



newsletter

Vol: 44 No. 5

SHELLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

14th March 2025



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 2025 on literacy and numeracy for our students- but we will also continue to focus on increasing attendance levels, so that all our students can make the most of each learning opportunity, every day!

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.

Once again- our goal this year 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!)

We have made explaining absences as easy as possible! When your child is marked as absent, you will receive a text message (to the nominated primary contact's phone). All you need to do is reply with your child's name, class and reason for the absence!

(Alternatively, you can send a handwritten note- or make a phone call to the school if preferred.)

Our class winners for 2025 so far have included 6L and 1G (twice!), who had the opportunity to select a new bell song for each week. I wonder which class will choose our next morning bell!

Harmony Week at Shelley PS – Friday 21st 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 (this year- Monday 17- Sunday 23 March).

"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.

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 '**Harmony- we all have a role to play!**'

We are planning our annual Harmony Day celebrations for Shelley- to take place on Friday 21st 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 on the day, including learning about the different cultural aspects (including language, food, flags, places and traditions) of countries around the world. Students will have an opportunity to share their learning with a buddy class when joining together for a picnic lunch on Harmony Day. Keep a look out around our school for each classes' display about their chosen country.

Pick Up and Drop off - Please be mindful of our neighbours!

We ask all students and parents to be mindful of our neighbours when you arrive at and leave school. Our neighbours are very supportive of the school, and rarely need to phone us to complain. However, it is important that we as a school community show respect to our neighbours and their property.

DRIVEWAYS & FOOTPATHS

Do not park on or across a driveway or footpath.



Did you know that the penalty for parking across a driveway or footpath is \$344 and 2 demerit points?

Please do not park in or block the driveways of residents living in the vicinity of our school.

We appreciate your assistance in this to ensure that we can continue to have positive and supportive engagement with residents who live near our school.

Reminder: Winter Uniform and Lost Property

A few of our Kindergarten parents have been asking about when we “change to winter uniform”. With the weather so changeable these days- we do not have a strict rule, such as the start of Term 2, but rather allow students and families to decide on when they need to change to winter uniform.

For those wondering what is included in winter uniform, please see the table below.

Full School Uniform		Sport Uniform
Girls	Boys	Girls and Boys
WINTER <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School polo shirt• Bottle green long pants or bottle green culottes with bottle green tights• Black school shoes• White socks• Bomber jacket• Shelley PS hat (cap or bucket)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bottle green long pants• School polo shirt• Black school shoes• White socks• Bomber jacket• Shelley PS hat (cap or bucket)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School polo shirt• Sports shorts or microfibre or fleece track pants• White socks• Sports shoes• Bomber jacket• Shelley PS hat (cap or bucket)

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 bins are 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.

Menstrual hygiene program at Shelley PS

The NSW Department of Education offers free menstrual hygiene products for NSW public school students. Our menstrual hygiene program aims to reduce any barriers that may prevent students from participating fully in school life. Menstruation (and its unpredictability) may stop students from attending school or taking part in learning activities. There are also known health risks from using improvised sanitary hygiene products.

As part of the program, our school now has a dispenser that provides free pads for students to access during school hours.

Did you know?- Period underwear is also available!

Our school can also order period underwear at no cost for students. Parents can contact the office to request period underwear in their child's size. Each pack of period underwear contains 2 pairs that are the same size, colour and style. These are available upon request. (There may be a short waiting period until the underwear are delivered to our school.)

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, which are all used by students and parents in the mornings and afternoons. For the safety and security of our students, four of these 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:

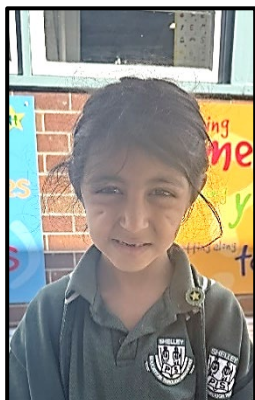
- Address
- Home or mobile phone
- Work place- and therefore have a new work contact number
- Email address

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

Jo-Ann Campion



Congratulations to our Shelley Super Stars: Zalla 2S, Krishna 3V, Olivia 3/4P, Eshan 3V, Zoe 3V, Ashish 5S, Saxon 2S, Gigi 3/4P, Tuba 3/4P and Cassia 2/3T



White Awards





Shelley Super Stars

Congratulations to the following students on achieving their:



Callum
Vrinda

2S
3K

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



Please contact the office asap if you can help!

