



Term 3  
Week 10  
Date 28/09/2018



## Features of the week

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# The Facta

Deeds Not Words Facta Non Verba

Concord Public School Community News and Information

## Dates for the Diary

### September

**28 September** - **Last Day of Term 3**

### October

**15 October** - **First Day of Term 4 – Students Return**  
**29 October** - **Assembly, 2:20pm**  
**30 October** - **Kindergarten Orientation Day – parents only**

### November

**2 November** - **Day for Daniel**  
**2 November** - **World Teachers' Day**  
**2 November** - **P&C Halloween Disco**  
**6 November** - **Kindergarten Orientation Day – no. 1**  
**9 November** - **Remembrance Day Ceremony**  
**13 November** - **Kindergarten Orientation Day – no. 2**  
**16 November** - **Grand-friends' Day**

## Principal's Message

# Concord Public School

Dear Parents, Carers and Community,

As I approach my final days before commencing my period of leave, I am overwhelmed by the well-wishes and many kind words expressed by many of you. I truly believe that I am stepping away at a time when the school is operating at an optimum level, across so many different fronts. Your children are in the hands of remarkable educators that go above and beyond their call of duty to ensure that all children access the curriculum in a learning environment that is caring, motivating, engaging and relevant to today's world. I am truly proud of who they are and what they do for our students on a daily basis and I am privileged to have witnessed this in action.

The new Relieving Principal, Ms Michelle Verhagen spent the day with us on Wednesday and met many children, the staff and parents. Although raining at times, we still managed to fit in a school tour and popped into a few classes to say hello. Ms Verhagen was warmly welcomed by all who interacted with her and she is looking forward to leading the school over the next 16 months. She will commence on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

As this is my last newsletter contribution for a while, I'd like wish the students a calm and successful finish to the school year. When reflecting on your goals and what you have achieved, remember that success looks different for everyone and it is defined differently by all. That is why our goals are unique to us, and they represent what is important to us as individuals. Remember, it's not how smart we are but how hard we work that gets us to where we want to be!

Thank you to the P&C and to the volunteers who put countless hours into the school. Our partnership is highly valued. There are many projects coming up in the next 12 months where our parent community have played a very big part in them coming to fruition. One such project is the multipurpose court which you will hear more about over the coming months.

For the parents/carers/grandparents that support the school in the background due to work commitments, carers' responsibilities, language barriers, etc. your work does not go unnoticed, especially in the eyes of your children.

On a final note, I'd like to wish you, your family and your loved-ones good health and happiness. I will see you all at the commencement of 2020!

Ms A. Vountoulas  
Principal



## Student Awards

# Congratulations...

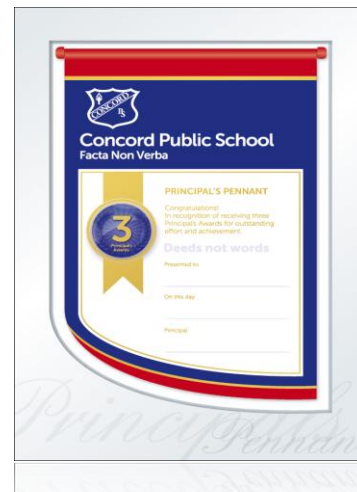
To the following students who have or will be receiving a Principal Award or Principal Pennant.

### Principal's Awards

Levi B. – KZ  
 Charlie W. – KZ  
 Ella. H – 3/4C  
 Levi L. – 1/2L  
 Matthew L. – 5/6D  
 Ashton C. – 1C  
 Evelyn T. – 1/2L  
 Dari M. – 5/6D  
 Hannah K. – 2M  
 Suri K. – 5/6T  
 Lulu M. – 2M  
 Gabriele F. – 5/6T  
 Chris Y. – 2M  
 Aaishah O. – 1/2G  
 Ryley M. – 1C  
 Matilda I – KZ x 2  
 Cyril B. – KZ x 2  
 Aurora W. – KM

### Principal's Pennants

Cleopatra C. – K/1S  
 Zachery R. – KZ  
 Dari M. – 5/6D  
 Archie M. – 3/4P  
 Carissa L. – K/1S  
 Leigh H. – KZ  
 Adam G. – KM  
 Suri K. – 5/6T  
 Henry W. – KM  
 Dounia I. – KZ  
 Elliot G. – KM



## **PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS / PENNANTS PROCESS**

**Three Class Awards = 1 Principal's Award**

**Three Principal's Awards = 1 Principal's Pennant**

Note: Class Awards and/or Principal's Awards must be handed to the front office 2 days prior to the date of assembly.

