



Cowan Public School Newsletter

Issue 7 - 13th May, 2021

Principal's News

Dear Parents/caregivers,

I hope all the wonderful mothers and nannas had a great day last Sunday. Thank you to all our parents/grandparents who helped with the Mother's Day stall in the library. A special thank you to Suzie Reid for organising all the great gifts. We really do have a fantastic community.

National Walk Safely to School Day - Friday, 14th May 2021

This is the 22nd year for National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD). It is an annual event where all Primary School children are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

We are encouraging our Cowan students to participate in this day to promote road safety in our community.

Here are some safety recommendations to talk about with students before the event;

- younger students should hold a grown ups hand when crossing the road or walking along the foot path

- use a safe place to cross the road, such as a pedestrian crossing and wait until all cars have driven past
- Stop, look left and right and listen for cars before crossing the road

It would be great to see as many parents and students get involved this year!

More information can be found at <https://safetytown.com.au/parents/>

Thank you

Lisa Steele

Cowan Dance Festival

Last week, the Cowan Dance Group was accepted into Sydney North Dance Festival to be held at Glen Street Theatre during the last two weeks of this term. It will look a little different this year. The organisers will be filming all the dances and family and friends will purchase tickets go to the viewing of these dances. More information to come soon. Thank you to Mrs Jan Carroll again for her leadership and hard work in running the Dance Group.

Attendance

This week we were audited on students absences.

Under the Education ACT (1990) all students between the ages of 6 and 17 must attend school every day unless there is a justified reason (which must be provided to the school within seven days).

At Cowan Public School, playground supervision is provided from 8:20am every day. The school learning time begins at 8:50am and ends at 2:50pm. It is essential that students arrive at school on time so their attendance is registered.

Contacting parents

As noted in the NSW Government Procedures, if a student is absent and no explanation has been provided, parents/carers will be contacted. Teachers may contact parents/carers via phone or email for a reason.

Explained vs justified absences

Parents are required to explain absences within a seven day period. This can be done via Skoolbag, an email or phone call to the front office (9456 1065).

The NSW Education Act requires all absences that have not been explained within seven calendar days are to be permanently recorded as 'unjustified'.

There are a limited number of reasons which justify an absence from school. In some circumstances, even though a reason has been provided, the absence will still be recorded as 'unjustified' because the reason does not count as a valid reason as per the Department of Education policy.

What are valid reasons?

The two most common reasons for student absence are 'sick' and 'leave'.

S- Sick: The student's absence is due to sickness or as the result of a medical appointment. The school requires a medical certificate for absences related to sickness for three days or more. The Principal/teachers may request a medical certificate on each occasion in addition to explanations, if the the explanation is doubted or the student has a history of unsatisfactory attendance.

L- Approved leave: The student's absence is due to an incident such as a serious illness of an immediate family member or attendance at a funeral and the explanation has been accepted by the principal.

A- Unexplained absence: The student's absence is unexplained or unacceptable which could include going shopping, weather conditions, tired, needed a day off etc.

Staff will add comment to indicate how absence was noticed (note, email, verbal) and a brief explanation if necessary i.e. L- note: family funeral

Late/early (Partial absences)

Students are expected to be at school, in lines/class by 8:50am each morning. If a student is late to school, they need to sign in at the front office. Parents are expected to provide a reason for their child's lateness. If a valid reason is not provided, the absence will be recorded as 'unjustified'.

If a student needs to leave early (e.g. for a doctors appointment), please contact the office prior to the day, this will then be passed on to the class teacher. A parent/carer will need to go to the office to sign out the child.

Extended Leave/family holidays

Application for Extended Leave and Certificate of Extended Leave forms are required when a student will be absent from school for more than five (5) days. Travel documents (if applicable) must be attached to this form which can then be emailed to the school or dropped in at the office.

Families are encouraged to travel during the NSW school holidays. If travel outside of NSW school holidays periods is necessary, the family must apply to the principal for approval beforehand. If the family does not apply for leave, or it is not approved, the absences from school will be unjustified. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

Teachers are not required to provide work for students to complete on holidays, however we recommend daily reading, keeping a diary of the holidays. Technology is an easy and effective way. Try having your child create a digital diary of their trip- voice recordings, pictures, videos & writing.

