

The Junction Journal

The Junction Public School

Union St Merewether 2291

Phone 4963 1343

Email: thejunction-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Principal: Cath Larkman

11/03/2022

From the desk of Mrs Larkman

Hello to our Parents and Carers

I am writing this as I attend our term meeting of State Council for the Primary Principals' Association. One of the things that has been made very obvious are our colleagues who are not with us due to significant flooding. We viewed a clip this morning of one of the schools with all their possessions including brand new furniture on the kerbside waiting to be broken up and put into skips. The Southern Cross University is actually housing some of the schools so they can continue some sort of learning. It is heartbreaking. I am one of 300 Principals who has reached out to the PPA to say we are happy to be given a school to support. More information to come here.

Sharing External Validation

I would like to recognise the professionalism of my executive team who joined me to outline this four yearly accountability process on Wednesday night and their deep understanding of school excellence and how it is actioned. Thank you also to those parents who joined us. We are very proud of our work.

Please enjoy the snippets of learning from around the school this week. Look in the Learning Gallery on pages 6-8

Cath Larkman

Principal

Important Safety Reminder

Students and their parents must not at any time enter or exit the school through the staff car park gates at both Watkins St and Union St. Pedestrian gates must only be used. Please remind your children of road safety rules often. They hear the same messages from their teachers.



Artwork by Auntie Michelle Earle
commissioned by TJPS in 2018

We respectfully acknowledge that this newsletter comes to you from Awabakal land.

In communicating how we learn, teach, and lead, we acknowledge and pay respect to elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of this land on which we are all privileged to live, work, and learn.

In this issue

Schools in flood zones
Sharing External Validation
Differentiation – a teacher's superpower!
Goal Setting Interviews
Harmony Day information
Attendance Matters
Zone Carnival Results
Premiers Reading Challenge
Band and Strings Ensemble new

Learning Gallery

Yr 6 and Kindy Buddies finally united!
Stage 3 Art
Stage 2 History, Culture, Writing
Stage 1 Science

In every issue – on page 4!

Front Office information:

Money collection
Absences
Extended Leave
Early leavers / Late arrivals
Medication at school
P&C News and Updates
Uniform Shop

Community Message Board

From page 13

From the desk of Ms Paparo

Teaching and Learning in composite classes – 1/2A and 3/4B

Parents often ask me this question, “How can teachers possibly teach two grades at once”? The answer is both complicated if you are not an educator and incredibly obvious if you are.

Teachers will tell you that even in a class of students of the same age and grade, there is a huge range of learning levels and abilities. This means teaching has to be adjusted to meet the varying levels and needs so that every child progresses at their own pace and succeeds.

For many years now, all K-12 syllabuses have been organised in stages, not grades. This means that all students will spend 2 years in a stage to learn and practice new skills and content before moving on to master a new set of skills and content in the next stage of learning. There are 7 stages of learning from Kindergarten to Year 12. Primary schools’ cycle through 4 stages – Early Stage 1 through to Stage 3. Some students progress very quickly through the stages and others at a much steadier pace. Stage based and not grade based learning has been around since the 1990s!

To answer the question, “How can teachers possibly teach two grades at once”? I always respond with, “Teachers do not teach two grades at once, they teach multiple grades all at once”!

Teachers make use of a strategy referred to as differentiation. This is when stage based content is taught to all students, but the tasks and activities selected are based on the skills which students need to practice. Teachers can adjust the skills based learning on the spot if necessary and for multiple students all at once – several times a day – to make learning meaningful and engaging in a world full of distractions. This is a teacher's superpower!



Cartoon widely shared on Twitter and Facebook

Goal Setting Interviews are fast approaching – Bookings will open Monday March 14. Booking information will be sent through Skoolbag.

Harmony Day – Monday March 21 – Assembly 11:30-12:10pm - Parents and Carers welcome. Masks and school check-in are required. See Harmony Day poster and note on page 11.

Attendance Matters – some important attendance and learning statistics with links to support parents found on page 5.

