



# BALD BLAIR

## PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Term 1: Week 7

14 March 2025

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Thursday 28 March**  
SGLA Cross Country
- **Thursday 3 April**  
UNE Voyager Discovery at Bald Blair
- **Tuesday 8 April**  
Paws Up!
- **Thursday 10 April**  
Assembly & Easter Hat Parade 2.15pm
- **Friday 11 April**  
Last Day Term 1
- **Wednesday 30 April**  
First Day Term 2
- **Mon-Wed 5-7 May**  
Yr 3-6 Excursion to Coffs Coast Adventure Centre
- **Wednesday 21 May**  
Finlayson Athletics Carnival, Chandler PS
- **Monday 26 May**  
Circus Challenge
- **Thursday 3 July**  
Assembly 2.15pm
- **Friday 4 July**  
Last Day Term 2
- **Tuesday 22 July**  
First Day Term 3

### Principal's Message

As we pass the halfway point of Term 1, I can hardly believe how quickly time has flown by! It feels like just yesterday we were starting the school year and now we are already embracing new opportunities and challenges.

Congratulations to Benji-Luke Foster, Alannah Jackson, Noah Chapman, Elka Chilcott-Geere, Jaidee Masuk-Purvis, Dustin Turnham and Thomas Chapman, who represented our school at the PSSA Zone Swimming Trials in Armidale this term. Congratulations to our relay team - Jaidee, Dustin, Benji and Maeve who qualified to attend the North-West PSSA trials next week along with Dustin who qualified for the individual 50m Butterfly.

Each year, our students participate in the art and craft competitions at the Guyra Show. This year we had several successful entries. I want to congratulate our students on their achievements at the show. Our Year 3-6 class won the Mural Collage exhibit.

We have more sporting events coming up. Our school will be hosting the Snow Gums Learning Alliance Cross Country on Friday 28 March and the Finlayson's Athletics Carnival, hosted by Chandler Public School, will be held on Wednesday 21 May.

We welcomed the Paws Up! team back at school this term and students enjoyed a visit from the Taronga Zoo Zoomobile this week.

In Week 10, the UNE Voyager Discover team will be visiting our school. Students will participate in a range of science based practical activities.

We are committed to fostering a vibrant learning environment that encourages growth, creativity and collaboration. Our dedicated staff have been busy preparing engaging lessons and activities that cater to the diverse needs of our students.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our new students and families who have joined us this year. We are thrilled to have you as part of our school community and look forward to getting to know you better.

Let's make this year one filled with memorable experiences, achievements and strong connections. Thank you for your ongoing support as we embark on this journey together!

**Ros Edwards**

# K/1/2 Emus

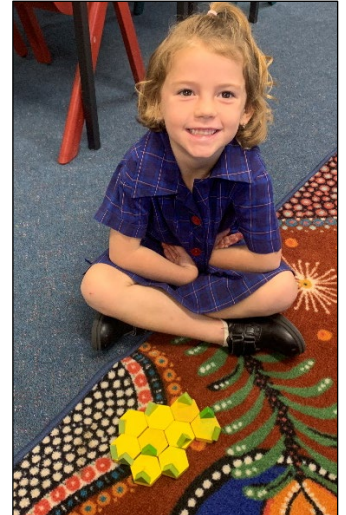
Mrs Purvis



We have six Kindergarten students joining our class this year: Welcome to Ebonee, Ida, Banjo, Baxter, Willow and Lani. They will join Oscar and Jack in Year 1; and Willow, Cooper and Thomas in Year 2.

Welcome to Kaycee Cruickshank and Sally Newberry who share the role of School Learning Support Officer and are in our classroom each day.

In maths students have been looking at patterns. We have been looking at AB and ABC patterns and have also been making mandala patterns. Students enjoy making patterns using the shapes.



