

The Dinawan EUABALONG WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL *Newsletter*

Principal's Message

by Mr Clifton
Principal

We are almost to the end of Week 6 and what a busy and productive term it has been so far!

This term, we celebrated the achievements of our talented athletes at the NSWPSA State Athletics Carnival. Students engaged in important lessons on child protection, helping them develop the knowledge and skills to stay safe. Halloween Dress-Up Day was a colourful highlight, with costumes sparking plenty of joy and laughter across the school.

Creative Arts Day saw our students exploring their artistic talents, showcasing their creativity through an artist study led by Mrs O'Neill.

Our Years 3-6 students had an enriching experience on their excursion to Crookwell and Canberra, while our K-2 students enjoyed an engaging visit to Lake Cargelligo to learn about the vital role of emergency services in our community.

We also had the privilege of hosting the Books in Homes Book Giving Ceremony, ensuring every child in our school took home a selection of quality books to foster their love of reading. We thank Books in Homes for their ongoing support and author Andrea Rowe for sharing her story and presenting the books to us.

Looking ahead, the final weeks of the school year will be just as eventful. Daily swimming lessons for all students will take place during Weeks 7 and 8 at the Lake Cargelligo Swimming Pool. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their water safety and swimming skills, just in time for summer.

In Week 9, we will celebrate our Year 6 students as they prepare to move on to high school with a special Farewell Dinner on Wednesday evening. Then, in Week 10, our Presentation Evening on Tuesday will be a chance to reflect on the year's achievements and celebrate the efforts and successes of our students.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we finish the year with enthusiasm and dedication. Let's make these final weeks as memorable and rewarding as the rest of 2024 has been!

Andrew Clifton





Attendance Matters

At Last Newsletter

Year to Date

71%  **86%**

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

At our school, we believe in the power of assessment to guide and improve teaching and learning. Each year, students in Years 3 to 6 participate in the Check-in assessment, a valuable tool that helps us identify priority areas for learning and tailor our teaching to meet the specific needs of our students. This year's results highlighted areas of focus in mathematics, and over the past few weeks, students in Years 3 to 6 have been engaging in targeted learning activities designed to build their understanding and skills.

One key area of focus has been geometry, with students learning about the different types of angles—acute, obtuse, and reflex—and how to accurately measure them using a protractor. Through hands-on practice and visual learning, students have gained confidence in identifying and working with angles in a range of contexts.

In addition, students have explored the concept of area. They have been learning to measure the surface area of shapes by counting grid squares and developing their problem-solving skills by using the formula $\text{Area} = \text{Length} \times \text{Width}$ to calculate the area of rectangles.

This targeted approach, informed by assessment data, ensures that every student is supported in developing essential skills and knowledge. We are proud of their progress and look forward to continuing this focus on tailored, impactful learning.

We are passionate about assessment driving quality teaching and learning.



Kukuparra News



by Miss Lesker

K-2 Kukuparra students and Tyler were not about to let the older students have all the fun at camp! On 6 November, they enjoyed an exciting excursion to Lake Cargelligo, where they visited the Ambulance Station, Fire Station, and Police Station.

The adventure began with recess at the Boat Club park. The students had a wonderful time watching the birds on the lake and playing in the playground. Their first stop was the Ambulance Station, where Richard welcomed them warmly. He let the students hop onto the stretcher and even pushed them into the ambulance, much to their delight! Richard demonstrated some of the medical equipment and explained the importance of dialling triple 000 in an emergency. The students were thrilled to each receive a CareFlight teddy bear, which they thought was absolutely wonderful.

Next, they visited the Fire Station, where Will and Dan gave them a fantastic tour. The students saw the firemen's uniforms and even had the chance to try some on! They explored the fire trucks and were especially excited when Dan helped them use the fire hoses. The hoses were so powerful that the water sprayed a long way! Will and Dan also talked about their important jobs and reminded the students to call triple 000 in case of a fire. The children were overjoyed to be given toy firefighter hats and colouring activity books as mementos of their visit.



Marrawuy News



by Mr Clifton and Mr South

This year, we have introduced new, research-based approaches to spelling in our Years 3-6 classroom, with an emphasis on helping students understand how English words work. A key component of this approach is the use of rules-based instruction, where students learn and apply spelling rules to develop a deeper understanding of word structure and patterns.

In addition, we have implemented daily Spelling Retrieval Practice. This involves students practising spelling words from memory, which strengthens their ability to recall and apply spelling patterns in writing. Retrieval practice is a proven strategy that reinforces learning and builds long-term retention.

Students have embraced this new style of spelling instruction with enthusiasm, and we are already seeing terrific gains in their spelling ability. These strategies not only improve accuracy but also build confidence in spelling, empowering students to apply their knowledge across all areas of learning.

We are proud of their progress and look forward to continued success!



