Expectations For The New Year

The back to school season is a good time to consider what you expect of your children. Having expectations that are high, yet also realistic, is essential for school success. Think of a balloon. If there’s no air (like no expectations), it’s flat. If you put in too much air (expectations that are too high and impossible to meet), the balloon bursts. Finding the right balance of expectations will stretch children to grow without frustrating them.

Help children develop predictable routines around waking up, getting ready for the day, eating nutritious meals, taking care of their bodies, going to bed at a regular time, and getting enough sleep. Children are more likely to be successful when their routines help them thrive.

Build on your children’s interests. They’re more likely to meet high expectations when they’re doing things they enjoy.

Talk with your children about the goals you’ve set and achieved in your life. Explain how you overcame obstacles to meet your goals.

Expect bumps along the way. Achieving high expectations is not like climbing a ladder where each step is a step up. Expect setbacks and doubts. They’re all part of the process. The key is to work through the difficulties along the way.

Encourage children to grow and develop at their own pace. Don’t compare your child to other children. Some are early walkers. Some are late walkers. Both are normal. Follow your child’s lead.

Watch out for pressures that you place on your child because of your preferences rather than your child’s needs. For example, not all sports-mad parents are going to have sports-mad children.

Give young children extra time to practise new things. Expect the process to be bumpy and slow. Be encouraging and don’t expect perfection.

Have high expectations for homework and schoolwork. Make it easier for your children to do their homework every day by sitting next to them. You can do your own project or work and be available for questions.

Help children break large, difficult tasks into smaller, more manageable tasks. This is called ‘chunking’ and can build confidence as they achieve each part. Find activities that get your children excited. Encourage them to set goals and to have fun at the same time.
Student Safety
Please hold hands with your child if you are crossing the road with them. Keep a close look out for cars. Children who are not with an adult need to cross at the designated pedestrian crossings.
Parents parking in the two drop and kiss zones on Waugh Street are reminded that you must stay within two metres of your car. The purpose is for parents to quickly stop, children enter the car preferably from the curb side and then exit reasonably quickly allowing space for another car. We have noticed that children are riding bikes without helmets. Please abide by the law and insist your child wears a helmet.

Emergency Contact Details
All families need to ensure that their contact details, and those of their emergency contacts, are kept up-to-date. This includes home address, phone number and work/mobile numbers. Please ensure that your emergency contact people listed are still happy to be phoned by the school, if necessary. Please contact the school office if you need to update your information.

Allergies and Medical Conditions
Many students suffer from a range of food, insect and other allergies, as well as other serious medical conditions. It is the responsibility of the parent to complete a health plan which will be housed in the first aid room and read by all involved in the care of your child.
Medical alerts will be produced with your child’s photograph and action required in case of an attack. This is a very serious and important matter and requires immediate action, if not already done.

Book Packs and P&C School Contributions
Thank you to the families who have either paid for the book packs or the voluntary contributions so promptly. We really appreciate it. Please ensure payment is made for the book packs at your earliest convenience and I hope you strongly consider paying the voluntary school contributions.

PSSA Sports Coordinator
Throughout the year students who represent our school at PSSA trials and the various carnivals have to get signatures and pay a levy of $3. This year Mrs O’Reilly is our PSSA sports coordinator and she will sign all notes and collect all levies. If your child does need to return a note and the levy please send in a labelled envelope to Mrs O’Reilly. She has an office in the Student Services building.

Label Everything Please
Please clearly label everything your child brings to school. This includes items such as hats, bags, lunch boxes, drink bottles, jumpers. EVERYTHING!

School Photos
Please aim to have correct school uniform prior to these dates please 25th and 26th March. School shoes and navy socks would also be fantastic.

Wauchope Blues
I’d like to thank the Wauchope Blues Committee members who have donated two sets of rugby league jerseys to our school. I know our boys will wear these with pride.

