

## Principal Newsletter to Parents

It has certainly been a busy start to the year and I would like to thank our staff for their hard work and commitment to our students. Walking around the school, visiting classes and also being visited by students showing me their wonderful work has been a pleasure and it is great to see how engaged and on task our students are.

### Sports for Schools

For those parents who shop at Coles, we would love it if you could collect the 'Sports for Schools' vouchers. There is a collection box in the office at school and also one at Coles in Tweed Mall. These are much appreciated as they go towards getting sporting equipment for our school.

### School Parking Zones – recent changes to penalties

The NSW government have recently updated school parking zone offences by increasing fines and demerit points. Please note that these offences all now carry 2 demerit points when committed in a school zone. There have been reports of council officers enforcing these rules recently at the front of the school. For the information of parents these new penalties are as follows:

1. Stopping in intersection - \$439 and 2 demerit points.
2. Stop within 20m of intersection (traffic lights) - \$439 and 2 demerit points.
3. Stop within 10m of intersection (no traffic lights) - \$439 and 2 demerit points.
4. Stop near bicycle crossing lights - \$439 and 2 demerit points.
5. Obstruct access to ramp/path/passageway - \$330 and 2 demerit points.
6. Not parallel park in the direction of travel - \$330 fine and 2 demerit points.
7. Parallel park close to dividing line - \$330 fine and 2 demerit points.

### Driving and Parking Safely near your school

I am aware that the parking situation has been an ongoing area of concern for parents, however we can only abide by the existing laws and regulations at any given time. The Department has provided us with this list of suggestions to share with our school community:

- follow all parking signs - these help keep your child as safe as possible
- park responsibly even if it means you have to walk further to the school gate
- never call out to them from across the road - it is very dangerous
- never double park - it is illegal and puts children at risk
- never do a U-turn or a three point turn outside the school as it puts children at risk of harm
- model safe and considerate pedestrian and driver behaviours to your child
- always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
- always take extra care in 40km school zones

### Buddy Readers

Buddy Reading is a great activity where older students read to their younger 'buddies' and vice versa. I would greatly encourage all parents to spend 10 minutes reading with their child (or longer!) each day.



*What great buddies!*

### School Grounds Upgrades

We have allocated some funding to enhancing our beautiful school grounds over the course of 2018 and have made some tentative plans which will be the subject of further consultation with staff and students. I am certainly open to any suggestions from parents in this area, if you have any ideas we'd love to hear them.

***Yours in education***

***Peter Nichols – Principal***

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