



HOLMWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Principal: Jenny Lewis

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Term 1 Week 1 – Week Ending 30th January 2015



Welcome back!

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 57 happy, enthusiastic and excited students return to school this week and 2015 is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever!

I would like to say a very special welcome to our new Kindergarten students – Portia, Maddison, Jay and Samuel as well as Chelsea Leister, the Petty family – Shaun and Christian, the Lawler family – Lilly and Will, Brittney Worth, Annaliese Cameron and Hamish Newell. We are delighted to have our new families join the HPS school community! All the students are settling in extremely well and making lots of new friends!

Staffing - 2015

We have maintained our student numbers from 2014 and as a result, will again have three classes operating in 2015. The class structure will be a K/1 class, a 2/3 class and a 4/5/6 class.

Mrs Heidi Edgerton will continue to teach the K/1 class this year and has some fantastic learning experiences planned for our Kindergarten and Year One students.



Mrs Kerry Patten and Mrs Fiona Skene will be sharing the beautiful 2/3 class with Mrs Patten working Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and Mrs Skene teaching on Thursdays and Fridays. We are very excited

to welcome Mrs Skene to the HPS team and know that she will bring lots of great ideas and expertise to the 2/3 room!

I will be teaching the fabulous Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 students and am looking forward to welcoming lots of new faces to the big room!

Cheri will continue to work as our School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) and will be working on Mondays and Wednesdays this year.

Mrs Deirdre Kiely will resume the Library/RFF teaching role and will be taking all classes for Library 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.

Our Office will be attended every day with Mrs Anthea Hubbard working every second Monday and every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Mrs Julie Bayl working every Thursday and every second Monday.

Class teachers will again take on a specialist KLA teaching role in 2015. This means that all children K-6 will be taught by all teachers in one subject. These are as follows;

Science - Ms Edgerton

Visual Arts – Mrs Patten

HSIE – Mrs Lewis

Library – Mrs Kiely

PD/Health – Mrs Skene (2/3 & 4/5/6) – K/1 to be taught PD/H by Ms Edgerton for Term 1 & 2

PE – Mrs Kiely (K/1 & 4/5/6) – 2/3 to be taught PE by Mrs Skene for Term 1 & 2.

We are all looking forward to teaching K-6 again in 2015.

School Improvements

If you drove past the school during the holidays you will have noticed how lush and green the playground is looking! The rainfall, coupled with Dave's excellent gardening skills have meant our playground is in tip-top condition and the students were very appreciative of having a beautiful space to run around in this week.

Over the holidays we had a brand new air conditioner installed into the main Administration building, which will service the K/1 and 2/3 classrooms. We also had a roller door fitted to the weather shed, providing a

perfect space for storing our marimbas and sports kits!

What was the old "Technology Room" will take on a new lease of life in 2015 as our "MULTI-PURPOSE CLASSROOM" and will be a great space for music, art lessons, cooking, indoor fitness, and a place to play when the weather outside is too hot or too cold! Staff and students under the direction of Cheri, spent some time at the end of 2014 moving art supplies, desks and tables so that this space is ready for use in Term 1 this year!

Mrs Bayl also spent some time during the holidays finalising the Library Stocktake. This is a huge job and I thank her, Mrs Hubbard and Cheri for the time they have put in to completing this task.

Bec has also been busy during the last week of the holidays giving the school a thorough clean and freshen up and it was lovely to walk into our shiny, spotless classrooms this week!

Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival



This year's Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 16th February, with the alternate date (in case of bad weather) being Thursday

19th February. It is expected that all children K-6 will 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

Ms Edgerton, Mrs Patten, Mrs Skene and I would like to invite parents and carers to a combined Parent/Teacher Information Evening to be held next Thursday 5th February from 5:30-7:00pm at the school. 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. Meetings will be held in your child's classroom. We look forward to seeing you there!

School Newsletters

Please ensure you check your child's bag for the clear plastic Newsletter folders every **Thursday** – 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 Newsletters

Ms Edgerton, Mrs Patten, Mrs Skene and I have written our own Class Newsletter for this week, 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 Heidi, Kerry, Fiona or myself.



Library

Could parents please ensure their child/children have a Library Bag for borrowing. Library day for **K/1 and 4/5/6** will be every **Thursday** with Mrs Kiely. **2/3** will have Library on **Fridays**.

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.

Best Start

This week our new Kindergarten students will have a letter in their Newsletter Folders outlining the Best Start Assessments. These are given to all Kindergarten students in the first few weeks of school and give us valuable information on the current Literacy and Numeracy skills our Kinder students possess, so that appropriate learning activities can be tailored to their needs. Ms Edgerton will be administering these assessments next **Wednesday 4th February**. Parents will receive a follow up letter once the data has been collated. If you have any concerns regarding Best Start assessments, please contact the school and speak with Ms Edgerton.