Cameron Osborne

Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday 25 February**
  - Lower North Coast Swimming Carnival
- **Friday 27 February**
  - Clean Up Australia Day
- **Wednesday 4 March**
  - North Coast Swimming Carnival
- **Wednesday 11 March**
  - Year 3 Excursion to Port Macquarie
  - Stage 3 - Boat Safety Course
  - Dr David Gillespie visit
- **Thursday 12 March**
  - P & C AGM Meeting - 6pm
  - P & C General Meeting - 7pm
- **Monday 16 March - Friday 20 March**
  - Year 6 Canberra Excursion
- **Monday 23 March**
  - Young Leaders Day - Sydney
- **Wednesday 25 March**
  - School Photos - K, 1, 2, 3, 4
- **Thursday 26 March**
  - School Photos - Year 6 Group, SRC, Special Education, 5, 6, Staff
- **Friday 3 April**
  - Good Friday
- **Tuesday 12 May - Thursday 14 May**
  - NAPLAN Test

PBL Focus for the Week (Term 1, Week 4 and 5)
Listen and follow instructions
- Listen to the teacher in the classroom – do your work when asked
- Listen to other adults in the classroom and playground and do what they ask
- Listen to the teacher in the playground – stop when they ask
- Listen to your friends in the playground – stop when they ask you
- Listen to the bell and move to the right place at the right time

Listen! Listen! Listen! Follow Instructions!
HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN AT HOME

Sharing a Book at Home
Together with your child, you can enjoy sharing reading.
Children love to hear a story read aloud.
• Try reading with different voices, lots of emotion, invented sound effects and funny faces. Change the tone in your voice, vary the loudness or softness of your voice.
• Have fun and enjoy.
• It is a good idea to practise reading before sharing a book.
• Listen to your child talk about the story and the pictures.
• Try asking your child which parts of the book he or she found exciting, funny or different.
• Give your child the chance to choose a book to read.
• Try reading to your child and, at other times, ask your child to join in reading the book.
• Let your child hear how, for instance, hill and home start with the same sound or how trouble and bubble rhyme for example.

Work of the Week

Clean Up Australia Day
In 2015, Wauchope Public School will celebrate 25 years of supporting the Clean Up Australia Day program.
Last year, thanks to an estimated 572,406 volunteers, we cleaned up 15,708 tonnes at 7,140 sites. 650 of those volunteers were from Wauchope Public School.
Tomorrow is the 25th Annual Clean Up Australia day. Wauchope Public School is once again registered to participate in this annual clean-up day. This school event is on Friday 27 February at 2.00pm. All students (K-6) will need their gardening gloves to help their class clean up their school environment. Each class has been allocated a set area around the school. Year 5 will clean up the pathway down to the Olympic Pool in preparation for their afternoon sport. Please bring to school gardening gloves and plastic bags that can help store the rubbish.
-John Baker-

P & C News

WPS P&C Association/AGM Meeting
The Wauchope Public School AGM meeting for 2015 is being held on Thursday 12 March 2015 at 6pm in the school staff room; there will be a short break followed by the general meeting at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend; Please be advised that only current financial members are allowed to vote at the AGM.
Positions to be elected at the AGM are:
President - Vice President - Secretary - Treasurer
If you require any further information, please contact Joanne Garrett 0417 852 777

Canteen News

Canteen Roster Term 1 Week 6
Monday 2 Help Needed
Tuesday 3 Lisa M
Wednesday 4 S Reynolds
Thursday 5 Jacki
Friday 27 L Wagner, A-M Campbell

Thank you for all your support.
In case you are unable to work on your allocated day please contact the Canteen Manager, Mrs Nicole O’Hagan prior to the day you are working, to enable her to organise a replacement.

Thank You P&C Association
REMEMBER TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR SCHOOL
WOOSH News

April Vacation Care, Term 2 Pupil Free day 2015 dates are as follows:

• April Vacation Care - Tuesday 7 April to Friday 17 April.
• Pupil Free Day – Monday 20 April

These are up on the board in the Woosh room now. Please come into the centre and place your child’s name on the list with the required days clearly ticked or alternatively give Alex a ring at the centre. The closing date for registration is Friday 13 March 2015. As we have to undergo a priority procedure, please phone Miss Alex on 0412 852 441 at the centre for availability after Tuesday 17 March 2015.

Community News

ALL Under 18 Performers
You invites The Rising Young Stars
All Acts Concert
Open

Brandon St
Watuchope
Behind the Star Hotel

You’re never too old,
too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book
and read to a child.

–Dr. Seuss

Hastings Camden Haven Swimming Carnival
Thanks to Jo Dingle for taking the photos
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.

Principal 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
- 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.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

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 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities