

IN THIS ISSUE: THE LITERACY SISTER SCHOOL PROJECT

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

November		
Nov, 11-16	various times	Year 9 Exams
Nov, 11	9.10am	Year 12 Dance Rehearsal - Hall
Nov, 12	8.00am - 1.00pm	Year 8 TIMS/Surfing
Nov, 13-15	all day	Senior Visual Art - Sydney Excursion
Nov, 14	6.00pm for 6.30pm	Year 12 Graduation - Macksville Ex-Services Club - (Photos from 5.30pm onwards)
Nov, 20	lunch time	3 Star Merit BBQ
Nov, 22	all day	Dorrigo Show
Nov, 26	5.00pm - 6.30pm	Year 7, 2014 Parent Information Evening & School Tour
Nov, 26	6.30pm - 8.30pm	P & C Meeting - TAS Lecture Room
Nov, 28-29	all day	Year 10 - Queensland Excursion
December		
Dec, 04	all day	Year 7, 2014 Orientation Day
Dec, 05-06	all day	Queensland University Excursion
Dec, 08-10	all day	Sports Coaching - Morisset
Dec, 11	lunch time	4 Star - Principal's Pizza Party
Dec, 12-13	all day	Camping Excursion - Bellingen
Dec, 13	all day	5 Star Worlds Excursion - Gold Coast
Dec, 17	10.00am	End of Year Presentation Day - Stadium
Dec, 17	6.30pm - 8.30pm	P & C Meeting - TAS Lecture Room
Dec, 19-20	all day	Pupil Free Days

#### School Captain's Max Vernon & Tess Lewis represent Macksville High at the Remembrance Day Service





## From our Principal

This is a very busy time at school with exams underway; I must ask parents to help by ensuring their children attend school on days when exams are timetabled. It increases the workload dramatically for teachers when students have to make up exam time when they have been away. We understand that there maybe school organised activities and illness that makes this impossible, but a day off without a reason is unacceptable. The procedure for this is as follows:

- Year 7 to 10 students who miss an exam because of a day off school will be required to sit a makeup exam if time permits. At times this is possible in advance with notice from the students' parents. If time does not permit to do the exam an estimate will be allocated by the teacher in consultation with the Head Teacher. If a student has an unexplained absence for the day of the exam they will receive zero for the makeup exam and a letter will be sent home indicating this. We will not be altering this with late parent notification, unless I approve in exceptional circumstances.

These requirements have been developed with an understanding that parents and schools must work together to ensure our students participate fully in school. The exams are a key component of this, not only helping to report to parents their child's progress, but helping students develop resilience to undertake what is sometimes a challenging experience. We also acknowledge that Doctors can be difficult to see at short notice and may place financial burden on some families.

Paul Holding

## The Literacy Sister School Project

Photos from our Sister School in Cambodia and MHS students at work on their picture books.



# THE LITERACY SISTER SCHOOL PROJECT

## ACROSS OCEANS

“Sharing our love of reading across the ocean”

### THE AIM OF THE PROGRAM.

This program is designed to create meaningful and culturally aware picture books with a focus on relevant information.

In this program we hope to provide an opportunity for Cambodian students to access quality picture books and for our students to share their love of reading.

The picture books will be written in two languages-English and Khmer. We hope that these picture books will provide a resource for Cambodian students to improve their literacy and bridge the gap between Australia and Cambodia.

Students at Macksville High School will work on writing the books, translating the text into Khmer and developing artworks for the text. Students will include a combination of artworks and photographs from Australian and their Cambodian school.

We hope that this provides the foundation to create a strong sister school relationship.

### OUR COMMITMENT

The cost of this program will be solely met by Macksville High School.

They will publish a collection of books that will be sent to the school in Cambodia. We hope that our sister school will be able to send photographs of their own school, town and lifestyle to be included in the books.

We would also like to provide additional teaching resources as well as pave the way to allow teachers to visit the school.

We hope that these teaching resources will be supplemented by personal letters, photos and social media between the students of both countries.



Our creative writing team.

Contact;  
Ms Kelli Dykes  
Head Teacher English  
[Kelli.dykes@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Kelli.dykes@det.nsw.edu.au)

Macksville High School | PO Box 611, Macksville, NSW, 2447 | phone (02) 6568 1066 | fax (02) 6568 2802

The Bowraville Goannas Rugby Union Football Club are looking at fielding an Under 18s team in next year's Mid North Coast Rugby competition.

We need numbers of interested or prospective players to see if that is viable.

Rugby is played on Saturdays so it would be possible to play Union and League.

