Principal’s Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

It is difficult to believe we are already into the second half of the term.

Attendance
There has been an updated Department of Education & Communities Attendance Policy implemented for all schools. I have included a fact sheet for families to clarify some of the changes. The policy confirms the importance of regular attendance and being on time. Most importantly it outlines the responsibility of parents and carers to provide acceptable reasons for student absences within 7 days. It does suggest that the school may contact families after 2 days to discuss the absence. There are also some new requirements concerning holidays and travel during the school term explained in the fact sheet. If you would like to discuss any aspects of the new policy please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Parent, Carer and Community Forums ~

Our School Vision

There are still two opportunities to join in these forums.

Friday 6th March 1:00pm
Thursday 19th March 6:00pm

continued …. 
Principal’s Message continued

Draft School Vision
The staff were involved in workshops last term that led us through a process of evaluating our current programs and practices. We engaged in professional learning, exploring the capabilities and competencies our students will need to be successful learners in the 21st century such as critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, innovation, communication and collaboration. We reflected on the values and beliefs that were essential to support our students on their educational journey. We would like to share the results of this collective thinking in the form of our vision for North Haven Public School in draft form.

North Haven Public School, in partnership with our community, promotes and provides a dynamic, future-focused learning environment fostering equity and excellence. Our school will deliver opportunities for every student to become a successful learner and a confident, creative individual.

Our P & C and family forums will offer opportunities for community input. We would also like to invite any feedback through the newsletter. Please respond to the draft of our vision on the accompanying page.

Lunch Orders
A gentle reminder that students requiring lunch from the canteen should place a written order in their class baskets in the morning. Teachers have noticed many students don’t have lunch and are wanting to go to the canteen at the beginning of the break to purchase food. Your cooperation would be appreciated.

Kind regards,

Christine Wild
Principal

Kinder Green Day
TOMORROW

TOMORROW, Friday, 6th March is Green Day for Kindergarten. Kindergarten students may come to school out of uniform, wearing green coloured clothing. If students do not have anything green to wear, they may still come out of uniform and bring a ‘green’ item to school.

NEXT WEEK – ORANGE DAY
North Haven Public School Vision (draft)

North Haven Public School, in partnership with our community, promotes and provides a dynamic, future-focused learning environment fostering equity and excellence. Our school will deliver opportunities for every student to become a successful learner and a confident, creative individual.

Comment:

Please return your thoughts, approval or suggestions.
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:

The school leaving age:

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 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au
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WORDS ABOUT WELFARE

Student of the Week Awards

These awards, in the form of a ribbon, are presented to one child from each class, during the separate stage assemblies each week.

Student of the Week Awards are presented to students who have shown good citizenship practice in the classroom and who have been working in a sensible manner with their school work. Each class group and their teacher may take a slightly different approach to the selection of the student and the way in which their award is recognised in the classroom depending on the grade and the nature of the class. It is hoped that by the end of the year each student in the class will have displayed the traits necessary to receive this award (some may earn it more than once).

While there may be many eligible for the award each week we limit the number to one per class so as not to distract from the value and merit of earning this recognition.

SCHOOL NEWS

Year 6 High School Forms - a reminder to Year 6 parents to please return the expression of interest form for the high school their child will be attending.

Infants Assembly – the next infants assembly will be held on Wednesday, 18th March at 2.20 pm in the hall. Class 1/2M will co-ordinate the assembly and present an item. All parents are welcome to attend.

P&C Meeting & AGM - The next meeting of the P&C will be on Tuesday, 10th March at 6.30 pm. This meeting will also incorporate the AGM and all executive positions will become open for nominations for the coming year. All parents are welcome to attend.

Primary Assembly – the next primary assembly will be held on Monday 16th March at 2.20 pm in the hall. The Year 6 student councillors will co-ordinate the assembly and class 4/5B will present an item. All parents are welcome to attend.
HOT DOG DAY
Hot Diggedy Dog!!
Wednesday 11th March
$4.00

Special meal deal includes -
1 x Hot Dog with cheese & sauce (BBQ or tomato)
Choice of - can soft drink, bottle of water or fruit juice poppa (indicate your choice on order form)

Orders must be pre ordered & paid for by Friday, 6th March

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Meal Deal Order Form

PLEASE COMPLETE
ONE ORDER FORM PER CHILD

Child’s Name : _________________________________ Class : ________

No sauce  BBQ sauce  Tomato sauce

Soft drink  Water  Poppa

Class Merit Awards

KB  Jett Smith  Amali McLaren-Ritchie
K/1F  Angus Bowen  Benjamin Blanch
1D  Jai Sawyer  Brylie Brooks
1/2M  Joshua Walker  Amy Harrison-Douglas
2H  Jade Minter  Oscar Geronimi
Meal Deal Order Form

PLEASE COMPLETE
ONE ORDER FORM PER CHILD

Child’s Name : _______________________________ Class : _______

No sauce       BBQ sauce       Tomato sauce
Soft drink     Water           Poppa

Meal Deal Order Form

PLEASE COMPLETE
ONE ORDER FORM PER Child

Child’s Name : _______________________________ Class : _______

No sauce       BBQ sauce       Tomato sauce
Soft drink     Water           Poppa

North Haven Public School

My child ___________________________ of class _______ was absent from school on the following dates ______________________________________ for the following reason ______________________________________

Parent’s Signature : ___________________________ Date : ___________________________