Dear Plumpton Public School Community,

18 February 2015

I trust the first few weeks of school have been rewarding and full of learning for the students. All classes have settled-in well and the children are busy working hard.

I am constantly impressed by the commitment of the staff here at Plumpton PS. When I have conversations with them the dedication they have to doing the very best for our students is abundantly clear.

PLAYGROUND GAMES
Our students love playing touch football and soccer on the grass area or handball under the covered area during recess and lunch times. We are noticing that these games are becoming very competitive. We are constantly reminding the students about playing the right way.

Could you please help us at home by reinforcing the message that recess and lunch time games are for fun – it’s not about winning or losing. This will help make it a much more enjoyable experience for the children to be playing with their friends. We will keep working with our students in this area.

HATS ON THE PLAYGROUND
A REMINDER: Without their school hat, students are not allowed to play on the grass areas. School hats are available at the uniform shop for $10.00 each. The uniform shop is open each Monday and Thursday, in the morning from 8.30am-9am and in the afternoon from 2.30pm-3pm

STUDENT MEDICAL FORMS
New Department of Education medical forms were sent home with every student earlier this term. These forms must be returned to school by February 20.

Please make sure that you print the name of your child on the form – we have received 7 forms with no names written on them. Please contact the office if you think one of these may have been yours.

Your child will not be able to attend excursions, PSSA or other out of school events unless their form is completed and returned.
**TELL THEM FROM ME – STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY**

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in the *Tell Them From Me* survey. A note was sent home to each family. However, the survey is only for students in Years 4-6.

The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: [http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents](http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents)

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form as well as some frequently asked questions are available from the website above.

**IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The NSW Department of Education *School Attendance Policy & Procedures* have been revised for 2015.

I would like to particularly draw your attention to the following important information:

- Parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school within **seven school days** from the first day of any period of absence
- Principals will ensure the school has effective measures in place to **monitor and follow up** student absences

Principals are responsible for ensuring that when **frequent absences** are explained as being **due to illness** that:

- **Consultation occurs with parents** regarding the health care needs of the student and medical certificates are sought for the absences
- **Consultation occurs with medical professionals** regarding the student’s health care needs and strategies are developed to address the student’s learning and support needs to ensure their attendance at school

For **part day exemption** due to the requirements of a health care plan, the principal should seek the parents’ consent to obtain information from health professionals responsible for the health care of the child.

Principals must ensure that any matter relating to school attendance where **safety, welfare or wellbeing** concerns for the student arise:

- Consideration is given to the requirements of the Protecting and Supporting Children and Young People Policy
- All required reports are made to the Community Services Child Protection Helpline or the Child Wellbeing Unit (as required by the Mandatory Reporter Guide).

**Exemption from school attendance can no longer be granted** for students travelling for reasons such as the purpose of a **family holiday**, family business, bereavement or other reasons during school terms.

**A MESSAGE FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS – STUDENTS GOING INTO YEAR 7 IN 2016**

In NSW DEC schools, the enrolment of Year 6 students into Year 7 for the following year occurs as a state-wide process commencing in March. As part of this process, you will receive an Expression of Interest form on March 9 to be completed and returned to school by March 20.

I am looking forward to a busy term!

Ms M Larkin  
Principal
ZERO TOLERANCE FOR VIOLENCE
At PPS, we believe that violence is unacceptable. Now and again, our students make mistakes, but we continue to work with them every day to resolve issues in other ways.

It’s not enough that the school has a zero tolerance to violence – if you see violence, don’t be silent – report it – it must be a whole community effort.

Zero tolerance to violence in our community!

LIBRARY NEWS
It is hard to believe that we are well and truly into the first term of our new school year. Very soon your child will bring home a Library brochure. This brochure contains important information and happenings in the Library for this year. It also contains the Library timetable so you can see when your child’s class has Library.

This year Book Club wants to keep you in the LOOP (Linked Online Ordering & Payment system for Parents). This means that you can order and pay online at home but the books are still delivered to the school and our school still earns reward points to purchase books. So there is no need to fill out forms and have the correct money or return anything to the school. In addition, it allows you to look at all the catalogues online not just the one handed out for your child’s age group. To get into the loop just go to the App Store to download the app for the iPad or iPhone or go to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP.

PEC Citizenship Continuum
Stage 3 will be having an information session explaining the requirements to complete the PEC Cit Con Certificate for Year 5 and the Medal for Year 6. We will be conducting this session on Friday Week 5 (27/2) in the Hall straight after lunch (2pm). Any parents who wish to attend the session are more than welcome. If you would like a brochure explaining the PEC Citizenship Continuum for your child’s year please feel free to visit me in the Library after school.
Bronwyn Bailey
Teacher Librarian

SWIMMING TIME TRIALS
On Monday 16th February, fourteen keen swimmers headed to Mt Druitt Swimming Centre to participate in our time trials.

