



GILGANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

GRAPEVINE

Term 3

Success through diversity, participation and care

09 August, 2022

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FOR YOUR DIARY

Aug 10 PSSA Girls Basketball Round 2
12 Melbourne Cup Visit

Congratulations to the following recent award recipients:

Kindergarten Bumblebees: Archie Foster, Levi Carter, Xavier Conolly

Kindergarten Stars: Jakiel Smith, Amelia Makila, Joshua Harland, Benjamin Foran, Pippa Davison-Witchard, Tiggy Dixon.

Year 1 Sugar Gliders: William Welsh, Samuel Lawrence, Jenson Brown.

Year 1/2 Heroes: Jax Wilson-Williams, Hugh Harvey, Amelia Eason, Darnan Priddis.

Year 2/3 Panthers: Kahlell Priddis, Khloe Thompson-Blanch, Brent Cook.

Year 3/4 Imagineers:

Year 4/5 Wizards: Katie Gwyn, Kobi Wright, Khyran O'Neill, Haylee Harland, Jack Makila.

Year 5 Explorers: Callan Tobin, Gordon Sutherland, Kelarni-Rose Pevy-West.

Year 6 Magpies: Ruby Lamb, Cardi Howard and Jasmine Sandry

MC Starfish: Jaxon Weicks.

MC Geckos: Mason Fairley.

PBL

Level 1 Awards: Ty'Sean Priddis, Jayman Priddis

Level 2 Awards: Callan Tobin, Gordon Sutherland, Addison Wieland, Toby Howard, Malakai Wakefield, Ali Townsend, T Burrell, Max Sutton, Indiana McKenzie, Jack Eason, Sasha Denniss, Jaxson Young, Skyla Carr, Ruby Lamb, Ryan Byrne, Brax Hammond-Brown, Tariq Brown, Xathen Harding, Hayley Boxall, Khyron Burrell, Hugh Harvey, Hannah Wieland, Amelia Eason, Sienna Holland, Cody Young, Samuel Lawrence, Jaydan Sutherland, Charley Hazelton, Levi Burrell, William Welsh, Jhyraa Semmler,

Good Luck to our Girls Basketball Team who play Dubbo South Public School on Wednesday -Round 2 in the competition.



Parent Teacher meetings

Apologies to the parents who have had to reschedule parent/teacher meetings due to staff absences but a big thank you for your understanding and patience. All classes will have held their parent/teacher meetings by Wednesday 10 August. If you still need to schedule a meeting, please contact the school on 68472043 to arrange a time.

Gilgandra Public School Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to students who participated at the school Athletics Carnival held on Friday 29 July at Tony McGrane Oval. Your participation and sportsmanship were amazing and upheld the school's motto of Safe, Respectful Learners. Congratulations to all the winners who will now progress to the District PSSA Carnival in Dubbo on Friday 2 September. Mr Smithers will finalise times and distances before announcing the team to compete in Dubbo.

School Attendance Matters

Did you know that if your child misses as few as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a whole year of education? Please see the attached sheet on **Compulsory School Attendance**.

By law, you are required to send your child to school every day. If your child must be away from school for any reason, please either tell your child's teacher or send a signed note explaining the reason for the absence, as soon as possible. If your child arrives at school late, or needs to leave early, you will need to go to the office to sign your child in or out. If you are having problems getting your child to attend school regularly and on time, please talk to your child's teacher or principal.

Gilgandra Public School send a text message alert daily to students' parents/carers who are absent from school. If you reply with sick, leave, family reasons then it is placed in the school's Sentral attendance data as justified. You can also ring the school so the absence reason can be recorded in Sentral. If absences are unexplained, it will be marked as "unjustified" and counts as an unexplained absence for your child.

For your obligations under the school attendance guidelines, please go to: www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_admin/attendance/sch_polproc/PD20050259.shtml

Athletic Carnival 2022





Compulsory school attendance

| Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per **fortnight**
 = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed

1 day per **week**
 = **8** weeks  = Over **2.5** years missed

More information

Further Information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.

