

KINGYSPIRIT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 | TERM 2 | WEEK 4 | 15 MAY 2023

PRINCIPAL'S COLUMN

Attendance Update

We have been working to streamline communication around attendance and enable greater opportunity to parents to respond to absence in a timely manner. The daily SMS will still be sent to notify parents of a student's absence. You are encouraged to respond to this message to explain your child's absence for example 'Little Johnny is sick today'. These messages may sometimes be understandably overlooked and so a follow up SMS will be sent on a Monday lunchtime capturing any absences from the previous week that still need justifying. NSW Department of Education regulations require an explanation within 7 days of the absence and so it is hoped that any outstanding absences can be explained by reply to this or the first text.

For additional information please refer to the 'Compulsory school attendance' document included in this week's newsletter.

STEM Olympiad

A huge thank you to Mr Wiggins and his team for the fantastic STEM Olympiad they facilitated on Friday 28 April. Incorporating primary and secondary students, universities and industries over 100 young people participated in a variety of exciting and engaging activities around technology. Tasks involving problem solving and teamwork challenged participants to think creatively and explore their possible solutions. This is just one of the many opportunities that Mr Wiggins and the STEM team are offering students in addition to the professional learning of staff.

Lockdown Drill

Each year we are required to practice three separate emergency drills so that staff and students understand their roles in the event of an actual emergency. In Week 3 of this term, we held a Lockdown Drill which is not as scary as it sounds. The reality behind these procedures are twofold: to ensure staff and students are safe in an emergency situation and to limit the exposure of staff or students to unsafe situations. The effective use of these procedures can in many cases be preventative and should not be a cause for alarm. In the event of an emergency, communication will be distributed to all families via SMS and email.

HSC Drama Troupe

Kingscliff High School Year 12 Drama class had an action-packed day on Wednesday 3 May, traveling down to Xavier Catholic College in Skennars Head to attend the regional HSC Group Devising Day. The day was filled with learning techniques in how to devise original engaging theatre as they begin their journey in the Group Performance process. Four different devising workshops were offered by professional theatre practitioners in our region in order to assist students in jump starting their creativity, movement and characterisation in the development of their Group Performance. By the end of the term, you can see how Year 12 HSC Drama have utilised their skills as they showcase their devised performance as part of the Drama showcase evening of the Winter Collective.



Damien Borg, Rel. Principal

GENERAL NEWS

P & C Uniform Shop Casual Position Vacant

Kingscliff High School P&C would like to invite anyone that would be interested in the following position:

6 hrs per week, days negotiable, additional hours in Dec- Feb, including some Saturdays.

ROLE:

- Ordering & managing stock
- Stocktake at end of each term
- Liasing with company reps
- Selling uniforms & money handling (EFTPOS also)
- Maintaining cleanliness & presentation of Shop & Storeroom
- Preparing & presenting reports for P&C monthly meetings
- Banking takings

Immediate start available, Employed under the Retail Award.

Please email your resume and contact details for 2 referees to: bori2810@norex.com.au



P&C Uniform Shop

The Uniform shop regular hours are **Tuesdays and Fridays 7.30 am – 9.30am**. The price list can be found here:

<https://kingscliff-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/what-we-offer/p---c-uniform-shop.html>

- Payment at the P&C Uniform Shop is by cash, cheque, and EFTPOS.
- The P&C Uniform Shop is located near our Science block on the left-hand side of the ramp.
- For more information, you can contact the Uniform Shop. Email: pckingscliffhigh@gmail.com or Phone: 02 6674 9762

Social Media and Cyber Safety

Earlier this term the police came to KHS to do a presentation for students on social media and cyber safety.

The session involved explaining the importance of being safe online and gave definitions and explanations of what sexting, grooming and consent was.

They explained different scenarios of cases they've worked and gave details of what the legal consequences for the offender was.

The students were very engaged and really loved the real life stories the Senior Constable's shared.



PCYC Fit 2 Learn Program

Each Thursday, a selected group of Year 10 boys participate in the Fit 2 Learn program run by the PCYC. The boys were in their element today as they learnt about Crash Investigations and Highway Patrol.

They were extremely interested in the Highway patrol car and even got to use the Speed gun to check how fast on-coming traffic was going! The boys finished the session with Senior Constable John recoding how fast they could run on the speed gun!

Well done on a cracking session boys!

Next up is completing their White Cards and First Aid Course.



Global and Eco-Challenges

We are looking for up to 10 Kingscliff High School students to represent the school at the OzGreen "Youth Leading the World" event, which will be held over two days from the 31 May - 1 June.

