

The Dinawan EUABALONG WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL *Newsletter*

Principal's Message

by Mr Clifton
Acting Principal

What a fantastic start to the year we've had so far! I can't believe we're already halfway through Term 1. Time has flown by. The teachers have been doing a lot of teaching, and the students have been doing a lot of learning.

Once again, I want to say a big thank you for the warm welcome you have given to Cameron and me. We appreciate the warmth and kindness shown by everyone so far, and we absolutely love living in the schoolhouse and being members of the Euabalong West community.

It was a real delight to meet those of you who managed to make it to the Community Barbeque in Week 4. Thank you for coming along and enjoying the afternoon together. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet, learn a little more about each of your families, and the community.

I know the teachers also appreciated having the chance to meet with you and discuss individual learning goals for the students. We are aiming for all students at Euabalong West to have either a Personalised Learning Pathway or an Individual Education Plan that sets out their personal learning goals and helps us work towards meeting them.

I also appreciated the opportunity to speak to those present at the barbeque about my personal philosophy as a teacher and school leader, as well as my vision for the school. I want Euabalong West Public School to be a place where students are happy and engaged in their learning, where the staff feel motivated and fulfilled in their workplace, and where the community feels comfortable to be actively involved.

I emphasised the importance of these aspects alongside my high expectations for learning and behaviour. I mentioned that sometimes students will need to persevere through academic challenges, even when it feels uncomfortable, because that's where the highest-quality learning occurs.

I look forward to working together to achieve these goals.

Andrew Clifton





Attendance Matters

Year to Date **90%** Term 1 **90%**

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](#).



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

Curriculum Focus

by Mr South
Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction

It was great to get a chance to catch up with most of you at the Community Barbeque. We have such a wonderful school community, and it was fantastic to have a chance to get on the same page in setting goals and how we can better support your children.

Goal setting can be a difficult skill to master initially, but we want to ensure your children feel challenged at school while being supported by staff and peers. This is something we are actively encouraging, and we hope to celebrate success alongside them.

NAPLAN is right around the corner, and I look forward to our Year 3 students giving it their all. There are some key ways you can help support students when preparing for an assessment (or school in general).

- **Check in with your child about how they're feeling about it.** Anxious feelings can reduce problem-solving skills.
- **Ensure your child is adequately hydrated.** Adequate hydration improves brain function.
- **Ensure your child is getting enough sleep.** The Raising Children Network recommends 9-11 hours of sleep each night.
- **Ensure your child gets a nutritious breakfast.** This will help them stay focused throughout the morning.
- **Treat the morning of the assessment like any other day.** A relaxed and calm attitude is the best way to tackle it.

A little encouragement and support can go a long way in helping our students thrive.



Kukuparra News



By Miss Lesker

Over the last five weeks, the K-2 Kukuparra students have all settled nicely into our classroom and school routines. They have engaged in lots of learning and have already been working very hard this term.

In English, the students have been learning what makes a super sentence. They know that a super sentence needs a capital letter at the beginning and a full stop at the end, it tells us about someone or something, and it makes sense.

They have also been reading the story 'Rosie's Walk' and identifying how illustrations are used to add meaning to a text. They have been learning about prepositions and used these to write great sentences about an animal.

In Mathematics lessons, K-2 students have been practising writing their numbers. Bryce is learning to write his numbers from 0-9 and Willo, Brooklyn, and Colin have been writing numbers to 100. They have been learning that we can find little numbers in bigger numbers.

We have all been having a lot of fun together.



Marrawuy News



By Mr Clifton and Mr South

The 3-6 class has been hard at work studying the book *Blueback* by Tim Winton, the story of a boy named Abel and his mother Dora who encounter the giant blue groper they name Blueback.

The class has had the opportunity to create their own blurbs based upon the beginning of the book and look at some of the characteristics of the inhabitants of Longboat Bay. We've unpacked some wonderful language about the ocean and fishing that comes with the book's coastal setting.

Last week, students had the opportunity to create maps of Abel's and Dora's property based upon the descriptions in the first few chapters of the book. We've also explored what makes a good orientation of a book and will be diving headfirst into the complication next week.