If you are interested please contact Mick Baines on 0488532465

### New Students Bag Storage

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Located in the students reception area, new storage shelves have been installed. Students leave belongings at their own risk, valuables can be handed into the office for safe keeping.

**If bags are not collected by Friday afternoon, they will be removed and kept for one week only, then they will be disposed.**

### CANTEEN ROSTER - Nov

Monday	11	S Compton
Tuesday	12	M Mason
Wednesday	13	T Lavery
Thursday	14	HELPER NEEDED
Friday	15	G Welsh
Monday	18	S Compton
Tuesday	19	HELPER NEEDED
Wednesday	20	H Jaeger
Thursday	21	D Jackson
Friday	22	G Welsh



# Regular School Attendance

Information for parents and carers



Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

## Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

From 2010, all New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:

1. in school or registered for home schooling, or
2. in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
3. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified.

For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

If Principals don't consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

It is important to understand that the New South Wales Department of Education and Training may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

## Must I send my child every day?

**YES.** It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child's hair

regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.

Translated information about head lice and how to treat them can be found at

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/headlice/infosheet.htm>

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Head lice, is not a valid reason for prolonged absences from school.

## Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children.

If your child doesn't learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.



## Why is arriving at school on time important?

Arriving at school and class on time:

- ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore
- reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

## What should I do if our family is going on holiday in school time?

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations.

If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school principal in advance and request leave and/or an exemption from school.

Depending on the circumstances and how long the leave will be, you may ask the school to provide tasks that can be completed while your child is absent.

## Must my child attend all activities, including daily fitness and sport?

**YES.** Sport and other physical activities help to keep your children healthy. Children are expected to attend all regular school activities, including sport.

## Do not keep your child away from school for the following:

- birthdays
- shopping
- minding other children
- routine check ups or care such as hair cuts
- minor family events
- sleeping in.

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

## What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

All absences must be explained to the school. Bilingual absentee notes and further information on attendance can be found on the Department's website under the heading *School Attendance (School Attendance)* at

[https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/index\\_s.htm](https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/index_s.htm)

The principal of the school has the right to question parents' or carers' requests for their child to be absent from school.

The principal may also question any explanation given for a child's absence from school.

## 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. The principal may seek support from a home school liaison officer or Aboriginal student liaison officer.

## Who are home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers?

Home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers have been specially trained to help you with your child's attendance.

They work with school communities to encourage all students to attend school regularly.

For further information about the Home School Liaison Program you should contact the program manager at your local Department of Education and Training regional office. Contact numbers can be found at the website address:

[www.det.nsw.edu.au/contactus/index.htm](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/contactus/index.htm) or by telephoning 131 536.

## Do you have problems with getting your child to school, for some of the following reasons?

- won't get out of bed
- won't go to bed
- can't find their clothes, books, homework, school bag...
- school lunches not ready
- slow to eat breakfast
- homework not done
- watching television late at night or when they should be getting ready for school
- test or presentation at school
- birthdays
- screaming and not letting go of you.

## Here are some suggestions which are based on setting regular routines:

- Have a set time to be out of bed
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Make lunches the night before
- Have a set time for starting / ending breakfast. A routine is important.
- Set time for daily homework activities
- Turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate
- Be firm, children must go to school
- Provide lots of positive encouragement
- Be firm, a birthday is not a holiday
- Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, place your child's hand into that of the teacher and then leave.

## Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided where possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents and carers who use sign language. For more information on interpreter services contact your school or phone the Telephone Interpreter Service and have them contact the school. The telephone number to ring is 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in the required language and the interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.



## LOCAL YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

The 14 girls in SANDS 2013 TAFE Program from Nambucca Heads High and Macksville High schools and worked together as a team to produce 23 pairs of one of a kind denim shorts from the Op Shop Jeans with great youth appeal. Ranging in sizes 8-14 the fun the highly fashionable summer collection goes on sale for just \$5 a pair at the Uniting Church OP shop, Ridge Street Nambucca Heads. The monies raised from the sale of the shorts, allows the Uniting Church to continue offering supporting to community groups in the shire.

## Bowraville Junior Rugby League 2014 Fundraiser Calendars

Please contact Lynette Howle on 0438647700 - a great Christmas idea to help the team travel to Sydney.







# SCHOOL LOCKERS FOR HIRE

12mth hire fee: \$30 per year + \$20 refundable deposit

**“Have your own special place to keep  
all your belongings safe and secure”**

Please contact Lynette Howle on 65681066 or  
[lynette.howle@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:lynette.howle@det.nsw.edu.au) for more information.

**(Hire period is from beginning of Term 4 to end of Term 3)**