Supporting Student Health

If medication is to be taken at school, please see the office to fill in a form. Medication will then be administered by a designated staff member. It is preferred that Asthma sufferers have spare relieving medication kept at the office. An emergency asthma kit is kept in Sick Bay and separate first aid kits are taken on excursions and to sporting events.

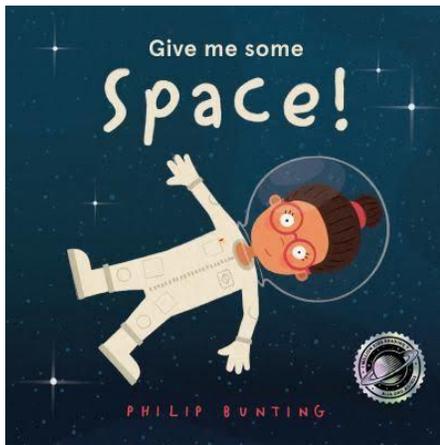
Students who become sick or are injured at school attend the Sick Bay located at the administration office where they are assessed by staff with first aid qualifications. If a student is seriously ill or has sustained an injury of concern, the school will contact parents/carers immediately.

All staff are trained regularly in the management and treatment of Anaphylaxis in accordance with ASCIA and DEC Health policies.

It is encouraged that students do not bring nuts or nut spread to school due to a child who is anaphylactic.

A current contact telephone number for all parents and an emergency contact must be available.

If parents cannot be contacted and the injury or sickness is sufficiently serious, an ambulance will be called. The school contributes to the Ambulance Fund for this purpose.



National Simultaneous Storytime - Wednesday 19th May

On Wednesday 19th May, the students and staff at Cowan PS will join thousands of children across Australia and New Zealand to celebrate National Simultaneous Story Time.

We are excited to announce that the chosen Australian book, "Give Me Some Space", by Philip Bunting will be read by astronaut Shannon Walker from the International Space Station at 11am.

All students and staff are encouraged to join in this annual literary event and dress up in space related costume for the day.

Thank you

Lynne Scanes

Sushi Day/Red Day - Monday 17th May, 2021



RED DAY - Please order from Great North Cafe Monday morning. A staff member will pick up your child's order and deliver it to them at lunch time.

NAPLAN

This week Year 3 and Year 5 completed the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program; Literacy and Numeracy) assessment. The students did a fabulous job. The online system worked successfully with not too many problems. The new online process adapts and differentiates the students' performance as they go through the questions. The information gathered from this process helps the school plan for individual needs and enables us to see Cowan's strengths and weaknesses. Once again well done to all students.



Stewart House 2021

Envelopes for donations to Stewart House have been handed out this week. The donations support the children who attend Stewart House from public schools across NSW and ACT. You can donate a \$2 coin to go in the running to win a \$4000 holiday voucher. Please ensure they are returned to the school office by **Friday, 14th May**.

Cross Country

Last Wednesday we had another fabulous Cross Country Carnival. It was great to see all the children cheering everyone on. The rain held off until the final minutes of the last race. All the children participated well. The Cowan PS spirit was high. I especially loved watching some students running two different courses and a Cowan student picking up another child off the track when he fell over, so they could complete the race together. It was truly great Cowan Spirit! It reminded me of this youtube video clip

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

Well done all children who made it in to Zone Cross Country, which will be held on Monday 17th May at Rofe Park. Students are to come to school first before driving to Rofe Park. Good luck to our seven Zone runners.

A special thank you to Mel Kirke who cleared the Cross Country path for the Kinders and Year 1.

It was a great atmosphere, we especially loved seeing the pictures of the parents running into school.