"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 in Term 1, 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. All children need to wear their school hats every day as we will be strictly enforcing our school's 'No Hat, Play In The Shade' policy.



Nut Allergies

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.

Student Computer and Internet User Agreement

Attached to this week's Newsletter is a Student Computer and Internet User Agreement which must be read, signed and returned to school by both STUDENT

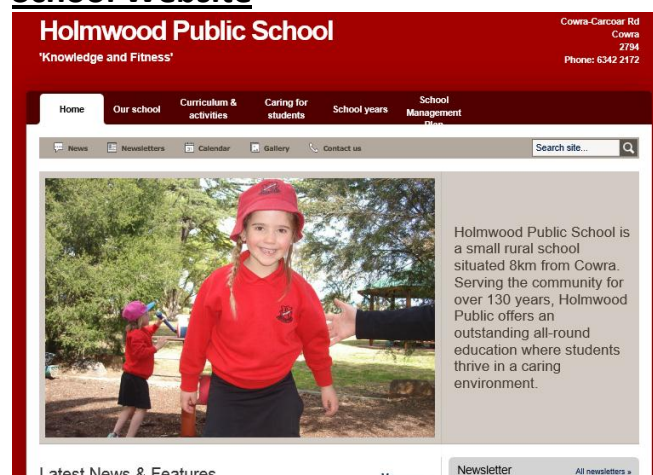
and PARENT. Students must sign their agreements individually which is why you may have several sheets if you have more than one child attending HPS.



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



Latest News & Features

Be sure to check it out our school website!
<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.

Calendar

Term 1 Week 2	
Mon 2nd Feb	All emergency contact information and other notes due to school please.
Wed 4th Feb	Best Start Testing for new Kinder students (Mrs Webster K/1)
Thurs 5th Feb	Parent/Teacher Information Night @ School 5:30-7:00pm.

Term 1 Week 3	
Tues 10th Feb	<i>EnviroMentors Workshops – all students K-6 (no cost)</i>
Fri 13th Feb	<i>Scripture</i>
Sat 14 th Feb	<i>Valentine's Day!</i> 
Term 1 Week 4	
Mon 16th Feb	<i>Small Schools' Swimming Carnival @ Cowra Pool</i>
Thurs 19th Feb	<i>Alternate date for Swimming Carnival</i>
Fri 20th Feb	<i>District Swimming Carnival @ Canowindra</i>

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
- Student Computer and Internet User Agreement notes
- Canteen Helper Note Term 1
- Best Start Information Note (Kinder only)
- Mrs Lewis' Class Blog Permission Note

Canteen News



Canteen Day is held at HPS on Fridays; however, there will be **no canteen tomorrow.** Carol Lynch and Liz Russell have done a magnificent job in taking over the running of our

school canteen from Term 4 last year, however this year Liz is unable to assist during Term 1 and 2. For canteen to continue to run, Carol requires **AT LEAST ONE Parent Helper** to assist on a Friday. If you can help out, please return the attached Canteen Helper note. Without an additional helper, there will be no canteen as the job is too big for one person. Thank you!

Community News



OOSH Afterschool Care 2015

Cowra Early Childhood Service's OOSH offers supportive & educational after school care & Vacation care programs for children

in Kinder right through to Year 6.

Our trained & highly skilled educators will meet your children on the school bus, travel with them back to OOSH, and provide them with a nutritious afternoon tea. Our programs include active supervision, homework time & planned & spontaneous leisure experiences that are based on your child's unique strengths & interests.

After School Care is open 5 days a week until 6pm. We offer competitive rates & C.C.R is available to all families & C.C.B if eligible.

OOSH's innovative curriculum offers many dynamic projects for 2015 including the acquisition of a new kitchen, kitchen garden programs, a community coach sports initiative, a rich visual arts program & sustainable practices.

For further information or enrolment please contact reception 63422338



Cowra Library Monthly Story time is commencing on Thursday 6 February at 11am- and will be held on the first Thursday of each month.

Story times at the Cowra Library are lots of fun. We read and tell stories, sing songs, play games and do craft. They are held during the school term and cater for children from Birth to 6 years old and their carers. Story time is free and each session lasts approximately one hour.



For further information contact us at:

77 Darling Street, COWRA NSW 2794

Phone: 6340 2180

Fax: 6340 2188

cwl.cowra@bigpond.com

Central West Libraries Cowra Branch is open:

Monday 10.00am – 5.30pm

Tuesday 10.00am – 5.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am – 5.30pm

Thursday 10.00am – 6.00pm

Friday 10.00am – 5.30pm

Saturday 10.00am – 12.30pm

Closed Public Holidays