The following students are to be commended for their outstanding effort and sportsmanship; Katie Toogood, Bryce Kinsey, Ebony Furneyvall, Nicholas Penney, Kelly Gentles, Connor Childs, Emma Wilson, Matthew Gentles, Kavleen Kaur, Liam Toussaint, Todd Woods, Shivendra Nand, Bradley Penney, Amelia Furneyvall.

Seven students swam particularly well and will be representing Plumpton Public School at Blacktown PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival. These students are; Matthew Gentles, Nicholas Penney, Katie Toogood, Bryce Kinsey, Shivendra Nand, Kelly Gentles and Todd Woods.

A huge thank you to all the parents who helped with transport and time keeping.
Mrs Devlin

PAYMENTS
All payments for excursions, camp, activities etc must be paid by the advised closing date and put into the chute in the office counter. Please ensure you have enclosed the correct money (no change will be given) in an envelope clearly marked with child’s name, class, activity and amount. Please use separate envelopes for each activity.
BLACKTOWN BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

 cordially invites
Years 5 and 6 Parents and students
to the
Year 7 2015
Information Afternoon
on
Wednesday, 4 March, 2015
at
4.30 to 5.30pm
Blacktown Boys' High School Library
Fern Avenue
Blacktown

• Explore the best choices for your son's future.
• Consider the benefits of a boys' school, which values learning, respect and safety.
• Gifted and Talented Program information available.
• Selective High School attachment test information.
• Meet and mingle with teachers, staff and other students.

For further information or to confirm attendance for catering purposes, please contact the school:
Phone: 9632 1244 Fax: 9631 2082
Email: blacktown-high@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.blacktownboys.high.nsw.edu.au

We look forward to seeing you.

THE HILLS SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL
OPEN AFTERNOON
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2015, 3.30pm-6pm

2015 Year 8 students and their parents are invited to attend this free open evening for Year 8 students, Year 9 parents and students, and anyone interested in learning more about our school. There will be tours of the school at 5pm, 5.30pm and 6pm.

Tours of the school will occur every half hour until 6pm.

Talented Sports Program
Visit www.hillsboys.high.nsw.edu.au for more information on the Talented Sports Program.

Talented Sports Program Open Night
An information evening will be conducted for parents and students interested in the Talented Sports Program on Tuesday 11th August 2015 at 5pm in the school's Learning Centre. Some sports on offer include AFL, Athletics, Basketball, Chess/Board Games, Golf, Netball, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Swimming, Taekwondo, Tennis, Touch Football, and Water Polo.

Sport and Fitness Trials will be held in May and June 2015.
Talented Sports applications close Monday 18th May 2015.

Blacktown Boys’ High School
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DONNA JEANS DANCE FORCE

CALL TO DANCE WITH US TODAY.

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P&C NEWS

UNIFORM SHOP.
MONDAY AND THURSDAY 8.30-9AM AND 2.30-2.55PM.
CASH ONLY

HIGH ENERGY
BELIEVE & YOU WILL ACHIEVE!

WHY
• Two large purpose-built Dance Studios
• CCCTV for security, peace of mind
• Classes from 2 1/2 Years - Adults
• Beginner - Professional
• Affordable, term tuition for Boys & Girls
• Fun, Friendly, Welcoming Environment
• FIRST CLASS STREET

TOO LATE TO
CONTACT
STUDIO | 8/78 Glendening Rd, Glendening 2761
PH | (02) 9135 7338
MOB | 0404 852 079 or 0450 949 466
EMAIL | info@highenergydance.com.au
WEB | www.highenergydance.com.au

If you see anything suspicious on school grounds after hours please phone:
The School Security Hotline:
1300 880 021

DIVE IN MOVIES
at Mount Druitt Swimming Centre
ICE AGE 4
Float in the pool or set up a family picnic on the grass as you relax and enjoy a movie under the stars.
Saturday 14 March 2015
Doors open 5pm and the movie will begin at 5:30pm.
Cost: $8.00 per adult
$2.00 per child
$10.00 per family (includes 2 adults and up to 3 school aged children)
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
DONT MISS OUT!
For more information call (02) 9625 6380
Mount Druitt, Northern Suburbs

Garage Sale
When: Saturday 28/02/2015
Time: 8am to 3pm
Where: 42 Cannery Road, Plumpton
What: Furniture, clothing and various items

Open Day Mt Druitt Swimming Pool ~ Free Entry
Saturday 28th February, 10am-4pm

Everyone is welcome.
Come along and join the fun
Enjoy a sausage sizzle and deadly entertainment.

Mt Druitt Says "No" to Ice and other Substance Abuse