K-2 Excursion cont...

by Miss Lesker

After their visit to the fire station, the students enjoyed a delicious lunch at Fishos Hot Bake & Take Away. They were treated to chips, nuggets, fairy bread, and even milkshakes. They were so full afterwards they could hardly move!

The final stop on their excursion was the police station. Ben, Andrew, and Matt warmly welcomed the students and gave them an engaging tour of the station. The students asked lots of questions and had the chance to explore different areas, including the holding cells and the back of the police wagon. Some students even got to try on a bulletproof vest, and others experienced what it was like to wear handcuffs. Matt and Andrew talked to the students about the important role police officers play in keeping the community safe and how they are always there to help anyone in need.

Before leaving, each student received a "Cops are Tops" sticker and posed for photos with the police officer scarecrow, which they thought was very cool!

The students had an absolutely wonderful day, and I would like to thank all the emergency services that generously allowed the students to visit. They learned so much and told me it was the most "Amazing Day Ever!"





Crookwell and Canberra 3-6 Camp

by Mr Clifton

Our Years 3-6 camp to Crookwell and Canberra was an unforgettable adventure, packed with learning experiences and fun.

At Crookwell, students explored sustainable farming practices and the importance of farming diversification at the Australian Agricultural Centre. Our unique accommodation in yurts and meals in the wool shed added to the authentic farming experience. Students planted trees by the dam, learning about carbon sequestering and how trees play a role in combating climate change. The evening brought excitement with stargazing through a portable telescope, where students were captivated by the rings of Saturn and the wonders of the night sky. The group also discovered how wind turbines generate clean energy, deepening their understanding of renewable resources.

In Canberra, we stayed at the Bush Capital Lodge YMCA, which became our base for exploring the nation's capital. At the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, students gained insight into voting and elections, participating in a hands-on full preferential vote count. The National Zoo and Aquarium provided an up-close look at diverse animal habitats, fostering curiosity about wildlife and conservation. A tour of Parliament House was a highlight, where students met Senator O'Neill and saw democracy in action.

And of course, no visit to Canberra would be complete without the excitement of Questacon, where science and fun collided in engaging exhibits and activities.

This camp was not only a chance to learn in real-world settings but also an opportunity for students to bond, build independence, and create lasting memories. We are so proud of how well they represented our school, and we thank our staff and parent volunteers who made this enriching experience possible. It was a truly valuable adventure, and we look forward to more opportunities like this in the future.





Why Hygiene Matters: Staying Clean, Healthy and Smelling Fresh

by Euabalong West Public School

Good hygiene is an essential part of staying healthy, feeling confident, and being ready to learn. For children, developing good hygiene habits early sets the foundation for a lifetime of wellbeing. It's important for students to understand why hygiene matters and how it impacts their daily lives, relationships, and health.

One crucial habit is brushing your teeth with toothpaste every morning and night. Regular brushing removes plaque and prevents cavities, tooth decay, and gum disease. Poor dental hygiene can lead to painful infections, bad breath, and costly dental treatments. Bad breath, in particular, can make social interactions uncomfortable and create unnecessary barriers in building friendships. By making brushing a non-negotiable part of the daily routine, children can keep their smiles healthy and bright.

Showering with soap at least once a day is equally important. Showering removes sweat, dirt, and bacteria that can accumulate on the skin throughout the day. Skipping showers can lead to body odour and skin irritation, which can make students uncomfortable and affect their confidence when interacting with peers. Over time, noticeable body odour or an unkempt appearance can lead to social challenges, as other children may avoid engaging with someone who smells unpleasant or looks unclean.

Hair hygiene is another key factor. Washing hair at least twice a week prevents the buildup of oil and dirt, keeping the scalp healthy and reducing the risk of dandruff or an itchy scalp. Clean hair is also

easier to manage and style, which can boost self-esteem.

Clothing hygiene plays a significant role as well. Clothes should be washed after every two wears (or more often if they've been soiled or sweated in). Wearing unwashed clothes can lead to an unpleasant smell, make students feel self-conscious, and contribute to skin issues. Clean clothes signal self-care and consideration for others, fostering positive interactions.

As children grow, they should also start wearing deodorant. Sweat is a natural part of life, but deodorant helps control body odour, especially as they become more active or enter puberty. This is particularly important for Years 4, 5 and 6 students.

The consequences of neglecting these habits extend beyond physical health. Poor hygiene can lead to social discomfort and even isolation. Students who struggle with hygiene may find it harder to make and maintain friendships, which can impact their emotional wellbeing and confidence.

By prioritising hygiene, children can feel fresh and ready to learn, build positive relationships, and maintain their health. Let's work together to instil these habits early and set every child up for success—socially, academically, and personally.

