Principal’s message

Building Works 2020
You will have noticed over the past couple of weeks that we’ve had a number of tradesmen on site busily working away in different areas of the school. As our new MC building gets closer to being completed and ready for occupation, works are starting around the school to meet the Premier’s targets of having the back log of school upgrades completed by the end of the financial year. During the next three months we will have ongoing exclusion zones while roofs are replaced, buildings painted inside and out, covered walkways upgraded and carpet installed. This week the team will be removing asbestos from the office in Building 11 (new kitchen). This will be done out of school hours by a qualified and certified team who will follow all strict guidelines to the letter. At no stage will this be done while students are on site. It is anticipated that all of our works will be completed well before the end of June. It should look fantastic once it’s all finished!

Health Concerns
I have received a number of updates from the Department of Education’s Head Office regarding health concerns in schools, particularly in relation to the coronavirus. Although we should not be directly impacted here at Kempsey South PS, it is still very much recommended that students with ill health remain at home until healthy so as not to spread the germs amongst the school community population. They suggest maintaining a healthy hygiene routine can significantly reduce the risk of infection. This can be as simple as regularly washing hands, not sharing drinks and ensuring plates and utensils are appropriately cleaned. If you do have any concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

Attendance
Our attendance to start the new school year has been promising so far as it is one of our big focuses this year as a school. Attending every day will greatly enhance each student’s opportunity to succeed and thrive post-school and provide them with fantastic chances to chase their dreams. All classes have dynamic learning programs happening in each session every day, so it is important to be at school on time so that you’re not missing out on that quality teaching time. Our first school bell rings at 8.57am and classes are in their room just after 9.00am each day. Please make sure that you’re here by then so that you’re getting all of that wonderful learning on board!

Breakfast program
Our breakfast program is offered each day and is usually run out of the new kitchen by Alana and Bek from 8.30am. While the construction works are taking place in their building, they will be operating out of the school canteen. Feel free to pop in and see them if you have not had breakfast in the morning.

Permanent Appointment
Last Friday we received the wonderful news that Debbie Day has been permanently appointed to Kempsey South PS. This is absolutely fantastic for our school and community and very much deserved as Debbie has been the backbone of this place for nearly two decades. I’m sure you’ll all join me in congratulating Debbie on her appointment and wish her well as she continues to deliver tremendous outcomes for our school community.

Mr Paul Byrne
Principal
**Dates To Remember**

**Term 1 Week 6**
- Thurs 05/03/20  Big Vegie Crunch 10 am
- Thurs 05/03/20  Aussie of the Month 2.30pm
- Fri 06/03/20  Cricket K-2

**Term 1 Week 7**
- Thurs 12/03/20  Assembly by 1/2O 2.30pm
- Fri 13/03/20  Cricket K-2
  - Swimming 3-6

**Term 1 Week 8**
- Thurs 19/03/20  Assembly by MC classes 2.30pm
- Fri 20/03/20  Cricket K-2
  - Swimming 3-6

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**Happy Birthday**

Bella, Damen, Darryle, Dwayne, Oliver, Allindah, Jhonte, Abbi, Shaun, Mis’chell, Briannah, Tasharie, Jungarrayi, Kimarli

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**KEMPSEY SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Dear Teacher

________________________________________ was absent/late from school

on ____________________________

because he/she was ___________________________________________________________

________________________________________

Signed: __________________ Date: __________________

Please return to Class Teacher

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**ASSEMBLY AWARDS Week 4 & 5**

**KH**
- Tasharie  working well in all class activities
- Tyreece  working well in maths activities

**K/2W**
- Abbi  always being thoughtful and kind to others
- Jhonte  showing lots of enthusiasm for reading
- Zach  great number work in maths
- Jaylen  working hard at following instructions & completing his work

**1/20**
- Shai’daylee  trying her best to complete all set tasks
- Shaun  persisting with his writing and using known sounds to spell
- Mis’chell  persevering with maths activities
- Michael  persevering with challenging activities

