We Love To Hear From Our Community

We welcome all of our new families. Please remember, if you are concerned about anything or have any great ideas, please let us know immediately. The following chart may help you when deciding who it is you need to see:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCERN</th>
<th>APPROPRIATE ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The academic progress of own child</td>
<td>• Directly contact the child’s teacher either by note, by phone or in person to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The welfare of own child</td>
<td>• For minor issues directly contact your child’s teacher to clarify information.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• For more serious concerns, contact office. State nature of concern and arrange a suitable time to talk with class teacher or appropriate staff member.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• To convey information about change of address, telephone number, emergency contact details, health issues etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions of other students</td>
<td>• Contact the class teacher for a classroom problem.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Contact the teacher or stage supervisor for playground problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School policy or practice</td>
<td>• Contact office. State nature of concern and make an appointment to see the principal and/or appropriate staff member.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions of a staff member</td>
<td>• Contact the office and make an appointment to meet directly with the staff member; or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Arrange to meet with the principal and staff member concerned.</td>
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2013 Classes

Our classes are now fully set and we list them below for your information.

**Early Stage 1**
KA - Mrs Carey  
KC - Ms Conyers  
KL - Mrs Lavelle  
KMC - Mrs McGavin/Mrs Cuthbertson

**Stage 1**
K/1R - Mrs Rigas  
1H - Ms Hasler  
1T - Ms Thomas/Mrs J Reid  
2A - Mrs Atkinson  
2E - Mr Thorsby  
2FN - Mrs Niven/Mrs Flynn

**Stage 2**
2/3T - Mrs Arkell  
3LA - Mrs Lawson/Mrs Allan  
3/4R - Mrs Ruhan  
3/4B - Mrs Bentlin/Mrs Burrows  
4M - Mr McNeill  
4/5C - Mr Cashman

**Stage 3**
5B - Mr Booth  
5/6A - Ms Andrew  
5/6W - Mrs Wilson  
6R - Mr Rayner

**Composite classes are unavoidable**

These should never be viewed as a "poor choice". All classes, irrespective of composition, have a range in student abilities. Primary schools are staffed on different formulae to high schools. Where possible we will try to avoid forming composite classes across different curriculum stages. If this is unavoidable the class established may be one with students selected because of common abilities and talents. Parents should remember that even within a "straight" Grade class there are a wide range of ages and abilities.

**Voluntary School Contributions**

Contributions for 2013 have been set and remain the same as 2012. There has not been an increase since 2010. This year they are: $35 per student or $50 per family for two or more children.

School contributions are voluntary and payment is a matter for decision by parents. They help provide additional educational resources for the benefit of students. In 2012, voluntary contributions assisted the school in purchasing new readers for students for example. (Please see separate note sent home today.)
Class/Parent Communication Meetings - Wednesday 27th February

Each year in Term 1 we offer the opportunity for Teachers to meet with parents as a group to talk about class expectations, homework and any requirements for the new school year. These meetings take place in the classroom for approximately an hour.

This year's meetings will be held on Wednesday 27th February. K-2 classes (KA, KC, KL, KMC, K/1R, 1H, 1R, 1T, 2A, 2E, 2FN, 2/3T) will meet at their classrooms from 5pm - 6pm. The P&C will run a BBQ in the COLA from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. Sausage Sandwiches and a small number of Vegie Sausages are available. Years 3 - 6 classes (3LA, 3/4B, 3/4R, 4M, 4/5C, 5B, 5/6A, 5/6W, 6R) will begin their meetings at 6:30 - 7:30pm. There is not time at these meetings to hold extensive one on one parent interviews, but these can be arranged if parents feel they are necessary at another time. We also ask that people consider whether they bring their children to the meetings. There is no organised supervision for students in the playground on the night.

David Harris – Principal

Swimming Carnival Amendment

An error was made in the calculations for the Junior Girl Swimming Champion. The Junior Champion was in fact Jessica Rivers. Well done to Skye Regan for being such a great sport in light of the mis-stated this money should go

Mr Cashman – Co-ordinator

Money Collections

Money is collected for school activities, sports, excursions etc. on a regular basis throughout the year. To ensure the minimum amount of confusion for your child and the staff please follow the few basic steps below. Unless otherwise stated this money should go to the class teacher.