This environmental learning and leadership program will suit any young person who wants to be better informed about global and local eco-challenges and be part of developing a vision for a harmonious future. Best of all it's free to attend and is happening locally on the Tweed.

Any interested student should see Ms Browne in the Science staffroom as soon as possible to secure your spot!

DRAMA AND MUSIC NEWS

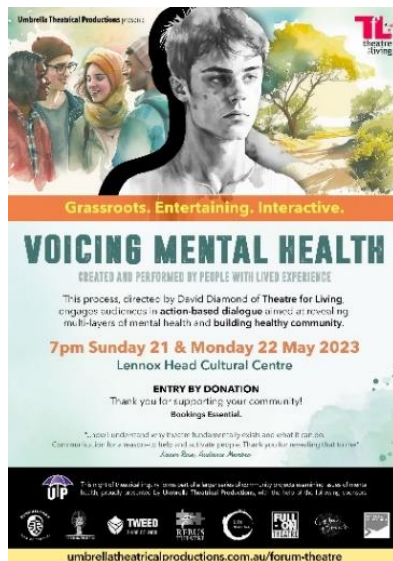
On Tuesday 9 May Kingscliff High School Drama Ensemble members were lucky enough to be involved in a Theatre for Living workshop delivered by world-renowned theatre practitioner David Diamond.

For over 37 years the Theatre for Living Society has produced hundreds of projects and became recognised as a world leader in community-specific, issue-oriented theatre, winning numerous awards. While the work became to be known as Theatre for Living, it is based on Brazilian Director Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed.

In his career David has facilitated over 600 Theatre for Living projects, working with many groups around the world including First Nations, refugees, women's groups, environmentalists, street youth, health practitioners, and the homeless population. Students at Kingscliff High School were so lucky to have David provide a workshop to our thespians, introducing them to a totally new style of theatre used to investigate real-world issues.

For those interested in this style of theatre work David Diamond will be directing two performances of Theatre for Living on Sunday 21 and Monday 22 May at Lennox Head Cultural Centre.

Thank you, David, for your wealth of knowledge and experience!



On Wednesday 10 May, five of our students attended an Audio workshop at SAE Byron Bay. Students were introduced to Marcos Micozzi, an SAE graduate and award-winning engineer for a Q&A about the audio industry. Students were then given a recording device to go around the campus and record a variety of environmental sounds. On return to the studio, students downloaded their recordings and Marcos cut them into samples for use with a drum machine. These sounds were then layered with a song to create truly unique sounding beats!

The last session involved a demonstration of how VR technology can be used to create a 3D audio mix, for example, a guitar sounding like it was above or behind your head, which was an extremely unique way of listening to a song.

All in all, it was a fascinating workshop and students got to experience the world class SAE facilities and are inspired to learn more about recording and music production.



YEAR 12 BIG DAY OUT

On Friday 5 May, our Year 12 students visited the Aqua Park and had a wonderful day of team building/bonding.

Thank you to our school captains for organising such a lovely day for our cohort to come together and celebrate as a year group!



SPORTS NEWS

CHS NSW State Swimming

On Wednesday 3 May through to Friday 5 May, a few of our students attended the CHS NSW State Swimming at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

Congratulations to our Kingscliff High School swimmers that proudly represented the North Coast

So many PB's and special mention to

Liam Vickman

7th 100 backstroke Final

9th 100 freestyle Final

6th 50 freestyle Final

Phoenix Preston

10th 100 Freestyle Final

7th 200 Freestyle Final

8th 6 x 50 Freestyle All Age Boys Relay Final



U14

Boys Rugby League

On Monday 8 May, U14 boys played against Ballina Coast High School. Courageous effort but went down 40-10 against an impressive performance from Ballina.



AFLQ Cup

What a great day we had at the Junior AFLQ Cup in Byron yesterday! Kingscliff High School competed in both the girls and boys pools and had some tough competition! All players are to be congratulated for their high level of effort and sportsmanship throughout the day!

Well done Kingscliff High School.

Thanks also to Jason Childs @childsphotos for sharing these awesome shots of the boys!



NSW CHS STATE U15 AFL

Kingscliff High School would like to congratulate Riley Weir on his selection in the NSW CHS State U15 AFL team following an outstanding tournament at the recent State carnival where he captained North Coast.