## Easter Hat Parade

Thursday 10th April 2025  
following the Assembly  
at 2.15pm

Students create their Easter Hats at home

## Year 3-6 Excursion

5 - 7 May 2025

 COFFS COAST  
**Adventure Centre**  
EAT | PLAY | STAY

Permission Note Due	4 April 25
Final Payment Due	27 June 25

## 3/4 Emojis

Mrs Lenehan

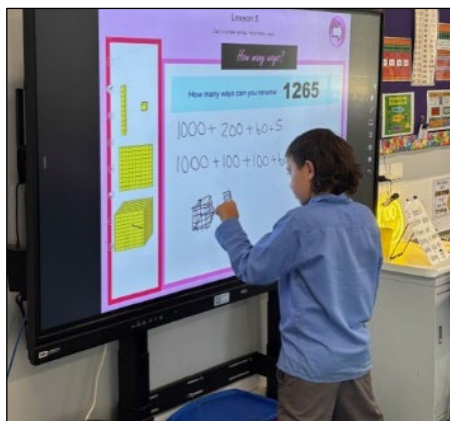
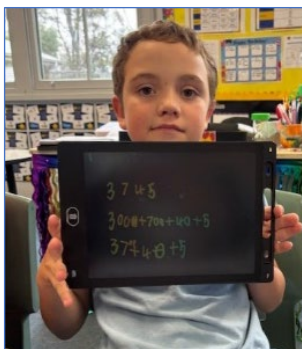
Year 3 and 4 have settled into term very well.

In English we have been reading *The Thing About Oliver* learning about narrative structure.

In maths we have been looking at place value and addition and subtraction with regrouping.

In science we have been looking at the structure of the earth and changes to its surface.

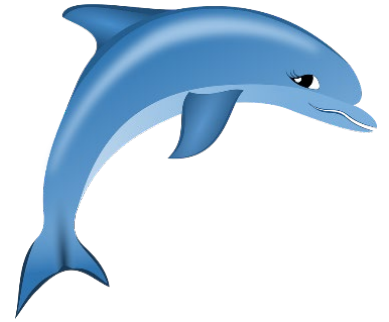
Thank you to the students for their organisation with their fortnightly speeches. I have enjoyed listening to them. We have two more this term.



## 5/6 Dolphins

Ms Edwards

The first term of the year has been an exciting and productive time for the Year 5/6 Dolphins. We have focused on building a strong



classroom community and engaging in various learning activities that promote both academic and social development.

In English, we are studying the book "Storm Boy" to explore the use of figurative language to enhance character descriptions, to describe the setting, and how modal language can build tension in our writing. Students have developed their reading comprehension skills through group discussions and individual activities.

In maths, we have been studying very large numbers and the relationship between fractions and decimals. We have enjoyed working together as a group to reinforce these concepts.

Our science unit is called "Earth's place in the solar system", and later this term, the students will be presenting a speech about which planet they would like to visit and why.



**Buddy Reading**

# Snow Gums Learning Alliance Swimming Carnival



**Junior Boy Runner Up:  
Aidan Chapman**

**Junior Boy Champion:  
Dustin Turnham**



**Senior Boy Runner Up:  
Cruz Little**



**Junior Girl Runner Up:  
Jaidee Masuk-Purvis**

**Junior Girl Champion:  
Maeve Milmo**



**Sub Junior Girl Champion:  
Eboney Cruickshank**



**11 Yr Boy Champion:  
Noah Chapman**



**11 Yr Girl Champion:  
Grace Schaefer**



**Senior Girl Runner Up:  
Elka Chilcott-Geere**



**K-2 Guyra Show Highly Commended Class Mural and individual entries**



**Year 3- 6 Winning Guyra Show Class Mural and individual entries**

# Taronga Zoomobile



# Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

## 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

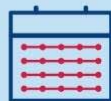
and years over their school life

1MM

day per fortnight



= 4 weeks

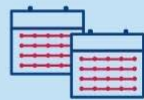


= Over 1 year missed

1M day per week



= 8 weeks



= Over 2.5 years missed



# 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)

[education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au)





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.