



The Dinawan EUABALONG WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL *Newsletter*

Principal's Message

by Mr Clifton
Principal

What an incredible year it has been at Euabalong West Public School!

As I mentioned at our Presentation Evening, serving as principal of this wonderful school is the greatest privilege of my career. This year has been filled with learning, growth, and countless moments of joy and achievement for our students, staff, and community.

As we reach the end of the year, we bid a fond farewell to Erin, Layla, Macy, and Reagan, who are heading off to high school. We are so proud of each of you and the young people you have become. Your contributions to our school have been deeply valued and we know you will go on to achieve amazing things in high school. Remember to believe in yourselves and, as always, no negative self talk! Good luck on this exciting next chapter of your journey—we'll miss you!

The summer holidays are about to begin, and with almost two months away from school, it's important to keep the learning momentum going. I encourage all parents to support their children in continuing to read over the holidays. Whether it's sharing stories together, visiting the library, or encouraging independent reading, maintaining regular reading habits is one of the best ways to ensure progress is

not lost during the break. It's also a wonderful way to spark imagination and create a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.

As we wrap up 2024, I want to thank our dedicated staff, supportive parents and carers, and resilient, hardworking students for making this year so memorable. Our achievements this year have been a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together as a community.

I wish everyone a safe, restful and happy summer break. Spend time with loved ones, recharge, and enjoy the wonderful sunshine. I am already looking forward to 2025 and the opportunities it will bring for our school and students. Together, we can make it another fantastic year at Euabalong West Public School.

See you all in the new year!

Andrew Clifton



The Importance of Regular Vision and Hearing Checks

by Euabalong West Public School

At Euabalong West Public School, we recognise the vital role vision and hearing play in students' learning and overall success. Even mild impairments in either area can significantly impact a child's ability to engage in classroom activities, follow instructions, and develop essential literacy and numeracy skills.

In Week 9, Mr Clifton, Mrs Brett, Tyler, Brooklyn, and Bryce travelled to Griffith to have an eye check done at Specsavers. This experience highlighted the importance of early detection and how simple it is to ensure children are set up for success. Eye checks are completely free for children with a Medicare card—all you need to do is book an appointment with an optometrist.

During our visit, we also discovered that Specsavers Griffith offers hearing checks, providing a convenient way to check both vision and hearing in one trip. This is a fantastic opportunity to identify any issues early, ensuring your child receives the support they need to thrive at school.

Why are these checks so important? Research shows that even minor issues with vision or hearing can result in missed learning opportunities.



Children with undiagnosed difficulties may struggle to see the board, read books, hear instructions, or participate in group discussions. These challenges can lead to frustration, reduced confidence, and gaps in learning. By addressing any concerns early, we can make sure every child has the tools they need to succeed.

We strongly encourage families to take advantage of the summer holidays to book appointments with an optometrist and audiologist. If you're heading to Griffith or another large town, make it a priority to have your child's vision and hearing checked. The process is straightforward and the benefits are immense.

If you're unsure where to start, we're here to help. Our school is eager to support families to access regular vision and hearing checks. If you have questions or need assistance booking an appointment, please don't hesitate to contact us. Catching even the smallest impairments early can make a world of difference.

Glasses or hearing aids are an easy fix for potentially big issues and can make all the difference in your child's education.



Farewell to Our Year 6 Cohort

by Euabalong West Public School

As the school year draws to a close, it is time to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 cohort: Erin, Layla, Macy, and Reagan. After seven years at Euabalong West Public School, these terrific young people are ready to spread their wings and embark on an exciting new chapter at high school.

Each of these students has left a unique and lasting impression on our school community and we are incredibly proud of the people they have become. Over the years, they have grown, learnt, and contributed so much to our school. Now, as they move on to Lake Cargelligo Central School and Yanco Agricultural High School, we reflect on the incredible gifts they've shared with us.

Erin has been a shining example of leadership, always ready to lend a helping hand and guide younger students. Her willingness to step up, set a positive example, and take on responsibilities has been a cornerstone of her time here. We know she will continue to inspire and lead in her next adventure.

Macy has brought a kind and caring heart to our school community. Her thoughtfulness and compassion have touched us all, and her hunger for learning has been truly inspiring. Macy is learning to approach challenges with curiosity and determination, and we are confident she will continue to achieve great things.

Layla has been a source of joy and laughter with her wicked sense of humour. Her wonderful writing skills have also set her apart, as she has shown creativity and talent in her classwork.

Layla's unique ability to connect with others through humour and storytelling will undoubtedly be an asset in her future endeavours.

