

The Kookaburra

North Nowra Public School News

Empowering a Positive future for our Learning Community

Find us at: 75 Judith Drive, North Nowra, NSW 2541
Ph: 4422 7045 FAX: 4422 9035



EMAIL: northnowra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
WEB SITE: www.northnowra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Term 4, Week 6

Tuesday, 14th November, 2017

| Term 4 | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Week 7 | |
| Mon, 20 th Nov | Assembly 2pm KC & Support Unit perform item |
| Tues, 21 st Nov | P&C Meeting and AGM at 6.30pm |
| Thurs, 23 rd Nov | Kindergarten Classroom visits 9.30am – 10.30am |
| Thurs, 23 rd Nov | Dragon Tag Gala Day Selected Stage 2 & 3 |
| Week 8 | |
| Tues, 28 th Nov | Swimming Carnival whole school event |

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Towards 2020

Over the last few weeks we have provided opportunities for parents to share with us what they feel might enhance and enrich the learning environment at North Nowra. Thank you for your time and sharing your thoughts and ideas. As a school community, the partnership between home and school is paramount. As parents who own businesses and work in various trades and professions you are extremely knowledgeable about what skills, knowledge and understanding our children will need into the future. The conversations I have had with some of you have been inspiring and I look forward to making some of these ideas a reality in 2018 – 2020.

Homework

One area I discussed at length with some of you was homework. Homework is always a controversial topic that people have various opinions on. Research does tell us the following about the impact of homework on children in primary school:

- Homework offers no academic advantage. Instead, it overwhelms struggling children and is boring for high achievers.
- Homework is stressful. A recent study showed a direct relationship between time on homework and increased anxiety, depression, anger, and other mood disturbances among students.
- As homework increases, national student achievement decreases. Data from the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study showed the overall correlations between achievement and the percentage of teachers who used homework in grading are all negative.
- Homework increases family conflict. The more parents help with children's homework, the more tension children experience. It also reduces time for other

activities that provide balance and variety to a child's life, such as sport, music, art, or other extra-curricular activities, or to relax and simply be children.

- Homework places additional burdens on parents who often don't know how to help their children, and on teachers, who have enough to do without having to collect, mark, and redistribute extra work for their students on top of what is required by the curriculum in schools.

Research DOES indicate that ALL children should read each night. Reading is shown to increase academic achievement and aid in learning. But reading should not be for a set number of minutes or pages. Similarly, self-directed learning at home by completing projects of interest can aid in positive educational experience and motivation.

Visible Learning

Many schools are moving towards a "Visible Learning". Visible Learning is the result of the research undertaken by John Hattie to understand what provides the most success in learning. It is based on over 68,000 studies and 25 million students. John Hattie defines Visible Learners as students who can:

- Articulate what they are learning
- Explain the next steps in their learning
- Set learning goals
- See errors as opportunities for further learning
- Know what to do when they are stuck
- Seek feedback

We have spent time this year actively discussing and planning how we can make Visible Learning a focus over the next three years to support our students reaching their full potential as future based learners. This year some of the teaching teams have trialed this model of literacy and numeracy. We will be sharing more information at parent sessions in 2018.

Please take the time next week to attend the P&C AGM.
Have a great week.

Peter Wright-Smith
Relieving Principal



Education & Communities

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our school swimming carnival will be held on **Tuesday, 28th November** at the **Nowra Pool**.

Permission notes will be sent home and should be returned to the school office along with \$6 payment on or before Tuesday, 21st November.

This carnival is for all students who will be turning 8 years or older in **2017**. All students will be tested for water safety before competing in 50m events. If you have any queries please contact me.

Start training everyone! **Mr Farrow**

Bounce Back

Our unit this month deals with how to experience success by challenging yourself, using your strengths, learning from your mistakes and putting in an effort. I have already heard some tales of determination from those who wanted to achieve something, tried hard and didn't give up when it got hard. Please look at the parent information sheet attached for an overview of the unit.

Nowra High School Transition and Orientation

Tuesday, 21st November 2017

9.15am – 2.30pm

Parents are required to drop off and pick up from Nowra High School's front office.

Bomaderry High School Orientation

Tuesday, 28th November 2017

9.15am – 1pm

Transport will be with individual parents.

Shoalhaven High School

Tuesday, 5th December 2017

8.30am – 2.40pm

Transport will be with individual parents. Bring recess and lunch, pencil case and writing pad.

P & C NEWS

P&C AGM will be held on Tuesday, 21st November 2017 @ 6.30pm

Canteen Hours

Our canteen is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please call Jo on 0447 303 328 if you can volunteer your time.

School Banking

Banking day is every **Thursday**.

Uniform Sales

The canteen will be open for uniform sales on Wednesdays between 8:30 am to 9:00 am.

ARE YOU LEAVING?

In order to plan our class/year numbers for next year, it is very important that we know which families won't be at North Nowra Public School at the start of 2018. If you are leaving, or think you are leaving this term or during the Christmas holidays, please let the front office know as soon as possible.

