Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first Newsletter for the year. I would especially like to welcome our new students and their families to the school and trust that they enjoy their time at Hunter River Community School. I also extend a warm welcome to our new staff members, Ali Landers, Terri Walsh, Deb Paul, Elisha Ankeney and Raechelle Linn.

Anaphylaxis Update—Advice to Parents
The Department of Education and Communities has recently announced that all government schools will receive a “general use” adrenaline auto-injector (EpiPen) for their first aid kit. This DOES NOT replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline injector along with an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Instead the general use auto-injector is intended to be used if:
- An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- There is a misfire of the adrenaline auto-injector that has been prescribed for the student
- A student requires further adrenaline to be administered after his or her auto-injector has been administered.

Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this matter.

Parents and Citizens Association Meeting
It was wonderful to welcome so many new faces to our P&C meeting this week and I can only hope to continue to welcome those faces. P&C Meetings are not only a forum for fundraising ideas, but an avenue to hear news about what is going on in the school, an opportunity to raise issues and concerns, and a place to seek advice and share new found information. Our meetings are quite informal but always very productive. The next meeting, Wednesday 27th March will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM); if you are interested in holding a position on the P&C, please be confident in nominating yourself. There is always plenty of support available. ALL WELCOME!

Contacting the Class Teacher
We encourage all parents and carers to use the Communication Book sent between home and school each day as a means of communicating day to day routines and happenings. We do however also encourage ALL parents and carers to make an appointment with the class teacher if you would like to raise some concerns or discuss more confidential matters. ALL teachers are allocated time off class to attend to these matters, so I would ask where possible to make an appointment at this time, of course we will always make alternative arrangements if the matter is urgent.

RFF Timetable

Wednesday
- Mandy Worton  9:00am – 3:00pm (All Wks)
- David Nevins  9:00am – 12:00pm (All Wks)
- Jackie Bright  12:00pm – 2:00pm (All Wks)

Thursday
- Alison Landers  9:00am – 3:00pm (All Wks)
- Raechelle Linn  9:00am – 3:00pm (Odd Wk)
- Elisha Ankeney  9:00pm – 3:00pm (Even Wk)

Friday
- Tracey Rapson  9:00am – 3:00pm (All Wks)
- Jennene Wenban  9:00am – 3:00pm (Odd Wk)
- Olivia Boelens  12:00pm - 3:00pm (Even Wk)

School Attendance
School attendance requirements have recently changed and now require children between the ages of 6 and 17 years to attend school each day. If your child is absent from school for any reason, an explanation of the absence is required under the Education Act. This can be done by writing a note in your child’s communication book or by telephoning the office. School attendance is regularly checked and followed up by the Home School Liaison Officer. If you have any concerns about school attendance, please don’t hesitate to contact the school for support.

Sick Students
We seek the support of all parents and carers to keep their child at home if they are concerned about their child’s health in any way. The school has no specialist facilities to support sick students at school and they
often recuperate at home much faster. We understand that it can be difficult for families to get to Hunter River Community School to pick their child up if they fall ill at school, so I would ask that all families think about a plan to get their child home from school if needed. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Student Assistance Scheme
Each year the school receives a grant from the government to financially assist families with the cost of school uniforms, educational excursions and school related equipment, sport and subject costs. This is a totally confidential scheme, and totally run by the school. If AT ANY TIME you feel you need assistance with any school expenses I would urge you to make a request. There is very little paperwork required. An application form can be requested at any time and will be processed within a day or so.

Individual Education Planning Meetings
By now, most parents would have been invited to nominate some preferred times to come up to the school to discuss important goals and priorities, the school needs to include in your child’s individual plan. We encourage parents to invite other key personnel, such as therapy staff and case workers to these meetings if relevant. Once the plan has been devised with input from all parties, a copy will be sent home to all parents and carers. If for some reason you are unable to attend on the proposed days suggested by your child’s class teacher, please let them know your availability and we will do our best to suit you.

