



Principal's Message

Planning Meetings - Thank you to all those families who have already met or spoken with teachers to negotiate your child's ILP for Semester One. These meetings are very important and your

input greatly appreciated.

Newsletter Distribution - The three sites are coordinating their newsletter distribution and we will be sending home newsletters once per fortnight (even weeks).

School Leaders - Congratulations to our 2015 School Leaders who were inducted at our Assembly last week, Alexandra Robertson, Sarah Patterson and Chris Nielsen.

Once again, we have three leaders this year after voting was tied. Well done to you all and I am sure you will all be wonderful role models and ambassadors for our school.



Regards

Belinda Ryan
Principal

Message from our Lead Principal - Mr Ian Hughes

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly can I say how thrilled I was at being appointed as Lead Principal of Newcastle School. Over the past few weeks I have been spending time at each of the three school sites and get an overwhelming sense of collegiality, dedication and commitment to student wellbeing. I will continue to spend time in each of the schools to get to know staff, students and their families. Please don't hesitate to come and introduce yourself if you see me at any of the school sites.

This term I am spending Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Senior School, Thursday at the Middle School and Friday at the Junior School. Once I have administration processes and procedures put into place I hope to spend more time at the Middle and Junior Schools.

I have a long association with Special Education, since my appointment as Principal of South Street School (Maitland) in 1995. In 2004 I was successful at gaining the Principal's position at Morpeth Public School until the end of 2007. In 2008 I returned to Special Education as Principal of Hunter River Community School (East Maitland).

My goal as Lead Principal is to establish and coordinate programs across the three sites to ensure consistency and best practice making Newcastle School an exemplary model of Special Education instruction. I look forward to working with school teams, including parents, in the near future to assist meeting these goals.

One of my first tasks is to complete the School Strategic Plan which will set directions for the next three years. It is here that I have to acknowledge Janelle Newman (Relieving Lead Principal) and school leadership teams for their work in consulting with school communities, and forging directions for the next few years. I hope to meet with parents in Term Two to share our school plan so we are all working in the same direction.

Each of the three school sites will be publishing their Newsletter on a fortnightly basis with some "common information" for parents which will assist in ensuring consistent information is received by all parents and carers.

The first of this information is around attendance, I ask that all parents take the time to read this section carefully. These requirements are the same for ALL students across ALL Public School sites.

Attendance at School

All schools across the state have recently been issued with updated procedures and processes to deal with school attendance issues. New guidelines also exist for dealing with students with problematic school attendance.

Education in NSW is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and seventeen years. The *Education Act 1990* requires parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school or are registered with the Board of Studies, for Home Schooling.

Once enrolled children are required to attend school each day it is opened. On occasions children may need to be absent from school, justified reasons for these absences include;

- Being sick, or having an infectious disease
- Having an unavoidable medical appointment
- Being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- Exceptional and or urgent family circumstances.

Following any absence from school parents must ensure that within seven days the school is provided with a verbal or written explanation of the absence.

We do realise that on occasions, children, especially in Special Education settings are quite ill and require lengthy absences from school. We ask that you work closely with your medical practitioner and School Principals to ensure all avenues for a hasty return to school have been explored.

We are in the process of preparing an Information Booklet for Parents and Carers to assist with an understanding of obligations under the Act.

In the meantime, should you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your school principal.

Regards

Ian Hughes
Leading Principal

Medications at School

All medications (prescribed and non-prescribed) which need to be administered at school should be recorded on your child's medication information sheets. These sheets are updated annually or if there are any changes during the year.

All prescribed medications for administration at school must be in Webster packaging.

Non-prescribed (over the counter) medications should be recommended by a medical practitioner as per DEC guidelines.

Such medications should be provided from home and clearly labelled with the child's name and dosage. If you think your child may require any type of non-prescribed medication (Panadol, Nurofen etc) it would be a good idea to have a note from your GP on file at school. As per school procedures staff will contact families prior to administering non-prescribed medications and if the student has not seemed to improve, family will be called to come and collect them.

DEC policy can be found by following this link.

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/individualstud/adminmedicine/>

Please contact the school for any further information. We appreciate your cooperation in these important matters.

School Newsletters

If you would like to have our school newsletters emailed to you please fill out the attached note and send back to school.

As a school we are trying to reduce our environmental footprint.

School Newsletters

We do / do not want the school newsletter emailed.

Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Email address: _____

Please return this slip back to school.