Upcoming Events

TERM 1

Clean Up Australia school event – postponed

March 11

Hunter Swimming Championship

March 15

Hunter AFL Trials

March 17

Rugby Leagues Trials

March 21- Apr 1

Goal Setting

Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews

March 21

Harmony Day

March 21

Hunter Touch Football trials

March 22

Hunter Basketball Trials Girls

March 23

Hunter Hockey Girls & Boys

March 25

School Cross Country Carnival

March 29

Hunter Football Boys Trials

March 30

Hunter Football Girls Trials

March 31

Selective High Schools Test

Next month

April 1

Hunter Netball Trials

April 6

School ANZAC Service

April 6

Hunter Cricket Trials Girls

April 7

Hunter Primary Rugby League Trials- Open + 11's

April 8

Final day of Term 1

TERM 2

April 26

Staff only return

April 27

Students return

From the desks of the Year 6 and Kindy Buddies



Thank you, Miss MacPherson and 6M for the lovely display.

OUR STAFF

Principal – Cath Larkman

Deputy – Connie Paparo (Emmington)

Kindergarten

KC – Jody Cooper

KG – Sarah Griffiths

KB – Tess Barns / Louise Searant

KH – Angie Harris - AP

Stage 1

1L – Amy Lalic

1/2A – Alison Smoother

2MC – Nina McLeod/ Nicole Jones

2S – Nicholas Savage

1C – Laura Chaffey-AP

Stage 2

3S – Olivia Smith

3A – Mark Alcock

3L – Aleisha Ladkin

3/4B – Lucy Bourne

4LC – Phillipa Campbell/ Holly Lynch

4G – Katrina Gardoll

Luke Sparksman – AP (Rel)

Stage 3

5C – Lisa Campey

5S – Kate Spring

5FW – Kate Farrell / Sarah Wilson

6R – Michael Radnidge

6M – Abbey MacPherson

6L – Matthew Liles - AP

Learning and Support

Connie Paparo – Deputy Principal and LST Coordinator

Claire Edwards – Yrs 4-6

Lauren Audsley – Yrs K-3

Michelle Morrison – CILSP

Sara Willoughby/Hannah

Titchmarsh – Library

Alison Tonkin – Music

Linda Whiteside – Counsellor

School Learning Support Officers

Di Edwards

Theresa Koitka

Belinda Scorgie

Emma Lovegrove

Liam Begnell

Information from the Front Office Team...

Classroom resource fees and voluntary contributions will be issued to all families soon. This information will be sent out via Skoolbag.

Band and Strings Ensemble Fees are now due for Term 1

Money collection for excursions & events

All cash payments to come straight to the office, this includes: - Band fees, School books, Excursion money etc. There is a "Payments" slot at the front counter in the school office – students are to post payments in this slot. Any money that is sent to school must be in a sealed envelope with your "Child's name and class" on the front and details of the event you are paying. The school accepts cash, (exact amount only), cheque or we have EFTPOS facilities in the office. During COVID restrictions EFTPOS cannot be used as Parents are unable to come onsite. Please note that the school EFTPOS facility is only available for school payments and not P&C – such as the Uniform Shop. The preferred payment option is through the "Make a Payment" tab on the school website.

If you use the online option, please make sure you still return permission notes to school.

Absences

Any absence from school must be explained. The Skoolbag App is a great way to advise the school of student absences, or alternatively phone the school, send an email or write a note. Each day at around 10am, the school sends out an SMS alert to parents of any child who has an unexplained absence for that day. Please refrain from using class apps like Class Dojo to explain absences as the teacher may not be at school or they are teaching and unable to read the Dojo message before 10am.

Extended Leave

If you are going away and leave is over (5) school days, you must complete an "EXTENDED LEAVE FORM" from the office prior to your leave.