Riley will now travel to Albury for the NSW All Schools trials where he will play against the Combined Catholics and Independent Schools State teams.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 2 CALENDAR 2023

15 – 19 May, Week 4

Week D

Monday 15 May

KHS Cross Country Carnival – Robert Dixon Park South Beach Kingscliff
P&C Meeting at 6pm in the meeting room or online

Tuesday 16 May

FNC Tennis at Arkinstall Park, South Tweed Heads
CHS Netball (16-18 May)
CHS Boys Basketball (16-18 May)
Year 7 Vaccinations (dTpa, HPV)
Perfect Presence Year 8 - P1 and P2 (every Tuesday)
NC Lawn Bowls Gala Day & Trials at Evans Head
Equine Therapy - Inclusive Education at Winchester Farm from 10.30am – 2.30pm

Wednesday 17 May

Big Science Competition Period 2
YES TAFE at Kingscliff TAFE (every Wednesday)

Thursday 18 May

Interviews for Year 7, 2024, Pinnacle Program
YES Access to TAFE at Kingscliff TAFE - 9am – 2.30pm (every Thursday)
Perfect Presence Year 9 – P1 and P2 (every Thursday)
PCYC Fit to Life (every Thursday)
Rugby League Titans 9's (U14, U16 Boys & U16 Girls) Mullumbimby Rugby League Club

Friday 19 May

Community Access – Tweed/Coolangatta Tenpin Bowling & Kingscliff Bowls Club (every Friday)
FNC Combined School Surfing Titles – Ballina/Lennox Heads
Interviews for Year 7, 2024, Pinnacle Program
Open Table Tennis Gala Day at Banora Point High School

22 – 26 May, Week 5

Week C

Monday 22 May

CHS Boys Rugby League (22 – 24 May)
Interviews for Year 7, 2024, Pinnacle Program
Half Yearly Exams – Years 8 & 10, (22-26 May)
Big Picture – Inc Time Art Workshop Years 9 & 10 at 12.05pm (P3)

Tuesday 23 May

CHS Girls Basketball (23-25 May)

Wednesday 24 May

Aboriginal Education Team Parent and Community Meeting 5:30pm - Library

Thursday 25 May

Friday 26 May

National Sorry Day
National Reconciliation Day (27 May – 3 June)
FNC Cross Country at North Byron Bay Parklands
Yuli Day 2

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

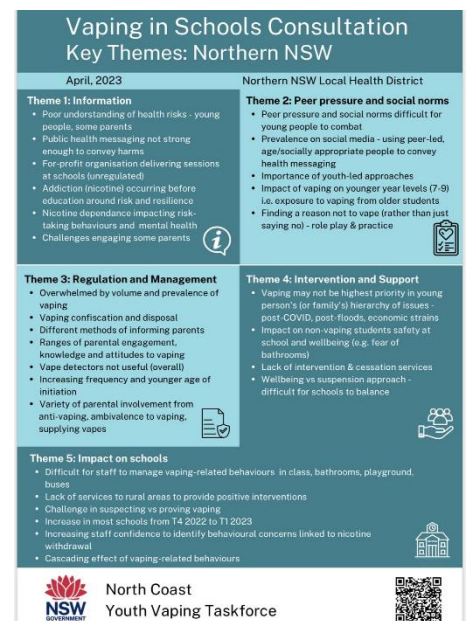
Keep up to date with the latest announcements and events happening at Kingscliff High School
Click on the links below to get up to date information!



Take a moment to like our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/kingscliffhighschool>



Check out our Instagram page. Click on the link to follow us <https://www.instagram.com/p/CosxzQZBcpX/>



HSC WRITTEN EXAM TIMETABLE!!!

Any changes to key dates will be communicated to schools directly and updated on this webpage.
See what exam equipment is permitted for each exam, including approved calculators, and other exam advice and resources.
Students can also view their personalised timetables via Students Online. Schools will have access to their cohort timetables via Schools Online.

Please click the link below to access the timetable and any other information regarding HSC!

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/key-dates-exam-timetables/hsc-written-exam-timetable>



Join the Kingscliff High School Band Program!

Are you passionate about music? Do you want to showcase your talent, connect with fellow musicians, and be part of a musical journey? Look no further than the Kingscliff High School Band Program!

Why Join?

