

JILLIBY



news

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TERM 4, DECEMBER 2018 :: WEEK 10



Just a short note to thank everyone for their continued support of Jilliby Public School. 2018 has been a year of challenges and the school stands proud at the end with great achievements under its belt. I am very proud of the staff and their commitment to the students ensuring their wellbeing is of paramount importance. A huge thank you to the school community for all their efforts in maintaining our school's grounds and assisting to organise tidy up so many areas.

2019

It is with mixed feeling we farewell Mrs Buckton this year. Mrs Buckton has been an integral part of our school for several years and has brought a wealth of expertise to the table. Her creative work in initiating and sustaining programs such as robotics, debating, sport, netball and choral festival, plus her care and love of the students at Jilliby Public School will be missed. I sincerely thank her for all her hard work and dedication to our school. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Buckton has secured full time work in 2019 at Kariong PS. A huge congratulations to her and I wish her all the very best at her new school.



In 2019 Mrs Wales will be taking our K/1 class and we look forward to her joining the Jilliby Public School team. She brings a wealth of experience to our team and I know she will become valued and respected.

Mrs Bowes will be teaching 4/5/6 and Mr Bof will be teaching 2/3/4 in 2019. This arrangement allows our teachers to provide the best teaching and learning to meet the needs of our students.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22/23
	EOY Excursion - PPP Day	Last day for students Year 6 tunnel	SDD	SDD	
January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1	February 2/3
Public Holiday	SDD - Pupil free day	Years 1-6 return Kindergarten Best Start assessments	First day for Kindergarten students		

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Presentation Day

I was thrilled to watch students receive their awards last week at our presentation day and I would like to thank all the parents for their attendance on the day! There were many smiling faces and I was extremely proud of the way students conducted themselves throughout the presentation.

Congratulations to our new school Captains and Vice Captains:

Captains: Ceanna & Maddison

Vice Captains: Gideon & Nicholas

Parliamentarians:

Mallee	Beth	Harold
Lily	Maryanne	James
Ellie	Tayla	Ashlee
Hunter		



Report Absences

You may have noticed that the End of Year reports are showing more absences than you may expect. We believe when we have rolled over the absences to the reports it has picked up students who have been on School Business (Rehearsals, sporting events, debating etc). The actual rolls will correctly reflect student's absences etc and we apologise for this glitch.

All reports have been updated in the school system. If you would like a new report to be printed for your child please contact the office.

PPPP Day

Yesterday our students went to the Pictures, had a Picnic & a Pie for lunch then had our traditional Pirate Day fun in the afternoon. It was great fun and I know we all enjoyed shooting water at each other! The children definitely had the advantage of numbers!!





Captains Lunch

The 2018 school captains enjoyed a nice lunch out with Mrs Docherty today as a thank you for their hard work and dedication to their roles this year.



School Audit

This week we have had auditors evaluate a variety of programs and systems in our school. As a result of this audit it has been revealed that some of the attendance systems and processes need to be revised and updated. Next year a new policy and procedure document will be put in place. These documents will be shared with families as soon as they are ready.

Attendance

There are a few misconceptions around attendance and so the following information may assist you when sending notes.

Introduction

1.1. Regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to achieve their potential, and increase their career and life options. Schools in partnerships with parents are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, record and monitor part and whole day absences. Schools, in providing a caring teaching and learning environment, which addresses the learning and support needs of students, including those with additional learning and support needs or complex health conditions, foster students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the school community.

What are the responsibilities of Parents?

Parents must ensure:

- 1.1. Their children of compulsory school age are enrolled in a government or registered non-government school or, they are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) for Home Schooling.
- 1.2. Their children who are enrolled at school attend every day the school is open for their instruction.
- 1.3. They provide an explanation for absences by means such as a telephone call, written note, text message or email to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence.
- 1.4. They work in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school, including communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child's attendance or engagement with school

Further to the findings of our school Audit, a new process of informing parents of absences has been put in place to commence the first day back in 2019. The system will identify students who are late and/or absent and a text message will be sent to the parent/carer of that child unless an explanation has been given to the school. As this is a new system we will welcome any feedback around its implementation.

Please also read the information around attendance at the back of this newsletter.





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. 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 Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

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 and Communities 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 Department of Education and Communities 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.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

