



newsletter

Vol: 43 No. 7

SHELLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

15th March 2024



Principal's Report



School Attendance

We are over halfway through Term 1 already! It's been a great start to the year and our students are now well settled in their year of learning. As always, we will have a strong focus in 2024 on literacy and numeracy for our students- but we will also be focusing on increasing attendance levels, so that all our students can make the most of every learning opportunity, every day! Earlier in the year I sent a letter home with some attendance reminders, and I thought it might be timely to revisit those messages, for anyone who might have missed the letter.

The evidence is clear that consistent attendance is the essential first step for your child to have a positive experience at school. Every day matters for your child's learning. In recent years we've seen too many students miss a day of school here and there. Missing school for students means missing key lessons, time with friends, an important maths lesson or getting picked for a sports team. With days missed, years are lost.

Students are required to attend school every day, whether it's the first or last day of the term, Mondays, Fridays or days dedicated to sports carnivals, school excursions and incursions.

Help us make sure your child is achieving their best and stays ahead in their learning with regular school attendance. The more time your child attends school, the greater their opportunity to learn, make new friends and improve their wellbeing. Together, let's build positive attendance habits for a lifetime.

If your child is absent from school, please let us know why as soon as possible, even if it's just a few minutes at the start or end of the school day. Of course, there will be times when your child is unable to be at school (like when they are unwell). Medical appointments should take place outside school hours where possible and family holidays should be taken in term breaks.

If your child is feeling anxious about coming to school and you need support, please reach out to your child's teacher or me directly. Our staff are here to work with you and your child to help them attend school each and every day. There are also helpful resources for parents and carers on the [Every Day Matters website](#).



Thank you again for working with our teachers and support staff to make sure your child is at school, on time, every day. We all want to see our students learn, grow and belong in our equitable and outstanding education system.

Our goal this term is 100% in every class! Although we always strive for 100% attendance, we know this is not a realistic goal. (When students are sick – they need to be at home, recovering!) **But what we would like to see is as close to 100% attendance as we can get - with every absence EXPLAINED!**

Each class in our school has had the opportunity to nominate a new song to be played for our morning bell. Each week I will be looking out for a class with 100% (where all students are either at school **OR** have brought in a note to explain their absence!) Remember the notification can either be submitted via the Audiri app, a handwritten note – or a phone call to the school.

Our first class winners for Week 6 were KK - so each morning this week we have been enjoying their choice of bell song - Shake It Off by Taylor Swift! I wonder which class will choose our next morning bell!

Professional Learning

At Shelley, we pride ourselves on being a “community of lifelong learners” - and this extends beyond our students! Our teachers are involved in ongoing and regular professional learning, both as stage teams and as a school team. I would like to acknowledge and thank our Shelley school staff for their commitment to their own professional development and learning. Our teachers spend many hours outside of school time, to ensure that the teaching and learning programs offered at Shelley are of an outstanding quality. We are indeed blessed to have such a dedicated team of professionals working with our students.

Alongside weekly after-school professional learning, there are a number of School Development Days held throughout the year.

We have already had two of these days at the start of the school year and will have another two Staff Development Days - one on the first day of Term 2 and the other on the first day of Term 3.

At the end of the year, we are scheduled to have our two final School Developments Days (on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th December).

Sometimes schools decide to re-schedule one of the end-of-year School Development Days to earlier in the year, so that professional learning can be implemented during the current school year. Shelley PS will be rescheduling our final School Development Day of the year- and staff will be undertaking two twilight PL sessions during Term 1, 2024. Staff will participate in two after-school sessions, running from 3:15-5:45 pm, with the focus being on Co-Regulation.

There will be NO CHANGE to the finish date for our students, with the final day of school for students in 2024 being Wednesday 18th December.

Harmony Week at Shelley PS – Tuesday 26th March



Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds.

It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Harmony Week in Australia is held in March (Monday 18th - Sunday 24th March, 2024).

“It is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it. Harmony

Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Australia is a vibrant and multicultural country- from the oldest continuous culture of our first Australians to the cultures of our newest arrivals from around the world. Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. It makes Australia a great place to live.

Why orange? Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

Australians can choose to wear something orange during Harmony Week to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia.

An integrated multicultural Australia is an integral part of our national identity. All people who migrate to Australia bring with them some of their own cultural and religious traditions, as well as taking on many new traditions. Collectively, these traditions have enriched our nation.