**2/3H**
- Mara  for improved focus during writing tasks
- Aviarna  for being a friendly and polite member of 2/3H
- Benji  for his enthusiasm during class discussions
- Jatarlah  for always trying her best and being a kind member of 2/3H

**3/6P**
- Lakiyah  working as part of our team to achieve a class party
- Tynaeha  great reading everyday and her lovely smile
- Ciara  a great start to 2020

**5/6A**
- Lachlan  excellent research about the Apology to the Stolen Generation
- Jakaya  making a great effort with all her writing
- Ryan  consistently demonstrating respectful listening during lessons

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**WHAT IS THE BIG VEGIE CRUNCH?**

Did you know that only around 6% of Australian children eat enough vegetables? To help our community do better, our school will be taking part in The Big Vegie Crunch (part of Vegetable Week) at 10am on Thursday 5th March Primary schools across NSW will be joining together to break the record for the most students crunching vegetables:

**What can you do to help?**

Pack a container of vegetables (not fruit this time) for your child to eat on Thursday 5th March
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.
- Gives 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 oral 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.

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 Conference**

  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.
Did you know?
Unprotected exposure to the sun on our children’s delicate skin significantly increases their risk of developing skin cancer later in life. Unfortunately, two out of three Aussie kids at school today will be diagnosed with skin cancer in later life – some of them with deadly melanomas.

The good news is that skin cancer is very preventable. Creating good sun protection habits for life helps reduce the risk of skin cancer and helps prevent freckles, moles and painful sunburn.

When do we need sun protection?
Most areas in NSW experience high levels of UV radiation most of the year – even on cloudy or cooler days. Check the SunSmart UV Alert daily for UV levels in your local area:

- Check the daily newspaper weather forecasts
- Google the free SunSmart App for smartphones
- Go to www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart

Balancing sun protection and vitamin D needs
Vitamin D is essential for healthy bone growth and is made when skin is exposed to UV radiation. In NSW most children will get enough vitamin D during their everyday outdoor activities. Children with very dark skin may be at risk of low vitamin D. It’s important to talk to your doctor if you have any concerns for your family.
Follow the tips below whenever the UV level is 3 or above.
Slip, slop, slap...plus seek and slide!

- **Slip** on sun-safe clothing, such as longer-style shorts and skirts; t-shirts and dresses with sleeves, collars or covered necklines.
- **Slop** on SPF 30+ or SPF 50+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen. Reapply every 2 hours, or more often if washed off or swimming.
- **Slap** on a wide-brimmed or bucket hat that protects the face, neck and ears.
- **Seek** out shady areas, but still use sun-safe hats, clothing and sunscreen.
- **Slide** on sunnies that meet the Australian Standard 1067 and have an eye protection factor rating of EPF 10.

Walking the talk!
As a parent, carer or educator it’s important you protect your own skin and role model good sun protection for children in your care. A handy tip is to keep a broad-brimmed hat and sunscreen in your bag, car or classroom.

Brims are best
Sun-safe hats, such as bucket, broad-brimmed or legionnaire styles are best. Baseball caps are a popular fashion item, but they don’t protect the neck, ears and cheeks. Try keeping them for indoor activities and always wear sun-safe hats when outside.

The facts about sunscreen
There is clear evidence that sunscreen helps protect against skin cancer, however sunscreen does not give complete protection and should always be used with sun-safe hats, clothing and shade.

Allergic reactions to sunscreen are rare. Cancer Council recommends performing a patch test on a small area on the inside forearm to check if the skin reacts, prior to applying sunscreen to the rest of the body – especially if the brand or product has not been used before. If a reaction occurs, discontinue use and seek advice from a doctor or chemist about choosing an alternative product.

Want to know more? Check out www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart or call Cancer Council Information and Support line on 13 11 20