Breakfast Club

- HELPERS NEEDED URGENTLY -

Dates to Remember



Week 8

Monday	17th March	NAPLAN continues for Year 3 and 5 students
Friday	21st March	Harmony Day Celebrations - mufti day

Week 9

Monday	24th March	Final day of NAPLAN
Tuesday	25th March	Young Leaders Day



Notes and Money to be Returned by Due Date

Year	Event	Due Date
K-6	Student Resources	asap
K-6	Afternoon Pick Up Arrangements	asap
Support	Support Athletics Excursion - \$20	19th March
Year 5-6	Leadership Incursion - \$25	26th March
Year 5	Camp Deposit - \$50	2nd May
Year 6	Camp Deposit - \$60	2nd May



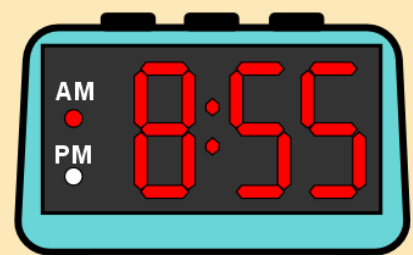
All notes are emailed to parents/carers and published on the Audiri app.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS....

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	so from Kindy to Year 12, they will miss out on
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1.5 weeks a year	6 months
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2.5 weeks a year	Nearly a year
30 minutes a day	Half a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year.	Over 2.5 years

School starts at 8:55 - be on time!

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day.



SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCES

WHAT ARE YOU RISKING? *



Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need **YOU** to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones.



NO PARKING

No waiting. You have **2 minutes** to drop-off or pick-up.
You must stay within **3 metres** of your vehicle.

PENALTIES FROM
\$ 194
+2 DEMERIT POINTS



NO STOPPING

You must **not stop** on a length of road with a **no stopping** sign.
The first **10 metres** from an **intersection** is a no stopping zone.
Yellow kerb lines are also a No Stopping zone.

PENALTIES FROM
\$ 349
+2 DEMERIT POINTS



BUS ZONE

Only a public bus can stop in a bus zone.

PENALTIES FROM
\$ 349
+2 DEMERIT POINTS



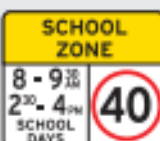
MOBILE PHONES

Extra fines apply for using a mobile phone in a school zone.

PENALTIES FROM
\$ 464
+5 DEMERIT POINTS

May be subject to Double Demerits

SPEEDING OFFENCES



40km/h is the limit.
Children are vulnerable, so slow down in school zones.

PENALTIES FROM
\$ 200
+2 DEMERIT POINTS

May be subject to Double Demerits

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

1. In a queue of traffic, **no part of your vehicle can stop** on a pedestrian crossing.
2. Do not let **your child in or out of a vehicle** at a pedestrian crossing as this is a No Stopping zone.

PENALTIES FROM
\$ 464
+2 DEMERIT POINTS

DRIVE WAYS & FOOTPATHS

Do not park on or across a driveway or footpath.

PENALTIES FROM
\$ 344
+2 DEMERIT POINTS

U TURNS

U turns are **illegal** on or near a **pedestrian crossing** and across a **double white line**.

PENALTIES FROM
\$ 349
+3 DEMERIT POINTS

DOUBLE PARKING

Double parking is illegal and is very dangerous in a school zone.

PENALTIES FROM
\$ 349
+2 DEMERIT POINTS

*Fines current as of 11 November 2020.

Fines and demerit points are subject to change. For more information check out the NSW Centre for Road Safety website.



PENRITH
CITY COUNCIL



Blacktown
City Council