The central message for Harmony Day is that 'everyone belongs', reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians.

We are planning our annual Harmony Day celebrations for Shelley - to take place on Tuesday 26th March. We will be holding a National Dress or Orange Mufti Day. On this day students can come to school wearing national dress from their cultural heritage - or they can wear mufti clothes in the colour orange. This is a free Mufti day to celebrate harmony at our school (no gold coin donation necessary). Parents are encouraged to wear their national dress when dropping children off in the morning! Students will also take part in a range of Harmony Week activities, as well as performances.

Reminder: Lost Property



We frequently remind students about the importance of labelling all items of clothing / other belongings and checking lost property for missing items. (The Lost Property cupboard is located outside the library). Occasionally I hear of jumpers that have gone missing for weeks at a time – only to turn up later and be returned to the owner because it is clearly labelled. It is common for students to inadvertently pick up items of clothing, particularly hats, jumpers and jackets, which do not belong to them. It is helpful if parents can check their children's school uniforms as they are going through the wash. If you notice an item that does not belong to your child, please return it to the school as soon as possible – as its prompt return may save another parent the expense of replacing the missing item unnecessarily.

Kindergarten Parents

Parents with a student in Kindergarten - we ask you to please pack in your child's bag a spare change of underwear. Kindergarten children often become so engrossed in their play or activities - and will "forget" to stop for a toilet break. Others just don't make it on time! Although we have a small supply of underwear, it is much better for children if they have their own underwear to change into. Please keep a spare change of underwear in a plastic bag in your child's school bag.

If your child has an accident and comes home in "school underwear" we ask that these are washed and returned to school at your earliest convenience.

Jewellery at School

The students at Shelley PS are to be congratulated on the way they wear their school uniform with pride. Although at times it is necessary to speak to primary students about a few incorrect items of clothing "creeping in", they clearly make a concerted effort to ensure they are wearing full and correct school uniform at all times. I also thank parents for assisting in this area.

One area I would just like to remind all students about is the wearing of jewellery. This information is also important for new families to our school.

Students are permitted to wear a watch and earrings. Earrings should be a small pair of studs or sleepers (NO dangly earrings or bright coloured earrings).

Necklaces should not be worn by students at school (with the exception being a chain with a small religious medal or cross. These should be tucked under the uniform).

No rings, bracelets, anklets or bangles (again - the exception would be a medical alert bracelet).



School Gates

We have 5 pedestrian entries to the school, 4 of which are used by students and parents in the mornings and afternoons. For the safety and security of our students, these four pedestrian gates are closed and locked during the school day.

Please note: the Hadrian Ave carpark pedestrian access entrance is accessible throughout the day, for parents needing to drop off / pick up students, or visit the school office. (Please press the buzzer for entry).

The other four gates are closed each morning at approximately 9.05am and re-opened in the afternoon just prior to the bell, by our General Assistant.

Change of Address and Contact Details

It is essential that we have up to date address, contact, and emergency contact details for every student at our school. Often when families move – or parents change phone numbers or workplaces, it is easy to forget all the people we need to notify! If any of your contact details change, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

Remember- Parents can also update these details via the School APP at any time.



Please let us know if you have changed:

- Address
- Home or mobile phone
- Work place - and therefore have a new work contact number
- Email address

Or if you have different emergency contacts to those nominated on your child's enrolment form.

Jo-Ann Campion



Fear-Less Triple P Online can help your child break free from anxiety and worry.

Developed by the trusted experts at the Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, this online program is jam-packed with proven strategies to help you understand anxiety and support your child to become more emotionally resilient.

**It's one of several Triple P online parenting programs available now, at no cost!
Learn more at www.triplep-parenting.net.au**



News from the Library

Premier's Reading Challenge

All students at Shelley have begun their participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge. This finishes in August and promotes regular reading at school and at home. Students in K-2 will also earn rewards for those books read to them in the library or in their classrooms. Students in 3-6 will enter their own reading logs to provide evidence of their engagement in the Challenge. All students are encouraged to bring their Library bags to school on their library day. Stage 3 students must borrow PRC books weekly and keep at least one of their loans in their classroom for the week.



