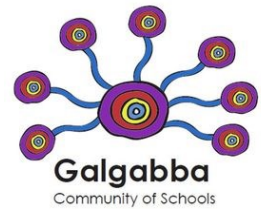


# Nordsy News

## Term 1 Week 10

### Friday, 5 April 2024



#### From Meg's Desk

I trust everyone enjoyed a four-day weekend (and two 4 days weeks in a row). From the conversations I have had with our students they certainly seemed to have an amazing time with family and friends.

As we draw towards the end of the term it is always nice to reflect on the term. Term 1 this year has been busy and productive;

- Years 3 and 5 completed their NAPLAN assessments complete with the P&C provided breakfast
- We held our Easter Raffle and Parade and made money to put towards our sandpit and mud kitchen.
- Participated in netball with a former Diamond, funded through a grant from Sports in Schools
- Saw Kindergarten complete their first term at school
- Had a whole school fire evacuation drill
- Started our 2024 Semester One Nordsy Ninjas
- Ran like we were chasing the ice cream truck at our Cross country
- Participated in PSSA Zone trials, mountain biking and Zone swimming
- Sent our debaters to a workshop to support them with skill development
- Had our Term 1 Parent Teacher Interviews
- We made the news
- We even got a bus shelter, footpath and improved the entryway to the school.

I cannot wait to see what Term 2 will bring us.

In line with changes to new and emerging Health and Safety guidelines across the state, NSW Department of Education is implementing 'time to switch off'. To protect and safeguard teacher wellbeing and bring staff back to the profession, NSW DoE are reviewing systems to protect employee health and wellbeing and ensure our staff come to school best placed to do the important work that we do with our young people.

As a parent or carer, you are an important part of our school community. We know that you play a crucial role in helping your child become a motivated learner. Communication between our school and our community is critical for us to partner together.

To give our teachers the opportunity to recharge, spend time with their families and bring their best creative selves to work, we are setting clear expectations for when and how they respond to communication outside school operating hours. This means teachers may not reply to non-emergency messages or emails outside of school operating hours.

Please use the school's email address for non-emergencies in the first instance or call the school directly on 4976 1257. Our staff will respond to your queries within 2 school days under normal circumstances.

For longer discussions or complex matters, we ask parents and carers to make an appointment to speak to teachers directly, at a time that works best for everyone.

Our staff will always stay in touch because open communication is what's best for your child and their education. We don't want you to stop communicating with your teachers – we still want to hear from you if you have any questions or need to discuss a matter about your child. We know it's often easier to send emails or messages after work. We will make sure we read and respond in school operating hours.

Our dedicated teachers want to help our students achieve their best – we're on the same team.

Thank you for treating our staff with kindness and respect. I have attached the school and community charter below.

**NSW GOVERNMENT**

# School Community Charter

**Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

The following School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

**What our schools provide**  
NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

**The best education happens when parents and schools work together.**  
The School Community Charter aligns with the NSW Department of Education Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022.

**Positive environments**  
It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

Parents and carers can expect:  
- To be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.  
- Communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.  
- Professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.  
- To be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

**Ensuring respectful learning environments for all members of NSW Public Schools communities.**

© NSW Department of Education

**We create collaborative learning environments**

**We work in partnership to promote student learning**

**We all play our part**

**We treat each other with respect**

**We prioritise the wellbeing of all students and staff**

**Unsafe behaviour is not acceptable in our schools**

**We work together with the school**

**Communicating with our schools**  
Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process:  
[education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students](https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students).

**Respectful communication is a right**  
In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

**Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:**

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.

**Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

**School Community Charter**  
education.nsw.gov.au

## ANZAC Day Service

Our ANZAC Memorial garden is taking shape. We were fortunate enough to receive a grant from The Department of Veterans Affairs and we also received a generous donation from both Swansea RSL and Swansea RSL Sub Branch (Catherine Hill Bay). The garden will be used as both a place for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services, and also as a place of reflection for students, staff and the community to remember the sacrifices made by service men and women past and present.