PODDS Training Workshop—Free for Parents
I spoke briefly at the last P&C Meeting about our PODDS Communication system we have in the school. Regina, our P&C President, also spoke about the gains her son Connor has made in communicating his needs and wants. We are holding a PODDS Workshop on 4th and 5th March at Easts Bowling Club which we are offering “FREE” for our parents. Please take advantage of this wonderful offer and invaluable opportunity to support your child with communication (see attached registration form).

School Website
Towards the end of 2012 the majority of schools were experiencing difficulties with their school websites. We have been informed by the department that website services are now operating correctly. We are in the process of updating our school website with relevant information for parents. The school newsletter is also uploaded to the school website after distribution to families. Please take some time to navigate around the website, especially the calendar, and Photo Albums section of the website.

www.hunterrivc-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

Justice of the Peace (JP)
David Nevins, class teacher, Room 9 would like to remind parents and carers that he is a registered JP, and would be happy to help out if his services are needed. Please ring the school and leave a message for David if you need his JP services.

Picture of the Week

I didn’t think putting up shelves was part of the Design and Technology Curriculum.....

Classroom Supplies
As you may be aware HRCS does not charge “school fees”. Instead we ask that each family make a small contribution of “high use” classroom resources, such as, scrap books, glue sticks, tissues, coloured pencils, textas etc. These resources are for exclusive use by the classroom and assists us greatly with our expenses.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
for February
Nicholas - 4/2 Scott - 6/2
Adam H - 25/2 Kai - 26/2
Welcome to the parents and carers and 5 new kindergarten students in Room 2.
The 5 boys, Braith, Dekkard, Harry, Orlando and Tyrell have all settled in beautifully to BIG school.
The boys, along with Jonathon have been getting to know each other through work and play activities and are forming strong friendships.
As well as doing activities related to the unit of work “I Am Special” the boys have been learning about Summer.

Room 8
Welcome to 2013!
Everyone in Room 8 is very excited about the upcoming year.
Cameron has been very busy developing his woodwork skills and has been constructing shelves in the canteen area.
Adam, Billy, Adam R, Janelle, Joey and Mikaila have commenced senior electives in food technology, textiles and agriculture/work skills.
**Workshop Content:** The Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) approach provides strategies to support the design, production and implementation of communication systems to enable genuine communication for a variety of functions in all daily environments.

PODD communication books assist quick access to predictable messages and access to a broad range of vocabulary for spontaneous, unpredicted messages.

The PODD resource provides generic templates that can be trialed and customised to suit individual requirements. PODD can be used to suit varying communication, language, sensory and physical access requirements.

Creative and practical solutions will be demonstrated through videos and case examples. Participants will have the opportunity for hands on supported practice using PODD communication books. This workshop will enable participants to develop their ability to teach use of PODD communication books in daily environments.

**Harriet Korner** is a Speech Pathologist with over 25 years experience working with people with complex communication needs. Harriet works with the Independent Living Centre NSW and provides information and advice to people on communication and assistive technology.

Harriet has extensive experience in training families, schools and other professionals on Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Harriet has had experience in implementing PODD communication books with children who have cerebral palsy, downs syndrome and autism within home and school settings.

---

**Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display**

Two Day Introductory Workshop 4th and 5th March 2013

EASTS Bowling Club

**REGISTRATION FORM / TAX INVOICE**

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________

Role: __________________________________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: _____________________ Fax: ______________________ Email: __________________________

Invoice to _____________________________________________________________________________

Registration includes morning tea and lunch (Please list any dietary requirements below)

___________________________________________________________________________________________

I do / do not want my name and email forwarded to CPEC to receive updated information on PODD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGISTRATION FEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning tea and lunch are included and a comprehensive workshop handout is provided. Fees have been subsidised by our Every Student Every School Project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professionals – full rate</th>
<th>$220 (including GST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents/Carers</td>
<td>$55 (including GST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter River Community School Parents</td>
<td><strong>Free—LUNCH INCLUDED</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RSVPs:** Please email, fax or send registration and payment to Hunter River Community School

Numbers are strictly limited to 30 participants, so book early to avoid disappointment.