As we progress through the Challenge, all Shelley students will eventually reach their goals. Once this has been achieved, they are permitted to then have free choice from any section of the library. At the conclusion of the Challenge, every student will receive recognition of their achievements with a special certificate.

Every year we successfully achieve our goal of 100% of students rising to the challenge. Well done, Shelley.

Home Reading Program

Another initiative for our students involves the **Home Reading Program**. You will have received a flyer with all the details last week. During the course of each term, we recognise those students who have read on twenty occasions, through a raffle draw at Monday assemblies. Our first draw for 2024 will be on Monday, so make sure you have signed your child's reading log and sent it in for the teacher to register. Lucky winners receive a book take home, enjoy and keep!

A graphic titled "Signing in to ePlatform Digital Libraries" with the subtitle "Anywhere, Anytime". It features a young girl wearing headphones and listening to music. Below the title, there are four numbered steps: 1. Download the App (with links to the App Store and Google Play), 2. Add New Library (Search for your school), 3. Sign In (Sign in using the Username and Password that your school has provided you. (Note: You may be directed to an external log in page like Microsoft, Google etc. Simply Sign In to get started).), and 4. Browse and Borrow (Search for specific titles or browse through collections). At the bottom, there is a small note: "If you encounter issues logging in, please contact your Librarian. www.eplatform.co" and the ePlatform digital libraries logo.

Digital and Audio Books

As well as physical copies of books, our library collection incorporates a **digital subscription**. Through ePlatform, students have access to digital and audio books at school and home. These options can be invaluable during times when the students cannot physically access the library, such as extended periods of illness or during the holidays.

It is a simple process to access and this link will take you to a YouTube video I would like to share with you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeqEtBv7Dbk>.



World Book

Our school also has a subscription to world book online. This enables your child to access a safe and trusted share-point for information and research. There are also many additional features which provide support for learners at all stages of their learning. This option really allows our students to access information anywhere and at anytime. This can be helpful for research projects, assignments or curious investigation. Many videos and interactive games are also a feature. Please refer to the step by step guide below.

iPad

1. Visit www.worldbookonline.com.
2. Log in using the username and password.
3. Select the arrow up icon located in the top right corner of the browser screen.
4. In the bottom row of the pop-up screen, select the Add to Home Screen icon.
5. We recommend shortening the name to "World Book Online."
6. Select Add.

Username/ID: shelley
Password: shelley



Computer

1. Visit www.worldbookonline.com.
2. Log in using the username and password.
3. Bookmark the page and add it to favourites.

Mrs Bradley

White Awards

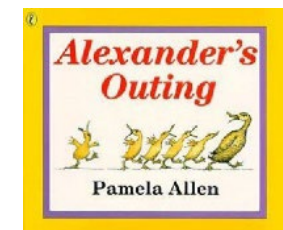
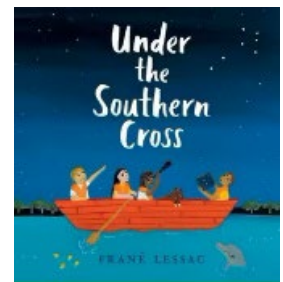
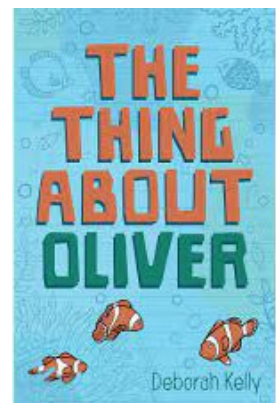
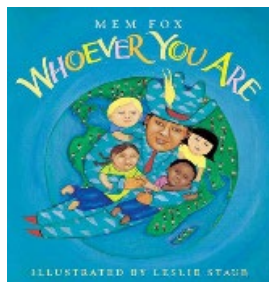
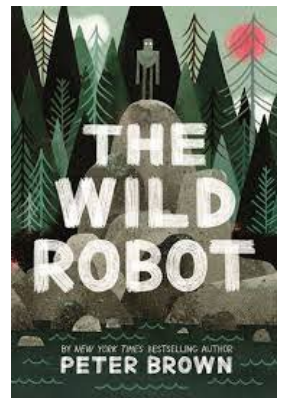
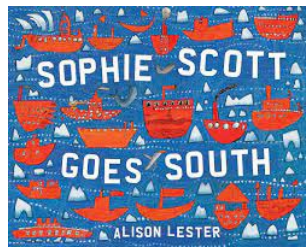
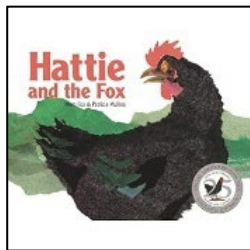