## **Safe Driving**



Unfortunately, there has been a lot of dangerous driving outside the school grounds at drop-off and pick-up times. As you are all aware, this is the most vulnerable time for our children where the likelihood of accidents increases substantially. Please be mindful of where you are parking and where you are stopping to drop-off and pick-up your children. This is an exceptionally busy time on the roads and parking is difficult. However, safety is paramount and we all have a collective responsibility to follow the road rules to keep our children safe. In addition to this, please be mindful of our neighbours and avoid parking in the driveways.



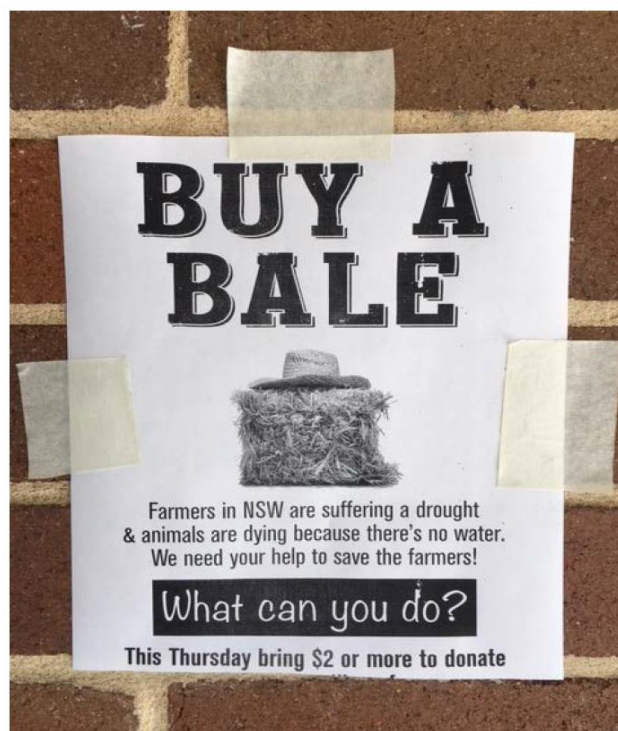
## **Buy A Bale Fundraising Day**

The SRC and Charity Leaders would like to express their appreciation to all students, families and school staff who contributed to our *Buy A Bale* fundraising efforts.

The initial fundraising target of \$500 set by the SRC was quickly met throughout the day and surpassed by the final total of \$802! This fantastic achievement was only possible through the generosity of all the members of our school community.

All money will be donated to the *Buy A Bale* campaign run by Rural Aid to support Australian farmers and will contribute to the purchase of the equivalent of 8 large bales of hay.

We would also like to thank Harley B (34C) for helping to put together *Buy A Bale* posters to raise awareness of this fundraising event!



## IMPROVEMENTS FOR OUR SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Over the past few months, our playground has undergone several projects to improve the outdoor learning and play area for our students. Here is a snapshot of these projects:

- **Top soil over grass** – completed during a recent Working Bee by many volunteers.
- **Play area under the large tree** – this area has undergone a mini face-lift with a new timber log enclosure and a fresh top-up of wood-chips.
- **Outdoor seating between the Library and Hall** – this underutilised area now has seating that can serve as an outdoor learning space as well as an area to have lunch.
- **Yarning Circle under the trees near grass area** – for many years, we have placed new turf in this area in an attempt to extend the grass area, without success. Consequently, the area became the perfect location for a Yarning Circle – a traditional Aboriginal meeting place. This circular design is surrounded by a number of seats, with large rubber-like structures, such as rocks, crocodiles, frogs and a platypus, perfect for children to play and sit on. The design by Scully Outdoor Furniture Designs, has had endorsement by the Aboriginal community. Furthermore, we will be organising a member from our Aboriginal community to assist in holding an official opening ceremony of this Yarning Circle. Stay tuned for more information on this in Term 4!
- **New Bubblers & Taps in the Wash-shed** – all taps and bubblers on both sides of the wash-shed have been replaced with water-saving devices that are easy for little hands to use.
- **A new fence has been installed along the grass, separating the carpark from the grass area.**
- **Seat near the Multicultural Mural** – this area will become a lovely cool area for children and families to rest and reflect on the great work done by our students towards the Multicultural Mural. In time, you will also see a large plant box against the wall as well.
- **Library Furniture** – the library has also seen a mini-face lift with new furniture which promotes the SOLE (Self Organised Learning Environment) that Mrs Purcell is promoting during her Library lessons. Pop in for a look!
- **Another outdoor learning area near the playground equipment** – the wooden log enclosure is complete and woodchips are in! We are just waiting for the furniture to arrive.
- **Seating area** - near the canteen.

### More to come:

- Work on the Multipurpose Court will commence soon.



Lookout for the excitement on the children's faces as they play in their new spaces! It's just priceless!

(Shhhhhhh..... The teachers are just as excited!!!)





*Our School Garden is blooming as we move into Spring.*

*And look who has recently joined the Garden Club!*

*Can you see its newest member?*





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Highlights of this Year's Book Parade.





