

Coutts Crossing Public School

Newsletter



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Week 3 – 8 February 2021

Dear parents and caregivers,

We have all enjoyed a fabulous first week at school with students settling back into school routines quickly after the holiday break.

Thank you to all our families for ensuring students are attending in their full school uniform every day. Uniforms promote a feeling of community and help students feel like they are included. It has been an absolute pleasure to see our students wearing their uniforms with pride each day at school. Please ensure your child's name is clearly written on everything they bring to school as this will help us to quickly reunite students with lost property and minimise students accidentally picking up and wearing the incorrect school hat.

Parents and teachers both play important roles in developing children's positive attitudes towards education and fostering their enjoyment of learning. We look forward to working in partnership with our families to improve student learning outcomes throughout the year.

Michelle Dalglish

This Week	Next Week	Coming Up
Classroom information sessions – See inside for days/times Tuesday 9 February P&C AGM 3.30pm Wednesday 10 February Assembly –2.30pm Leader's Induction Ceremony (invite only) Friday 12 February Small Schools Swimming Carnival Canteen open - Wed & Friday	Thursday 18 February Clarence District Swimming Carnival	Thursday 4 March School Photo Day

Parent Information Sessions

Classroom teachers will be hosting information sessions after school this week to share specific information about their classroom expectations and routines.

Sessions are as follows:

Monday 8th February	K/1 4.00 - 4.30pm Mrs Conyard
	1/2 4.30 - 5.00pm Mrs Moran
Tuesday 9th February	2/3 4.00 - 4.30pm Miss Howard
Wednesday 10th February	3/4 4.00 - 4.30pm Mrs Creighton
	5/6 4.30 - 5.00pm Miss Nay

For families who are unable to attend these sessions, all relevant information will be sent home with students the following day. Supervision will be provided in the school hall for families who do not have childcare available at these times. There will be COVID 19 check-in QR codes and visitor forms to complete in each classroom. Please go to the school hall if you need directions to your child's classroom. As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child's learning, please contact the school office and we can make arrangements for your child's teacher to contact you.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential to assist students to maximise their potential. If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of school!

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Please see the attached flyer for more detailed information regarding attendance requirements in public schools.

School photos

The 2021 official school photos, for individuals and class groups, will be taken on Thursday 4th March. The cost of a basic school pack will be \$41.00, including student photos and a class photo. Other options are available and will be detailed on the order envelope. Please follow order and payment instructions on the envelope, which will be issued to each student by next week.

Envelopes can also be returned before the day and held at the office, if preferred. Sibling/family (only for children attending the school) and spare envelopes can be collected from the school office from next week.

Small Schools Swimming Carnival

Good luck to all students who have nominated to attend the Small Schools Swimming Carnival at the Grafton Pool this Friday 12 February. Students will be competing in a range of events throughout the day and Miss Nay and Mrs Dalgliesh will be in attendance at the carnival.

Students with successful qualifying times will be invited to attend the Clarence District Carnival at Grafton on Thursday 18 February.

Welfare system-awards

We encourage and motivate our students to work hard and make good choices through a structured positive awards system. Our students receive Star Awards for outstanding effort and achievement across a range of areas that align to our school values, including academic performance, citizenship, values and effort. Star Awards are tallied throughout the year and students can earn a Bronze Award (6 Star Awards), Silver Award (10 Star Awards), Gold Award (15 Star Awards) and Diamond Award (23 Star Awards).

Additionally, students are awarded Cool Cards for demonstrating behaviour that aligns to the current Cool Card focus. For classroom achievement, students are also awarded classroom Merit Certificates which are presented to students at fortnightly assemblies. Both Cool Cards and Merit Certificates can contribute to each student's Star Award total.

Term 1 Cool Cards

Each term we choose a focus area for our Cool Card reward program to encourage students to demonstrate positive behaviours at school. This term our cool card focus is 'Responsibility'. Staff will be rewarding students who display responsible behaviour in the classroom or playground with a cool card. Students write their names on the cool card and place them in the special Cool Card box in the office. Prize winners are drawn from this box at our fortnightly assembly and winners are able to select a special prize.

School fees

An annual general voluntary contribution fee of \$50 is levied for each student, with a reduced fee for siblings. This money is used to purchase all resources needed for each student and subsidise or cover additional school activities and excursions. Coutts Crossing Public School has always strived to minimise any cost of education for students. The payment of voluntary contributions will allow the school to continue to offer special opportunities to students that would otherwise not be accessible or affordable. Fees can be paid online via our website, or by cash or cheque at the school office. Please contact the school office for sibling discount details. A statement of account will be sent home with each family next week. We understand that at the start of the year other expenses have been a priority, such as uniforms and school photos, so we ask that the annual general voluntary contribution be paid by the end of Term 1.

Classroom News - Library

The library continues to be a busy learning space even at this early stage of the year. The library is open every day at lunch time for students to engage in a variety of activities. All classes will use the library for borrowing and returning of resources. Class library borrowing times will be advised at the classroom parent meetings and through a class information letter.

