

NEWSLETTER

2025



Try Always'

Principal's Message

Term 3 Week 2 | 31 July

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am thrilled to be joining our school community once again as the relieving principal. My first weeks have been nothing short of exciting, and I have been warmly welcomed by the incredible staff, enthusiastic students, and supportive parents I have had the pleasure of meeting. It has been inspiring to see the vibrant spirit and dedication that everyone brings to our school, and I look forward to working together to create a positive and enriching environment for our children. I have especially enjoyed getting to know the students not just in my 2/3 class, but across the whole school. Thank you for your warm welcome.

Public Education Week 2025

4-8 August
Ignite your potential



Term 3 is often a busy one, and this one appears to be no different as we have lots of events on the school calendar. Next week is Public Education Week, with the theme *Ignite your potential*, and some of the events scheduled are sure to get the imagination going of possibilities and opportunities to be had when attending your local public school.

On Monday the students will be attending an African drumming performance, *Ghana Beat My Drum*, at the Wongarbon Hall. The school is subsidising this cultural performance so there is no cost to families. I'm looking forward to hearing the rhythms and learning more about Africa and its people. We may even identify some talented musicians within our school!

On Wednesday, we will be supporting Stewart House with a **Pyjama Day** fundraiser. Stewart House is a public school which provides optometry, dental and

UPCOMING EVENTS

TERM 2

Breakfast Club operates from
8:15am - Monday - Friday

TERM 3

Monday, 4 August

 **African Drumming**

Wednesday, 6 August

 **Stewart House Pyjama Day**

Thursday, 7 August

 **School Photo Day**

Friday, 8 August

 **Small School Athletics Carnival**

Friday, 15 August

 **Year 4/5/6 Assembly**

Thursday, 21 August

 **Book Parade**

 **Kinder Transition Meeting**

Wednesday, 27 August


 **P&C Meeting**

Friday, 29 August

 **Year 2/3 Assembly**

 **District Athletics**

Wednesday – Friday, 3- 5 September

 **Year 4/5/6 Sydney Excursion**

Please note that while we aim to keep our school calendar accurate, sometimes dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. We will do our best to inform you of any updates as early as possible.

CONSENT NOTES/ PAYMENTS DUE

 **Sydney Excursion**

 **Athletics Carnival**

Every day counts!

Missing school means missing chances to learn, make friends, and have fun while building skills.

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



=

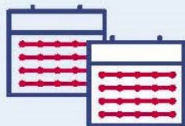
Over **1** year missed

1 day per **week**



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed



TERM 3 - Week 1

Did we reach our class attendance



GOAL OF 95% ?



Kindergarten

89%

Year One

83%

Year Two

92%

Year Three

93%

Year Four

86%

Year Five

100%



Year Six

79%



Days missed = years lost

If your child misses as little as



day per week

they will miss

8



weeks of school per year

which adds up to over

2.5

years missed over their school life



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medical treatments, along with emotional and therapeutic supports to 1,600 public school children each year. They provide a fabulous service so I encourage everyone to bring along a gold coin donation (notes happily accepted too) and come dressed in your warm winter PJs to support the fabulous work of Stewart House.

School Photos will be held on Thursday. I've been impressed with the wearing of school uniforms so far, but especially important to make sure you've got full winter uniform on, hair brushed and looking neat and tidy and of course don't forget to bring the lovely big smiles.

The small schools' **athletics carnival** will then be held on Friday, at Barden Park in Dubbo. Students should arrive by 9am for the roll to be marked and then be prepared to take part in a range of events. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone having a go, taking part and showing good sportsmanship throughout the day. A canteen will be in operation with simple foods on offer, so keep that in mind as you pack for the day.

I'd also like to inform parents and carers that during Week 4, the Year 1 **Phonics Screening Check** will take place. This assessment helps us identify how well our students are progressing in their phonics skills, which are essential for reading development. There is nothing for you to do in preparation, though we encourage you to continue to support your child by engaging in reading activities at home.

I appreciate your continued support in helping our students succeed.

Regards,

Paul Gray

Paul Gray Principal (Relieving)



BREAKFAST CLUB & READING ROOST

- Monday to Friday in the school library
- Start the day with breakfast and a book



Open at **8:15am**



Friday Night P&C Meat Raffles

Your PC

AT PLOUGHMAN'S REST TAVERN

FRIDAY
22nd & 29th August
26th September
24th & 31st October
28th November

4X \$25 MEAT TRAYS FROM P&J MEATS

TICKETS ON SALE FROM 6PM

 All money raised supports Wongarbon Public School P&C



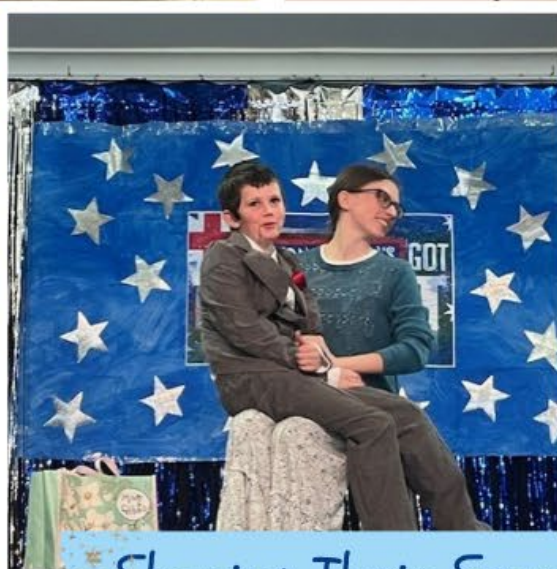
Dubbo Wellington Small Schools' Athletics' Carnival

Barden Park Dubbo

Friday, 8 August

9:00am





Sharing Their Sparkle with Us All!





Wongarbone's Got Talent What a Show!

We ended Term 2 on a high note with our annual Wongarbone's Got Talent showcase — and what a show it was! Our students wowed us with their incredible performances, from singing and dancing to comedy, cup stacking and more. Each and every performer brought their unique talents to the stage and gave it their all. Every one of our students performed to their best and were absolutely amazing! We're so proud of their confidence, creativity, and courage.

It was so hard for our judges to pick a winner — the talent on display was outstanding across the board!

A big congratulations to our winners — the amazing Aboriginal Dance Group made up of Isaiah, Beau, Albert, Seb, Marley-John, Kayden, Kahysie and Douglas. Your performance was powerful and inspiring!



Dancing to Their Own Rhythm!





Talent, Heart, and a Whole Lot of Courage!





Performances to Remember!



NSW Department of Education

**Highly
Commended**



This certificate is awarded for your outstanding participation in Wongarbone's Got Talent 2025.

Your enthusiasm, creativity, and effort truly shone on stage bringing the sparkle, style, and serious talent to Wongarbone's Got Talent!

Thank you for being a part of it!

Miss Nikki Mudge
Principal
Wongarbone Public School

4 July 2025





Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

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, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

YOUR PHOTO DAY



MSP Photography Central West

T (02) 6360 2008

E centralwestnsw@msp.com.au

PO Box 8637 Orange, NSW 2800

www.msp.com.au

Thursday, 7th August 2025

Please visit
www.msp.com.au
to see a full range
of our available
products!



Parents, please remember...

On photo day please send your child to school with:

1. A completed envelope (even if not placing an order or ordering online).

NB: Family envelopes can be picked up from the office before photo day.

2. Best school clothes (clean is always best!)
3. Their best smile!

**LIFE IS
EASIER
WITH MSP**