Reagan has shown incredible potential and a growing ability to persevere through difficult learning. Over the years, we've watched her begin to embrace challenges and develop her resilience, and it has been a privilege to witness her growth. We know determination will be a key tool for her to take on the opportunities high school will bring.

To Erin, Layla, Macy, and Reagan: the teachers and staff at Euabalong West Public School have loved watching you grow into the confident, capable individuals you are today. We encourage you to make new friends, stay committed to learning, and set goals for yourselves. Work hard to achieve them and always strive to be the best versions of yourselves.

There are so many new opportunities waiting for you at Lake Cargelligo Central School and Yanco Agricultural High School. Embrace them and remember the values and lessons you've learnt here at Euabalong West. We are confident you'll make the most of everything 2025 has to offer and we look forward to hearing about your achievements.

Please don't be strangers! Come back and visit us whenever you can. You will always be a part of the Euabalong West family.

Good luck and farewell, Year 6—we will miss you dearly!







Making a Splash: Two Weeks of Swim Scheme

by Euabalong West Public School

Over Weeks 7 and 8, Euabalong West Public School students participated in two weeks of intensive swimming lessons at the Lake Cargelligo Swimming Pool. This fantastic program not only helped our students develop essential swimming skills but also culminated in an exciting Small Schools' Swimming Carnival on Friday 6 December 2024.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 attended daily lessons, working hard to master the four main swimming strokes: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly. The commitment and effort shown by all students throughout the program were truly commendable. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow in the water and the progress they made over the fortnight was terrific.

The Swimming Carnival was a brilliant way to celebrate the conclusion of the swim scheme. The event brought together students, parents, and staff from local small schools, creating an atmosphere of fun, excitement, and healthy competition. There were many memorable moments in the pool. A particular highlight was the Teachers and Parents' Race, where Macy and Mr Clifton teamed up to take out the top spot! Congratulations to both of them on their well-earned victory.

A big thank you to the staff at Lake Cargelligo Swimming Pool for their excellent instruction and support during the swim scheme. Their expertise

and encouragement made a significant difference in helping our students improve their swimming skills. A big thank you to our teaching and non-teaching staff, who attended the pool every day with our students to instruct them in their lessons.

We also extend our gratitude to the parents and community members who came along to cheer on the students during the carnival. Your support means so much to the children and helps create lasting memories. It was wonderful to have so many of our families together under our Euabalong West Public School gazebo.

Congratulations to all students for their hard work and achievements during the swim scheme. We are incredibly proud of your efforts and look forward to seeing you continue to grow as confident and capable swimmers!

We hope all students will participate again next year to help them acquire these vital, lifesaving skills.



The Power of Reading: A Lifelong Skill

by Euabalong West Public School



Reading is the foundation of all learning and one of the most valuable skills students can develop. As parents, educators, and a school community, fostering strong reading habits in our children is one of the greatest gifts we can give them. Reading isn't just about recognising words on a page; it's about unlocking a world of knowledge, imagination, and opportunity.

Why is reading the most important skill to learn in school? It's simple: reading is the vehicle for learning in all subject areas. Whether it's solving a maths word problem, conducting a science experiment, or understanding historical events, reading plays a crucial role. Students read to learn and their ability to comprehend written material directly impacts their success across the curriculum. Strong readers become confident learners because they can access, interpret, and analyse information independently.

Beyond academics, reading nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and empathy. Through stories, children explore new worlds, understand diverse perspectives, and develop problem-solving skills. These abilities enrich their lives both in and outside the classroom, laying the foundation for lifelong learning and personal growth.

