

Keeping In Touch- Forward with Pride

Seeking Success by Working Together

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Phone: 9625 8185 Facsimile: 9832 2403

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Term 1- Week 2 G.D.Yates Principal

Thursday 2 February 2012



From the Principal

Welcome to the 2012 school year at Colyton Public School.

Today I write to extend a warm welcome to everyone. I'd have to say that it has been a real pleasure to see and hear old and new students and teachers returning to the new school year into new classes, new routines, friendships as well as building new and reinforcing old friendships.

We currently have **649** students enrolled at the school. Over the last week we have enrolled **89** students into Kindergarten and more than **55** new students into our Year 1 to 6 classes and Year 5 Opportunity Class.

Our new Kindergarten students have settled extremely well into the school routine. I'd personally like to thank parents very much for their support, training, preparedness and patience. Your support is amazing and greatly appreciated.

It has, as usual, been a very busy, wet and yet very successful and productive beginning to the new 2012 school year.

We are all very well aware of the global and local financial issues facing us all. It has been very exciting to learn during 2011 that our school and community will continue to receive funding for 2012 and 2013 to support National Partnership Smarter Schools – Improving Teacher Quality – Centre For Excellence.

We again look forward to working with Penrith Selective High School, St Marys Senior High School, Erskine Park High School, Bennett Road Public School and St Marys South Public School on new Numeracy initiatives and continuing our writing initiatives with teachers and students.

I pass on to all students, parents, teachers, administrative staff and friends of Colyton my personal

best wishes in all you plan and do and for a happy, successful, productive and healthy year.

Parents and Citizens Association

Tennille Paine, P&C President, has confirmed that the first P&C meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7 February 2012** at 9.15 am in the Principal's Residence.

All new parents and returning members are invited and encouraged to attend and play a part in the P&C efforts to support our students and the school throughout 2012.

School Council

Reg Barono, President, has confirmed that the first School Council meeting for the year is planned for **Monday 13 February 2012** at 7:30pm.

It is anticipated that there will be at least one vacancy for a parent representative on the School Council. If you are interested in being a parent representative on the School Council please forward a one page expression of interest to the Principal, Geoff Yates.

Applications can be considered and a new member elected for the following Annual General Meeting of the School Council in March.

My thanks to both Reg and Tenille for their understanding and also pass on my thanks to all involved with School Council and P&C.

School Staffing

This week I am preparing our Actual Enrolment return for consideration and confirmation by staffing officers from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

We have formed classes on the basis of our enrolments and I hopefully, anticipate our current class structure remaining, that is, pending confirmation and approval of our actual enrolments.

For your information included below is a list of class names and their teachers, as well as teachers in support roles for 2012 subject to confirmation.

Classes for 2012 as at 2 February, 2012

Class	Teacher
Early Stage 1	
KC	Miss Nina Carroll
KH	Ms Laura Hengl
KN	Miss Melissa Neill
KMW	Miss Alison Miller (M/T) Mrs Renee Wilson (W,Th,F)

Early Stage 1 / Kindergarten supervisor Mrs Cobi Candy

Stage 1

1D	Mrs Pauline Deville
1CD	Ms Deidre Cook
1H	Mrs Roslyn Rolling Mrs Ella Hunt
1M	Mrs Natasha McSharry
2H	Miss Rochelle Hadley
2J	Mrs Janelle Rigby
2S	Ms Donna Reid / Mrs Smallwood

Stage 1 supervisor Mrs Donna Reid

Stage 2

3B	Mr Neil Bourke
3G	Mr Tim Galloway-Smith
3P	Ms Frances Parker
4B	Mrs Leanne Benson
4P	Mrs Eleanor Palmos
4H	Miss Leanne Hall

Stage 2 supervisor Mr Neil Bourke

Stage 3

5J	Mrs Joanne Ferns
5C	Mr James Clark
5R – OC	Mrs Lisa Rodgers
6S	Mrs Rachel Sellen
6Q	Miss Alison Quinn
6C	Miss Bree Castle
6E – OC	Mr Greg Edwards

Year 6 supervisor Mr Greg Edwards

Teachers in Support Roles

Learning Assistance	Mrs Chris Pink Mrs Cobi Candy
English As Second Language	Mr Mick Cleary
Release From Face to Face Primary PT/RFFTF	Mrs Lauren Bacales Mrs Cobi Candy Mrs Amy Sutton
Reading Recovery / RFFTF	Miss Alyssa Nelson