Late Arrivals / Early Leavers

School hours are from 8.55am to 3pm. The first assembly starts at 8.55am. If children arrive later than 8.55am, they need to present to the office to provide late arrivals information to office staff. A 'Purple Partial Slip' is then taken to the class teacher. Similarly, if children leave early for the day, parents must buzz the intercom at the Union Street gate to advise the office and admin staff will call for your child to come up to the office area and be brought out to the gate. Please be aware of early departures in recess and lunch breaks as it can be quite difficult to locate your child in the playground.

Medication at School

The office is only able to administer 'prescribed medication' to students. This means medication that has been prescribed by a doctor. This medication must be left in the package provided, clearly labelled with the child's name and dosage. If medication is required, a parent will need to come to the office and complete a Medical Deed of Indemnity form.

SCHOOL STAFF ARE NOT ABLE TO ADMINISTER PANADOL OR NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.

In the Office

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30AM TO 3:15PM

School Email: thejunctionp.school@det.nsw.edu.au

SCHOOL SECURITY

ph: 1300 880021

Office Team

Dianne Edwards

Amanda Brake

Angela Bowen

Kathy McInnes

Lesley Janissen

General Assistant

Tom Jervis

Technical Services Officer

TBA

In the Community

P&C News

See page 13-14 of this issue for more news from the P&C

April P&C

Meeting 7pm Tues 5/4/22

P&C Contact email

Mark Duffield-Thomas, President
president@junctionpandc.org

UNIFORM SHOP

ONLINE ORDERING!

www.tipsuniform.com

Secondhand Uniform Donations

Donations accepted are bomber jackets, polo fleece jumpers, red polo shirts and black sport shorts. We are unable to accept donations of white shirts or tunics.

Email the Uniform Shop:

tipsuniformshop@gmail.com

PLEASE ASSIST WITH DELIVERY OF UNIFORM ORDERS BY PUTTING YOUR **CHILD'S NAME** on the order - no parent names please.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

NSW Department of Education

School expectations

Students attend school more than 95% of the time. Anything less and you are compromising your child's learning.

[A-Z parents guide \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://nsw.gov.au)

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn

education.nsw.gov.au



Make friends



Build skills through fun



Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

5 mins
per day

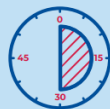


=

3 days

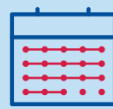


30 mins
per day



=

18 days



Patterns of lateness
can have a serious
impact on your child's
education.

education.nsw.gov.au

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



=

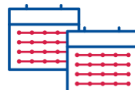
Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

Learning Gallery

From the desk of Mr Savage

CONGRATULATIONS ZONE SWIMMERS

The Zone swimming carnival was held at Lambton Pool on Wednesday 24 February. The Junction was well represented with 41 of our students qualifying to represent us in the pool. All students performed admirably in their heats and 14 students qualified to represent us at the regional level. Well done to all 41 students who attended the Zone carnival.



A big congratulations to the following students who were selected to compete at today's regional swimming carnival at Lambton pool. The students are Will B, Emily G, Bailey H, Charlie B, Piper S, Lila B, Lyla B, Zaharenya F, Lewis H, Rory N, Emile A, Darby S, Rafferty D and Corban B.

Best of luck to all at the Hunter Championships.

From the desk of Miss Harris, (Band coordinator)

WELCOME BACK TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL MUSICIANS

It is delightful to once again have regular band rehearsals and wonderful to hear our musicians practicing. Just a reminder that it is week 7 and Term 1 band and strings ensemble fees are now due. Term 2 invoices will come out shortly for payment next term.

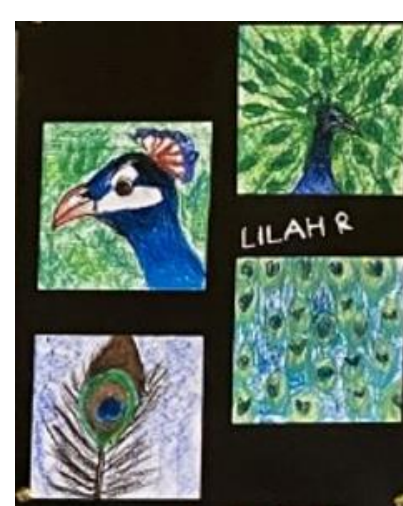
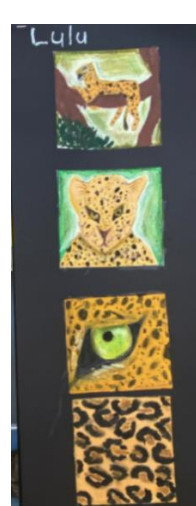
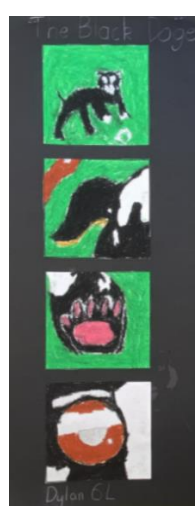


CHOIR

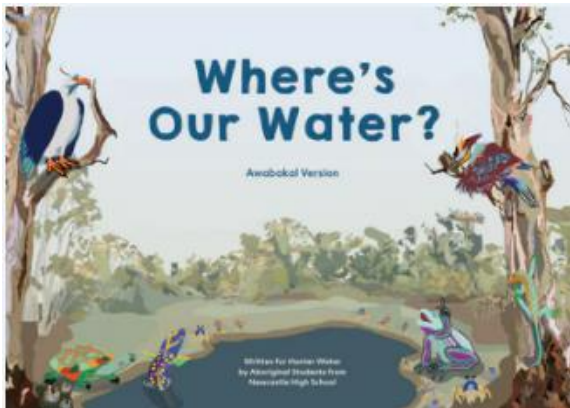
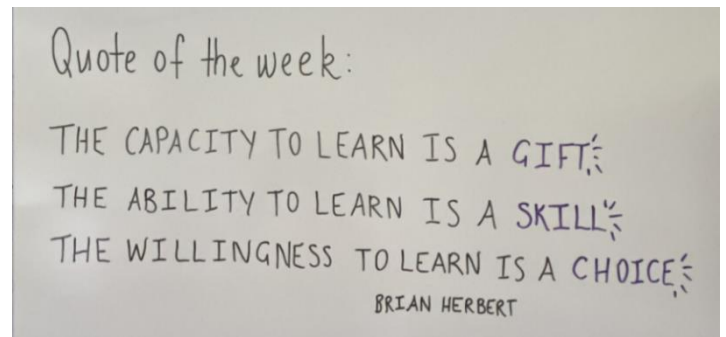
Choir has begun! If your child is in Years 3-6 and missed the opportunity to join the choir last week, there will be another opportunity next Monday March 14 at 8am. We would love to see some more new faces.

OUTSTANDING ARTWORK FROM STAGE 3

The artworks are titled 'One animal, four views' - art in Stage 3 this term is linked to our science unit where we are focusing on plant and animal adaptations. Over the coming weeks, students will be focussing on the use of lines to convey texture and create scientific diagrams.



We just love this quote from 6M's classroom...



Stage 1 Science – Where is Our Water

Stage 1 students have been learning about the water cycle in Science. They read the wonderful text written by Newcastle High School students and were provided with a drone demonstration by Miss Chaffey to tie in with the aerial top views they are learning about in Maths and the visual imagery they are studying in picture books.



A Stage 2 Cultural Lesson shared by Archie T and Ajay L

This week Archie T and Ajay L visited the Stage 2 classrooms where they performed a dreamtime story. Archie T narrated while Ajay played the didgeridoo. They shared this cultural learning in response to Stage 2 students learning about First Contact between Europeans and the First Australians.

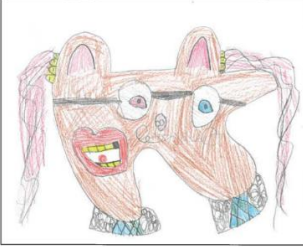


Stage 2 creative writing – some funny and clever examples of 4G's imaginative writing. They have written descriptions of monsters inspired by Ricky Gervais' book Flanimals! Enjoy!

