



Newsletter

Term 4 Week 6

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next year, **all students K-6 will be starting school on Thursday 6 February 2025**, following 4 school development days. These school development days provide our teachers time to be best prepared individually and collectively to implement curriculum.

School development days will operate the way they always have. Students do not attend on these days as there are no timetabled lessons so staff can engage in professional development and planning. As has always been the case, where no alternative arrangements can be made, this is managed at a local school level.

An updated and public list of school development days for the next 3 years can also be found on the [department website](#).

End of Term 4 Arrangements

As we near the end of the year, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and confirm the **last day of school for students is Wednesday 18th December 2024**. Staff will be engaging in staff development day on Thursday 19th December to finalise 2025 planning to ensure we continue to meet the needs of all our students.

Our staff engaged in 2 three-hour twilight professional learning sessions throughout the year in lieu of a second staff development day scheduled for the Friday 20th December. We participated in face-to-face CPR and anaphylaxis practical training and professional learning delivered by the GOT it team on Fostering Students' Resilience: Attachment in the School Setting.

Spring Garden Competition Result

The winners for the Spring Garden Competition 2024 were announced at BLOOM over the weekend, our school entry received *Runner Up* in the Best School Garden Category.

Student Sport News

Congratulations to Laiken (Year 4) and Joshua (Year 2) who have both been selected to play in the Macarthur Under 10 T-Ball Reps team later this term.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sivell

Principal

Stage 3 Camp at Yarramundi

Thirteen students from the Koalas class were able to revisit the outdoor learning at Camp Yarramundi this week with Ms Deaves and Mrs Sivell and students from Mt Hunter and Douglas Park. The variety of camp activities were designed to engage students with nature and develop their teamwork, leadership, and growth mindset.

They experienced low ropes courses and team-building initiative games that encouraged collaboration and communication among students, as well as Orienteering where they used maps to navigate through the site. This activity enhanced spatial awareness and problem-solving skills.

The most liked activities involved adventure like rock climbing, flying fox, and giant swing and archery which challenged personal limits and built self-confidence. It was so pleasing to see all student's challenging themselves and developing trust.

We enjoyed a campfire with marshmallows and many games of *Gaga* ball. During an organised tournament Cawdor students were crowned the small school champions.

Holly was our team leader, and she aimed to foster key messages about personal growth, resilience, and an enduring connection to the environment throughout the activities.

We all had a fabulous camp experience!





Occupational Therapy

In 2024, our school engaged Kelli from Start-to Write to implement occupational therapy programs for identified students in small groups each Thursday.

This program was fully funded and has now concluded for 2024. Kelli has helped students with fine motor skills, handwriting and letter formation, as well as social skills for a group of stage 2 students.

Well done to all the students involved.



Opportunity Class and Selective High School Placements

Selected high schools and opportunity classes are specialist school settings that group together high potential and gifted students. Learning with classmates who have similar abilities helps students' academic development and wellbeing.

Students still follow the NSW curriculum, but teachers may use special teaching strategies for high potential and gifted learners.

SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL AND OPPORTUNITY CLASS APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FROM 7 NOVEMBER 2024 TO 21 FEBRUARY 2025.

To learn more read the attached information sheet or go to the following link:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools.html>

SNAKE AWARENESS

We regularly discuss snake awareness and safety with our students. We kindly ask you discuss the snake safety at home as the weather starts to heat up and reptiles seek refuge.

Reassure your child, remind them if they sight a snake to walk backwards slowly away in a calm manner, report it to a staff member straight away and never attempt to touch or chase the snake.

Another message we will be communicating is not to place hands or feet into garden areas if your ball or other items go into them and seek a teacher's assistance.