We will be holding our inaugural ANZAC Memorial Service on Wednesday, 1 May 2024 at 2.15pm. Please spread the word to your family and friends. We would love to see as many families and community members here for this special event as possible.

We had eight students recently represent the school at the Hunter PSSA Mountain Bike event at Glenrock. Hendrix S, Colby, Angus, Harry, Jackson, Cooper C, Oscar and Lenny represented our school and did an amazing job navigating some muddy terrain.

Colby placed 10th in his age division and Angus placed 11th in his. What an incredible achievement. Congratulations to our incredible competitors.



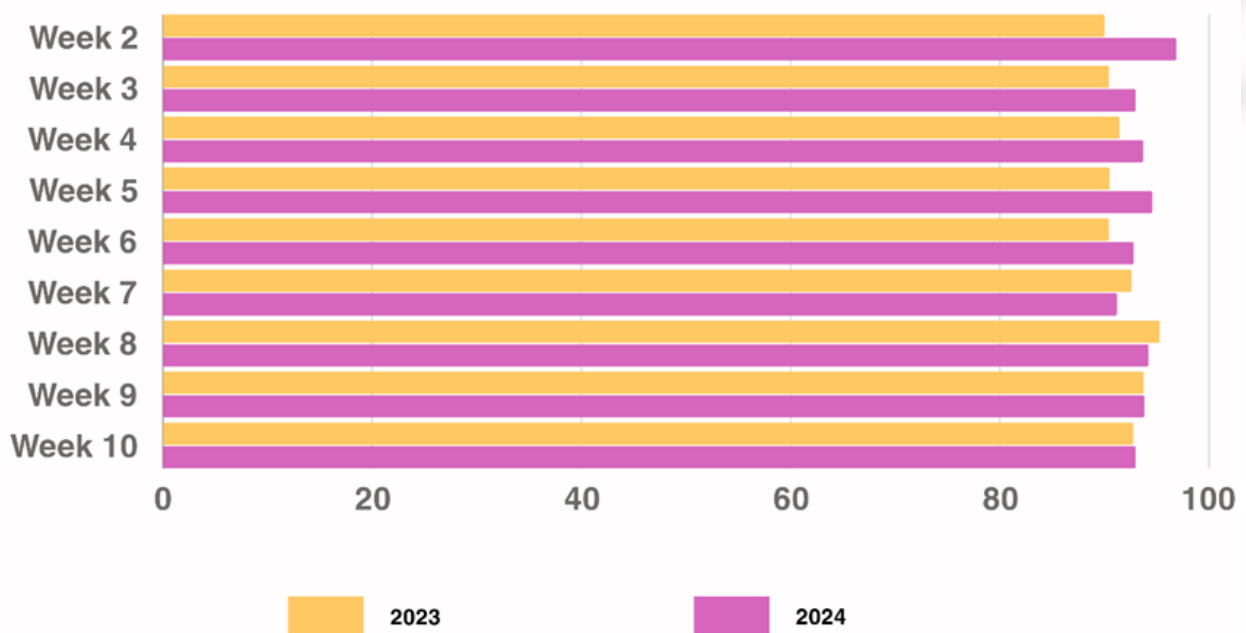
## NEWS FROM ADAM PENBERTHY—ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL K-2

We are pleased to report significant improvements in our school-wide attendance this term when compared to the same period in 2023. Our data reveals consistent progress overall, with attendance figures in 2024 consistently ranging between 93% and 94%, compared to the previous year's range of 90% to 93%. However, it's noted that Week 7 this year saw a slight dip compared to the same period last year. Despite this, we are on track to achieve the NSW Premier's attendance target of 95% each week and with just a little more attention to keeping absences for illness or principal-approved leave. Nords Wharf Public School can absolutely be one of the few schools across the state that achieve this target.

We thank our entire school community for their commitment in explaining all absences (via Sentral for Parents, writing a note or contacting the office) as we strive to hit the ambitious target having 100% of absences explained. We are currently sitting at 99.2%!