**Celebrate
Harmony at
Shelley PS**

**Tuesday
26th March**



News from the AP C&I



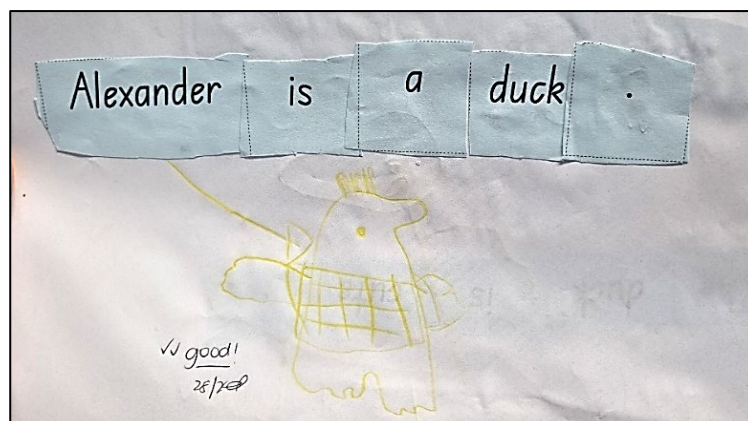
Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction

At Shelley Public School, as well as our wonderful team of Assistant Principals who supervise our stage teams, we also have an Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction (APC&I). This leadership role is designed to work alongside the Executive Team of the school to provide high level support to teachers in literacy, numeracy and curriculum. This year, I will be continuing to support teachers in the implementation of the new English and Mathematics syllabuses K-6.

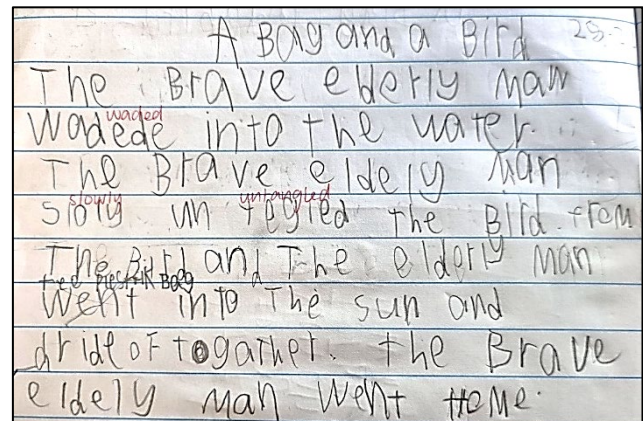
As part of the implementation of English, teachers and students are engaging in Component A learning to build their foundation literacy skills, such as spelling, handwriting, phonic knowledge, phonological awareness and reading, as well as their Component B knowledge and skills of engaging with literature to understand and create texts as speakers, readers and writers. In Component B, our students have had the opportunity this term to explore a variety of wonderful quality literature as they build their skills to becoming authors themselves. Each day it gives me great pleasure to see the wonderful writing taking place in Shelley classrooms!

Ros Greenwood

Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction



Eden, KK



Yasha, 1G

Where the wild things are
 One night, Max wore his wolf suit and was comming with mischeif ideas. When his mum was too angry to stop him, She sent max to bed without no deleicious supper. Suddenly, When he was locked in his bedroom, his room became a forest. After his room was a forest, he sailed to the wild things and some (cretrues) scared him, then he scared them back. Then he became king of the wild things. Next, when max was king, they started a wild rumpus. While, the (cretrues) were sleeping, max felt lonely he gave up being king. he went and at home.

Zoe, 2S

8.3.29 The wild robot: Resa/ation iton
 Roz recharged and got up, she sees Brightbill out side - making a harness with a propellar. She got out as soon as Brightbill finished the harness. "What are you doing Brightbill?" Roz called out to BB. "I'm making a harness!" BB replied. "Do you want a try it?" says BB. "Sure!" Roz said. They hept the harness on roz and turn the propeller on. Roz then floated into the air, then BB flew with her but then, Roz fell into the sea, and the harness fell off, but then Roz came back up into the sky. flying better than ever.