The students have also dived right in to their new literacy routines in the morning. One of the activities the students complete four days a week is an individualised fluency read. The students enjoy monitoring their improvement each day and seeing how many more words they can read per minute.





Mr Clifton



Miss Lesker



Mr South



Miss Sally



Mrs Brett



Bryce



Brooklyn



Willo



Colin



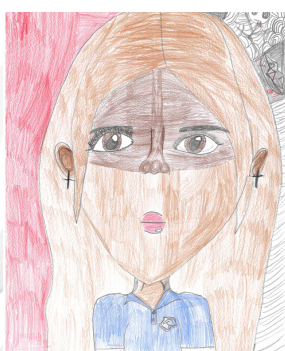
Ayla



Tyler



Riva



Sade



Sonny



Summer



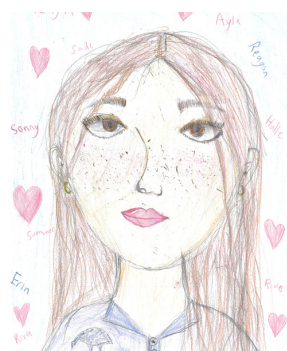
Halle



Erin



Reagan



Macy



Layla



Mr Clifton



Miss Lesker



Mr South



Miss Sally



Mrs Brett



Bryce



Brooklyn



Willo



Colin



Ayla



Tyler



Riva



Sade



Sonny



Summer



Halle



Erin



Reagan



Macy



Layla

Calendar Term 1 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday and Sunday
7	11 Mar	12 Mar	13 Mar NAPLAN Begins	14 Mar	15 Mar	16 & 17 Mar
8	18 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar	21 Mar Harmony Day <i>Students, staff, and family and community members wear orange to celebrate unity and diversity.</i>	22 Mar	23 & 24 Mar
9	25 Mar NAPLAN Ends	26 Mar Life Education (Healthy Harold) Incursion.	27 Mar	28 Mar Easter Hat Parade 1:10pm – 3:00pm <i>Get busy making an Easter Hat! Prizes for the best hat K-2 and 3-6. All family and community members welcome.</i>	29 Mar Good Friday Public Holiday <i>School non-operational.</i>	30 & 31 Mar Easter Saturday and Sunday
10	1 Apr Easter Monday Public Holiday <i>School non-operational.</i>	2 Apr STEM Week <i>Abbey MacPherson Master of Education (STEM) delivering engaging STEM lessons for K-6.</i>	3 Apr STEM Week <i>Abbey MacPherson Master of Education (STEM) delivering engaging STEM lessons for K-6.</i>	4 Apr STEM Week <i>Abbey MacPherson Master of Education (STEM) delivering engaging STEM lessons for K-6.</i>	5 Apr STEM Week <i>Abbey MacPherson Master of Education (STEM) delivering engaging STEM lessons for K-6.</i>	6 & 7 Apr
11	8 Apr	9 Apr	10 Apr End of Term Assembly 2:00pm – 3:00pm <i>All family and community members welcome.</i>	11 Apr	12 Apr Last Day Term 1 <i>School holidays start after school today.</i>	13 & 14 Apr

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

Week 8
Thu 21 March

Harmony Day – wear orange

Week 9
Tue 26 March

Life Education (Healthy Harold)

Week 9
Thu 28 March

Easter Hat Parade
1:10pm–3:00pm

Values and vision statements

by Mr Clifton

We are thrilled to announce the creation of new vision statements that reflect our commitment to excellence at school as both a high-quality learning environment for the students and a fulfilling workplace for staff. The creation of these new statements is the result of a collaborative effort from our dedicated staff, who have diligently crafted them to align with our new core values.

Over the course of the last month, we have worked together to review the latest research on what makes a quality, high-performing organisation function and what characteristics distinguish schools that excel. We have also taken into account the values of our local community and conducted brainstorming sessions to identify the qualities that we most desire to see reflected in the students, staff, and community of Euabalong West Public School.

At the forefront of our thinking has been the type of learning environment we want to create for our students and the type of learners we want them to be. All of this is reflected in our eight new values and our school and workplace vision statements.