Library	Mrs Isabelle Cumberland Mrs Tracey Cox (T,F)
Highly Accomplished Teacher	Mrs Sharon Gordon
School Counsellor	Mr Chris Scobie
School Administrative Manager	Mrs Ainslie McMillan
School Administrative Officers	Mrs Gloria Aarts Mrs Marlene Marshall
Operational Paraprofessional	Mrs Haley Cormack (Tues, Wed)
Educational Paraprofessional	Mrs Anne Napthali Mon, Tues, Thurs)
General Assistant	Mr Paul Pittman
Cleaners	Mr Trevor Saurine Mrs Biljana Maric

School Executive

Assistant Principal	Mrs Cobi Candy
Assistant Principal	Ms Donna Reid
Assistant Principal	Mr Greg Edwards
Assistant Principal	Mr Neil Bourke (Rel AP)
Deputy Principal	Ms Tracy Kemp
Principal	Mr Geoff Yates

Student Safety – Travelling to and from school

Parents are reminded to reinforce with children the need to travel directly from home to school and from school to home. Parents need to remind children that they are to wait at school if for some reason parents are running late.

This will ensure students are safe and in a known place rather than trying to find their way home. Students are reminded to avoid approaching strangers and to avoid allowing strangers to approach them or entice them to come close.

Students are asked to inform parents or teachers immediately if they are worried or feel they are being followed. Parents are asked to report such instances to Police and the school for appropriate follow-up and action.

If approached, students are encouraged to keep a safe distance away but also to notice things they may be able to report to authorities. This may include descriptions of people, cars and car number plates.

Parents I seek your ongoing support regarding this issue and encourage you to regularly affirm and reaffirm your child's travel arrangements to and from school with your child and emergency carers.

Best Start

The **Best Start curriculum implementation and assessment program** is again being conducted in all Kindergarten classes beginning during the first week of Kindergarten.

Further Best Start newsletters will be made available to parents as we progress through the year. If you would like more information about how we are implementing the Best Start program please contact Mrs Cobi Candy our Best Start coordinator.

Best Start – Letter to parents or caregivers

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

This is to inform you about the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment*, that will take place at our school during week 2 (this is actually the first week students return to school for 2012) in Term 1.

What is the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment?

Children come to school with different levels of literacy and numeracy. Some are familiar with books, can recognise some letters, even write their name or count to ten, while others have not yet learned these skills.

Our Kindergarten teachers have always observed their new students and used different methods to find out what each child knows and can do so that they can plan and teach what their students need to learn next.

This year, we are again taking part in Best Start, which has been developed by early learning experts in the Department of Education and Training. Best Start is giving our teachers, and those teaching Kindergarten across New South Wales, a common set of high quality assessment tools and professional training.

We believe that Best Start will build on the strengths of our teachers and give your child an even better start to school.

Your child and the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

It is very important to emphasise that *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* is not a test. Its purpose is to help the teacher gather information to guide the teaching of your child.

The teacher will observe each child and use tasks, such as talking about a book that has been read, and record what their students know and can do. The teaching of your child will be based on the information gathered in these ways.

You'll be given feedback about what your child's teacher has learned about your child, which you are welcome to discuss, if you wish, in keeping with our usual practice.

What is being assessed?

The teacher will look at your child's early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others, and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns.

Telephone Interpreter Service

If you would like further information please contact me.

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact me please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on telephone 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call me and will stay on the line to assist you with our conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

All the best to everyone for the year ahead..

G.D.Yates Principal Colyton Public School
2 February 2012

Swimming Carnival

The Annual Colyton Public School Swimming Carnival is being held at Mount Druitt Pool on **Wednesday 15 February, 2012**. Students will travel to and from the pool and compete in the planned events. Following the swimming carnival our district swimming team will be nominated for events and the Mt Druitt PSSA District Carnival.

Parents and carers from year 3-6 are asked to complete permission notes and the swimming ability survey and return payments to their child's teacher promptly to assist in the organization and running of the Annual Swimming Carnival.