North Nowra Public School

cordially invites

Parents & Caregivers

To join us as we celebrate a year of learning and achievement at our

2017 Presentation Assembly

On Wednesday, 13th December, 2017

commencing at 9.30am

at North Nowra Public School

75 Judith Drive, North Nowra

RSVP: by 06/12/17 - Ph: 4422 7045



2018 KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM VISITS

Children visit Classrooms for activities and play

Thursday, 23rd November, 9.30 am – 10.30 am

Children visit classrooms for activities and play.

The uniform shop will be open for orders and fittings. **Mrs Thornton**

School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS)

2018 BUS PASSES

Students who hold an SSTS entitlement (buss pass) and are changing from Year 2 to Year 3 in 2018, will receive notification by email or post informing them of the pending expiry of their entitlement.

To update details or make an application for next year's entitlement go online to:

<http://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts.updateDetails>



Transport
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Parent Information: Success

Helping your child to experience success

Teaching your child how to set goals and achieve them by making a plan, working hard, solving problems and not giving up helps them to build life skills that are important for their future. These life skills build their self-confidence and motivation and the ability to persist when they find things difficult. An important starting point is to help your child identify their particular character strengths and ability strengths. Character strengths are personal attributes like being brave or kind, or being a hard worker or a good organiser. Ability strengths are things that they do well such as writing stories, drawing cartoons, playing sport, playing a musical instrument or understanding and working with animals.

Key messages to communicate to your child about being successful

Stick with it and don't give up.

When something proves hard to do, stick to your plan and don't give up. If an obstacle gets in the way, see it as a problem that needs to be solved. Sometimes you may have to try a new way to solve the problem.

Mistakes help you to learn.

Everybody makes mistakes when they are trying to achieve their goals. Try to learn from mistakes that you make even if you don't feel too happy when you make them.

No one is good at everything. Everyone has different strengths.

Everyone has their own strengths. You need to keep looking for evidence about your character strengths (i.e. the kind of person you are) and your ability strengths (what you can do well).

Always make a plan.

To achieve a goal you need to make a plan before you start. A plan helps you decide the best steps to take to achieve your goal.

Remember to try hard and work hard.

Trying hard and working hard make it more likely that you will succeed at what you are trying to do.

Have a go and believe in yourself.

Even if something is hard to do and you wonder if you will be able to do it, believe in yourself, take the risk and 'have a go'. You can't be successful if you don't try. You won't always succeed but at least you can say you have given it your best shot.

Try to be well organised.

It's important to be well organised if you want to achieve your goals. Find good ways to remember the things you have to do, to find the things you need, and to be on time.

What can you do to help your child learn the skills that underpin success?

- © Encourage your child to set a goal and to plan what they need to do to achieve. For young children goals need to be simple, specific and very short term (e.g. reading to you for ten minutes each night for two weeks, making their bed every day for a week, improving their knowledge of specific number facts). Help them to think about what they did to achieve their goal (Ask them What steps did you take? What was hard for you to do? How do you now feel now that you have managed to do it?)

- ⊗ Provide lots of opportunities for your child to take on tasks and challenges that they initiate and do (mostly) by themselves (e.g. make a cubby, bake a cake, put on a puppet play, make and sell birthday cards or organise a game). Only give them help when they ask.
- ⊗ Encourage your child to make, do or organise something a bit complicated and challenging that may be frustrating but will be rewarding when completed (e.g. making a pop-up card or advent calendar, organising an outing or completing a challenging word or number puzzle). Congratulate them on their persistence.
- ⊗ Do a challenging jigsaw puzzle with them to show them how to stick with it until it's finished.
- ⊗ Avoid doing things for your child that they are capable of doing for themselves (e.g. making phone calls, making their bed, packing/unpacking their school bag, preparing their breakfast).
- ⊗ Share your own stories about how you achieved a goal that was important to you, stressing how you made a plan, worked hard and persisted despite obstacles or mistakes.
- ⊗ Help your child to look for and collect evidence that tells them what their strengths are. Evidence could include feedback from other people, ongoing improvement in their 'personal bests' (e.g. in a sport or in music exams) or a comparison with similar products produced by others of the same age (eg. paintings, written stories).
- ⊗ Give your child more feedback on effort than on ability e.g. 'Well done, you really worked hard on that project and didn't give up when some bits proved to be frustrating'. Then your child learns that successfully achieving a goal happens mainly through hard work, persistence and believing in yourself and is not just based on ability.
- ⊗ Encourage your child to be organised, and provide materials that help them to do this (e.g. colourful folders, labelling devices, and containers). Show them how to organise their things, pack up their games and toys before bedtime, identify and collect what they will need for school each day, keep their school bag in order, and (for an older child) help them to regularly block out some time for homework.
- ⊗ Play 'Beat the timer'. Use a timer and encourage them to complete an activity such as cleaning up their toys, getting dressed or setting the table before the timer goes off.