Our values and vision statements will serve as guiding principles that inform our actions and decisions, guiding us towards our shared aspirations for Euabalong West Public School. They are a shared commitment that will keep us all focused, as a whole-school community, on the common goal we have of making our school a fantastic place to learn, work, and play.

Our eight new core values are:

1. **We are kind to ourselves and one another.**
2. **We are polite and respectful to everyone.**
3. **We have high expectations.**
4. **We are resilient and persevere through challenges.**
5. **We work hard and do our best.**
6. **We listen to each other.**
7. **We work to improve ourselves and achieve our goals.**
8. **We attend school on time as often as possible.**

Kindness and respect are the cornerstones of our interactions, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued. By setting high expectations for ourselves and others, we cultivate a culture of excellence. Resilience is emphasised as we recognise the importance of perseverance. Hard work and dedication are celebrated, encouraging students and staff alike to put forth their utmost effort in pursuit of their goals. Listening is valued as a means of fostering effective communication and understanding among all members of our community. Finally, attendance is prioritised due to the significant impact broken attendance has on student outcomes.

These core values are not just words on paper. They are the foundation upon which we build a vibrant and thriving school community, where every individual has the opportunity to flourish and succeed.





At **Euabalong West Public School**, we believe in fostering a **learning environment** where **students** are engaged in learning, safe, happy, and resilient through a culture built on kindness and respect, high expectations, listening, differentiation and support.

At **Euabalong West Public School**, we believe in fostering a **learning environment** where **students** are engaged in learning, safe, happy, and resilient through a culture built on:

- **Kindness and Respect:** We nurture a kind, safe, and inclusive school culture where everyone is treated with dignity and students feel valued and respected as individuals. Our school is free from name-calling and putdowns and everyone uses kind talk. We encourage students and celebrate their successes. We value diversity.
- **High Expectations:** We have high standards for academic achievement, behaviour, attendance and personal growth for all students. All students are encouraged to try their best at all times, engage rigorously in their learning, persevere with new learning, and be resilient in challenging situations. Everyone is respectful and behaves appropriately. High levels of attendance are recognised as a key factor in students' academic and social success and the whole school community is committed to ensuring students attend school at least 95% of the time. Everyone is focused on ensuring every student grows academically and as a whole person.
- **Listening:** Student voice is valued. All students' contributions and perspectives are appreciated and everyone listens carefully to their ideas and feedback. Family and community voices are equally valued. Feedback is recognised and valued as integral to learning and creating a cohesive, effective learning environment. Everyone appreciates feedback as key to personal growth and improvement.
- **Differentiation and Support:** Students are supported as individual learners and individual human beings through differentiation and individualised teaching and care. All students have individual learning and social goals and are helped to grow both academically and socially.



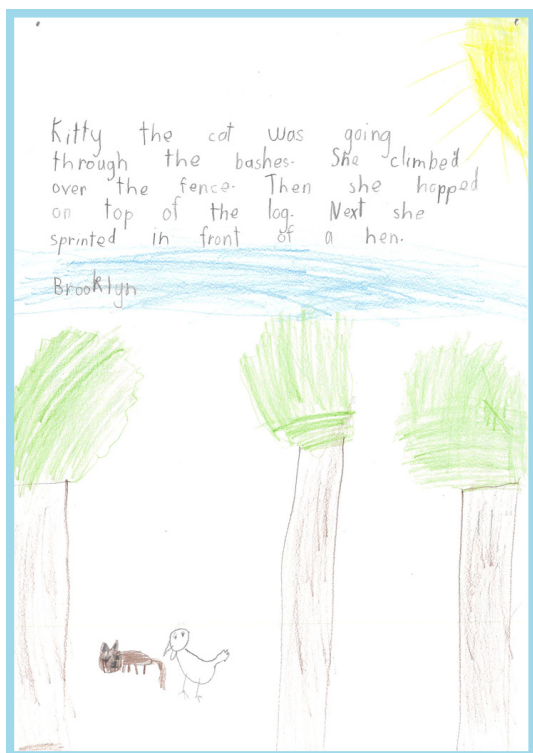
At **Euabalong West Public School**, we believe in fostering a **workplace** where **staff** are happy and fulfilled through a culture built on kindness and respect, teamwork, transparency and honesty, trust and integrity, and lifelong learning.