Captains and Prefects

On Monday 6 February our new Captains and Prefects will be awarded their badges of office at the Captains and Prefects induction. Badges will be presented to students by Mr Reg Murray from the Mount Druitt Chamber of Commerce.

We eagerly await the results of the final stage of voting in the leadership decision making process and the induction of Captains and Prefects for 2012.

Fruit Break is now called "**Crunch n Sip**"

In recent years a 'Fruit Break' was introduced to promote healthy eating within our school community. It was a successful initiative and will be continued in 2012 as "**Crunch n Sip**"

All students are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit to school each day. At around 10am each morning, those students who have brought a piece of fruit to school will have a 5-10 minute break to sit with their classmates and eat their fruit.

We ask parents to continue to support this initiative by sending a piece of fresh fruit to school with your child each day. It may be necessary to cut up the fruit for younger students so that the fruit can be eaten quickly and ensuring that no learning time is lost.

Supa Club

SUPA Club is a non-denominational Christian group for Years 3 - 6. Meetings, which involve singing, prayer-time and games, are held first half of lunch each Monday in the Library.

Supervising teachers are Mrs Rodgers, Mrs Cumberland, Mrs Gordon, Mrs Sellen, Mrs Rigby and Mr Edwards.

School Uniform

Congratulations to the majority of students and parents for an outstanding effort with uniform to begin the school year. It is wonderful to see students looking smart and taking pride in themselves and their school.

It is extremely important that students are sun safe by wearing a hat to school each day.

It is of equal importance that students wear sturdy shoes to support the activities they are involved in.

Students are required to wear lace up shoes to protect their feet. Students wearing slip-on shoes may be excluded from some activities. If this is the case parents will be contacted and informed.

Student Allergies

Parents if you are aware that your child has allergies or is anaphylactic please contact the school office and talk with Tracy Kemp, Deputy Principal. At Colyton Public School an Action Plan is developed for all known anaphylactic students and those who have allergies.

Staff members are trained in the use of EpiPens and Health Care Plans are developed to support mild to moderate allergic reactions as well as severe allergic reaction.

Your support by sharing this information about your child with the school and staff enables us to assist your child in a planned manner should an allergic reaction occur at school on an excursion or at a sporting or cultural event outside the school.

There are an increasing number of students at Colyton who have allergies to food. These allergies range from having a minor effect to being life threatening in some cases.

In order to minimise discomfort to students, we request that students do not bring nuts to school and that peanut butter and Nutella are not used as sandwich spreads.

Parents are also encouraged to discuss with their child the importance of eating their own food and not sharing with others. The school appreciates the support of students and parents in this matter.

Library News

Borrowing Books

Borrowing from the library for students in Years 1 to 6 will begin next week. Please ensure that your child has a LIBRARY BAG, labeled with their name, so that they can begin borrowing as soon as possible.

Borrowing is as follows:

Kindergarten	1 book
Years 1 & 2	2 books
Years 3-6	4 books (2 fiction, 2 information)

The library is situated above the administration area. Parents and friends are welcome to visit at any time.

Book Club

Students are offered the opportunity to borrow from Scholastic Book Club twice a term. The first forms will be available next week from the class teacher. Spare forms can be collected from the library. The school benefits, in the form of books, from the purchases you make through Book Club.

Please send orders with money or credit card information in an envelope with your child's name and class to the library.

The first order is due back by Friday 17 February.

P&C News

Next Meeting

Welcome back to all parents. The next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th February in the Residence at 9:15am.

All parents are welcome and are invited to attend.

School Tour and Breakfast

The P&C members are providing a tour of the school for our new Kindergarten to Year 6 parents and Year 5 OC parents on **Monday 6 February**. The tour will begin with a breakfast of bacon and egg rolls at **9.15am**.

We are calling for anyone who can offer their assistance to run a BBQ or help with the tour to meet outside the office at 8:45am. Your assistance would be appreciated.

Clothing Pool

The Clothing Pool is open every Friday morning from 8:45-9:15am. It is located in the inside the P&C room behind the 3-6 COLA stage.

If you would like to donate uniforms that you no longer use, please drop them off at the office any time, or at the Clothing Pool of a Friday morning.

School Banking

The P&C provide a service for students to complete school banking with the Commonwealth bank. School banking will be available from 2 February for regular users and will be in full operation by 9 February, 2012.

