Have you received the alerts via the school app about school activities? Messages have been sent regarding SRC activities, the swimming carnival, a permission note and the newsletter. Some parents have tested the system to communicate with us, and yes it worked. Download the app: it is an easy and quick way to get the messages without having to venture into school bags.

Last week Year 9 students received the results from ESSA, the science based assessment test they completed late last year. Again the results reflected the students’ strong understanding of science, where in three of the four areas, knowledge and understanding, working scientifically and communicating scientifically, the results aligned with state means. In the fourth area of the extended results, our students were above the state average. This reflects the quality of the teaching and learning in our science classrooms.

At Wednesday’s sport, students competed in the individual medleys and 200m events, after completing the other long distance events last Friday. Records have already fallen: Tom Robinson took 5 seconds off the 200m freestyle. So the actual carnival is keenly anticipated. Come along and support the swimmers. Groups of students have been working on house banners to create house spirit, and a lot of people have purchased the house swimming caps. It should be a day of water and colour. Unfortunately I will miss the event – a two day principal meeting at Dubbo.

We are in the process of coordinating The ANZAC project. Next week students in Years 7 - 10 will get the opportunity to select one of the projects that they will complete over five weeks, ready to show and present for the Anzac commemoration in April. Students are able to develop their own project. They can pick up a proposal sheet from the front office. Some students have already spoken about family members and some of the memorabilia that they have at home and how they can tell those stories.

Attached to this week’s newsletter is the latest Department of Education and Communities policy on attendance. Please read: it is informative and has some useful advice. There has been a change: students on family holiday will now be recorded as on leave, not exempted from school as was the previous case. If you have concerns about your student’s attendance, please talk to the school. Research consistently shows that students with high attendance rates experience greater success and satisfaction with schooling, including their participation in school life.

Margaret Carey
Principal.

P&C Calendar for 2015

Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 March AGM followed by normal meeting</td>
<td>Bulb drive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7pm in school library (school social).</td>
<td>Bowls night.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Street stall 13 March - donations can be left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at office from Wednesday 11 March onwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cakes, plants and craft.</td>
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</table>

Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 May 7pm in library.</td>
<td>Mother’s Day raffle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 June 7pm in library.</td>
<td>Fun run – in conjunction with school cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Henry Lawson Festival Concert – catering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>donation of cakes and slices.</td>
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</table>
Canteen Roster

Week commencing 16 February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Ann Best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Shirley Mawhinney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Tristen Matthews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Helen Carpenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Kelly Thomson-Jones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have you downloaded The Henry Lawson High School app?

Search "The Henry Lawson High School" on the iTunes or Google Play store and download - it's free!

Swimming club news

Congratulations to all our swimmers who attended the Parkes Carnival. Special congratulations must go to Kiarna Carroll, Tom Robinson and Mikayla Hughes who all received medals. Mikayla came second in her butterfly event and has qualified for the upcoming Brophy meet in Canberra.

Thanks to all the Quandialla swimmers who joined us last Friday. It was great experience for all our swimmers and we look forward to having you join us next season.

Club championships will be held on the dates as advertised throughout the season. There will be no changes. We are bound by the laws of our constitution which state that any changes to decisions which arise from an AGM require an extraordinary meeting for which three weeks notice must be given.

The dates remain as:
- Friday 20 February – first championship night;
- Friday 27 February – second championship night.

As swimming club will finish before the pool closes, there are plans to hold some informal club nights to provide race practice for those swimmers who are in training for representative carnivals – and those who just want to keep swimming!

This week’s long event will be the 200m Individual Medley. You must nominate for this before 5pm on Friday. The 100m freestyle will also be run. You must choose one or the other – NOT both this week!

The Business House Relays are on this Sunday. Gates open at 5pm. Cost $5 per family or $2 per single. We love our swimmers to be involved. Let Leann know if you can swim and she will put you in a team.

Other dates for your diary:
- Monday 10 March – meeting in club room at 8pm.
- Friday 13 March – presentation night – at the pool. Please bring a sweet or salad to share. Swimming club will provide meat and bread. Swimmers will be provided with a drink. Families are also asked to bring their own drinks, plates, utensils and chairs.

The triathlon planned for this year will be held over until next season. We are looking to form a sub-committee of interested ‘triathletes’ to continue the organisation of this exciting event.

Timekeeper/raffle roster for 13 February:
- Fenton, Heathcote, Reid, Ewers, Johnson (M&R), Capra, McMahon

Year 9 assignments/homework

What’s going on:
⇒ Be aware of footwear.
⇒ Meals on wheels note to come back.
⇒ Laptop notes ASAP.
⇒ Tuesday 17 February week 8: Year 9 lunch in COLA. Groups 2 and 3 to bring items to the value of $5. eg fruit, shapes.

Homework
- Food Tech: essay Aboriginal food.
- Geography: unique Australia (in-class).
- History: assessment task.
- PE group 3: young people collage.

Year 9 students should do a minimum of 10 minutes per night of revision as well as completing all homework and assessments.

Year 8 assignments/homework

Music: build your own instrument.
English: myths and legends.

Please let the school know if you have any changed details such as address, phone numbers or student health requirements.