Maia

My Flanimal's name
Wil Flap

Scientific name: loodle

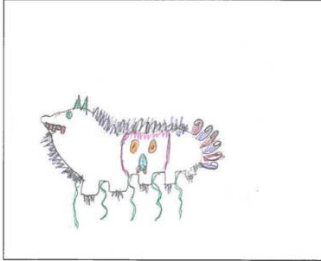


Wil Flaps are fascinated with women's lipstick and if they fly and kiss them they wear glasses as they are very short sighted.

Lam L

My Flanimal's name
Swalopala

Scientific name: swallow

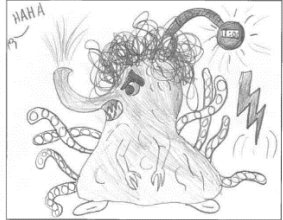


When the Swalopala eats something you can see its digested food through a window on its tummy. The Swalopala has legs and tentacles. It uses its legs for on land and its tentacles in the ocean.

By Elliot W

My Flanimal's name
Slimoids

Scientific name: Slimasquido

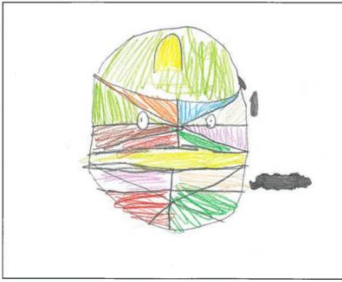


Slimoids can breathe underwater. They shoot chemicals out of their tusks. This chemical makes everyone who smells it laugh hysterically. Slimoids have a special feature - if lightning strikes, Slimoids can absorb the energy and glow. Slimoids have a laugh bomb on their head.

Idea by: Theo R

My Flanimal's name
Battle Flap

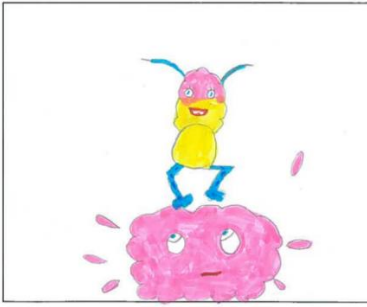
Scientific name: drinking ketch



Battle Flap Flanimals move around by rolling everywhere. Other Flanimals pick up Battle Flap and drink the liquid inside a quick fizzy water. They often the liquid is gone, Battle Flap then those are two types: Healthy and Paranoid. There is a difference in appearance between the two. The healthy Battle Flap Flanimals don't know whether they've consumed a healthy or poisonous Battle Flap - if they drink a poisonous Battle Flap - they die.

My Flanimal's name
Blob jumps

Scientific name: Elfish F



Blob jumps lives in holes. Blob jumps likes to eat flowers and fire ants. Blob jumps' aim in life is to jump on puddles, mud or anything squishy.

Jo.B

My Flanimal's name
Goble

Scientific name: Goble



a mischief making animal with eyes that wobble all day. Its body is covered in warts as rough as leather. It has a really weird like body with a curved like which makes it has a really wavy look and an ugly snout. Under his blue skin, it's a deep navy blue. And now it's aware that now now his w

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2022

Welcome to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2022!

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 10, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.



NSW Department of Education

2022 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

Key dates
for students
in K-10:

Challenge opens
Monday 28 February
Challenge closes for
student entries
Friday 19 August

Illustration by Sophie van Ginkel/Wing

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au



PRC rules

The Challenge opened on 28 February 2022. Students must complete their online Student Reading Record by 19 August 2022 (11:59 pm) to complete the Challenge.

Challenge	Number of books you must read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum number of Personal Choice books	PRC booklists you can read from
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4, 5-6
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9

PRC instructions

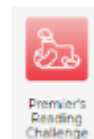
Student Portal

You can access the PRC website through the student portal at school, or at home.