Students take the bank deposit books to the “dollar hat ladies” on the 3-6 COLA stage or K-2 COLA from 8.30am until 9.00am.

This year we note that the October cool rewards will include a USB, booklight, lunch box, watch, handball and wallet just to mention a few rewards for banking on ten (10) occasions.

Approaching Your School

A parent and community guide for seeking information and expressing concern

From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school in order to:

- Discuss the progress or welfare of own child
- Express concern about actions of other students
- Enquire about school policy or practice

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

These guidelines aim to:

- Provide a guide in order that concerns are dealt with in an open and fair manner.
- Ensure that the rights of students, teachers and parents are respected and upheld.
- Support sensitivity and confidentiality.
- Help reach an agreed solution

On occasion, concerns may cause frustration and anxiety. At such times it is always important to organise a time to talk with school staff in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere.

- Trying to talk to teachers when they are trying to teach, manage children or engaged in another conversation is inappropriate.

Teachers, parents and community working together for successful schooling

CONCERN	APPROPRIATE ACTION
The academic progress of own child	* Directly contact the child's teacher either by note, by phone or in person to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues. (Phone 02 9625 8185)
The welfare of own child	* For minor issues directly contact your child's teacher to clarify information. * For more serious concerns, contact office. State nature of concern and arrange a suitable time to talk with class teacher or appropriate staff member. * To convey information about change of address, telephone number, emergency contact, custody details, health issues etc. Please contact the school office.
Actions of other students	* Contact the class teacher for a classroom problem. • Contact the stage supervisor or Deputy Principal for playground problems. AT NO TIME SHOULD A PARENT APPROACH ANOTHER CHILD OTHER THAN THEIR OWN TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE AT SCHOOL.
School policy or practice	* Contact the school office. State nature of concern and make an appointment to see the Principal, Deputy Principal and/or appropriate executive member of staff. A list of executive members of staff and the students they supervisor is included within this newsletter for your convenience. The school's phone number is (02) 96258185, Facsimile (02) 98322403 Email: colyton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Education Tax Refund

If you receive the Family Tax Benefit you may be entitled to claim a tax refund of up to 50 per cent off eligible expenses for your child's education for items such as stationery, computers, printers, Internet and educational software.

Find out more at www.ato.gov.au

Positive Parenting Podcast

Listen to James O’Loughlin interview Professor Matt Sanders with practical tips that parents can use to help their children get on well at school, interact with others, and have the emotional, behavioural, and social skills they need to do well in life. Podcast can be heard at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/ezine/yr2010/issue01/parenting/index_t.php

Tips for parenting tweens (9 to 14 year olds)

Simple things you can do right now:

- sit together at mealtimes - there is a lot of evidence that shows this is powerfully protective for kids in modelling good behaviour and giving them a sense of belonging.
- know what your kids are up to with their friends and online
- encourage activities outside of school run by trusted adults
- go to school parent open-days, and other events and functions
- provide clear and consistent ground rules for behaviour
- undertake a parenting program or read books on parenting this age group.

More advice about tweens at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolparents

Secondary Schooling – High School 2013

At this time of year parents of students who will be attending secondary school in 2013 are invited to attend parent information sessions. For your information and consideration advice about information sessions we receive are advertised in our newsletter “Keeping In Touch” and also on our school’s website.

Parents of students seeking placement in Year 7 for 2013 will receive Expression Of Interest forms next weeks. Please complete these carefully and return them promptly to Mrs Kemp Deputy Principal **NO LATER THAN 16 MARCH 2012** to help maximise their application and avoid any disappointment.

Note...This year the *Expression of Interest* form and the *Moving into Year 7 in a NSW government school in 2013* have been combined into one booklet. Your child’s designated local high school will be indicated to you on the Expression of Interest form.

In 2012, if a parent/carer is seeking Year 7 placement for their child in a specialist school (sports or performing arts high school), in a specific program in a school (academic class technology or music class) or in a support class (through regional placement panels) the preferences should be listed as choices in Section C of the *Expression of Interest* form. Parents/carers will

still need to fulfil application requirements for individual schools.

If you are expressing interest in placement at other government schools (ie non-local or other than your child’s designated local school), I strongly encourage you to check out their application requirements via their websites or contact the school you seek for details.