Anika, 5L



Mr fox character traits 16/2/2024
 Mr fox is brave. He is brave because he goes out and steals the food with out those horrible crooks seeing him. The brave fox sneaks out of his hole, creeps up into the farm, steals the food and has some nice dinner.
 Mr fox is smart. He is smart because he can smell the farmers a mile away from him and he can outsmart the farmers. He can smell the scent of the wind blowing to the farmers and if he can smell them that means that he can potentially be in a serious injury.

Isa, 3P

Wednesday 6th of March 2024 Prediction
 Tilly hears a (helicopter) and runs in fright, she can barley see and then she realised they were looking for her. "Has anyone seen a missing girl of 12 years wandering by the swamp alone?" The megaphone called. She saw a light and ran to it. Soon she was seen by a crowd of people, she froze in terror...

Luke, 4F

Orientation 22.2.24
 "bring bring bring bring"
 Everyone (ushes) stampedes out the classroom door like animals being released from a cage. Everyone except (Mike) Storm Boy. He shuts his book and slumps out of the door.
 "Why so sad (Mike)?" Mike's teacher asks.
 He shrugs his (shldr) shoulders and proceeds to grab his (lunch) lunch and head outside with the rest of the students.
 (S) Storm Boy lives with his father now in a small cottage nearby (the) a gasoline station where Tom works. (They used to...)
 "Hey Storm Boy" a girl teases.
 "hello" he says (dully) dully in replie.
 "Ohh come on say whats on your mind you've been so sad lately" (Lara) Lara says.
 "Its just that before I moved here" he took a deep sigh.
 "I know I know you were free and had a whole bunch of pelicans as pets, Your weird you know"
 "I'm sorry -I-" he stuttered.
 "No I mean in a good way" she says flopping down beside him. "Keep saying (wat) what you need to".
 "Ok then" Storm Boy replies.

Rakshana, 6G



Shelley Super Stars

Congratulations to the following students on achieving their:



Inaayah

6E



Lulu

2T

These students will be presented with their badges at the K-6 Assembly.



Congratulations to our Shelley Super Stars: Sophie 5L, Avyan 6G, Ojas 6G (Pinnacle), Kiara 3J, Gurveer 5/6K, Isa 3P, Chloe 3P, Willow 2S, Darcy 2/3V and Japneet 3J.



Dates to Remember



Week 8

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd March NAPLAN continues for students in Year 3 & 5

Week 9

Monday	25 th March	NAPLAN Sydney West AFL
Tuesday	26 th March	Harmony Week Celebrations
Thursday	28 th March	Easter Events Sydney West Swimming
Friday	29 th March	Good Friday Public Holiday

Notes and Money to be Returned by Due Date

Year	Event	Due Date
K-6	Student Resources	ASAP
Year 1	Brewongle Incursion - \$22	25 th March
Year 5	Year 5 Camp - \$50 deposit	9 th April
Year 6	Year 6 Shirts - \$40	28 th March
Year 6	Year 6 Camp - \$50 deposit	9 th April

**NO LATE
Payments can
be Accepted**

Please note: all notes are emailed to parents/carers and published on the Audiri app.

Don't forget to pack Crunch&Sip® every day...

Crunch&Sip® is a set time for children to eat vegetables or fruit and drink water in the classroom.



crunchandsip.com.au



Crunch&Sip®

P&C News

Welcome & Thank You

We would like to welcome and thank all the new members of the P&C and all those who attended our first meeting of the year last Monday night. Lots of things were discussed and it looks to be an exciting year ahead.

Meet Our 2024 Executive

Our 2024 AGM was held on Monday 4th March. Thank you to all those who accepted roles within our committees.

Your Executive Committee for 2024 consists of:

- **President:** Cristina Sousa
- **Junior Vice President:** vacant – open for nominations
- **Vice President (Canteen Convenor):** Purnima Raju
- **Secretary & Uniform Shop Co-ordinator:** Larisa Xuereb
- **Treasurer:** vacant – open for nominations

The Shelley P&C is much more than a group of parents, carers and citizens who meet once a month to engage with the school and discuss a range of matters relating to school community. Members of the P&C are a committed and focused group of individuals whose common goal is to better the whole school experience for each and every student at Shelley PS. We meet on the 1st Monday of each month of the school term and encourage all parents, citizens and carers to come along.

