

NEWSLETTER

TERM THREE WEEK TEN 2020

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www.picton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Principal: Nathan Neilson

School Term Dates 2020

Term 1 Tuesday 29 January - Thursday 9 April (Students return Wednesday 30 January)
Term 2 Monday 27 April - Friday 3 July (Students return Tuesday 28 April)
Term 3 Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September (Students return Tuesday 21 July)
Term 4 Monday 12 October - Friday 18 December (Students finish Wednesday 16 December)

School Calendar

Friday 25 September - LAST DAY OF TERM

**Monday 12 October - FIRST DAY OF TERM (Students and Staff)
(NO Staff Development Day)**

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term has certainly flown by and it is hard to believe we are at the end of Term Three. The staff have been reflecting on the term and have noticed how tired many of our students are. This is not surprising; for most of our students, this has been the first full term of on-site learning for the year. As the week draws to an end, I know both our students and staff are looking forward to the break.

External Validation

Every year, schools are required to reflect on their achievement and progress by completing a self-assessment using the School Excellence Framework (SEF). The SEF identifies fourteen elements and articulates what excellence looks like in all of these. Schools use the SEF as a criteria for self-assessment and to plan for opportunities for improvement and progress. Once every four years, schools participate

in the External Validation process. This involves collecting, analysing and submitting evidence which demonstrates where we have placed ourselves in the School Excellence Framework. This is an enormous process, which can often take close to twelve months to complete. After schools submit their body of evidence, an external panel reviews the evidence and holds a panel meeting with the school to validate if the evidence provided supports the school's self-assessment. Throughout this year, our school has been working on our submission, and on Tuesday 8 September, we were required to submit our body of evidence. Yesterday, we participated in a panel meeting, where the panel provided us with feedback regarding our evidence. I am very pleased to report that our school was successfully validated in all fourteen elements of the SEF. This means that the panel agreed that the evidence, annotations and analysis' all supported where we placed ourselves on the SEF. This is the best possible outcome for our school, as it reinforces the strength and accuracy of our self-assessment practices. I would like to thank the team of teachers who made up our External Validation Team; Mrs Davis, Mrs Boyd, Mrs Smith, Mrs Gower, Ms Howard, Mrs C Wilson, Mrs B Wilson and Miss Edwards. In

particular, I would like to thank Mrs Davis for her leadership of the External Validation process. The most exciting part is that this process has really laid the foundations for some exciting directions as we begin designing our Strategic Improvement Plan 2021-2024, and continue in our pursuit of excellence.

School Chaplain

In a previous newsletter, I informed you that we had been successful in obtaining funding to employ a chaplain at our school and that the recruitment process was underway. I am pleased to inform you that the successful applicant was Mr Stan Winn, and last week, he commenced working at our school. Stan has a specialist background in counselling including addressing trauma, and broad experience in working with both children and families. Stan will become an integral resource of our Learning and Support Team, supporting the wellbeing of targeted students across the school. He will be working at our school every Monday and Wednesday for a twelve-month period. I know you will join me in warmly welcoming Stan to the Picton PS family.



Meet Stan, our
new Chaplain!

Public Speaking

This week, we held the stage finals of our annual Public Speaking competition. While this year looked a little different in that we did not have a large audience for the students to present to, it remained a fantastic opportunity for students to hone their skills in writing and presenting a speech. Congratulations to the following students who were the stage winners and runners up:

Kindergarten

Winner: Benjamin Matthies
Runner Up: Callum Gordon

Stage One

Winner: Lucy Merchant
Runner Up: Audrey Kaya

Stage Two

Winner: Clancy Maitz
Runner Up: Carys Adam

Stage Three

Winner: Jordan Denford
Runner Up: Jade Dabrowski

SCU

Joint Winners: Chloe Faulkner and Alex Howard

Congratulations to all students who demonstrated bravery, grit and resilience by presenting a speech!

Canteen - Online Ordering

In some exciting canteen news, from next term, our canteen will introduce online facilities for ordering and paying lunch orders. While students will still need to bring in money to purchase snacks throughout our play break, parents will be able to order and pay for their child's lunch online. Information brochures will be distributed shortly, explaining how this process works. The canteen will still be accepting cash lunch orders for those families who do not wish to order online.

P&C Fundraiser - Walk of Fame

Don't forget to get your orders in for our P&C Walk of Fame Fundraiser. Standard engraved pavers cost \$40 and hand-drawn design pavers cost \$50. This is a wonderful opportunity to have your family's name etched in our history for many years to come. Avoid missing out by getting your orders in quickly. More information has been included later in the newsletter.

SRL Token Winners

Congratulations to the following students, who have been our SRL Token winners for the past fortnight:

Week 9 - Max and Lilly

Week 10 - Braxton and Luke



I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a fantastic holiday break and thank you for all your continued support throughout Term Three. A reminder that there is no Staff Development Day at the beginning of Term Four, and that students start back on **Monday October 12**. Happy holidays!

Mr Nathan Neilson
Proud Principal

ROBERT SELL
STUDENT
1947-1957

CHRISTIAN
SNELL
STUDENT 2010

Ruby Carroll

2004-2010



Etch your way into Picton
Public School's history!

Walk of fame

pathway at the entrance to
our school is opening offers to YOU!



HOW?

Come into the office to get your
form and secure your paver!



HOW MUCH?