At **Euabalong West Public School**, we believe in fostering a **workplace** where **staff** are happy and fulfilled through a culture built on:

- **Kindness and Respect:** We nurture a supportive and inclusive staff culture where we treat each other with dignity, valuing everyone's contributions and perspectives. Our school is free from name-calling and putdowns and we talk to each other, not about each other. We engage in open communication and celebrate each other's successes. We listen to each other with the same passion with which we want to be heard. We are approachable.
- **Teamwork:** We work together as a united team, recognising the diverse knowledge, skills, ideas, and strengths of each staff member as important and appreciated.
- **Transparency and Honesty:** Clear is kind. Unclear is unkind. We lean into difficult conversations and address challenging topics, ideas, and problems directly. We prioritise honesty and constructive criticism, focusing on challenging ideas and behaviours, not people.
- **Trust and Integrity:** We build trust by being reliable and being accountable for our mistakes. We keep confidences and respect confidentiality. We maintain our integrity by choosing courage over comfort. We ask for help when we need it.
- **Lifelong Learning:** We remain open to new learning and unlearning. We encourage ourselves and each other to embrace lifelong learning, even when it involves discomfort or challenging existing beliefs.

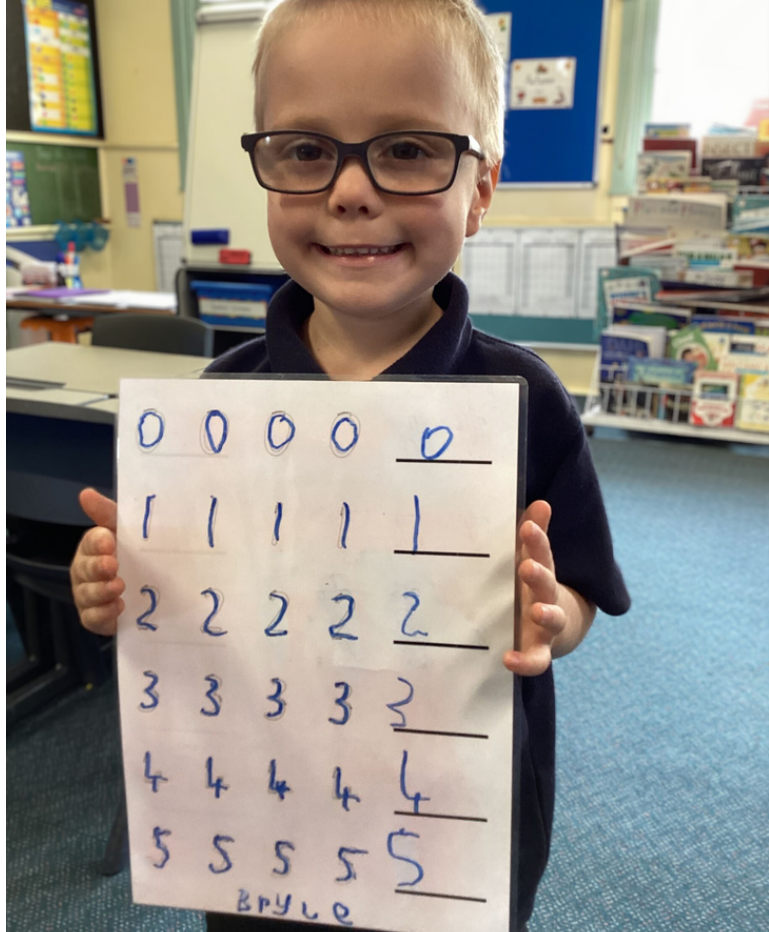
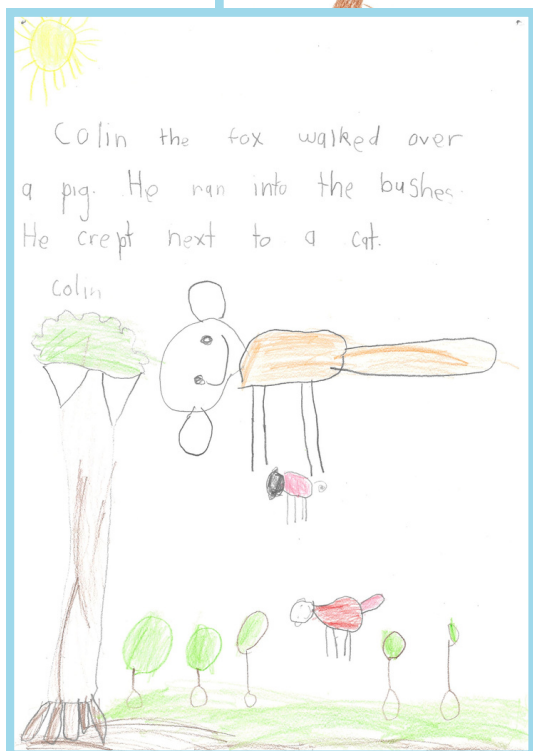
Writing Samples