**The smiles on the children's faces says it all  
(even the teachers dressed up for the occasion) !!!!!**

*Thank you everyone for taking part and making it such a memorable occasion!*





# Chalmers Road School

Invites your school community to our

# SPRING FAIR

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 9am to 4pm

23 Chalmers Road Strathfield

- Market Stalls • Jumping castle • BBQ lunch •
- Fun for the whole family • Sydney Thunder Bus •

Raising much needed funds for a wheelchair accessible bus and resources for students with special needs.



## Changes to Payment Processing for Excursions and School Events

As of Term 2, all school events that require payment and permission notes will have a cut-off date. This will generally be 2 days before the event. It will be vital that money and permission notes are submitted into the blue box in the office BEFORE the due date. This is to allow the office staff 2 days to do the administrative tasks to process the payments, in order to create class lists for all teachers involved. Late payments will not be accepted. In order to avoid disappointment, please arrange payment as soon as you receive the note.

Please note: if paying online through the POP system, payments can take up to 24-48 hours to process and appear on the school's system. We strongly advise that if choosing to use the POP system that you arrange payment at least 3 days before the due date.

## *Planning for 2019*

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We need assistance in our planning for next year. The school's staffing entitlements and funding are dependent upon the student population at the start of 2019.

If you are moving or going on an extended family holiday and your child/ren will not be starting at the commencement of the new school year (on Tuesday, 29 January 2019), please notify the school office as soon as possible, preferably in writing or via the school's email address – [concord-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:concord-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)





# 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](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au)

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NSW Department of Education and Communities





High Performing Students Unit

# Information about applying for Year 7 entry to selective high schools in **2020**

Thinking of applying for a government selective high school for Year 7 entry in **2020?**

You must apply online at  
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7>



## Key dates

**Tuesday 9 October 2018**

Application website opens

**Monday 12 November 2018**

Application website closes. You must apply by the due date.

**Thursday 28 February 2019**

Test authority advice sent to all applicants

**Thursday 14 March 2019**

Selective High School Placement Test

**Friday 5 July 2019**

Placement outcome information is sent

**Please read this booklet carefully before applying.**

There is more information at  
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/shs-oc>

**Parents should check this website for updates all the way through the application and placement process. Please check the website for information before you contact the Unit.**

The selective high school placement process for Year 7 entry is administered by the High Performing Students Unit<sup>^</sup>.

## Contact details

High Performing Students Unit

NSW Department of Education

Email: [ssu@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ssu@det.nsw.edu.au) Telephone: 1300 880 367 Fax: 02 9266 8435

Postal address: Locked Bag 53, DARLINGHURST NSW 1300

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/772251106301086/>

<sup>^</sup> In this document, the High Performing Students Unit will be referred to as the Unit.

'Parent' is defined under the *Education Act 1990* as a 'guardian or other person having custody or care of a child'.





## Community News



SYDNEY  
ACADEMY OF CHESS

Level 1 30A George St, Burwood 2134  
Office: (02) 9745 1170

### CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Concord Public School is held on Mondays from 8:00am to 8:55am, starting on 30 July 2018.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can collect an enrolment form from the school office, or email [enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au](mailto:enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au) for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.

## Primary ETHICS

Ethics education for children

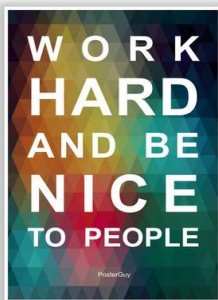
Think • Reason • Discuss

Primary Ethics classes offer students from K-6 an opportunity to engage in high order thinking and ethical reasoning in a discussion-based environment.

Parents seeking more information can also be directed to the website :[primaryethics.com.au](http://primaryethics.com.au).



## Message from the Office



### **Signing in at the front office**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

If you need to come to the school during school time, please ensure that you sign in at the office as this is a requirement to ensure the safety of all.

### **Payment on Line**

Thank you to all families who are using payment online.

When making a payment online you can only pay up to 3 DAYS before the due date of the payment. This is due to online transactions taking 48 hours to process.

Other payment methods such as cash or cheque can also be sent to the front office and placed in the blue box labelled "School Post".

Please note that we do not accept online payment for uniform orders. Please see the Uniform Shop Order form for payment details.

### **Permission notes**

If you have more than one child we need to have a note for each child, not all on one note, please.

### **Change of Contact/Address details**

Please inform the office immediately if you have changed your contact or address details, so we can contact you in case of an emergency.

Feel free to contact the front office for any questions or queries.

Regards,

Angela Posavac (S.A.M)  
Betty Annetta (S.A.O)  
Despina Malizis (S.A.O)  
Dora Ianni (S.A.O)

### **Message from the Office**

**Wishing Ms Vountoulas an enjoyable Long Service Leave.  
We are truly going to miss you and look forward to your return.**

**From all the Staff at Concord Public School**