1. **Unleash Your Musical Potential:** Whether you play an instrument or sing our band program offers a platform for you to explore your skills, improve your technique, and develop as a musician.
2. **Be Part of a Vibrant Community:** Joining the Kingscliff High School Band Program means becoming part of a close-knit musical family. Collaborate with fellow students who share your passion, build lasting friendships, and create unforgettable memories.
3. **Performance Opportunities:** Showcase your talent on stage! Participate in exciting performances throughout the school year and experience the thrill of performing in front of a live audience and watch your skills soar.
4. **Expert Guidance:** Our experienced Instrumental school Band program specialist, Jane Nelson, is dedicated to helping you succeed. Receive top-notch instruction and valuable guidance to enhance your musical abilities and achieve your goals.
5. **Expand Your Horizons:** Discover a wide range of musical genres and styles. From classical to jazz, pop to rock, our band program offers diverse repertoire to broaden your musical knowledge and foster creativity.

Join the Kingscliff High School Band Program today and embark on a musical journey that will last a lifetime!

How to Get Involved:

1. **Sign Up:** Fill out the expression of interest Google Form to register your interest in joining the band program.
2. **Rehearsals:** Once band members have expressed an interest, we will join together for regular rehearsals at Kingscliff High School on a day and time to be confirmed.

Note: Some instruments may be available for loan.

For any inquiries, contact Lamai Thompson in the CAPA Faculty on (02) 6674 9777

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to be part of the Kingscliff High School Band Program! Unleash your musical talent and create lifelong memories. Join us today! *"Where Music Comes Alive!"*



Walk on Country

Sunday 4 June 2023

10am-1pm, Kingscliff Foreshore

Join us for a Community Walk on Country at
Kingscliff to mark Reconciliation Week

10am

- Welcome to Country
- Walk commences from Ed Parker Rotary Park to Cudgen Headland Surf Life Saving Club

Following the walk we will have a free BBQ gathering at
Cudgen Headland Surf Life Saving Club

LIVE MUSIC • ELDERS MORNING TEA • CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
SURFBOARD/SKATEBOARD PACK GIVEAWAYS
SEA OF HAND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

This event is for all community members in the Tweed.
We believe that reconciliation is everybody's business.

**BE A
VOICE
FOR
GENERATIONS**

Supported by:

Cudgen Headland Surf Life Saving Club, Cudgen Public School, Fingal Public School, First Sun, headspace,
Healthy North Coast, Kingscliff High School, Kingscliff Public School, Norpac, NSW Police, Pottsville Public
School, Social Futures, Surf Dive n Ski, Memento Collective, The Family Centre, Tweed Shire Council

We acknowledge the traditional custodians from the Bundjalung Nation and pay our respects to their Elders past and present and emerging Jarjums.

11 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers



Education

Tell Them From Me Student Survey – Information and consent form for parents and carers

This term, in Week 7 on Monday 5 June 2023 our school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them.

The survey is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

As well as providing our school with feedback from our students, the survey has a broader purpose. It provides the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, with insights into student wellbeing, engagement, and effective teaching practices for ongoing school improvement. This is done by using non-identifying student data from across NSW.

This survey is **confidential**, and staff in schools will **not** be able to identify individual students from their responses.

To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Information is only reported where five or more students answer a question. All information will be handled according to relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the department to any other person or body other than as required by law. Individual students will not be identified in any publications.

The survey is online, takes 15 to 30 minutes, and will take place at school during school hours. We will receive a report on our school's survey results shortly after our students complete the survey.

Participating in the survey is **voluntary**. If any survey questions make your child uncomfortable, your child can skip the question or can choose to stop the survey at any time.

If you **do not want your child/children to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to the school by 29 May 2023.

More information about the survey and the research is available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/tell-them-from-me.html>

Yours sincerely



Michelle Rosser
Deputy Principal

Admin 2023-1689

Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to the school by Monday 29 May 2023.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the ***Tell Them From Me*** student feedback survey.

Name of student 1

Roll class of student 1

.....

.....

Name of student 2

Roll class of student 2

.....

.....

Name of student 3

Roll class of student 3

.....

.....

Name of student 4

Roll class of student 4

.....

.....

Name of parent/carers

.....

Signature of parent/carers

.....

Date

.....



Tell Them From Me student survey

Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students. The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights from the student point of view at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions relate to the following measures for **primary schools**:

Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities	Behaviour at school	Effective learning time
Use of ICT for learning	Homework behaviour	Teaching relevance and rigour
Sense of belonging	Interest and motivation	Perseverance
Positive relationships	Effort	Experience of being bullied
Valuing school outcomes	Skills and learning challenge	Advocacy at school
Positive teacher-student relations	Expectations for success	Positive learning climate

The survey questions relate to the following measures for **secondary schools**:

Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities	Homework behaviour	Expectations for success
Skills and learning challenge	Academic self-concept	Behaviour at school
Experience of being bullied	Truancy	Sense of belonging
Interest and motivation	Effective learning time	Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE
Positive relationships	Effort	Teaching relevance and rigour
Wellness	Valuing school outcomes	Positive learning climate
Academic buoyancy	Advocacy at school	Advocacy outside school
Positive teacher-student relations	Use of ICT for learning	Perseverance

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your child's school has decided to participate.



