

*The Dinawan*

# EUABALONG WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

*Newsletter*

## Principal's Message

by Mr Clifton  
Acting Principal

As we near the end of Term 1, I am reflecting on how truly remarkable it is to witness the growth and achievements of our students in such a short period of time. It's amazing how much has happened in just the first quarter of the year. Term 1 has been a period of learning, exploration, and discovery. The students have engaged in new learning and new ways of working, embracing new challenges.

Over the past several weeks, the students of Euabalong West Public School have participated in a number of exciting activities. Our Year 3 students completed a number of assessments as part of NAPLAN, while 3-6 engaged in an incursion about the arrival of the First Fleet on Australian shores and its impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We celebrated Harmony Day, and, excitingly, this week we were visited by the Life Education van, where the students once again delved into some important learning facilitated by Healthy Harold.

We are grateful to be able to offer all of these fantastic opportunities to our students. I am personally very thankful for all the effort from everyone who works hard and puts in the time to ensure the students of our school do not miss out.

As we prepare to bid farewell to Term 1, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, staff, students, parents, and community for your unwavering support and commitment. Your passion for learning, collaboration, and excellence is what makes our school truly special, and we can achieve great things only by working together. So thank you.

I wish everyone a wonderful Easter long weekend, and I hope you all have a joyous and rejuvenating break over the autumn school holiday period. May this time be filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished memories.

I look forward to seeing everyone back at the beginning of Term 2 for another exciting period of learning and growing.

*Andrew Clifton*







# Attendance Matters

Year to Date

Term 1

91%

91%

Our attendance goal is for all students to attend school **95%** of the time.

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to achieve quality life outcomes. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students.

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. Children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

Link to [Compulsory School Attendance Information for Parents Document](#).



# Curriculum Focus

by Mr South

Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction

Reading with your child is a cornerstone for their academic success across all learning domains at school. When you engage in shared reading activities, you provide invaluable support for your child's literacy development. Encouraging your child to read aloud not only strengthens their reading fluency but also enhances their comprehension skills as they articulate the text. Moreover, listening attentively to your child as they read aloud fosters their confidence and self-expression, creating a positive association with reading.

Consider introducing your child to books that challenge their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Exploring a diverse range of literature together opens up new worlds of imagination and knowledge. Take the opportunity to discuss any unfamiliar words or concepts, fostering critical thinking and deepening their understanding of the text.

Here are some helpful hints for listening to your child read:

- When reading together at home, try to make the time relaxed, enjoyable and positive.
- Before reading, discuss the cover, the title and the pictures, and discuss what they think the book may be about.
- During reading, discuss what has been read up to that point and predict what might happen next.
- After you have finished reading with your child, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures.

We have an exciting announcement early next term regarding reading at home. Stay tuned!

## 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



# Kukuparra News



By Miss Lesker

K-2 Kukuparra students are enjoying all the fun learning activities in the classroom, and they are always keen to participate with lots of hands-on learning.

In English, Bryce has been learning to write his name and to write and say the sounds for the letters m, s, t and a. He is beginning blend these phonemes together to make words. Willo, Brooklyn, and Colin have been learning about compound words, syllables, and nouns. They know that a noun names a person, place, or thing and a syllable is a beat in a word.

In Science last week, the students completed an investigation where they discovered how plants obtain water. They used plastic cups, water, celery, and food die to observe how the thin tubes inside the stem of a plant can carry water all the way up to the leaves and the flowers. They also discussed how important water is for living things.

In PDH, the K-2 students have been learning how to recognise safe and unsafe situations. They discussed the importance of crossing the road with an adult in a safe place and created their own 'STOP LOOK LISTEN THINK!' posters.

All four K-2 students enjoyed a visit to the Life Education van where they were learnt about safety and saw a very special giraffe! Bryce was very excited to meet Harold and Brooklyn, Willo and Colin couldn't wait for their turn in the van for this year.

It has been a wonderful few weeks for them all.

# Marrowuy News



By Mr Clifton and Mr South

We've had an absolute blast in 3-6 in the last few weeks, creating life while studying the living world in Science!

All our kids have had the opportunity to conduct an experiment involving attempting to grow mould using white bread.

The students developed a hypothesis to test, then created unique conditions to test by adding moisture and controlling natural light exposure.

Students monitored their experiments, viewing the changes in the bread by the amount of mould growing in the different conditions.

