Twilight Carnival a Success

On Tuesday evening this week we ran our second twilight swimming carnival. Many parents attended the event and the children enjoyed themselves immensely. A very big thank you to all the teachers, office staff, canteen staff and the P&C who gave up their personal time to run this event.

There are several reasons the school has chosen to go with an evening carnival rather than a daytime event.

- We avoid potential heat stroke and sunburn.
- In terms of safety for students the evening is a much better option because parents are available to help supervise children. This increases the ratio of adults to children and therefore reduces safety risks.
- Generally only students who are able to swim attend and this again helps to reduce potential risk of harm to children.

I understand that some parents might feel that students, particularly the less able swimmers, are missing out on a fun water day. However when I weigh that up against the potential tragedy that could occur at a very busy whole school event, there really is no contest.

Teachers are trained in CPR, we conduct all the required risk assessments, we are vigilant with the students around water, however none of that is consolation if the unthinkable were to happen. At the end of the day, when it comes to safety around water, you can’t beat the one-to-one supervision a parent can provide a less able swimmer. I believe that when it comes to fun water activities, the safest option for students who can’t swim well, is to do those activities with their parents.

Eat and Greet

It was also great to see so many parents attend this event on Wednesday afternoon. I look forward to many more opportunities to strengthen strong relationship between parents and teachers for the benefit of the children.

Mrs C Binns
Morning Arrival
Children are expected to arrive at school between 8.30am and 8.55am. They can leave their bag at their classroom and then they need to go to western quad where the canteen is located to be supervised by the duty teacher. If parents wish to stay with their child they can come into the western quad as well and wait until the bell rings. This is the procedure for all students including kindergarten.

Stage 1 COGs
Stage 1 are studying the COGs unit, ‘Our Family’ in which they need to bring to school a shoe box which they decorate and place in items of special interest or importance to them. This box needs to be brought to school before Friday 8th March. After this date students are asked to bring in items of importance to them to place in the box. The boxes will be placed on display in the hall later this term and parents will be invited along to see the display. An excursion to a museum is planned for the 13th March as part of the study for this unit.

Stage 1 Excursion
Stage 1 is planning an excursion in term 3 to the Sydney Wildlife Park and Sydney Aquarium. This will cost approximately $30.00.

Early Stage 1 COGs
Early Stage One students are studying the COGS unit “Me”. They will be learning about how they have grown and changed. The Early Stage One teachers will require the children bring in photos of their students as babies later this term.

Handwriting Textbooks
Just as a reminder: the handwriting textbooks are on sale at the office. The students will need them shortly to begin their handwriting practice.

Thank you,
Mr Devitt and Mrs MacKinnon

Library Lovers Day
Last Thursday 14th February we showed our love for libraries big and small by wearing something red to celebrate Library Lovers Day. Library Lovers Day is an advocacy event started by the Australian Library and Information Association to highlight the work libraries do in the community. We just had a bit of fun.

Our library monitors travelled the school in the morning handing out red hearts to wear and drawing hearts on the pavement. Then at lunch time the library was bouncing as students rushed to be involved in card making, bookmark fingerprinting and making book bugs. Please join me in congratulating our library monitors for the great job they did organising and running the event and thanking Mrs Vancuylenberg for her work in the library on Thursday.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Student records will be active starting Monday 4th March 2013. Your child will need to know their user name and password for their DEC account, the same one they use at school to access their email and the internet.

Mrs A Sivanandan

Effective student care and discipline programs that develop individual and social responsibility
Welcome to the new school year. The teachers on Stage 2 have had a delightful three weeks getting to know their new students.

A big thank you to all the parents for buying the items that your children need to complete their lessons in their classes. It is important that the students have all their necessary equipment such as dictionaries, pencils, pens.

I have had some enquiries regarding the dictionaries, these are available online from Angus and Robertson and are used in looking up the children’s spelling words and meanings as well as when they are completing a writing task. The thesaurus part is a great way for students to use other words with the same meaning adding interest to their writing and building their vocabulary knowledge.

Handwriting Text Books

The school has purchased handwriting text books for year 3 and 4 as we became aware that the supplies in the shops ran out quickly. These are available from the front office for $11 and are a necessary part of your child’s lessons.

Excursion

We are also planning an excursion to Parramatta to fit in with our Cogs units. This will be happening in week 11 of term 1. A note will be coming home shortly.

Parent/Grandparent Helpers

The teachers on stage two would also like to know if there are any parent or grandparent helpers that might be able to spare some time in the mornings for reading groups. This help is invaluable and very much appreciated by the teachers.

Mrs J Clack

Friendships to boost your child’s learning

If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs.