4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, *The Learning Bar*. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

6. Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student's information.

7. Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the department's Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide

analysis. Individual students' data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. No student will be identified in any publication. No school will be identified unless they have given permission.

8. What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders can use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school. CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the department, including performance data.

The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE's analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the department's continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

9. Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these year groups to participate. Secondary schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

10. When will the *Tell Them From Me* survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools at the end of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3/4.



What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the NSW Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales.

CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is *The Learning Bar*?

The Learning Bar specialises in research-based design and facilitation of student assessments and survey solutions for both primary and secondary students. The in-house research team led by the President, Dr J Douglas Willms, undertakes extensive projects used in the school system to affect national policy. It is against this research that the survey, *Tell Them From Me*, has become the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of the ten provinces. Globally, more than 6,300 schools and 5.4 million students have participated in the survey over the last twelve years.

Dr Willms recently held the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. He plays a lead role in the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

For purely administrative purposes, *The Learning Bar* will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than *The Learning Bar* and CESE researchers within the department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

More information about *The Learning Bar* is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: **1300 131 499**.



11 May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the *NCCD guidelines (2019)*.

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy \(https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy\)](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal \(https://www.nccd.edu.au\)](https://www.nccd.edu.au).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely



Damien Borg
Rel .Principal

Admin 2023-1690

KINGSLIFF HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND

Bandtastic provides an inclusive and fun instrumental tuition program and concert band.

Learning and playing an instrument in a group environment with friends and peers is fun, rewarding and motivating.

Please scan the QR code to fill out an Expression of Interest form, and we will provide further details!



Bandtastic

INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC
PROGRAMS



Join the Kingscliff High School Band Program!

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For any inquiries, contact Lamai Thompson in the CAPA Faculty on (02) 66749777

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Unleash your musical talent and create lifelong memories. Join us today!

"Where Music Comes Alive!"



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 of 17 years. 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 NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

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.

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.

Principals 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 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

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 NSW Department of Education 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.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight

= 4 weeks

= Over 1 year missed

1 day per week

= 8 weeks

= Over 2.5 years missed

More information

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

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

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.



NORTH COAST YOUTH VAPING TASKFORCE

Information for Parents and Carers

WHAT IS A VAPE?



Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, often called ‘vapes’, are electronic devices designed to deliver aerosol liquids into the lungs.

- Vaping produces an aerosol mist. Not water vapor.
- Vapes come in different styles and shapes.
- Vapes contain propylene glycol, vegetable glycerine or glycerol.
- Most vapes contain nicotine, even if labelled ‘nicotine-free’.

The biggest misunderstanding about vapes is that they are harmless compared to cigarettes. This is not true. Vapes are not safe.



For more resources for parents and carers visit
[Mid North Coast Local Health District Youth Vaping](#)

NORTH COAST YOUTH VAPING TASKFORCE

Information for Parents and Carers

REGULATIONS AND LAWS



- It is illegal to sell any type of vape to people under 18.
- Nicotine vapes require a prescription from a doctor for people over 18.
- Nicotine-free vapes can be sold to adults only.
- It is illegal to display, advertise or promote any e-cigarettes.
- It is illegal to vape in any area that prohibits smoking.

Where to report a retailer or individual who is selling to young people

To report a person for selling e-cigarettes to someone under 18, this must be reported to the Police. Crimestoppers phone 131 444 or 1800 333 000 or online reporting at Crime Stoppers NSW – Report Criminal Information

To report a business selling e-cigarettes/vapes to a person under the age of 18, do so here <https://tobaccocomplaint.crm.moh.health.nsw.gov.au/>



For more resources for parents and carers visit
[Mid North Coast Local Health District Youth Vaping](#)

NORTH COAST YOUTH VAPING TASKFORCE

Information for Parents and Carers

WHY ARE WE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE AND VAPING



Vaping is linked to increased:

- Mental health problems.
- School and class absences.
- Behavioural issues and social problems.
- Risky behaviour when buying vapes off strangers including social media.
- Dependence on nicotine.