Nords Wharf Public School is committed to fostering a culture of regular attendance and accountability among its students and families. Thank you for your ongoing support.

### NORDS WHARF PS ATTENDANCE 2023 AND 2024 COMPARISON



### Parent teacher interviews

Our Parent-Teacher Interviews commenced this week and will run through until Friday, 12th April 2024. Online bookings have now closed but you can still book an interview by speaking to your child's teacher directly or by phoning the office.

Interviews are scheduled for a duration of 10 minutes and will take place within your child's classroom. Additionally, we offer the flexibility of conducting interviews over the phone, should that be your preference. To arrange a phone interview, please communicate directly with your child's teacher after securing your appointment time. We look forward to meaningful discussions about your child's progress.

### Spotlight on Wilayi (pronounced Will-i-ee)

The students of Wilayi have thoroughly enjoyed their netball lessons with Coach Kath, through the Sport In Schools program. They have developed passing and catching skills, explored the rules of netball and practiced being a team player, while enjoying various fun games and drills. Wilayi have also completed a unit on measurement in Mathematics last fortnight. We have become much better estimators and brilliant at measuring length, area, volume and mass. Our self portraits are almost complete. We can't wait to display our artworks in the office foyer next term!



## FROM THE DESK OF NICK WLODARCZYK - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL 3-6

### Spotlight on Muwani (pronounced Mu-wah-nee)

What an amazing first term it has been for Muwani! A focus for our literacy lessons over the past few weeks has been note taking. Students have then used their notes to write persuasive and informative texts. We've been able to use the computers in the library for our research. In music lessons, we have been having fun with boomwhackers! The students have enjoyed engaging in Science lessons with Mr Penberthy and watched their seeds sprout and a sweet potato grow leaves! We are so fortunate to have Mrs Moore supporting us in everything that we do. Thank you, Mrs Moore!

Events we have enjoyed this term: NAPLAN breakfast (Year 3), Harmony Day, Netball school sport program, Easter Hat Parade, being Attendance winners!

Upcoming Events for 2/3- Class visit by Mr Begnell and Mrs Stewart about Aboriginal culture and language, Rewards Day and holidays!



## Sport Update

### NSW PSSA Knockout Team Selection

Stella E, Maya M, Brae S, Nixon L, Izaak H and Elijah B attended the ELMPSSA Girls' and Boys' Soccer Trials at Lake Macquarie Football Centre, Speers Point on Tuesday, 2nd April. Our students did an exceptional job, representing Nords Wharf PS to the highest standard. Unfortunately, we did not have any students qualify for the team. However, they can hold their head's high as they did their personal best performance at the trials.

### Blues 9s Rugby League Gala Day

Our Stage 3 students have been invited to participate in the National Rugby League (NRL) Blues 9s - Paul Harragon Under 12's Carnival on Thursday, 11 April 2024 at Hunter Barnett Fields in Windale. This tackle event is non-competitive and has an emphasis on fun and participation. We can't wait to tackle this event head on!

### ELMPSSA Zone Cross Country Carnival

Strap on those running shoes and get ready for a day of athleticism and excitement at the ELMPSSA Zone Cross Country Carnival! Mark your calendars for Friday, May 10, 2024, as 24 of our young champions gear up to conquer Kurkullbah Reserve, home to the Allen Davis Field and Ernie Calland Field. Let's cheer them on as they sprint towards victory!

### Athletics Carnival

This year, we are thrilled to announce that we will be trialing the Fearnley Dawes Athletics Track in Newcastle as our new venue for our school Athletics Carnival. The carnival is open to students from Years 3 to 6, as well as Year 2 students who will be turning 8 in 2024. Mark your calendars, as the carnival will take place on Friday, 3rd May. Detailed information regarding the event's schedule and other finer details will be sent out shortly. We look forward to a day filled with fun, sportsmanship, and participation from our students. Stay tuned for more updates!