<https://sso.det.nsw.edu.au/sso/XUI/?goto=https://portal.det.nsw.edu.au/#login/>

Click on the PRC icon

Once signed in there will be a PRC icon on your student dashboard.



PRC Student site

Clicking on the PRC icon will take you to the PRC homepage. You will then need to click on the banner at the top that says "Visit the student site".



Browsing for books

In the yellow box you can select from the options on the homepage to narrow your search for books. Alternatively, you search by title, author etc. in the blue box.



Save or log a book

Click on a book to view a short blurb and save it (to read in the future), or log it as a book you have read.

Save + Add to Reading Log

Viewing your saved or logged books

Click on the avatar in the top right corner of the webpage to view your profile and your saved and logged books.





Australian Government

HARMONY WEEK



Harmony Day

MONDAY 21st March 2022

Dear Parents,

Harmony Week this year runs from Monday 21st to Sunday 27th March. The ongoing theme is "Everyone Belongs," and every year it is a celebration of how our differences make Australia a great place to live. Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background.

Here at The Junction Public School, students will be celebrating Harmony Week with songs, art, craft, and stories during the week prior to Harmony Day which is celebrated every year on the 21st of March.

This Harmony Day, which falls on a Monday (21/3/22), students can attend school in cultural dress or dressed in orange - the universal colour associated with Harmony.

We will be holding a special assembly under the COLA at 11:30am where students will share their learning experiences and broaden their knowledge of what Harmony Week is about by listening to the learning of other students in other classes. It is expected that the assembly will end at 12:10pm.

Parents and Carers are most welcome to attend. Please enter via the Union St gate and use the school check-in. Masks are required whilst onsite.

We look forward to celebrating this important day together.

Regards,
Michelle Morrison and Lauren Audsley
Learning and Support Teachers

everyone BELONGS
www.harmony.gov.au

COMMUNITY MESSAGE BOARD

TJPS P&C News

New P&C Team and March Update

At the start of March the P&C held their 2022 Annual General Meeting and are pleased to announce the new 2022 P&C team. Thank you to these fantastic volunteers for stepping up and supporting our School:

President - Mark Duffield-Thomas
Vice Presidents - Belinda Parker & Ange Le Rougetel
Treasurer - Anna Widgery
Secretary - Jaimie Moffit
Uniform Shop Coordinator - Ali Robinson
Sustainability Coordinator - Louise Crosskill
Social Media Coordinator - Brooke Brugnani

Thank you to all volunteers from 2021 for your contribution to the School, especially Naomi Wilkinson and Ying McKenzie who have been our Treasurer and Events Coordinator for the last two years.

The AGM also saw the approval of the 2021 Financial Report and sign off for the 2022 P&C budget. The minutes from the meeting will be shared via the P&C mailing list which you can join [here](http://eepurl.com/bfuMIX)
- <http://eepurl.com/bfuMIX>

Thank you to the parents who signed up as members of the P&C and donated over \$200. You can still register here - <https://bit.ly/2022PCMembership>

Vacant Positions

There are a number of available volunteering opportunities to join the P&C team and we'd love to have you on board. These roles are flexible and can be shared - please get in touch!

- *Events Coordinator* - overseeing P&C events plans, coordinating schedules, budgets and event management.
- *Volunteers Coordinator* - organising sign-ups, rosters and rustling up support and volunteers for P&C activities.
- *Sports Liaison Officer* - the P&C point of contact for all matters relating to sport and sports uniforms. Helping teachers and parents to improve sports programs in the School.
- *Newsletter Coordinator* - helping the P&C team communicate with the community by coordinating and producing regular newsletter content.
- *Uniform Shop Assistants* - helping run the uniform shop, organising stock and connecting with the families in our community.

Easter Raffle 2022

The P&C are excited to once again be collecting donations and running a fun Easter Raffle this year. This is a great fundraiser and opportunity for families to win some Easter chocolate.

Watch this space for more information and raffle tickets coming home next week!