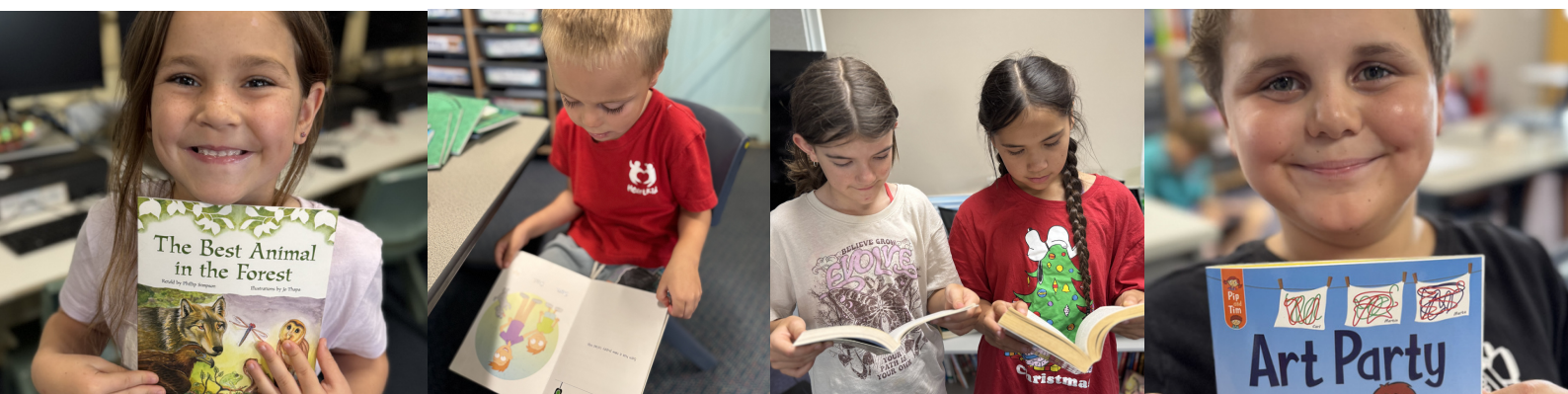
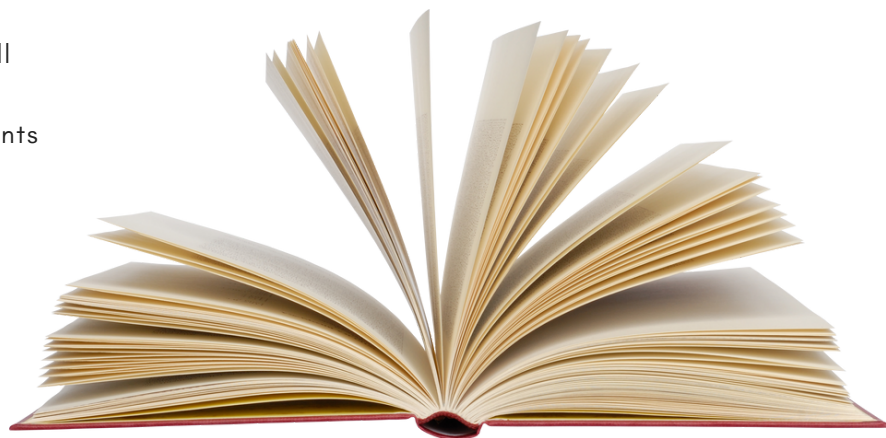
It's important to remember that reading is a skill that requires practice to maintain and improve. With the summer holidays about to begin, students will have almost two months away from the structured learning environment of school. This extended break can lead to the "summer slide," where reading progress stalls or even goes backwards. The good news is that this is easily preventable!

Parents, carers and families, we encourage you to support your children in continuing to read over the holidays. This doesn't mean turning reading into a chore. Instead, make it enjoyable! Visit a library, explore books that align with their interests, or share a favourite story together. Even 20 minutes of reading a day can make a significant difference.

If your child prefers non-fiction, encourage them to dive into topics they're curious about. If they're more into fiction, help them find engaging and age-appropriate stories. Audiobooks, comics, and magazines are also fantastic options to keep the habit alive. The key is consistency and fostering a love of reading that will inspire them to pick up books willingly.

Reading is so much more than a school requirement; it's a tool for understanding the world, achieving dreams, and building a better future.

Let's keep our students reading, growing, and thriving—even over the holidays. By doing so, we can ensure they return to school in 2025 ready to take on new challenges and reach their full potential.



Calendar Term 1 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday & Sunday
1	27 Jan School Holidays	28 Jan School Holidays	29 Jan School Holidays	30 Jan School Holidays	31 Jan School Holidays Western Division	1 & 2 Feb
2	3 Feb School Holidays Western Division	4 Feb School Holidays Western Division	5 Feb School Holidays Western Division	6 Feb School Holidays Western Division	7 Feb School Development Day Students DO NOT ATTEND	8 & 9 Feb
3	10 Feb School Development Day Students DO NOT ATTEND	11 Feb School Development Day Students DO NOT ATTEND	12 Feb School Development Day Students DO NOT ATTEND	13 Feb SCHOOL BEGINS! Students' first day back	14 Feb	15 & 16 Feb
4	17 Feb	18 Feb	19 Feb	20 Feb	21 Feb	22 & 23 Feb
5	24 Feb	25 Feb P&C Meeting and Community BBQ	26 Feb	27 Feb	28 Feb	1 & 2 Mar

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

Week 3

Thursday

13 February

Students' first day
back at school

Week 5

Tuesday

25 February

P&C Meeting and
Community BBQ

Week 6

Tuesday

4 March

Aboriginal School
Partnership Committee
Meeting