We can't wait to draw our conclusions from the final results!

The students also thoroughly enjoyed the incursion they participated in about the First Fleet's arrival on Australian shores as part of our History unit on First Contacts. 3-6 had some fascinating discussions about perspective and the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.





# Calendar Term 1 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday and Sunday
10	1 April <b>Easter Monday Public Holiday</b> <i>School non-operational.</i>	2 April <b>STEM Week</b> <i>Abbey MacPherson Master of Education (STEM) delivering engaging STEM lessons for K-6.</i>	3 April <b>STEM Week</b> <i>Abbey MacPherson Master of Education (STEM) delivering engaging STEM lessons for K-6.</i>	4 April <b>STEM Week</b> <i>Abbey MacPherson Master of Education (STEM) delivering engaging STEM lessons for K-6.</i>	5 April <b>STEM Week</b> <i>Abbey MacPherson Master of Education (STEM) delivering engaging STEM lessons for K-6.</i>	6 & 7 April
11	8 April	9 April	10 April <b>ANZAC and End of Term Assembly</b> <b>12:30pm – 3:00pm</b> <i>All family and community members welcome.</i>	11 April	12 April <b>Last Day Term 1</b> <i>School holidays start after school today.</i>	13 & 14 April
1	29 April <b>School Development Day</b> <i>K-2 students <u>do not</u> attend.</i> <b>Lake Burrendong Camp</b> <i>3-6 students travel to camp.</i>	30 April <b>First Day Term 2</b> <i>K-2 students return to school.</i> <b>Lake Burrendong Camp</b> <i>3-6 students at camp.</i>	1 May <b>Lake Burrendong Camp</b> <i>3-6 students at camp.</i>	2 May <b>Lake Burrendong Camp</b> <i>3-6 students at camp.</i>	3 May <b>Lake Burrendong Camp</b> <i>3-6 students travel back from camp.</i>	4 & 5 May
2	6 May	7 May	8 May	9 May	10 May	11 & 12 May <b>Mother's Day</b>
3	13 May	14 May	15 May	16 May	17 May	18 & 19 May

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

**Week 10**  
**2 April to 5 April**  
STEM Week

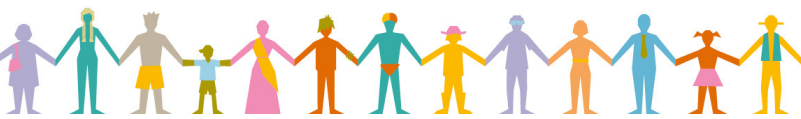
**Week 10**  
**Wednesday 10 April**  
ANZAC and End of Term Assembly

**Week 11**  
**Friday 12 April**  
Last day of Term 1



**CELEBRATES HOW ALL  
OF OUR DIFFERENCES  
MAKE AUSTRALIA A  
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!**

[HARMONY.GOV.AU](http://HARMONY.GOV.AU)



## Harmony Day

*Euabalong West Public School*

On Harmony Day this year, everyone wore orange as students and staff came together to celebrate diversity, inclusivity, and the spirit of unity. It was heartwarming to see our school community adorned in orange attire, symbolising our collective commitment to harmony and respect for all cultures and backgrounds.

The sight of students proudly wearing orange served as a powerful reminder of the strength found in unity and acceptance. Through this simple yet meaningful gesture, our students demonstrated their support for creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

Harmony Day provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our differences while also recognising the common values that unite us. Let's continue to foster a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and mutual respect within our school and beyond.

This week our students engaged in the Life Education program, featuring the beloved mascot, Healthy Harold. Over the past weeks, our school has been buzzing with excitement and enthusiasm as students have been actively anticipating this invaluable educational experience.

Life Education, with its iconic giraffe mascot, Healthy Harold, has been an integral part of our school's curriculum for many years. This program aims to empower our students with essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. Through interactive sessions and engaging activities, students learn about various aspects of health, including nutrition, physical activity, drug education, and social-emotional wellbeing.

One of the highlights of the Life Education program is the opportunity for students to interact with Harold himself. Harold is not just a mascot; he's a friendly and relatable character who connects with students on a personal level. His presence sparks curiosity and encourages students to ask questions, share experiences, and actively participate in discussions.

It would be well worth speaking with your child about what exciting things they learnt about during their time with Harold in the Life Education van this year.

We are sure they will have some interesting information to share.