1. Place in a sealed envelope clearly marked with child’s name, activity and amount enclosed. Do not include the permission note.
2. Attach the permission note to the outside of the envelope (the teacher requires this not the office).
3. Ensure money is sent in first thing in the morning. (not in the afternoon as teachers do not have a safe place for money)
4. DO NOT hand money envelopes in at the office - this causes confusion for the child and the teacher.
5. If money is requested ON THE DAY it is usually a bucket collection of small amounts (within Audit guidelines)

Receipts will be returned with your child for large amounts (approx. $20 and over).

If you wish to pay for more than one child simply send the payment with your eldest child with the names of the younger child/ren also marked on the outside of the envelope. We will make sure siblings are marked off in the correct place. One cheque is fine, our system has the facility to include more than one child. Thank you for your support.

Please note: Harmony Day “Cultural Infusion” will be held on March 22nd not the 12th as advised on the Bulk Payment note for Year 1 and 2.

School Photos
A big reminder that school photographs are being taken Thursday 28th February. We ask that all students are in their full school uniform - not their sports uniform. Please return money/envelope on the day.

Student Absences

There is no need to phone the school of your child's absence should they be away for one or two days. A note to your child's teacher on the day they return noting child’s name, class, date/s absent and reason is sufficient.

Traffic Issues Reminder

One area where we could do better is with parking in the mornings and afternoons. There is no doubt there are challenges in this area, but we ask that people respect our neighbours and obey rules around parking signs.

The Council Rangers do random checks and fines are very expensive. Remember if you get fined in the Bus Zone, you also lose points on your licence. Our school Traffic Committee is working hard to gain improvements, but please follow the rules. We will be putting general reminders in the newsletter for your information.

Volunteer Workers

A reminder that all volunteers need to sign in at the school office upon arrival at the school and sign out when leaving the school. New Voluntary workers need to be given a safety booklet and inducted by Mr Harris as well as complete the ‘Volunteer/Student Declaration’ form and provide identification.

Health Update

Head lice has been reported in several classes recently. Could all parents/carers please check their child’s hair and treat if necessary.

Time from infestation to eggs hatching: Usually 5-7 days

Symptoms: Itchy scalp, white specks stuck near the base of the hairs, lice may be found on the scalp. Students can attend school as long as headlice management is ongoing.
Environmental Fundraiser

Do you have any old mobile phones lying around the house?

We are collecting unwanted mobile phones to raise money to help our environment. Our school will receive $5 for each phone received working, or not working. Please send any old mobile phones lying around the house to school with your child. Also, talk to your friends, colleagues, neighbours and other family members and encourage them to clean out their bottom drawer and finally get rid of the old phones that have been doing nothing but collecting dust.

www.australianmobilerecycling.com.au

Ingrid Hasler - Environmental Education Coordinator

Board Game – Donations please

If you have any unwanted (intact) board games at home please consider donating them to the school for Mr McNeill’s classroom. Donations can be given directly to Mr McNeill (4M)

LAS Reading volunteers Please!

Would you or anyone else you know, be interested in volunteering to help with our Learning Assistance programs at Point Clare?

If you can spare 1-2 hours per week to help tutor our children on a one to one basis, please complete the form below and return it to the school Office. Anyone can do it, we will train you!

I will contact you as soon as possible to discuss times and programs. Many thanks

Jill Reid - LAST

Name: _______________________________
Phone No. _______________________________
Days Available: _____________________ Times: _________
Child contact at school (if applicable) __________

Sick Bay Roster – Can you help?

If you are able to help the school by being on the sick bay roster for a few weeks of the year please complete the following slip and return it to the office as soon as possible. This mainly involves occasionally washing the linen from the sick bay. Thank you.

Rose Clark – Co-ordinator

Name: _______________________________
Phone number: _______________________________
Child’s Name ______________ Class: ________

Community News...

Woy Woy Roosters Junior Rugby League Football Club

Boys under 6’s to under 16’s (Div. 1&2) and Girls under 6’s to under 12’s (Div. 1&2)

Date: Friday 22nd February Time: 5pm – 8pm
Venue: East Woy Woy Leagues Club

For more information visit www.woywoyjrlfc.leaguenet.com.au
or call Melissa Moore on 0425 324 956

Do you know anyone interested in Horticulture/Landscaping/Natural Gardening?

Cert II Land & Conservation Management qualifications are being offered right here on the school grounds!

3 Days a week for 13 weeks.

Start Date: 4th March, 2013
End Date: 5th June, 2013
Days: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
Times: 9am to 3pm
Location: Point Clare Public School
Cost: $630.00

Gain valuable practical skills whilst helping to build our edible gardens. All ages. No experience required.

