



HOLMWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal: Jenny Lewis

✉ Cowra-Carcoar Road, Cowra NSW 2794

☎ 63422172

📠 63411247

@ holmwood-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

💻 www.holmwood-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 Week 1 – Week Ending 1st February 2013



Welcome back to School!

Welcome back to all students, staff and parents to what is sure to be another exciting and very busy school year at Holmwood PS! I trust that everyone had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed

spending time with family and friends. We had 45 enthusiastic and motivated students arrive at school on Wednesday morning and with our 9 new Kindergarten students, this brings our school's enrolment to 54 students!

I would like to say a very special welcome to our new Kindergarten students – Lexi, Sascha, Shakira, Toby, Jaydan, Liam, Igloo, Brodie and Jett as well as the Collins family – Charlotte (Year 1) and Lara (Year 3), the Beaumont family – Harry (Year 2) and Oliver (Year 4), the Bridgette family – Makayla (Year 2) and Blake (Year 3), Kynan Rowley who joins Year 6 and Kadan Woolley who joins the very big Year 2 group! All students are settling in extremely well and are making lots of new friends!

Staffing Term 1 - 2013

Due to the increase in enrolments this Term, we are excited to announce that this year we will have three classes. The class structure will be a K/1 class, a 2/3 class and a 4/5/6 class.

As a result of this, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Vanessa Benett who joins the HPS team as our K/1 teacher for Term 1. Vanessa is very excited to be working at our wonderful school and has some fantastic learning experiences planned for our Kindergarten and Year One students.

Mrs Kiely will be taking the 2/3 Class this year and has been busy setting up the multi-purpose room in the holidays, ready for Year 2 and Year 3 students.

I will continue to teach the Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 students...and so for our class, it will be 'business as usual'!

Cheri will continue to work as our School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) and will be working Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays this year.

Mrs Lynne Watt will resume the Library/RFF teaching role and will be taking all classes for Library and PE on Thursdays and the 4/5/6 Class on Fridays while I have my Principal Admin day.

Mrs Joy Webster returns in her role as our Learning Support teacher and will be at school every Tuesday.

Mrs Julie Bayl, our School Administration Manager will be in the Office every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Teaching Position

As you would be aware, Mrs Sharon Hawker was successful in gaining the Assistant Principal position at Canowindra PS. I was advised by Staffing in the holidays that Sharon's teaching position at Holmwood will be filled through merit selection. I will be finalising the selection panel this week and the advertisement will be published on the Jobs@DET website shortly. The successful applicant will commence working in this position at the beginning of Term 2.

School Improvements

If you drove past the school during the holidays you may have seen some heavy machinery and a hive of activity! In late 2012 I received the news that our request for a new tank system was approved and we now have 2 new water tanks installed. This should help to address some of the drainage issues at the school as well as provide us with a larger supply of water. The old water tank has been removed and the concrete area re-cemented, as well as removal of the old BBQ and Bubbler Shed. A brand new bubbler shed has been built and should provide easier access for our students. Thank you to Garry White (our wonderful GA) for overseeing much of this work which was done during the holidays.

Also in the holidays, Garry with assistance from John Gorman re-located the Interactive Whiteboard from the Technology room into the new K/1 Classroom. Another Interactive Whiteboard has been ordered for the Year 2/3 classroom and should arrive early this Term. This means that all students will have access to this technology all day, every day. Thanks Garry!



Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival

This year's Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 13th February, with the alternate date being

Wednesday 20th February. It is hoped that all children are able to attend the carnival! Please note that parents will be required to transport their children directly to and from Cowra Pool. We will have the large Holmwood PS shade tent set up for families to sit under and cheer on our students as they compete. There will be events and activities for children of all swimming abilities, including plenty of games for our non-swimmers. Please find a permission note for the Carnival attached to this week's newsletter.

Parent/Teacher Information Evening

Mrs Kiely, Mrs Benett and I would like to invite parents and carers to a combined Parent/Teacher Information Evening to be held next Thursday 7th February from 5:30-6:30pm. During this time we will briefly discuss how our classes will operate this year, including homework expectations, opportunities for parental involvement, class routines and timetables. If you are interested in attending please complete the note attached to this week's newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there!

School Newsletters

This year we will have our weekly assembly awards and Newsletter handout on **Thursday** afternoons. Please ensure you check your child's back for the clear plastic Newsletter folders – these need to be returned to the school office (preferably by the following Monday) with any permission notes and payments enclosed. Newsletter Folders will go home with the eldest child in each family. If your child is away and misses receiving their weekly newsletter, please check the Holmwood PS Website – all Newsletters are uploaded weekly.

Class Information Note

Mrs Kiely, Mrs Benett and I have written our own Class Information Notes, which you will find in your Newsletter Folder today. These detail some of the essential information specific to your child's classroom. Please take the time to read these and if you have any concerns or questions, either bring them to the Parent/Teacher Information Session or speak with Deirdre, Vanessa or myself.



Library

Could parents please ensure their child/children have a Library Bag for borrowing. Library day for **all classes** will be every **Thursday** with Mrs Watt.