DANCE ENSEMBLE NEWS

Dance ensemble practice will be held on Monday afternoons from 3.30 - 5pm starting week 4. The cost will be $10. See Ms McCulloch for further information.
**For Sale**

2008 Hyundai Getz manual hatch: silver; low mileage (67000kms); excellent service history; very good order; 4 star ANCAP rating; rego until 24 June 2015. $6000 ono. **Ideal first car.**

Phone 0423169194 or text car for call back.

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**CSU MyDay**

CSU MyDay have released their calendar of upcoming open days for various courses.

MyDay for Exercise and Sport Science, Health and PE, Sports Journalism at Bathurst; Medical Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Radiation Science at Wagga Wagga; and Early Childhood, Primary Teaching, Nursing and Social Work at Dubbo have opened for registration.

See Ms McCulloch for details.

**Global Latitude**

Interested in volunteering in your gap year? Global Latitude supports young people in unique and rewarding placements in a number of countries such as Canada, China, Fiji, India, Japan, Malawi, Poland, United Kingdom, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Argentina and Australia.

What can you do?

- school assistant
- sports coach
- outdoor activities instructor
- community worker
- medical assistant
- teacher
- caring assistant.

**RSA Course (Responsible Service of Alcohol)**

A course will be running in Grenfell on 15 February 2015 at Grenfell TAFE. Cost $180. Students must be turning 18 in 2015 to sit the course. Contact Gavin Johnson on ghj69 @Hotmail.com to text 0417274423 ASAP.

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**The National Youth Science Forum**

Over the summer holidays I travelled to Canberra to participate in the Nation Youth Science Forum for 12 days. It was hosted at the Australian National University in Canberra where we were provided with accommodation and incredible facilities. The NYSF selects 400 students each year from all over the country including several international students from Canada, Germany and New Zealand. The 12 days on camp provided fantastic opportunities to visit to the top laboratories in Canberra as well as tourist sites including the War Memorial and the National Gallery. Our lab visits allowed us the opportunity to see first hand science in industry and educated us on many different career paths and opportunities that could be taken in any chosen field of science. We also had the opportunity to receive lectures from leading scientists from all over the country speaking on a broad range of topics, from the functions of the human brain to forensic sciences. The forum was also very informative about attending universities and how to apply for scholarships as well as surviving the HSC. We also had the opportunity to visit Parliament House for our opening ceremony and attend formal dinners that allowed us the chance to meet leading scientists as well as Rotary members that have helped to make the NYSF possible. It was an awesome networking opportunity where I met scientists and students from all over the country and the world and strongly encourage any Year 11 students interested in a career in science to apply because it really is a fantastic experience.

Finlay Johnson.

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**CAREER NEWS**

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Finlay Johnson.
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
- Gives 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.

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.
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.

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 resuming 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.

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 0244 5129

www.dfe.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities
MyDay offers high school students the unique opportunity to experience a day in the life of a uni student.

Have you ever wondered what it’s really like to go to university? MyDay can help you decide on a course to study by giving you a taste of living and learning on campus, as well as providing useful course information. You will also receive key information about opportunities and support available, and helpful advice about how to make your goals achievable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MyDay</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Information on</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercise and Sports Sciences</td>
<td>Bathurst</td>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>Exercise and Sport Science, Health and Physical Education, Sports Journalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Sciences, Medical Radiation Sciences and Nursing</td>
<td>Wagga Wagga</td>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>Medical Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Radiation Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching, Nursing and Social Work</td>
<td>Dubbo</td>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>Early Childhood and Primary, Nursing, Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Psychology, Social Work</td>
<td>Wagga Wagga</td>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and Creative Industries</td>
<td>Bathurst</td>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>Advertising, Radio, Journalism, Sports Journalism, Public Relations, Theatre / Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>Clinical Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Bathurst</td>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>Clinical Practice (Paramedic), Nursing</td>
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<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Albury-Wodonga</td>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting, Business and Information Technology</td>
<td>Wagga Wagga</td>
<td>29 April</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Accounting, Business Studies, Management, Marketing, Information Technology</td>
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<td>Information Technology and Computing</td>
<td>Bathurst</td>
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<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Community Health</td>
<td>Albury-Wodonga</td>
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<td>Health and Rehabilitation, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatric Medicine, Speech and Language Pathology</td>
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<td>Accounting and Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching and Education</td>
<td>Bathurst</td>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>Early Childhood and Primary, K-12, Health and Physical Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching and Education</td>
<td>Wagga Wagga</td>
<td>9 June</td>
<td>Early Childhood and Primary, K-12, Technology and Applied Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>10 June</td>
<td>Agriculture HSC Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Albury-Wodonga</td>
<td>11 June</td>
<td>Early Childhood and Primary, K-12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Communication and Creative Industries | Wagga Wagga     | 12 June    | Agriculture HSC Workshops
*The Graham Centre’s Year 10 Agriculture Enrichment Day will not run concurrently on this day |
| InfoDay                           | Port Macquarie   | 25 June    | Information day for courses offered at Port Macquarie Campus                  |
| Policing and Criminal Justice     | Bathurst         | 18 June    | Criminal Justice, Policing                                                    |
| Communication and Creative Industries | Wagga Wagga   | 26 and 28 August (Year 10) | Animation and Visual Effects, Acting for Stage and Screen, Graphic Design, Photography, Television Production |
| Engineering                       | Bathurst         | 18 June    | Engineering - new course commencing in 2016                                |

Register your interest for these MyDay events at: www.csu.edu.au/myday

*Subject to change or cancellation if insufficient numbers