To register: Breakthru ph: 4350 5891 or email: jennifer.campbell@breakthru.org.au

2013 School Leadership Team

School Captains

Matthew Mott
Holly Irwin

School Vice Captains

Luke Mirfield
Marley Irvine

School Leaders

Jack Boyd
Jasmine McTeare

Harrison Clynes
Tegan Day
APPENDIX 1

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

FAMILY LAW ISSUES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Department recognises that some families are subject to family breakdown. In meeting its obligations to students and parents, the Department relies on the following principles -

- the education of a child is primarily the responsibility of the child's parents;
- decisions should be made on the basis of ensuring the continued effective and efficient operation of the school;
- generally, it will be assumed that both parents have been involved in any decisions made concerning major long term issues impacting on the school;
- school decisions are based on what is considered to be in the best interests of the child;
- where parents cannot agree between themselves on what is in the child's best interests, it is the role of the court, not the school, to determine those interests;
- the school is not the appropriate place for family disputes to be resolved nor is it appropriate for school staff to resolve such issues;
- decisions should be made in an unbiased manner and as far as reasonably practicable, without favour to either parent;
- the obligations imposed by other legislation, such as the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 also need to be considered when dealing with family law related issues;
- the continued effective and efficient operation of the school and parents' obligations under the Education Act 1990 to ensure their children of compulsory school age attend school or received home schooling take precedence over any interests parents may assert they have under the Family Law Act 1975.

Parents have a responsibility to advise the school immediately if any changes in family circumstances occur which have the potential to impact on the relationship between the school and the parents and/or students. If court orders are obtained by one or both parents, a copy of the orders should be provided to the school as soon as possible.

In the absence of any notification to the contrary (such as a court order), it will be assumed that both parents retain a shared and equal parental responsibility for their children. This means that the school will recognise that each parent has equal duties, obligations, responsibilities and opportunities in relation to matters involving their children's education at the school.

The Department has developed a detailed policy to assist schools to manage family law related issues. The main features of the policy are summarised below -

- in the absence of any court order to the contrary, generally either parent can enrol a child in a government school;
- except in specifically defined circumstances, a child must be enrolled using the name that appears on his or her birth certificate;
- in the absence of court orders to the contrary, each parent is entitled to know at which school his or her child is enrolled;
- generally, each parent will be given the opportunity to participate in school related activities, including teacher/parent interviews and can have access to school documentation relating to his or her child;
- unless specifically authorised by a residential parent, children will not be permitted to leave school during the course of a school day.
APPENDIX 2

The following notice should be provided to parents on a regular basis. While it is anticipated the notice can be incorporated into a variety of school documents (e.g. newsletters, e-mails to parents, information sheets, student diaries, websites), it is up to individual principals to determine how the information is provided and on what frequency.

Important information for parents and students.

The Department recognises that some families will be subject to family breakdown. In the absence of any notification to the contrary, it will be assumed that both parents retain a shared and equal parental responsibility for their children and have been involved in making any decisions regarding their children’s education. This means that the school will recognise that each parent has equal duties, obligations, responsibilities and opportunities in relation to matters involving the school.

If any changes occur in your family relationships which have the potential to impact on the relationship between the school and your family, you are required to advise the school immediately. This includes providing copies of any court orders that may be obtained.
Parents & Citizens News

February P & C Meeting
Hi everyone at Point Clare,
Welcome to the New Year. We have had our first P&C last week and it was good to see some new faces. As we slowly start going through some changes in the P&C a lot of work is being done behind the scenes to ensure a smooth transition as possible and to bring everything up to speed. It’s early in the year so not much to say at the moment so to all at Point Clare Public School let’s make 2013 a good one and anyone who wants to help out at the school, come on board. Thanks
Phil Harland
P & C President

P & C Sub-Committee Position Updates
A HUGE thank you goes out to Peter Rogers who has been undertaking these duties until a permanent replacement was able to be found. Thanks also to Angela Mitchell for agreeing to take on the role of Canteen/Uniform Shop Treasurer.

We have also welcomed some new members to our Canteen/Uniform Shop Committee.

POSITIONS VACANT:
There are still a number of vacancies:

- Fundraising Committee Members
- Environment Committee Members

Remember, all are welcome, so come along to a meeting to find out more about how you can become involved

Katherine Golden
P & C Secretary

Canteen:


Thank you to all those who have joined our Canteen volunteer team; it has been lovely having volunteers from the 2012 team join us again this year, while also meeting many new volunteers for 2013. We are still looking for more volunteers to help fill up our roster so please consider joining us and fill in a volunteer interest form today!