RESULTS

K/1

1st - Damon

2nd - Zachary

3rd - Arran

8 Year old Boys

1st - Thomas

8 Year old Girls

1st - Lilly

9 Year old Boys

1st - Josh (zone)

10 Year old Girls

1st - Eve (zone)

11 Year old Boys

1st - Harvey (zone)

2nd - Ajay (zone)

2nd - Sam

12/13 Year old Boys

12/13 Year old Girls

1st - Benji (zone)

1st - Tasman (zone)

2nd - Colo (zone)

3rd - Damian

Cross Country 2021



NUT & PEANUT ALLERGY (ANAPHYLAXIS)

At Cowan Public School we have students with a potential *LIFE THREATENING NUT / PEANUT ALLERGY*.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Even a small trace of nut, peanut or nut/peanut product may trigger a severe allergic reaction called Anaphylaxis, which attacks the immune system leading potentially to death within minutes. This reaction can happen by taste, touch and sometimes can be airborne. All students and staff have access to an adrenaline injection in the form of an EpiPen, which can save lives if needed. Photo posters are displayed in sick bay (office) for easy identification of children with allergies.

Cowan PS works with parents/carers to support students in developing an awareness of their allergies and what foods to avoid. Students are encouraged not to share food and to always check with a parent/adult/teacher if unsure at any time.

HOW CAN YOU HELP TO KEEP CPS STUDENTS SAFE?

Please help us by not including peanut or any nut products in your child's lunchbox. This includes peanut butter and Nutella. Please avoid products with any nuts/peanuts listed as an ingredient. Explain about nut/peanut allergy to your child and encourage the 'no food sharing' rule. Please consider what you are sending for birthday treats to share with the class, checking there are no nut products included. It is only with the continued support of all parents and staff that we can effectively maintain a safe school environment for children with allergies.

Thank you for your understanding. We know you will want to support the school and any child with allergies.



Turn Bread Bags and Tags into School Play Equipment

Cowan PS has entered a competition to receive more sport equipment for the school. We need **YOU** to collect **ANY bread or WRAP** bags or tags and return them to the box in office foyer.

For every 5kg bin filled, schools earn credits redeemable for exciting new sports equipment.

Please start collecting today.

Winter Interschool Sport - Soccer

This should of started last week, however the weather had other plans. Fingers crossed that we kick off tomorrow.

Interrelate

This will be reschedule to an online format. More info to come when I receive it.

Cake Day

Thank you to all our families who supplied cakes this week, and for our students who bought cakes. The money raised from these days goes to our Student Parliament and our School charity, Stewart House.

Next cake day is the 2nd June - Cakes to be supplied by Balnave, Kirke and Anderson.

Positive Behaviour for Learning Focus

Show
RESPONSIBILITY

- Take PRIDE in doing the right thing.
- Be SAFE and be CAREFUL.
- Be at the RIGHT PLACE at the right time.
- Be PREPARED for work and be PUNCTUAL.

Week 4 - RESPONSIBILITY - Take Ownership of your actions.

Volunteering at Cowan PS

If you volunteer in our school, for example as a reading parent or if you are helping with the BBQ; you need to fill in an Appendix 5 and provide a 100 point check for our records. Both these documents are available at the school office and will only take a few minutes to complete. If you have provided this information in previous years you do not need to do this again.

P&C Spot

What's Coming Up

Sunday, 23rd May 9am to 1pm - Working Bee

Wednesday 2nd June—Musica Viva & Cake Day (Balnave, Kirke & Anderson)

Friday 4th June—Sydney North Cross Country Carnival

Wednesday 16th June—Athletics Carnival (House colours to be worn)

Sunday 20th June (Proposed date) Bunnings BBQ @ Thornleigh. Still to be confirmed.

Wednesday 23rd June—Cake Day (Jan, Meyers & Makin)

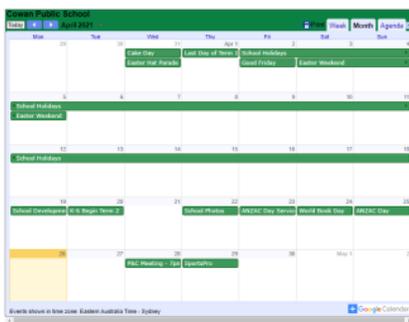
Friday 25th June—Last Day of Term 2.

Monday 12th July – Term 3 Starts

Tuesday 13th July – Students Return to School

Wednesday July 21 - Opportunity Class 2022 Placement Test

Wednesday, 28th July P&C Meeting @ 7pm in the Library.



School Calendar

<https://cowan-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/calendar.html>

Advertisements



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