Studies have shown:

- Youth who use vapes are 3 times more likely to start cigarette smoking.
- Vapers have a higher risk of developing tooth decay.
- Changes to the upper airway, lung tissues and lung cell structure.
- Common flavours are toxic.
- Most vapes contain nicotine, even if labelled 'nicotine-free'.



**For more resources for parents and carers visit
[Mid North Coast Local Health District Youth Vaping](#)**

NORTH COAST YOUTH VAPING TASKFORCE

Information for Parents and Carers

TALKING ABOUT VAPING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



Start with information

Get the key facts, learn the basics about vaping products, and think through what you want to say. Consider some questions you might be asked, and how you want to respond.



Approach it calmly

You might want to start the conversation when you're doing an activity together, such as driving or preparing a meal. Keep things casual and relaxed. You might want to use something you saw in a TV show or on the news as a chance to bring up the issue.



Don't make assumptions

If you think they may have tried vaping, avoid making accusations. Going through someone's space looking for evidence isn't recommended, because it can undermine trust.



Avoid judging or lecturing

Listen to their point of view and keep it a two-way conversation. Being mindful to keep your body language and tone respectful can go a long way. If they have tried vaping, try asking questions like: 'what made you want to try?' and 'how did it make you feel?'



Don't exaggerate

Make sure you are honest with them about potential harms and avoid exaggerated statements.



Focus on health and explain your concerns

Focus on how you care about them and want them to be healthy. For example, if they are vaping nicotine you can say that you are concerned about the evidence that this can affect adolescent brain development.

For more resources for parents and carers visit
[Mid North Coast Local Health District Youth Vaping](#)

NORTH COAST YOUTH VAPING TASKFORCE

Information for Parents and Carers

HOW TO SUPPORT A YOUNG PERSON WHO IS VAPING



How can you support a young person who is vaping:

- Provide correct information, and have them do their own research about vaping and its harms (using reputable sources).
- If a young person is not aware of their vaping habits/addiction, use curious inquiry (questioning) to have the young person share their ideas/thoughts/habits of their vaping e.g. *"How long have you been vaping? How often per day do you vape? Do you have to vape during class time? Is it impacting your schoolwork?"*
- Teach them strategies to manage withdrawal symptoms (delay/deep breathing/drink water/do something else (distraction) as cravings last a short time).

For support to stop vaping, call Quitline 13 78 48 or contact your local healthcare provider.



**For more resources for parents and carers visit
[Mid North Coast Local Health District Youth Vaping](#)**

Vaping in Schools Consultation

Key Themes: Northern NSW

April, 2023

Northern NSW Local Health District

Theme 1: Information

- Poor understanding of health risks - young people, some parents
- Public health messaging not strong enough to convey harms
- For-profit organisation delivering sessions at schools (unregulated)
- Addiction (nicotine) occurring before education around risk and resilience
- Nicotine dependence impacting risk-taking behaviours and mental health
- Challenges engaging some parents



Theme 2: Peer pressure and social norms

- Peer pressure and social norms difficult for young people to combat
- Prevalence on social media - using peer-led, age/socially appropriate people to convey health messaging
- Importance of youth-led approaches
- Impact of vaping on younger year levels (7-9) i.e. exposure to vaping from older students
- Finding a reason not to vape (rather than just saying no) - role play & practice



Theme 3: Regulation and Management

- Overwhelmed by volume and prevalence of vaping
- Vaping confiscation and disposal
- Different methods of informing parents
- Ranges of parental engagement, knowledge and attitudes to vaping
- Vape detectors not useful (overall)
- Increasing frequency and younger age of initiation
- Variety of parental involvement from anti-vaping, ambivalence to vaping, supplying vapes



Theme 4: Intervention and Support

- Vaping may not be highest priority in young person's (or family's) hierarchy of issues - post-COVID, post-floods, economic strains
- Impact on non-vaping students safety at school and wellbeing (e.g. fear of bathrooms)
- Lack of intervention & cessation services
- Wellbeing vs suspension approach - difficult for schools to balance



Theme 5: Impact on schools

- Difficult for staff to manage vaping-related behaviours in class, bathrooms, playground, buses
- Lack of services to rural areas to provide positive interventions
- Challenge in suspecting vs proving vaping
- Increase in most schools from T4 2022 to T1 2023
- Increasing staff confidence to identify behavioural concerns linked to nicotine withdrawal
- Cascading effect of vaping-related behaviours