As our school canteen is a P&C run canteen it is the responsibility of our P&C to operate the canteen so that it financially breaks even, ideally it should return a small profit which can help fund projects in the school. Unfortunately over the last few years the canteen has not been able to break even, and the P&C has been taking steps to improve this situation. This year the Canteen sub-committee is also committed to operating the canteen to break even, we are reviewing all elements of the canteen to ensure this is achieved. This has resulted in a new canteen menu and a review of our pricelist, as you would have noticed a few of our items went up in price. This was necessary as our previous pricelist was not covering the cost of our stocked items, our suppliers will also continue to rise their prices as necessary and this is reflected in our price list also. We are committed to providing a healthy canteen menu which is affordable, while still covering canteen costs. We appreciate your understanding of these considerations as we strive to achieve this goal. If you have any concerns in this area we encourage you to join us at the monthly P&C meeting held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Thank you, Canteen & Uniform shop sub-committee

Uniform Shop: OPENING HOURS: Tues 8.30-9.30am

Thank you for all those new and existing volunteers who have committed to helping in the uniform shop this year. The Uniform shop has a strong history of great service in our school and we look forward to another year of achieving the high standards that have been set. We are looking for more volunteers to join this team so if you think this may be something you could help out with please fill in an interest form today!

Remember, if you can’t make it during our opening times you can leave an order at the school office and we will deliver your order to your child in their class.

Thank you,
Canteen & Uniform shop sub-committee

Fundraising:
Welcome everyone to another exciting year at Point Clare Public School.

There are many events happening in our school this year. One of the events is pretty major! In 1988 to celebrate Australia’s Bicentenary, the students and staff of the school created a Time Capsule.

25 Years on, it’s time to Open the Time Capsule!

On the Friday 10 May the school will be putting on a HUGE event to mark this very special occasion.

Past staff and students that were at the school when the time capsule was put together will be invited back to watch its opening. To add to the celebrations, the current staff and students of Point Clare Public School are going to create a new time capsule to be opened in another 25 years.

Along with our regular events which are Easter Raffle, Mother’s day, Father’s day and Carols Night this year we are also planning a Trivia Night and a Market day.

We would also like to quickly thank everyone who is using Farmers Direct to get their Fruit, Veg and other items home delivered. Not only to you get the benefits of having fresh produce delivered to your door regularly, you are also helping your school!

The P&C have a deal with Farmers Direct that when you purchase from them, 2% of the sale comes back to the school, which is paid to the school every six months. In the last six months it was worth $698.00 to our school. So thank you and remember by supporting a local family Business you are supporting your children’s school.

aussiefarmersdirect-gosford@hotmail.com or contact Ryan Burns +61425361633

Fundraising Committee
Jo Monaghan, Kayla McNeill, Angela Mitchell, Jenny Watt
Did you see this article that appeared in the Express Advocate on 6th Feb?
Did you notice where the photo was taken?

School zone safety plea

TAKE CARE WHEN DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP KIDS

Alicia McCamstie

WITH school now back in session, the Ambulance Service of NSW is urging parents to take steps to help reduce the possibility of accidents around schools.

Getting children out the door on time can make for a busy morning and paramedic Greg Wiggins said being late can lead parents to pull up in dangerous and illegal locations to let their children out.

“School gates are busy at the start and end of the day with general peak-hour traffic and new parents and children arriving en masse,” Mr Wiggins said.

“Paramedics are encouraging everyone to think ahead and plan the safe delivery of children to school, with members of the community encouraged to be aware of school zones and the 40km/h speed restriction.

“School zone accidents unfortunately don’t happen every day, but when they do occur they can result in critical injuries that change children, families and drivers’ lives forever.”

Parents are also being urged to only stop in designated zones and not assume a vehicle will see or stop for children on a crossing.

“Parents should drop off and pick up on the same side of the road as the school, but if you have to park on the other side escort your children to and from the school grounds,” Mr Wiggins said.

Greg Wiggins from NSW Ambulance is urging parents to take care when dropping children off at school.

Picture: PETER CLARK

Key reminders:

* Do not stop in the bus zone - even for a minute.
  
  **Fines and loss of demerit points apply**

* Drop off in the No Parking zone.
  
  **Stay with the vehicle for up to 3 minutes only**

* Escort your child across the road.

An initiative of the Point Clare Public School Council’s Traffic Management & Road Safety Committee