**"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." - William Butler Yeats**

# Healthy Harold continued

Students attended sessions that were grouped by their grades and covered the following subjects:

## **K-2: Friendship and Safety**

- How to build friendships and care for others.
- Identifying and managing feelings and emotions.
- Recognising body clues that let us know when we could be unsafe.
- Safe people and places to seek help.

## **3-4: Friends and Feelings**

- Broadening and developing emotional literacy.
- Identifying and practising assertive communications skills.
- Practising emotional regulation skills such as mindful breathing.

## **5-6: Take a Breath**

- Understanding how to respect ourselves and others.
- Strategies to help maintain positive online and offline relationships.
- Identifying characteristics of positive relationships.
- How to recognise, react and report unwanted contact, bullying or predatory behaviours.





# Riverina Outback Rally 2024

Our students had some special visitors last week!

On Friday 22nd March, the Riverina Outback Rally passed through Euabalong West and stopped in to our school. The students were treated to a fun morning where they got to see all the rally cars and met Batman, Batgirl, Robin, Superman and a new superhero, Super Chicken!

The rally is held each year and raises money for Country Hope. Country Hope provides family-centred support programs to country children diagnosed with cancer or other life threatening illnesses.

The rally generously donated \$150 to our school which we will put towards future projects within the school.

Thank you Riverina Outback Rally! We hope to see you again next year.





# Excursion to Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre

A reminder that our excursion to Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre will take place from Monday 29th April to Friday 3rd May 2024. A note was sent home detailing a packing list. If you missed this, we have provided it below in order to assist students and their families to prepare:

**Students will need the following packed into a large suitcase/bag. Please ensure all clothing is marked with your child's name or initials.**

- Clean clothes for 4 nights and 5 days (t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, warm jumper and jacket, tracksuit pants, underwear and socks, pyjamas
- Sunscreen
- Comfortable walking shoes and older shoes for water activities
- Thongs for shower
- Toiletries including soap, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, and lip balm
- Plastic bag for dirty clothes • Raincoat
- Reusable water bottle
- Book for quiet time
- Small packet of tissues
- **Pillow, pillowcase and single fitted sheet**
- **Sleeping bag**
- **Towel**
- Day backpack and/or bag
- Medication (this needs to be placed in a snap-lock bag, labelled with your name and an information note regarding dosage rates, administering times, etc.

**This needs to be handed to Mr Clifton prior to entering the bus.**

Please note the following items are **NOT TO** be packed:

- Lollies, chewing gum or food items (except for Day 1 recess and lunch)
- Any phones, electronic games, tablets or internet connected devices
- Valuable items including jewellery





# High Expectations

By Andrew Clifton

The impact of high expectations is consistently demonstrated in educational research. Beyond just being a philosophy, setting high academic benchmarks serves as a catalyst not only for success but also for unlocking the true potential of every learner.

Research from the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation at the New South Wales Department of Education demonstrates that high expectations are a driving force behind higher achievement and enhanced performance for students. Students who report teachers with elevated expectations often find themselves ahead of their peers by an impressive 3-6 months. This strong correlation highlights the transformative influence that a belief in a student's potential can have.

Crucially, the impact of high expectations is not just confined to a particular stage of education. From Kindergarten to high school, instilling and maintaining high expectations is pivotal. Notably significant is the impact of high expectations on students facing socio-economic disadvantage. Fostering high expectations acts as a counterforce against potential barriers, instilling in every student the belief that they can transcend limitations.

However, it's not only about setting lofty goals; it's about creating an environment that challenges and engages students to unlock their full potential. It is critical for schools and communities to value strategies that both challenge and support learning needs.

As a result, a high expectations environment will naturally lead to students being pushed to confront discomfort. Encountering challenges may seem daunting, and even anxiety-inducing, but it is within this discomfort that growth and achievement thrive. Teachers and parents alike play a pivotal role in encouraging students through these moments of unease without giving in to fear. It is about instilling the belief that discomfort is not a roadblock but a stepping stone to achieving things that may have seemed unattainable.

In essence, a culture of high expectations is not about unattainable demands, it is about creating an atmosphere where every student feels empowered to strive for excellence. Parents, as crucial partners in the educational process, significantly contribute to reinforcing these expectations at home, working in tandem with the school.

So, let's forge ahead together, fostering an environment where high expectations propel our students towards academic excellence, unlocking doors to a future brimming with possibilities.







## EUABALONG WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

WALKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

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