School Fees

Voluntary School Fees are an essential source of funds for our school, which does not receive any 'extra' funding through Departmental grants. School fees directly cover the costs of student Text Books (Maths, and Handwriting) which the school purchases at the beginning of the year so that we are ready to go from Day 1. As you can appreciate, this is a substantial outlay (around \$2,000), which we need to recoup as soon as possible.

The cost of school fees is \$35 per child for the year.

It would be greatly appreciated if parents could arrange for school fees to be paid to the Office as soon as possible. Thank you.

"Fruit Break"

Each day we have a short 5 minute break during our morning Literacy sessions for Fruit Break. "Fruit Break" is a set break to eat fruit (or salad vegetables) in the classroom. Students "re-fuel" with fruit or vegetables during the morning - assisting physical and mental performance and concentration. Food suitable for Fruit Break would include fresh fruit or vegetables, dried fruit, or fruit in snack packs (no juice, yoghurt or roll-ups). Children will eat their fruit at their desks, before continuing on with their morning lessons. As this is a short break, could parents please ensure that if their child has fruit that needs to be peeled or cut up, that this is done at home. Your support of this is appreciated.



Water Bottles & Hats



Due to the hot weather we have been experiencing, I would encourage all children to bring in a water bottle to sit on their desk during class. An ice brick is also recommended to put in your child's lunch boxes particularly during the warmer months. It is also asked that children wear their school hats as we will be enforcing our school's 'No Hat, Play In The Shade' policy.



A Nut-Free School

A reminder to all families that Holmwood PS is a Nut-Free School. We kindly ask parents NOT to send any nut products to school, due to the severe anaphylactic shock that some of our students may experience. Your assistance with this is vital for their safety. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Staff.

Student Emergency Contacts

Attached to this Newsletter is a Student Emergency Contact Sheet. Could all parents please complete these details as soon as possible, and return to the Office. It is vitally important that we have current, up-to-date contact details about your child. Thank you.

Media Permission Notes

Also attached to the newsletter is a Media Permission Note. Could these be returned to the school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Contacting the School

If parents need to contact the School during school hours when the office is unattended, please phone and leave a message. Messages will be checked during Recess and Lunch times by a Staff member. I will not have a phone in the classrooms when I am teaching as this is extremely disruptive to the children's learning. I also cannot check emails during the school day, so for urgent matters (e.g after school pick-up arrangements), please ensure you leave a voice message on the answering machine. Thank you.



School Website

Our website is up and running again this year. Be sure to check it out at

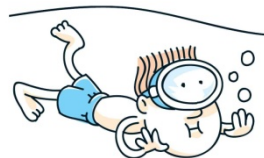
<http://www.holmwood-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Our weekly Newsletters are uploaded each week and our photo gallery is always great to have a click through!

Going Home Arrangements

Just a reminder that if your child has a change to their normal going home arrangements, the school needs to be notified. This can be via a note from home or a phone call. Without parent's consent, Staff cannot allow students to alter their normal arrangements. Your assistance with this is appreciated.

Swimming for Sport



As in previous years, we have organised for our students to participate in Swimming for Sport again this Term. Due to the school carnivals, we won't be starting this

until Week 4. Swimming for Sport will be held at the Cowra Pool on Fridays from 1:45-2:45pm and will involve all students K-6. Children will be put into swimming ability groups and will be taught by our HPS teachers and qualified local swimming teachers. The cost for each child to attend swimming for sport is their pool entry (\$2.50 – free if they have a season ticket) and bus fare (\$1 per week). We will be swimming for a total of five weeks, with the last day being our ANNUAL HOLMWOOD PS SWIMATHON. A permission note for Swimming for Sport and Swimathon details will come out in next week's Newsletter.

Calendar

Term 1 Week 2	
Mon 4th Feb	Permission notes, emergency contact sheets due please.
Wed 6th Feb	Mrs Benett - Best Start Training-Orange (Mrs Webster K/1)
Thurs 7th Feb	Parent/Teacher Information Night @ School 5:30-6:30pm.
Fri 8th Feb	Scripture
Term 1 Week 3	
Wed 13 th Feb	Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival – Cowra Pool (K-6)
Thurs 14 th Feb	Valentine's Day! 
Term 1 Week 4	
Wed 20th Feb	Alternate date for Small Schools Swimming carnival
Thurs 21st Feb	District Swimming Carnival - Grenfell
Fri 22nd Feb	Scripture Swimming for Sport

Kind Regards,
Jenny Lewis
Principal

Attachments

- Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival
Permission note
- K/1 Class Information Note
- 2/3 Class Information Note
- 4/5/6 Class Information Note
- Parent Information Evening note
- Student Emergency Contact Details
- Media Consent Form
- 2013 Voluntary School fees envelope

Canteen News



Please find attached Term 1 2013 Canteen menu. Canteen will be available every Monday and Wednesday starting next week. A reminder that all orders need to be put in to the Lunch Order boxes in the morning. Thank you to Gail and Bill Webster and Rhonda Lewis for organising the canteen again this year – your help is greatly appreciated by the staff and students of Holmwood PS.