HYGIENE



Books in Homes

by Euabalong West Public School

On Tuesday 19 November, we proudly hosted our Term 4 Books in Homes Book Giving Ceremony, an event that continues to be a highlight throughout the year. Books in Homes Australia is a charitable foundation dedicated to improving literacy outcomes by providing books-of-choice to children in remote, disadvantaged, and low socio-economic communities. The program fosters early literacy engagement and equips children with the reading skills essential for lifelong success.

We are incredibly fortunate to have The Sydney Sock Project as our generous sponsor for this initiative this term. Thanks to their support, every student in our school was able to select three free books to take home. The joy and excitement on the students' faces were priceless as they received books they had personally chosen—books that will no doubt inspire a love of reading and learning.

This term's Book Giving Ceremony was made even more special by the presence of acclaimed children's author Andrea Rowe, who joined us via video conference. Andrea, celebrated for her heart-warming picture books such as *Jetty Jumping*, *Sunday Skating*, *In the Rockpool*, and *Amid the Sand Dunes*, captivated students with her stories and passion for writing. She shared insights into her creative process, her inspiration from the natural world, and her love for storytelling.

Andrea's engaging presentation encouraged students to explore their imaginations and sparked conversations about the joy and power of books. The event not only celebrated the value of reading but also reinforced the importance of literacy as a pathway to opportunity and achievement.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Books in Homes Australia, The Sydney Sock Project, and Andrea Rowe for making this event so meaningful. Together, they have made a lasting impact on our students, fostering a love of reading that will benefit them for years to come.



"Books are a uniquely portable magic."
Stephen King

P to K Transition

Euabalong West Public School

Throughout Terms 3 and 4 we have had the absolute pleasure of welcoming Brodie and Kelly to our school once a week for their Preschool to Kindergarten transition program.

Brodie and Kelly have brought so much joy, energy, and curiosity to our school. They have embraced every opportunity to learn and explore, from joining in on classroom activities to making new friends in the playground. Their confidence has grown with each visit and it's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning flourish as they've become more familiar with their new school environment.

These transition days have given Brodie and Kelly a great head start in building relationships with their peers and teachers. We are so proud of how well they've settled in and how excited they are about starting "big school."

We can't wait to have Brodie and Kelly with us every day as our newest Kindergarten students in 2025. We are excited to see what their first year of school has in store for them. We know they will thrive and continue to bring their unique sparkle to our school!



Swim Scheme

Euabalong West Public School

Our annual Swim Scheme kicks off next Monday, 25 November, and will run daily throughout Weeks 7 and 8. This program is a fantastic opportunity for all students to develop essential water safety and swimming skills at their level and we strongly encourage all students to attend every day.

Each day, students will attend the Lake Cargelligo Swimming Pool for dedicated swimming lessons. These lessons are tailored to each student's ability, helping them to build confidence in the water, improve technique, and learn vital skills for staying safe around water.

Swim Scheme is a critical learning opportunity, especially as we approach the summer holidays. With so many Australians enjoying time at pools, lakes, and beaches, learning to swim is not just fun—it's a life-saving skill. This program teaches students how to navigate aquatic environments safely, giving them the knowledge and abilities they need to stay protected in and around the water.

Students will leave school by bus at 12:30 pm each day. Please ensure your child brings swimmers, a swim shirt (compulsory), a towel, extra snacks for after swimming, and optional thongs. Students should wear their regular school clothes and shoes to school (please do not wear swimmers or thongs to school).

We will return to school by 3:00 pm each day for the bus.

We're excited for a fun and valuable two weeks of swimming!



**EUABALONG WEST
PUBLIC SCHOOL**



PRESENTATION EVENING

COMMUNITY DINNER AND ASSEMBLY

THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD ON



**TUESDAY
17 DECEMBER 2024**



6:00PM



**EUABALONG WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL
COLA AND PLAYGROUND**

Each family please bring three dishes: a meat dish, a salad and a dessert.

The P&C will provide a ham, some chickens and a drinks station with water and cordial.

Santa Claus will visit, so please bring a \$20 gift for your child.

Calendar Term 4 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday & Sunday
6		19th November P&C Meeting 3.30pm		21st November Lake Cargelligo AECG Meeting 3.30pm 2025 Kindergarten Transition		
7	25th November Swimming Lessons	26th November Swimming Lessons	28th November Swimming Lessons	29th November Swimming Lessons	30th November Swimming Lessons	
8	2nd December Swimming Lessons	3rd December Swimming Lessons	4th December Swimming Lessons	5th December Swimming Lessons	6th December Small Schools Swimming Carnival	
9			11th December Year 6 Farewell Dinner			
10		17th December Presentation Night	18th December Last day of school for 2024			

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

Week 7

25th November-
30th November

Swimming Lessons

Week 8

6th December

Small Schools
Swimming Carnival

Week 10

December 18

Last Day of School
for 2024