### K-2 Athletics Carnival

On Friday, 3 May to coincide with the primary athletics carnival, K-2 will be having our own mini athletics carnival at school! Following the success of our K-2 water fun day, Gecko Sports will again be onsite running a variety of athletics events e.g. running races, shot put and a modified high jump for students to display their athletic prowess and earn points for their sports house. The event will run from 9.30-11.30am at a cost of \$10 per student. A permission note will be sent home via Sentral shortly.

### Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Lenny G for being selected in the Hunter Regions Primary Boys Australian Football team. The event will take place on 22-24 May in Albury. We know you will do Nords Wharf PS and Hunter School Sports Association proud.



### PBL Update

We're about to turn up the volume on fun as we gear up for our PBL Rewards Day on Wednesday, April 10, where we are rolling out the red carpet to celebrate our safe, respectful learners! From ice cream dreams to lip sync battles, this day promises to be a whirlwind of excitement. PeBbLes says, everyone, everywhere, everytime!

Our SRE educators make fortnightly contributions to our newsletter to inform and share the content from lesson.

**A message from our Special Religious Education (SRE) Coordinator Rozelle Laidlaw**

About **GodSpace** lessons:

- *The curriculum uses the Question, Explore, Discover model. This model allows children to investigate the Bible and Christian life, in order that they may make connections with their own life and make up their own minds.*
- *It is a space for children to explore who God is and what God has done and to consider how they might respond to God's invitation to be part of His work in the world today.*
- *SRE Teachers teach the Christian faith in schools and share the good news of Jesus in ways that are inclusive, respectful and support educational outcomes across the curriculum.*
- *GodSpace is centred on the Bible. God reveals Himself and invites people into friendship with Him. A place to be together where students and teachers can encounter the God who created the universe, rescued humanity and has a plan for their lives.*

**Unit 2**

Bible Verse: Jesus said, "I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullness." John 10:10 (CEV adapted).

Jesus has begun calling his close disciples, teaching about God, healing illnesses and demonstrating his authority as God's Son.

**Lesson 5**

Big idea: Jesus came to meet people's deepest need - to be made right with God. As God's Son, He has authority to forgive people's sins.

Students will consider what life looks like when someone experiences forgiveness of sins and how that can positively impact their relationships. This lesson is about four friends who brought their paralysed friend for Jesus to heal. Jesus' response to those around Him provides insight into who He is and the life He comes to bring. Jesus acknowledges the men's faith by addressing the paralysed man's greatest need first - his need to be made right with God. He says, 'My friend, your sins are forgiven.' Understanding forgiveness, is choosing to show kindness to someone who has wronged you.

**Lesson 6.**

Big idea: Jesus invites everyone to be his friends, no matter who they are or what they have done. This is a powerful truth for students to hear! Jesus calls Levi to a new way of living which Levi marks with a celebratory dinner. Tax collectors and Jesus' disciples along with many other guests come together to share a meal. Tax collectors were the type of people who were disliked for they collected extra money to keep for themselves and broke lots of God's rules in the way they did their job. Tax collectors were known for being 'bad' and 'sinful'. Nevertheless, Jesus approaches Levi and says, 'Follow me' (NIV). Jesus calls Levi to come as he is and invites him to be one of his twelve disciples. Jesus open and gracious acceptance, mustn't be mistaken as Jesus' condoning Levi's behaviour. Rather, Jesus is giving Levi a choice about who he will follow - Jesus or himself.

Accepting Jesus' offer of friendship can be life changing and positively impact their relationships.

**Rozelle Laidlaw**  
**SRE Coordinator**



Wishing all our students and staff with  
birthdays in March,  
a wonderful month of celebrating.



**HAPPY**  
*Birthday*  
**APRIL**

**ATTICUS, WINTER,  
KYRAN, ELI, FLYNN,  
CRONJE, CAPRI,  
MACKENZIE, AMELIE,  
MAYA, TAYLA AND  
MRS WILSON**

