Important Changes to the State Government Student Attendance Policy

Regular attendance at school is essential for all students to achieve their potential. The Education Act 1990 requires that children attend school each day the school is open. Schools are required to keep data relating to full day absences, late arrivals and early departures. This information is recorded on each child’s pupil record card. At Liverpool West, all students are required to arrive at school ready for lessons before 9:10am and remain in class until 3:10pm.

The School Attendance Policy and related procedures sets out the requirements for the attendance of students in NSW government schools. The document has recently been revised to reflect the new National Standards for Student Attendance Reporting. A summary of changes to the NSW School Attendance Policy is listed below.

- Parents are required to explain the absence of their child within 7 school days beginning from the first day of the child’s absence.
- Principals may request a medical certificate for students who have a history of unsatisfactory attendance for each occasion the child has been reported to be “sick”. Parents are required to state the specific illness the child has suffered rather than stating the child was just “sick”.
- Holidays taken by students outside of school vacations will now be included as absences. A certificate of Exemption will no longer be granted for this purpose. It will mean parents who choose to holiday during school terms their child’s absence will be recorded as “Leave”. A Certificate of Extended Leave may be issued. If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education.
- Principals must ensure that for students with attendance issues, the learning and support needs of the student are addressed with parents.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure their child’s school attendance is regular. Both whole day and partial absences must have a justified reason. Some examples are listed overleaf.

CALENDAR

**Term 1 Week 4 2015**

- Wednesday, February 18: Combined Schools Swimming
- Thursday, February 19: First day of SPARKS Program
- Friday, February 20: PSSA Summer Season Begins

**Term 1 Week 5 2015**

- Tuesday, February 24: Little Leapers Commences
- Wednesday, February 25: Little Leapers Induction Ceremony
- Thursday, February 26: SPARKS Program
- Friday, February 27: PSSA Sport

**Term 1 Week 6 2015**

- Tuesday, March 3: Little Leapers Meet the Principal at the P&C meeting, 2:10pm-3:10pm
- Wednesday, March 4: Little Leapers Zone Swimming Carnival
- Thursday, March 5: SPARKS Program

A message from Mrs Hagan.....

You are invited to meet the Relieving Principal and other parents at the first P&C meeting for the year.

Come along and hear about what is happening at Liverpool West Public School over afternoon tea.

When: Tuesday 3 March, 2:10pm -3:10pm

Where: School Library
Reasons that would be justifiable absences
- The child was unwell. In this instance, an explanation of the illness is required in a note
- Misadventure or an unforeseen event
- Medical appointments, unable to be scheduled outside school hours
- Attendance at funerals
- Recognised cultural or religious events
- Necessary travel that will be approved as “Leave” such as to attend a long distance wedding.

Reasons that would not be justifiable absences
- Birthday celebration
- Shopping
- Hair appointments
- “Sleeping in”
- No food at home for lunches
- Relatives visiting
- Attending the cinema /shows.

Working with students and their families is the best way to support regular student attendance. I am happy to discuss NSW DEC policy and procedures with parents.

Mrs Trish Hagan – Relieving Principal

Preschool News

Uncle Brad made traditional Didgeridoos and is in the process of decorating them. Our preschool boys have been learning how to play them.

Books In Homes

Students have been very busy in the Library choosing their books for the Books in Homes program. We are privileged to have the University of Western Sydney support our school in this program for one final year. There were beautiful picture books, novels, indigenous stories and information books for students to enjoy. These will be given out in Week 10 at our Book Giving Assembly.

3 Way Conferences
Thank you to all the parents who participated in three way conferences this week. Students, parents and teachers shared knowledge and strategies as they discussed the learning goals for individual students.

COMBINED SCHOOLS SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Good luck to the following students who will be attending the Combined Schools Swimming Carnival:

Ivy Gerstner (S1M)   Sarah Townley (S3C)
Isabella Farrell (S1K)    Jovan Nikolic (S3C)
Lazar Markovic (S2K)    Djordje Nikolic (S3S)
Tristan Picone (S2M) Andjela Nikolic (S3S)
Marko Nikolic (S2M)    Yazmin Ayache (S3V)
Luka Nikolic (S2O)