Hunger Hut News

The Hunger Hut Canteen is a much-loved initiative of Shelley PS. This year we are excited to once again be serving our delicious meals and snacks to our community.

In Term 1 the canteen has been trying a Specials Menu. Each Tuesday throughout Term 1 special treat foods have been on offer including Hot Dogs, Smoothies, Roast Cheesy Chicken, Pancakes and Mini Cob Dips. In weeks 7-11 we will also be offering **Ice-cream and topping, Green Food Day for St Patrick's Day, Hot Cross Buns, Potato Gems and Nachos in a Cup**. By allowing these special food items as one-off specials we are gaining a better insight into what children enjoy eating as well as providing a special school treat. All items are available for pre-order and payment at the Canteen. For dietary requirements please speak with Mrs Farkas – Canteen Supervisor.

On **Thursday 21 March 2024** the Shelley P&C Canteen will be offering **Crunch Bags** at a cost of \$2 each. Each crunch bag will include a selection of fruit and vegetables to enjoy at crunch and sip and to celebrate Shelley's involvement in the Big Veggie Crunch initiative offered by the NSW healthy Canteens Association.

Thank You to our Volunteers

Each year we are grateful to have an ever increasing group of people nominating themselves to volunteer with the P&C. We are pleased to have received many new submissions for volunteers and look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming events.

All volunteers have recently received an email from the P&C including information regarding the requirements to volunteer and forms to complete. Once completed please advise the P&C so we can include you on our roster.

Become a Member

There is no cost to come along to the P&C meetings, and all members of our school community are welcome.

However, if you would like to have the right to vote at the meetings and hold a position as an Executive member or on a committee, there is an annual fee of \$2 per person.

This can be paid for in person at any of our monthly meetings or by submitting your membership form with payment to the canteen.

If you have not received an email and wish to volunteer, please email the P&C directly at pandc.shelley@hotmail.com.

Fundraising is Fun

Our Fundraising committee have been busy preparing for this year's fundraising projects. To start off the year, the P&C will be running its annual **Easter Raffle**. Raffle ticket books have been sent home with all students. Tickets are \$2 each or \$10 per book. Money and tickets are to be returned to the Canteen.

The Fundraising Committee is busy preparing for our next fundraiser which will be our annual **Mother's Day stall**. Whilst many new and exciting gifts have been purchased, we always appreciate new and handmade goods as donations. All donations can be delivered to the Canteen.

A reminder that our **Spalding High Bounce Balls** are continuing to be sold in the canteen at \$3 each. This is an ongoing fundraiser of the P&C.

Uniform Update

Are you tired of losing lunchboxes, hats and clothing? Shelley P&C have partnered with **My Name Label** to offer families a 5% discount on all orders, plus 15% of all sales will go towards Shelley PS fundraising. Follow the link at: www.mynamelabel.com.au/discount/SHELL0515 to find out more and receive your discount on checkout.

The uniform shop is fully stocked with all available items. We have a large number of pre-loved items including house colour t shirts and jackets available for purchase at \$5 each.

Cross Country - House colour t-shirts are available for purchase from the Uniform Shop at \$9 each.

A reminder that all orders placed via the Square online store at <https://shelleypandc-uniformshop.square.site/> require a child's name and class for the order to be delivered to your child. If no details are provided your order will be left at the front office.

EXCITING NEWS! - The Uniform Shop ONLINE STORE ONLY will be accepting payment for orders via **Afterpay**.

Save The Date

Next P&C Meeting – Monday 6th May at 7pm.

Larisa Xuereb
P&C Secretary



Hunger Hut - Canteen

SPECIALS MENU

Week 7 Tuesday - 12 March	Ice-Cream & Topping \$2.00	Available at 2nd half - Lunch counter
Week 8 Tuesday - 19 March	Green Food Day Snacks available at counter	Hot Meals available for Lunch Order
Week 9 Tuesday - 26 March	Hot Cross Buns \$2.00	Available at Recess counter
Week 10 Tuesday - 2 April	Potato Gems \$3.00	Available for Lunch Order
Week 11 Tuesday - 9 April	Nachos in a Cup \$5.00	Available for Lunch Order

**** Pre-order and payment available for all items ****



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

1 day per **fortnight**
 = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed

1 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)

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.