing people vaping on the street. And have your facts ready.

IS YOUR YOUNG PERSON VAPING?

Research shows that **1 in 5 young people have vaped.**

You may not know your young person is vaping as vapes are small and resemble common items like highlighters, toys and USB drives.

Signs that your young person might be vaping include the symptoms of nicotine addiction such as your young person feeling irritable or anxious.

Having a conversation with your young person is the first step to supporting them to quit. Let them know that help is available and you are there for them.

It also helps to set a good example by being tobacco and vape-free yourself.



ILLEGAL SALES OF VAPES



It is illegal to sell nicotine vapes to anyone, unless they are obtained from a pharmacy for smoking cessation. People under 18 years of age also need a prescription from a doctor.

Many young people purchase their vapes from friends and contacts using social media.

There are also retailers who illegally sell vapes, including to young people. This is a crime.

If you suspect someone is illegally selling vapes, you can report it to NSW Health via its website or by calling the Tobacco Information Line on 1800 357 412.

WHERE TO GET QUIT SUPPORT

Stopping vaping can sometimes be hard and your young person may need advice from a health professional. Ask them if they would like to talk to a GP, school counsellor or call the [Quitline](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/quitline) on 13 7848, or if they would like you to do it on their behalf.

Individualised support is also available through the Pave app, which has been uniquely designed to keep young people on track with their quit attempt. Learn more and download the app at www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/pave.



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Do you know what they're vaping?
Get the facts at health.nsw.gov.au/vaping

