



The Dinawan EUABALONG WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL *Newsletter*

Principal's Message

by Mr Clifton
Acting Principal

From the very first day, the warmth and hospitality extended by the Euabalong West Public School community have made me feel right at home. Meeting students, parents and families has been a delight, and I am continually impressed by the feeling of togetherness generated by a small-school community.

Getting to know each student and their families, as well as various community members, has been a highlight of my initial days as acting principal. Every conversation and interaction deepens my appreciation for the unique fabric that makes up our Euabalong West community.

Behind the scenes, our dedicated teaching and support staff have been diligently engaged in assessing our students to gather valuable insights that will shape our teaching and learning programs for the upcoming year. This assessment process is a crucial step in ensuring that we tailor our educational approach to meet the individual needs and strengths of every student. Our commitment to excellence and high expectations in education remains unwavering. The insights gained from these assessments will guide us in crafting dynamic and engaging programs that empower every student to reach their full potential.

As we forge ahead into the academic year, I am filled with optimism and excitement for the wonderful journey that awaits us. Together, we will continue to nurture an environment that not only imparts knowledge but also instills values, resilience, and a passion for lifelong learning.

If we haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, I look forward to speaking with you in person soon. Please do not hesitate to come up and say hello.

Here's to a fantastic year of learning, discovery, and shared successes!

Andrew Clifton





Attendance Matters

Year to Date

Term 1

99% 99%

Our attendance goal is for all students to attend school 95% of the time.

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to achieve quality life outcomes. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students.

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. Children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

Link to [Compulsory School Attendance Information for Parents Document](#).



Curriculum Focus

by Mr South

Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction

A big welcome back to all our students and families. It was awesome to see our smiling students back after a long and relaxing break.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new acting principal, Andrew Clifton - we look forward to the experience and expertise he brings to our school in improving outcomes for our students.

To begin the year, our staff were hard at work engaging in cultural immersion and developing school culture workshops to begin the year. These experiences are a fantastic way to set the tone for our year as we look to start strong with teaching and learning in our classrooms.

This year we welcome new syllabuses in English and Mathematics the 3-6 classroom. This will bring us into line with the new K-2 English and Mathematics syllabuses that were implemented at the beginning of last year. It's exciting to have a new roadmap for learning in our classrooms that reflects the improvement in educational practices that have been developed over the last decade.

In our classrooms, Mr Clifton and Ms Lesker have been hard at work assessing our students to determine the best way to tailor their teaching and learning to meet the academic needs of our students.

I'm excited to be on this journey with you and your children and look forward to our exciting year ahead.

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



Kukuparra News



By Ms Lesker

K-2 Kukuparra students have had a wonderful start to the year and are already engaging in lots of fun activities.

We welcomed our new Kindergarten student, Bryce, who has settled in enthusiastically and smoothly to our school routines and classroom learning. It is wonderful to see his bright and smiling face each day at school.

In Mathematics lessons this week, the students have been learning about repeating patterns and have created their own using pattern blocks. The students also engaged in an exciting Science lesson where they explored the playground to find living and non-living things.

Our Year 1 and 2 students each read with Mr Clifton as part of our assessment of learning to begin the year.

K-2 have enjoyed working with the 3-6 class during visual art time with Mr Clifton, where they have begun drawing a self-portrait. They also had lots of fun playing some exciting games altogether during sport.



Marrawuy News



By Mr Clifton and Mr South

3-6 Marrawuy have launched straight into learning this year and have been working hard throughout our first few days back at school.

Our students have embarked on an exciting literary journey, diving into the first three chapters of the enchanting novel, "Blueback." In conjunction with their reading, students have crafted captivating blurbs of the novel, showcasing their understanding of the story's themes and characters.

In Mathematics, 3-6 have been working on their understanding of whole numbers and have engaged in lessons focused on arranging numbers of any size in ascending and descending order.

The students completed a series of assessments to gauge their progress and proficiency across various subject areas. From reading fluency assessments to spelling and encoding graphemes evaluations, students have showcased their knowledge and skills and this has given us valuable information to move their learning forward this term.

We are both looking forward to an incredible year with this beautiful group of students.





Job Opportunity

Euabalong West Public School

Our **School Administrative Manager** position is currently vacant and we have advertised to fill the position temporarily for Term 1 before the permanent position is advertised.