Uniform Shop Back Open At School

The TJPS Uniform Shop will be open in person once again on Mondays starting 14 March from 8:30-9am to the side of the COLA. Masks are still required to be worn by visitors to the school grounds.

Please come over and say hi to the lovely uniform shop volunteers and get your new and second-hand uniform orders. We take cash and card.

We're also accepting donations of old uniforms for the community.

Email the Uniform Shop: tjpsuniformshop@gmail.com

P&C Contact: junctionpandc@gmail.com or Mark Duffield-Thomas, President president@junctionpandc.org

Next P&C Meeting: 7pm Tues 5 April 2022.

Welcome back to the 2022 New School Year!

Do you need help with
outside school hours care?

CCS rebate
available

Approved Provider

Permanent & Casual
bookings available

- on site at schools
 - first aid & child protection trained staff
 - healthy food & snacks
 - fun & educational programs
 - TASK is screen free
- if you need help managing staggered start/finish times in the mornings or afternoons we can assist.
- new to TASK: task-kids.com.au - choose your school under school menu to enrol
- already with TASK: enrol@task-kids.com.au include child's full name, school name, days required & start date.

JOIN OUR TEAM

TASK
is hiring!

task-kids.com.au/careers



task-kids.com.au

1300 827 500

School Student Travel

Term 1 2022



School student travel information for parents and students

School Travel Passes

Students who need a School Opal card or travel pass but have not yet applied need to [apply](#) or [update](#) their details as soon as possible.

In the Opal network, students should travel with a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their [local bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

New Student Opal cards (including new Term Bus Passes) will be sent to the student's nominated postal address within two weeks of their application being approved.

Students living in rural and regional (R&R) areas will receive their travel pass from their nominated transport operator. It may be issued via their school or be sent directly to them at home. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

Terms of Use

Students using Opal cards must tap on and tap off in line with the [Opal terms of use](#).

All students are required to comply with the [Student code of conduct](#). The code of conduct aims to ensure the safety and well-being of school children and other passengers. It is important that parents ensure their child is aware of this, as failure to comply with the code of conduct can result in a suspension from travel.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL FOOTBALL CLUB THIS SEASON!

Newcastle Football Clubs offer modified MiniRoos Football for 6-11yrs.

FREE Ball and Shin Pads for U6/7s Players

Adamstown JFC	Beresfield FC	Broadmeadow FC
Cooks Hill UFC	Fletcher FC	Hamilton Azzurri JSC
Jesmond FC	Kotara South FC	Lambton FC
Maryland Fletcher FC	Mayfield UJSFC	Medowie FC
Merewether FC	Minmi SC	Nelson Bay FC
New Lambton FC	New Lambton Arnetts FC	Newcastle Grammar FC
Newcastle Olympic FC	Raymond Terrace SC	Seaham Bowthorne FC
Shortland FC	South Wallsend JSC	Stockton JFC
Tea Gardens SC	Tilligerry FC	Wallsend JFC



Contact a club today about registering:
www.newcastlefootball.com.au/our-clubs/

Active Kids Vouchers are Redeemable



Good for kids

good for life



Alternatives to Sandwiches

If your child doesn't like sandwiches or wants more variety in their lunchbox try these ideas:

- Try everyday meals like salads, soup, pasta or fried rice. Save leftovers from dinner to save time.
- Prepare freezer friendly lunch box items like zucchini slice or mini frittattas – ready to grab and go in the morning.
- Pack sandwich ingredients separately for your child to put together just before eating.



Fried Rice Salad

1. Heat oil in a large fry pan or wok over high heat.
2. Sauté diced onion, capsicum, carrot and ham.
3. Add cooked rice, corn kernels, green onions & soy sauce. Stir fry for 2-3 minutes, mixing well
4. Transfer to a bowl to cool.
5. Spoon salad into containers and top with cherry tomatoes and coriander.
6. Store in the fridge ready to be added to the lunchbox.

For full recipe and more visit:

<https://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/primary-schools/swap-it/recipes/>



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>