Hand drawn detail \$50
Typed name paver \$40



WHEN?

Applications close Friday
30th October 2020

Come into our office to get your form!

27 Lumsdaine St, Picton NSW



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. 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 Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

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 and Communities 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 Department of Education and Communities 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.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

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*

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.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities



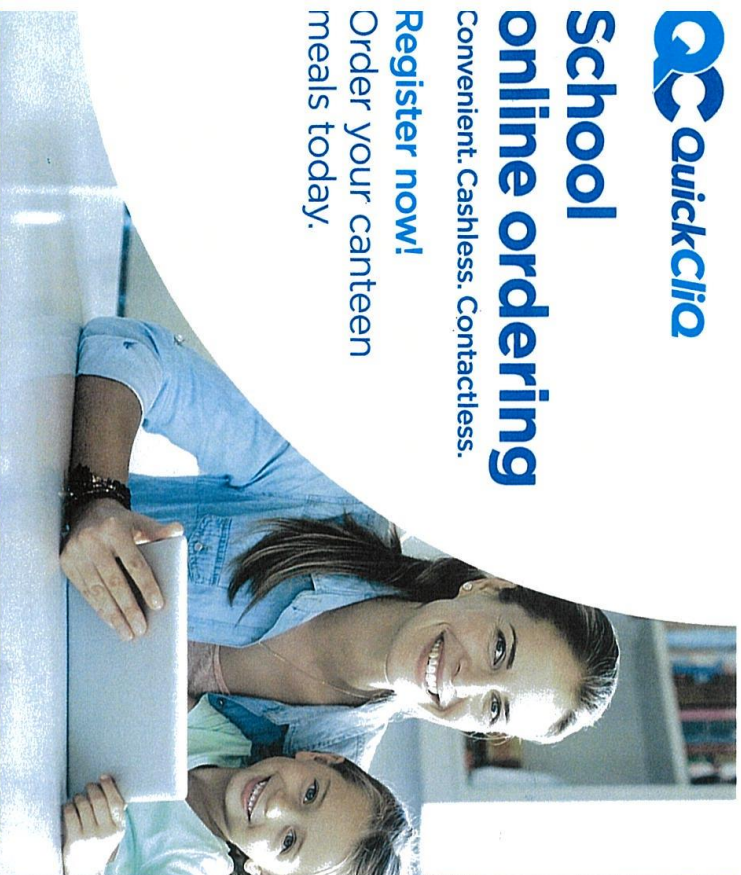
School

online ordering

Convenient. Cashless. Contactless.

Register now!

Order your canteen meals today.



A simple way to order online



Need help

Phone or email us - Monday to Friday, 7.30am - 4.00pm
Call 1300 11 66 37 | support@quickclicq.com.au



Purchase canteen meals online.

No cash. No problem! Try QuickClicq today!

QuickClicq is an innovative online ordering system trusted by schools and parents across Australia. QuickClicq is a cashless solution that helps you manage your children's canteen orders from the comfort of your home or office.



How to get started

- QuickClicq is free to set up and easy to use
- Register at www.quickclicq.com.au
- **SIGN UP** and complete the registration form
- Receive a link via email to **ACTIVATE** your account before logging in
- **ADD STUDENT**, add your child's details, select their school and save to your account
- **ADD CREDIT** to your online wallet before ordering or pay as you go using credit or debit card
- Select **MEAL ORDER** and you're good to go

Orders can be placed up to 28 days in advance. You can view your completed orders via the Active Orders or Transaction History tabs in your account.

Want to know the best thing about QuickClicq?

- ✓ One family, one account - you will have one unique and secure login to manage all your children's orders, even if they attend different schools. QuickClicq saves you time and gives you complete visibility over your family's needs.
- ✓ Tired of looking for change every morning before your kids run off to school? With QuickClicq, lunch money is a thing of the past.
- ✓ We're giving control back to you over your children's diets. By ordering their lunch ahead of time, you can ensure they are eating healthy and balanced meals.
- ✓ QuickClicq was designed with mobile access in mind. Simply login to add credit and order all from the convenience of your smartphone or tablet.
- ✓ To top up your account you have three options:
 - Direct Debit / Credit Card / PayPal
 - Direct Debit - 0.50c transaction fee
 - The surcharge to add credit is 15%
 - The surcharge for PayPal is 3.8%
- When placing an order there is a small booking fee per transaction per student.

Our Call Centre is here to assist your families with ordering online Call 1300 11 66 37





the
**School
Locker**

School hats are now available at the uniform shop.
Opening hours are Tuesdays from 8.45am to 11.00am.



The Uniform Shop is still accepting donations of second hand uniforms. Second hand uniforms will be available to purchase for \$2 on Tuesdays from 9am to 10am next to the uniform shop.

We are in need of winter uniforms if you have any please drop them into the box in the Admin Office please.



If you are paying any fees by EFTPOS in the office, payments need to be made by 3pm.

Thank you

Magpie Box



Please ensure all money is placed into the **Magpie Box** which is on the wall outside the Admin Building.

SCHOOL BANKING FOR 2020



STUDENT BANKING HAS RETURNED

**PLEASE PLACE YOUR CHILD'S BANK BOOK IN THE MAGPIE BOX BY
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**

Please hand your bank books into the office by
Wednesday as our volunteer Mrs Beverly Roams
processes them on a Wednesday morning.

Beverly Roams