Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a number of families affected by flooding in the past week, fortunately homes have not been affected, only road closures. I would like to thank those families who have made the extra effort to ensure their children are still attending school if at all possible. I would also like to thank transport drivers for their efforts, many of whom are travelling additional kilometres to ensure they get students to school. Students who could not get to school due to flooding will have “leave” granted and their attendance record will not be affected.

New School Progress Update

Despite wet weather, the new school building works is progressing. We continue to meet with the contractors, North Constructions, Public Works and the DEC Asset Management team on a regular basis to ensure that we are all working towards achieving the best possible outcome for our community. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th March on the new site.

Planning Meetings

I have been very pleased with the number of Individual Learning Plan meetings that have been held to date. Could I thank all those parents and carers for taking the time to assist us in developing a comprehensive learning plan for students at the school. If you have not been able to attend a meeting as yet, could I urge you to contact your child’s class teacher to make alternative arrangements. In some instances, we may be able to conduct the meeting over the phone. It is a requirement for all students attending any support class to have an Individual Learning Plan developed and reviewed on a regular basis.

Thank You EASTS Bowling Club

Once again we have been very fortunate to have received $15,000 from the club under the NSW Club Grants Scheme. Without their valuable support we would not be able to run our community access and community sport programs. THANK YOU!
Assisted Travel
We have approximately 80% of our student population using the services of Assisted School Travel each day. This is a very valuable service provided to our families.

I would like to bring a few matters to your attention to ensure the smooth operation of the service.

Change of address: We are asked to provide 10 to 14 days notice. Parents are also asked to complete another application demonstrating their inability to provide their own transport.

Change of Before/After School Arrangements: Again at least 10 to 14 day notice is requested. Sometimes in an emergency situation, approval may be quicker, however advanced notice is needed.

ADHC Respite: If your child receives a respite service from ADHC, the variations are completed by the ADHC respite team and go directly to AST. This is an agreement that ADHC has with AST. The school DOES NOT process these requests. In the case where emergency respite is required, there may not be enough time for ADHC to organise the paperwork. Please be aware that the drivers cannot perform this variation of service unless they have approval from AST.

Private Agency Respite: AST may be able to provide transport to and from private agency respite if they have a “run” in the area. They will not establish a new run to provide transport to and from respite. At least 10 to 14 days is required when requesting this variation.

Service Not Required: If for any reason you will not require the AST service on a particular day due to illness or prior commitments, please advise the driver as soon as possible. All parents should have a mobile number on which they can contact their driver.

Please remember that you may be eligible for the Private Vehicle Conveyance subsidy scheme operated by NSW Transport if you are not eligible for Assisted School Travel.


Anaphylaxis Update
Hunter River Community School is going “Nut Free”!

In our last Newsletter we reported that all schools have received a “general use” auto injector (EpiPen) for their first aid kit. This injector is to be used in the case where a student, previously undiagnosed, has an anaphylactic reaction.

After reviewing all Health Care Plans relating to severe allergies leading to a possible anaphylactic reaction, we have decided to trial a “nut free zone” throughout the school as we now have students who experience severe allergic reactions across all stages of the school.

We ask that students do not bring nuts in their lunchbox, this includes peanut butter.

Should you feel that this decision impacts on your child’s dietary requirements, please contact your child’s classroom teacher to discuss the matter in the hope that we can make the appropriate arrangements to ensure all students are safe.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
March
Courtney Simmons 6/3  Cameron Howard 24/3
13/3  Dylan Ford 17/3  Jacqueline Vidray 24/3
Joseph Bridge 28/3
SENIOR BOWLING

Senior sport has commenced for Term 1 and the bowling squad are very excited about their weekly scores. Super Strike Rutherford are sponsoring a “bowling league” and will donate a trophy for the winner of each lane.

Clay tries for a strike                    Luke shows off his winning style                         One arm is no barrier

SENIOR ELECTIVE – HORTICULTURE

Some students in the senior school come to room 9 each week to participate in a horticulture program.

In term one we are replanting the vegetable and herb gardens as well as taking care of the chickens and collecting and selling eggs.

Cameron and Luke have so far planted spinach and turnips and along with tomatoes we will be researching other crops to grow at this time of the year.

Thanks to our long term volunteer Paul who comes along each week to help students with the program.

PODD WORKSHOP

A number of parents, and members from community organisations attended our PODD Book workshop held at EASTS Bowling Club on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Although the two day workshop is “hard going” we did have some very positive feedback from participants. A big thank you to Suzanne Brown for all her efforts in getting this training up and running. This training event was financially supported by our Every Student, Every School National Partnership project.
The School will soon have the Entertainment Book for sale at the school office. If you wish to purchase an Entertainment Book please make a request in your child’s communication book. The cost of the book this year is $60.00 with $12 from each book sold going directly to our school.

The launch date is 28th March so place your orders soon to receive additional bonuses.

Do You Have Any Cans?
Our senior school students are looking for aluminium cans to crush as part of their Work and Training elective. If you have one or one hundred cans, please send them to school and we will put them to good use. Many Thanks!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 27th March 2013
10:00am
School Library
All positions will be declared vacant!