Helping your Kindy kid succeed at school

A great way to kick off your child’s formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom.


Speech problems

All kids learn how to talk and listen at different rates but did you know there’s a general pattern to your child’s language development?

It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.
No smoking at public transport stops and stations

Section 6A of the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 makes a number of outdoor public places smoke-free.

From 7 January 2013, smoking is banned at all public transport stops and stations in NSW. Smoking is already banned in enclosed areas of public places in NSW, including some areas of public transport stops and stations. The law extends the smoking ban to cover the outdoor areas of bus stops, railway platforms, ferry wharves, taxi ranks and light rail stations.

The smoking ban applies to:
✓ Platforms of passenger railways and light rail stations;
✓ Bus stops, including the area where people queue or gather;
✓ Taxi ranks, including the area where people queue or gather;
✓ Ferry wharves; and
✓ Light rail stops, including the area where people queue or gather.

The ban applies regardless of whether the area is covered and includes the area where people queue or gather.

Will a person break the law if they are the only one at a public transport stop, such as a bus stop, and they light up?

Yes. A person will be breaking the law if they smoke at a light rail stop, bus stop or taxi rank regardless of whether they are the only person there at the time.

The reason for this is because while a smoker may be the only person at the bus stop when they light up, it is unlikely that they will continue to be the only person there for the duration of time it takes them to smoke their cigarette.

Will a person break the law if they are passing by a public transport stop, such as a bus stop, while smoking?

No. The law creates appropriate defences to ensure that it will not be an offence to pass through a smoke-free area such as a bus stop, light rail stop or taxi rank while smoking. The intent is to stop people smoking while in a public transport queue or where people gather to wait for public transport.

Will there be signage to indicate where smoking is not permitted?

The diverse range of different transport stops makes it difficult to have one law with respect to signage. Because the vast majority of light rail platforms, railway platforms and ferry wharves have a clearly defined area, ‘No Smoking’ signage will be required to be displayed. There is generally not a clearly defined area which constitutes a light rail stop, bus stop or taxi rank, so signage will not be required to be displayed at public transport stops and taxi ranks across NSW.
The law allows the Ministry of Health to work with Local Councils and other Government departments to develop signage appropriate to the different public transport stops.

**How will this be enforced?**

NSW Health is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000*. NSW Health Inspectors are authorised to enforce the ban at public transport stops and stations.

Penalties of up to $550 apply for anyone who fails to comply with the law.

**Why is this new Act in place?**

Public transport stops and stations often attract large numbers of people. Commuters have limited opportunity to avoid second-hand tobacco smoke in these areas.

There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. This is the smoke which smokers exhale after inhaling from a lit cigarette.

In adults, breathing second-hand tobacco smoke can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, lung cancer and other lung diseases. It can exacerbate the effects of other illnesses such as asthma and bronchitis. Exposing ex-smokers to other people’s tobacco smoke increases the chance of relapsing to smoking.

For children, inhaling second-hand tobacco smoke is even more dangerous. This is because children’s airways are smaller, and their immune systems are less developed, which makes them more likely to suffer negative health consequences of second-hand tobacco smoke such as bronchitis, pneumonia and asthma.

Creating smoke-free outdoor areas, such as public transport stops and stations, can provide a supportive environment for those who have quit and make smoking less visible to children and young people.

**How does this affect Local Council bans on smoking?**

Many NSW councils, under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1999*, have progressively introduced their own smoking bans. Where these bans are in place, they can continue to be enforced by Local Council rangers.

---

**NOTE**: The ban on smoking in commercial outdoor dining areas and within 4 metres of a pedestrian entrance to or exit from licenced premises, restaurants and cafes does not apply until 6 July 2015.

**For more information**

Please contact the Tobacco Information Line on 1800 357 412 or visit the NSW Health website: [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

The Tobacco Information Line can be accessed by non-English speaking people via the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50.
**CAMBRIDGE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL**

PO Box 8021
WERRINGTON COUNTY NSW 2747

35 Oxford Street CAMBRIDGE PARK

Phone: 4721 2556
Fax: 4721 7567
E-mail: cambridgpk-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.cambridgpk-p.schoools.nsw.edu.au
School Security: 1300 880 021

For your convenience when your child is absent from school please complete the note below and return to your child’s teacher.

---

**ABSENCE EXPLANATION NOTE**

- STUDENT’S NAME .......................................................... CLASS .........................
- DATES OF ABSENCE .....................................................
- REASON .............................................................................
- ..........................................................................................
- PARENT/CAREGIVER’S NAME ..........................................
- SIGNED ........................................... DATE .................................

---

Effective student care and discipline programs that develop individual and social responsibility.