The School Administrative Manager (SAM) is responsible for efficiently managing school financial and administrative systems, as well as supervising and training school administration officers. The SAM also manages the provision of support for school activities and routines, including student welfare and wellbeing, and collaborates with the school principal, the school executive, and teaching staff as required.

Applicants are not required to have previous SAM experience, and hardworking candidates who are eager to learn are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must have a current paid Working with Children Clearance (WWCC) and are subject to approval from the Department of Education to work within public schools.

If anyone you know is interested in applying for the position, please encourage them to do so. More information can be found using the QR code.

**Applications close 4 pm
Monday 19 February 2024.**



Staff Spotlight

Mr Andrew Clifton - Acting Principal

Where are you from?

I'm originally from the Hunter Valley in New South Wales, where I was born and where my family goes back several generations.

What's your favourite subject to teach, and what do you enjoy most about it?

I've always been a lover of English - words, sentences, grammar and stories! So it's no surprise that I love teaching reading and writing.

Can you share a fun or interesting fact about yourself that we might not know?

My middle name is Leslie. It was actually the first name of both of my grandfathers, my mum's dad and my dad's dad, so it seemed fair to have that Leslie would wind up a part of my name.

If you weren't a teacher, what profession do you think you would be in?

I enjoy working with people and I also love to know what makes them tick...maybe I'd be a psychologist?

What's your favourite school memory from when you were a student?

There are so many moments to choose from! I have many wonderful memories of fantastic teachers who taught me a lot and my amazing friends, but one of the funniest ones was the time I *literally* slipped on a banana peel like I was in some kind of cartoon.

If you could give students one piece of advice, what would it be?

Read as much as you can!
Reading is the most important skill to access all other learning.
Read, read, read!



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela



Euabalong West Public School

New School Year

Community Barbeque!



Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Starts at 3 PM

Join us for a BBQ party at school!

Food, soft drink, and fun. Don't miss out.

We hope to see you there!



Calendar Term 1 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday and Sunday
3	12 Feb	13 Feb	14 Feb	15 Feb	16 Feb	17 & 18 Feb
4	19 Feb	20 Feb	21 Feb	22 Feb	23 Feb	24 & 25 Feb
			School Photos <i>dress in full regular uniform</i> Community Barbeque 3 pm to 5 pm <i>all students and their family members are invited to a BBQ at the school</i>			
5	26 Feb	27 Feb	28 Feb	29 Feb	1 Mar	2 & 3 Mar
				Newsletter Deadline 4 pm <i>submit any contributions for the next newsletter</i>	Deadly Science Incursion 3-6 2 pm to 3 pm	
6	4 Mar	5 Mar	6 Mar	7 Mar	8 Mar	9 & 10 Mar

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

Week 4
Wed 21 Feb
School Photos

Week 4
Wed 21 Feb
Community BBQ 3 pm – 5 pm

Every day counts: why attendance matters

by Andrew Clifton

In a child's education, every day counts. Attending school regularly is not just a legal obligation but a crucial factor in shaping each child's future. The NSW Department of Education emphasises the significance of consistent attendance to unlock the full potential of each child.

Education is a cornerstone for personal and professional growth, and regular school attendance is key to unlocking its full benefits. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes more accessible, and they have the opportunity to build and maintain friendships with their peers, fostering a supportive social environment.

Legally, education in New South Wales is compulsory for children aged six and up to the minimum school leaving age of 17. The Education Act 1990 mandates that parents ensure their children attend school regularly once enrolled. This commitment is a shared responsibility between parents and educational institutions to provide a stable and conducive learning environment.

The importance of arriving on time cannot be overstated. Punctuality is not only a practical skill but also a life lesson. Ensuring that students arrive at school and class on time means they do not miss crucial learning activities scheduled early in the day. It helps instill the importance of punctuality and routine, gives students time to greet their friends before class, and significantly reduces classroom disruption.

It is worth noting that lateness is recorded as a partial absence and consistent lateness can add up over time and impact a child's overall attendance record.

Missing one day of school per fortnight equates to over a year missed over the course of a child's school lifetime. Missing one day per week amounts to over 2.5 years lost over the same period. These statistics underscore the cumulative impact of seemingly sporadic absences, highlighting the need for regular attendance to maximise educational opportunities.