Students are able to borrow each week, but to take the books home they will need to use the school's waterproof library bag. Kindergarten and new students are given a library bag during their first library lesson. If a student does not have a library bag they can still borrow but they will need to leave the book in their classroom until they are able to bring in their library bag.

Please join the teachers in encouraging your child to borrow every week and to read each night. The research is very clear about the impact of reading regularly. Starting in kindergarten, if a student reads 20 minutes a day at home, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by 6th grade and on standardised tests, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers. This is compelling data on the benefits of encouraging your child to read.

As part of my role at Coutts Crossing PS I have the pleasure of working with all teachers in all classes. Throughout this semester we will be refining a teaching strategy in mathematics called a 'number talk'. During 'number talks' students communicate their thinking to the class and justify their solutions to specifically designed computation problems. Through number talks our intention is for students to develop more accurate, efficient and flexible computation strategies. Additionally, students develop the essential skills required for problem solving and effective collaboration. OK, lets try one out!

What is the answer to the following problems AND what strategy did you use to solve them? (Must be solved mentally, so no calculators, pen or paper)

18 + 5

18 x 5

Please submit your answers and the strategy used, through your child to school. We will publish the results in a future newsletter.

Mr Woolridge

Canteen

All purchases from canteen will be by order only at both recess and lunch.

New volunteers are always needed and welcome, even if you have only a couple of days to spare each term.

No experience necessary!

Canteen Roster	
Wednesday	Friday
10/2 Georgina & Kirsty	12/2 Ryanda
17/2 ?	19/2 ?
Volunteers - please get in touch and let us know when you are available, or if you'd like to start as a new volunteer.	

P&C AGM

Come along to the 2021 P&C Annual General Meeting tomorrow, Tuesday 9th February, in the school hall at 3.30pm.

CCPS P&C is a small but active group of dedicated parents who enjoy supporting our school community through fundraising and hosting special events. Attending P&C meetings is a fantastic way to meet other parents and connect with the school. New families are always welcome!

The role of the P&C is to promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, community, students and teaching staff into close cooperation; assisting in providing additional resources for the school community; providing valuable feedback to the school and Department of Education; and assist the teaching staff through providing valuable feedback during school planning and management processes. Nominations for executive positions will be called at the meeting. If members are not able to attend the AGM they must submit apologies to the P&C and indicate in writing if they are happy to accept nomination to a position or wish to nominate for a position. For a member to be eligible to vote or stand for office, they must be financial at least one meeting prior. If more than one person is nominated for a committee position, a secret ballot will be conducted by those present during the meeting. The executive committee positions available on the P&C are: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

We look forward to seeing some returning and new faces at the AGM tomorrow!

Gumbaynggirr Language Lessons

Welcome back to Mr Dean Loadsman, who has recommenced Gumbaynggirr language lessons and his mentor program at our school. Dean visits classrooms each Friday to deliver language and culture lessons and mentor our Aboriginal students, sharing cultural knowledge and experiences.

We look forward to another fantastic year working with Mr Loadsman.



K/1 2021 :-)



Play netball in 2021!

After a challenging year in 2020, Grafton Netball Association would love to see you back in 2021!

Sign on days:

- February 13th & 20th
- 12pm-2pm
- Bacon St netball courts

Alternatively, for 7yrs + please contact one of our clubs:

Northside Netball Club
Michelle 0467336194
Mboorman83@gmail.com

City Netball Club
Carlie 0439403038
c.jbullen@gmail.com

S&S Netball Club
Rhee 0419981511
rhee_1996@hotmail.com

Grafton Rhinos Netball Club
Sandra 0407493376
sjhastings7@yahoo.com.au

For 4-7 yrs we have the Net Program.

'Come and Try' days: March 6th & 13th - 12:30pm

Register online through www.graftonna.nsw.netball.com.au.

For further information contact Brooke 0437426070
or check out our Facebook page.

Active Kids Sports voucher accepted by all clubs and for the Net program.



2021 SEASON PLAY SOCCER WITH THE GUNNERS

5 - 14yr old Girls & Boys All Inclusive.

Online Registrations Open February 1st !!

To Register: www.playfootball.com.au

Get Your \$100 Active Kids Voucher

www.service.nsw.gov.au

****Find Us On Facebook****

South Services Gunners Soccer Club

Email: southservicesgunners@gmail.com

Registration Days 2021

- Thursday 4th Feb 4-6pm @ Grafton Primary School Hall
- Saturday 6th Feb 10-2pm @ Grafton Shopping World

Classes held Tuesdays

Grafton Physical Culture



**FUN * FITNESS *
FRIENDSHIP**

Affordable dance classes for girls and women from 3years

Contact Justine on 0431 470 552 or graffonphysie@bigpond.com
or visit www.graffonphysie.com



**GET YOUR
ACTIVE KIDS
VOUCHER TODAY**

Calling all parents and carers! Claim your first \$100 Active Kids voucher for the year. 🏀 🔑

Voucher 1 is valid January to December and a second voucher is valid July to December.

Register and get your kids playing today: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/active-kids>

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