ERSKINE PARK HIGH SCHOOL - YEAR 7 2013 -



www.erskinparkhs.com.au

Enrolment: 1045 students

Erskine Park High School is the outstanding choice of school for every parent in our area of Western Sydney. We offer every student the opportunity to excel and to achieve their personal best through outstanding teaching and learning practices in a safe, happy and purposeful environment where full school uniform is the clear expectation. Erskine Park High School is a modern, vibrant comprehensive 7-12 high school with rich relationships with the primary schools of our learning community.

Our school enjoys a highly supportive and involved parent group and community. Our ethos is one of collaboration, teamwork and consultation. We provide an ordered and inspiring atmosphere where strengthening student well being and enhancing academic, cultural and sporting student outcomes is our motivation. Innovative and strategic programmes to engage our students and enhance their spirit and involvement are at the forefront of our daily work.

Serving the Erskine Park learning community, the school motto of *‘Pride In Achievement’* sets us apart as a school of high expectations, energetic achievement and excellent results. Erskine Park High School boasts an enthusiastic, committed staff whose outstanding qualifications, experiences and achievements deliver a quality classroom product each day.

COME ALONG TO OUR YEAR 7 2013 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

– TUESDAY MARCH 6th at 7.00PM –
– IN THE SCHOOL HALL –

**A SCHOOL TOUR WILL OCCUR ON THE EVENING AT
6.00PM.
MEET AT THE SCHOOL HALL.**

Principal: Tim McCallum

Address: Swallow Dr. Erskine Park. 2759

Phone: (02) 9834 3536

Fax: (02) 9834 3864

Web: www.erskinparkhs.com.au



NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

115-119 Great Western Highway

EMU PLAINS NSW

PO Box 91 EMU PLAINS 2750

Phone: (02) 47287200 Fax: (02) 4735 6141

Email: nepean-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Mr A Baldacchino
Principal

Do you think you can dance, perform, create?

Nepean High School is a selective school for the creative and performing arts.

Talented students with a strong interest in Dance, Drama, Instrumental Music, Vocal, Visual Arts, Digital Media and Photography, are encouraged to apply. Local (in area) students wanting to be part of our selective Creative and Performing Arts Program must also audition or present a portfolio of work.

To be a part of the **2013 Year 7** cohort of creative and performing arts students, or for more information contact the school 47287200 or website nepean-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au for an application package.

All interested families are welcome at **Open Night Monday 19th March from 6.00 pm.**

Closing date for applications 28th March 2012

Term Calendar – Term 1

Day	Date	Event
Monday	6 Feb	9.15 am – Hall Prefects inducted Captains and prefects presented with the badges of office for 2012 by Mr Reg Murray Mt Druitt Chamber of Commerce.
Tuesday	7, 8, 9 Feb	9.00am Year 5 OC class to Kedumba Lodge... OC Orientation camp
Tuesday	7 Feb	9.15am P&C meeting Headmasters Residence
Wednesday	8 Feb	3.15pm Staff Meeting – TPL Conductive Hearing Loss

Thursday	9 Feb	10.00am m- 11.00am Mt Druitt Swimming Centre Mosaic mural official launch Year 6S, 6C, 6Q And Choir attending Morning tea provided
Friday	10 Feb	PSSA trials – weather and grounds permitting
Week 4		
Monday	13 Feb	School Council meeting 7.30pm in the Headmasters Residence
Wednesday	15 Feb	Annual Swimming Carnival Mt Druitt Pool Years 3-6 3.15pm Staff meeting TPL Persuasive writing
Thursday	16 Feb	Maths and Science V/C forums begin – Numeracy workshops
Week 5		
Monday	20-23 Feb	Meet the teacher meetings details to follow.
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Week 6		
Wednesday	29 Feb	District Swimming Carnival

Newsletter,

From the 23rd of February the newsletter, “Keeping In Touch” will be available via the school’s website. We are seeking to reduce the impact on the environment of producing the newsletter.

Our school’s website is found at:

<http://www.colyton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

If you do not have access to the internet and require a hard copy of the newsletter please complete the slip below and return it directly to the school office. This will enable your child to be given a hard copy of the newsletter.

Dear Colyton Public School Administration Team,

I require a hard copy of the school’s newsletter “Keeping In Touch”.

Name of child:.....

Class:

Signed: **Date:** 2/2012