Of course, there are justified reasons for student absences, such as illness, medical appointments, religious holidays, or exceptional family circumstances. However, it is essential to communicate with the school regarding any planned or unexpected absences, ensuring that missed learning opportunities can be addressed and supported.

The journey of every student's education is a collective effort, with parents and schools working hand in hand to provide the best possible learning environment for children. Regular school attendance is not just a legal requirement, it's an investment in each child's future, unlocking doors to academic success, personal growth, and expanded life opportunities. Every day your child attends school contributes to their academic and social progress, building a foundation for a lifetime of achievement and fulfillment.



Community Articles

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR PARENTS, CARERS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Community Contributions

by Euabalong West Public School

In a bid to amplify the diverse narratives within our fantastic Euabalong West community, we're extending an open invitation to parents, carers, families, and community members to contribute their stories to our wonderful school newsletter, *The Dinawan*.

In an effort to foster deeper connections among parents, carers, and community members, the call to share personal experiences and articles aims to build cohesion and create a sense of unity. It's about bringing the school community within the fabric of the school.

Perhaps you have a family anecdote you'd like to share? Maybe you'd like to tell us a little something about your family or your child? Perhaps you could tell us the important things happening in your family's lives at the moment or about your last family holiday? Or maybe you could share a recipe or some interesting facts about your favourite topic?

By delving into different perspectives, our community gains insights that foster empathy and a shared sense of purpose.

How can you contribute to our newsletter?

First, choose your topic. Share anecdotes, parenting tips, cultural insights, or any topic close to your heart.

It is important to note that your contribution must be school-friendly and not contradict the Department of Education's Controversial Issues in Schools policy. It is important to note that the policy states that schools are neutral places for rational discourse and objective study and material presented to students as part of school programs and school activities should be age appropriate, sensitive to student needs, relevant to the curriculum, relevant to the school's purpose and goals, and consistent with the core values outlined in the Values in NSW public schools policy.

This will all be taken into consideration when choosing to publish community articles.

Email your articles to the school email address by the newsletter deadline. Remember to include your name and contact information.

Aim for approximately 180 words or 350 words to keep it concise and impactful and to fit with our newsletter formatting and spacing.

Let's collectively contribute to the pages of our school newsletter, creating a rich tapestry that reflects the diversity and vibrancy of our community.

Newsletter Deadline

Thursday 29 February 2024

Term 1 Week 5 by 4 pm

If you would like to make a contribution to our school newsletter by writing an article, advertising a local event or sharing some pictures, please email your contribution to the school email address below by the newsletter deadline.

euabalongw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Every child in NSW deserves an outstanding education, and this is our driving ambition.

We want every young person in our state – no matter where they live or their family circumstances – to have the opportunities and experiences they need to achieve ambitious outcomes and reach their potential. We want students to feel known and cared for at school so that they are well prepared for life beyond – informed, curious citizens, confident and well equipped to contribute to the modern world.

Young people are our future. It is our duty to prepare them well. Our goal is for NSW public schools to be the first choice for young people and their families. The way to do that is by rebuilding our public education system – and this is what our plan for public education does. It outlines our direction for an equitable and outstanding education system.

With a clear focus on strengthening trust and respect for the teaching profession, we are committed to ensuring our teachers and staff feel valued and supported to perform at their best. We are backing the workforce with fair wages, and we are taking action to address teacher shortages, reduce workload and give teachers more time to do what they do best: deliver outstanding teaching and learning for our students.

And to improve student outcomes, teachers will be supported to implement effective evidence-based programs and explicit teaching methods. We will have high expectations of every student in every classroom.

We are also committed to driving equitable outcomes, opportunities and experiences for all students to ensure every learner receives a high-quality education with strong co-curricular activities.

By addressing inequity and the needs of the teaching workforce, we will deliver the best possible education for all our students – from preschoolers to young adults moving onto university, TAFE and work.

Public education is the cornerstone of a fair society. It is the key to our ongoing economic success. It has the power to open doors and change lives for the better. If we work together, I'm confident our plan for public education will do that.

With the dedication of our staff and in collaboration with families, we are committed to delivering an outstanding public education for every student.

Prue Car

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education and Early Learning





EUABALONG WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

WALKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

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