by Brooklyn, Willo and Colin



Millie the horse ran through the pond.
She walked over the hay bales.
Then she jumped on top of the hill.
Next she sprinted near a tree.

Willo Hague



Farm Life

by Sonny

On the farm it can be fun to ride the motorbike around and I help Dad muster sheep. I draft the sheep in the yards and he helps me when I can't do a job. So, I think living on the farm can be pretty good.

On the farm, Dad and Mum let me have animals like dogs, sheep, and chooks, and even pigs! But I have to feed them all.

My parents take me to football every weekend so I can play. After football we go to the bowling club in Lake.

Dad and Mum take me and the girls pig hunting, but the next day I have to wake up at 6:25 to get ready for school. Then the fun stops.

Farm life is so much better than a city, because you are pretty much free. But in a city you cannot run around, because there are too many buildings in the road, so it is such a bad place to be free.

That is why I think the farm is better than a town or a city.



Veggie Invigoration

Euabalong West Public School

Calling all green thumbs! We are seeking to revitalise our school vegetable garden, and we need your help. Our goal is to create a vibrant, educational space where students can learn about gardening, sustainability, and the importance of healthy eating.

The school vegetable garden has the potential to be an invaluable resource for our students, offering hands-on learning opportunities and fostering a deeper connection with nature. However, to bring this vision to life, we need the support and expertise of our community members.

We are seeking expressions of interest from family and community members passionate about gardening to join us in this exciting project. Your enthusiasm and knowledge will be invaluable.

In addition to tending to the garden, we are asking our volunteers to give talks and workshops to our students about gardening, caring for vegetables, and the importance of sustainable practices. These talks will not only enhance our curriculum but also inspire our students to develop lifelong skills and habits that promote health and environmental stewardship.

If you are interested in getting involved and leading this project or have expertise to share, please contact the school by phone on 02 6896 6649 or by email by **Tuesday 13 March 2024**.



The New Sandpit

Euabalong West Public School

We're excited to extend a heartfelt thank you and a massive shout out to our dedicated General Assistant, Trevor, for his incredible work in bringing to life our brand-new sandpit! Trevor's craftsmanship and dedication have transformed the area between the equipment and the multipurpose court into a cherished addition to our school playground.

Since its completion, the sandpit has become a hub of excitement and creativity for our students. From playing with a range of sand toys to digging for hidden treasures, the children have embraced this new space with boundless enthusiasm. It's truly heartwarming to see their imaginations soar as they play, explore, and relax in yet another fantastic space.

In addition, we must extend our ongoing thanks to Trevor for the incredible job he does maintaining our school grounds. Our grass is constantly watered and looking green and healthy, and Trevor always keeps it freshly mown. Our school grounds are absolutely immaculate, and that's all thanks to Trevor and the wonderful work he does.

Thank you so much, Trevor, for being so committed to our school and making it a beautiful place to work and play.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss



EUABALONG WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

WALKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

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