



PEAK CROSSING STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Acknowledgement of Country

Staff and students of Peak Crossing State School acknowledge that their school stands on Ugarupul Country and would like to acknowledge the Ugarupul peoples who have cared for this land for many years.

We pay our respects to their ancestors, their Elders past, present and future and their connection and stories to Mt Flinders.

As a school community we are grateful for the ongoing care by the Ugarupul Peoples and our local community in protection and caring for our natural surroundings such as the gum trees and the Green Tree Frog whose stories relate back to Mt Flinders.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Peak Crossing State School for what promises to be an amazing 2024!!

Thank you to everyone for contributing to such a smooth start to the year. Students have been very impressive in their attitude and eagerness to return to learning.

Throughout Term 1, I will be providing you an overview of the school's strategic direction, providing clarity around the actions being taken to improve student outcomes and providing the thinking behind these decisions.

The two big pieces of work this term for us will be the implementation of a whole school systematic synthetic phonics program and a school review from 19-21 March 2024.

Further information will be provided about these in the coming weeks.

Newsletters will be fortnightly this year and we are transitioning to a new format and provider which will make accessing the information you need easier. We hope to have the new look newsletter distributed in Week 3 (week commencing 5 February 2024).

To keep up with all the news, please ensure that you are following our school Facebook page, the P&C Facebook page, checking your emails regularly and looking out for text messages.

With the potential for extreme weather over the coming days, please stay safe and remember – if it is flooded, forget it.

Thought of the week – “Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new” – Albert Einstein

Yours in education

Jedda McNeill

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event
26/1	Australia Day Public Holiday
29/1	Whole School Assembly – 2.30pm
12/2	P & C AGM
15/2	Street Science Incursion – Whole School

Every Day counts!

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS



EXTRA INFORMATION

Afternoon Park Etiquette Reminder

We're fortunate to have a park conveniently located opposite the school, providing a delightful space for students to enjoy their afternoons with friends. To ensure everyone's safety, we kindly request parents and caregivers to reinforce with their children the importance of not engaging in park activities without their direct supervision.

It's crucial to note that the park is not under the supervision of Peak Crossing staff and is not considered a part of the school premises. For any pre-arranged meetings between students and their parent/caregiver in the park, a prompt presence is encouraged.

In the event that a parent/caregiver doesn't arrive within a few minutes of the agreed-upon time, we advise students to return to the school promptly. Our dedicated staff near the main gate will ensure they are supervised until a parent or caregiver arrives.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated in maintaining a safe environment for all students. Thank you for your continued support.

Managing Early Departures and Late Arrivals

A friendly reminder to all Parents/Caregivers that when your child needs to leave school early or arrives late, please ensure you check in at the administration building. This ensures accurate recording of arrival and departure times for our students.

Should you need to pick up your children at a time other than the end of the day, kindly visit the school office. Our staff will then make arrangements for your child to be brought to the office for a smooth handover.

For the safety of all, we kindly request that parents/caregivers refrain from approaching or collecting students directly from the school grounds during regular school hours.

Your understanding and adherence to this procedure play a crucial role in maintaining a secure environment for all students. Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our school community safe and organized.

P&C Meeting

AGM 12th February 2024

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS



Phones, Ipads, Smart watches – Away for the Day 2024

The Department's 'away for the day' policy regarding mobile phones, tablets and smart watches commences in 2024. At Peak Crossing, this will be an easy transition as the new policy already aligns with our current practice and policy.

Parents and students are reminded that all devices are required to be handed in each day by students to the office. Students do not need to be contactable directly during the day as any messages or changes to arrangements should be passed through the school office.

We will be reviewing our consequences for students who repeatedly fail to put their devices 'away for the day' in consultation with key stakeholders in 2024

Mosquitos

We have noticed an influx of very large mosquitos around the school. We advise that you apply repellent to your children before they arrive at school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be advised that students should not arrive at school before 8.30am each morning as there is no staff for supervision. If a child is injured during this time, please be advised that the school takes no responsibility.

We are currently working on changing the way our Newsletter will be configured. We are changing over to ePublisher as our online platform for the school Newsletter. The newsletter will still be sent via email, we hope to have it up and running in Week 3.

