Friendship & Learning  
Tuesday 21st July 2015

The 26-Storey Tree-House
The performance on Friday was an interesting experience for the students who all seemed to enjoy the live drama. We’ll be doing some follow-up activities in the classrooms related to this.

Whole-School Athletics Carnival
This Friday, 24th July, the whole school will be participating in a Track and Field Carnival run by the School Sports Ministers. This event will give all students an opportunity to participate in every track and field event. We will use this as a qualifier for our upcoming carnivals. Parents are most welcome to attend! We will be having a sausage sizzle ($2.50) at lunch time on the day and would love to have some parent support to run the BBQ. Please let the school know of your availability. Thanks!
Should the weather be against us, Mrs Currie and the Sports Ministers will conduct small group try-outs throughout the day while regular classroom activities take place.

PSSA Athletics
Our district small schools will be participating in the Track and Field carnivals in weeks 3 and 4. The Track Carnival will involve the whole school, K-6, at Riverview Park, Lismore on Friday 31st July. A bus will be available to transport children to and from Lismore but seating will be limited to 51 children. We currently have 33 children booked for the bus. Parents are, of course, most welcome to attend and bring their own children.
The Field Carnival will be held at our school. Children who qualify from Modanville, The Channon, Comdale, Whian Whian, Tuntale Creek and Dunoon compete in this carnival. It is a PSSA event (for 8 years and over) but we also include our 5-7 year olds.
It will involve children who have qualified to compete in high jump, long jump, shot put and ball games. It will be held on Wednesday 5th August. Our P & C will be catering for this event.

School Attendance Reminders
Parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of students at school. If your child is absent from school, you must provide an explanation by phone, written note or email. Schools have a responsibility to maintain accurate records.

Please be aware that the North Coast Region team who monitor school attendance will be conducting an attendance check of our student attendance records on Monday 27th July. Please see the attached sheets for further information about attendance.

Happy Birthday this week to Nuala! 
Hope you had a great day
Community Notices

Canteen News
Due to other events, there will be no canteen until further notice. **This Friday we are having a BBQ at lunch time with the help of parent volunteers. Please get in touch with the school if you can help with this.**
The following Friday we will be at Riverview Park, Lismore for the track carnival.

Assembly News
During these weeks, there will be no whole school assemblies.

Dunoon Diggers Kitchen Garden
- **the Next Big Leap:**
The Diggers working group is having a hugely fun working bee on **Sunday 26th July starting at 9am**. We’ll be building two new garden beds ready for spring planting. Come along: mothers, fathers, kids, gardeners, builders, grandmothers, babies, handy people, pet budgies, all welcome.

School Equipment now on display – take some home this Sunday!
The school has surplus furniture and equipment that needs a new home. Could your family make use of pre-loved school chairs, study desks, carpets, cabinets, whiteboards, office furniture or barbeques? Then you’re in luck!

Available items are on display all this week, near the bike racks above the COLA – come on down and have a look. Please don’t take any items away quite yet though. All items are available for pick-up during working bee hours this **Sunday 26 July, between 9am and 12pm.**

Any item can be yours for a donation to the school (for most items, a gold coin would suffice) – come along this Sunday and grab a bargain!

We’re also looking for a helpful person with a trailer who can transport leftover furniture to the tip – if you have a trailer and can make time on Sunday afternoon, please let Trent know, on 0405 843 354. Thanks in advance!

LIFT WANTED
Looking for a regular lift into town after school for the kids (x3). Willing to contribute with petrol money and/or bringing of kids home (back to Dunoon).
Thanks Maree 66 895 745

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Dunoon PS represented in the Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra

Congratulations to Gabriella, Cassandra and Sunny who performed with the Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra and Northern Rivers Junior Strings. The girls spent 3 days practising the orchestral pieces under the guidance of Luis Fernando Madrid (conductor with the Bogota Philharmonic Orchestra and Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra) with a culminating performance at the Workers Club on Thursday night. Dunoon PS alumni, Ben Van Kleef, was also involved as the brass leader and local violinist Heidi Chappe was the Junior Strings leader. The Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra is presented as part of the Northern Rivers Conservatorium Community Music Program and is now in its 4th year. The Con runs private instrumental music lessons all year round and the NRYO is part of the winter holidays. For information about joining any of the Con's programs contact Anita Bellman - 6621 2266

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CITRUS CELEBRATION & PICNIC
@ the Lismore Community Garden

**Sunday 26 July 10am – 1pm**
Celebrating and sharing Lismore’s citrus abundance.
• Bring your own picnic – Use a plate for the most stylish citrus-themed platter.
• Gardening demonstrations with Garden Guru Phil Dodson, Plus citrus cooking demonstrations.
• Citrus cooking competition – Fabulous prizes for best home-made preserves, baked treats and beverages, Register online.
• Old fashioned kids games with a citrus twist.
• Food and drink stalls, music and more.

Find out more at [www.facebook.com/LismoreUrbanAgriculture](http://www.facebook.com/LismoreUrbanAgriculture)
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
- 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.

What if I need to be away from school?

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.

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES  LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT  WWW.DEC.NSW.GOV.AU
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 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 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.