Please be advised that commencing Term 1 Of 2024, we will no longer be accepting cash for excursions, camp or any other event that requires payment.

All payments must be done via BPoint online or EFTPOS.



FROM THE CURRICULUM DESK

Welcome back to 2024! My name is Elissa Smith. I worked as Head of Curriculum at PCSS in 2023 and, as Kylie Ford has taken leave for 2024, I am excited to be back getting the year started.

Our big focus in 2024 is beginning a new word reading program that aligns with the new Australian Curriculum. This week we have worked around the clock to test every student in the school against the new standard so that we can group students and get started with the program early next week.

In term 1, every student in the school will participate in the program. This is to ensure there are no gaps in student knowledge that haven't been previously picked up. As students in the upper school demonstrate proficiency and fill any gaps, they will move beyond the word reading program into a comprehension program.

To run our reading program, we have chosen to use resources from Decodable Readers Australia. Here is a link to their web site, which explains what DRA is about:

<https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/cdn.decodablereadersaustralia.com.au/DRA+ebook+For+Parents+2.pdf>

I have also included information directly from the Queensland Education Department below.

From the Department of Education:

Learning to read is a process that needs step-by-step teaching and plenty of practise at school and at home. Unlike walking or talking, reading is not a skill that we learn naturally — everyone needs to be taught how to read.

Reading requires two very important skills:

- *decoding (reading) the words on the page*
- *making meaning from the words, sentences and paragraphs that are read.*
For children to learn how to decode words, they need to understand how sounds and letters link together. They are taught that:
- *words can be broken up into sounds (the word 'cat' is made up of 3 sounds: c-a-t) and those sounds can be blended to form words (the sounds c-a-t blended, forms the word 'cat')*
- *the sounds in words can be represented by letters or groups of letters.*

As children develop their understanding of letter-sound correspondences and apply this knowledge to reading words and texts, they learn more complex English spellings.

- *The same sound can be represented by different letters; the words 'play', 'rain' and 'stage' all contain the sound /ay/ but the spelling is different in each one.*
- *The same letter can represent different sounds; the letter 'c' can represent a 'k' sound as in 'cat', or an 's' sound as in 'race'.*
- *Small parts of words can have a meaning all their own; in the word 'walked', the '-ed' tells us that the walk has already happened — it marks past tense.*
- *Children practise their word reading skills by reading decodable texts that contain only the letter-sound correspondences children have been taught.*
- *As children develop their decoding skills and their reading becomes more automatic, they will move from reading simple decodable texts to authentic texts. Authentic texts are any texts that are read for enjoyment or learning and that support word reading, language development and engagement.*

Children develop their language skills through the language they hear and read. In the early stages of reading instruction while children are developing their decoding skills, it is very important that they are read too often, so they hear lots of new words and learn about new things that they may not yet be able to read about themselves.

Parents play an important role in helping children learn to read by both:

- *listening to your child read aloud to practise decoding words*
- *reading aloud to your child to build their understanding of language and literacy.*

Please keep an eye out for each newsletter as I will provide a little snippet of what we are doing and how you can support at home. Please see or email your child's classroom teacher with any questions.

Elissa Smith

Head of Department

Peak Crossing State School

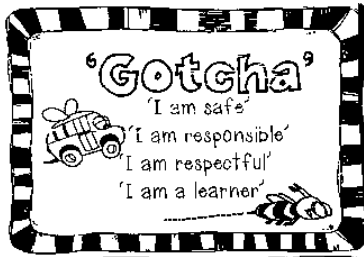
PBL News

What is PBL?

A Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) approach promotes a positive school environment, where all students are included and feel safe and supported.

At Peak Crossing State School, students will receive Gotchas when they are showing that they are following the four school wide expectations:

'I am Safe', 'I am responsible', 'I am respectful' and 'I am a learner'.



Term 1 - White Gotchas



Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Achievement levels

Each term, students have the opportunity to achieve the following behaviour levels when they receive a certain amount of Gotchas. For each level they achieve, students will receive a certificate. For levels, Silver and beyond, they will also receive a reward.

<p><u>Bronze Level</u> 25 Gotchas</p> <p><u>Reward:</u> Certificate</p>	<p><u>Silver Level</u> 50 Gotchas</p> <p><u>Reward:</u> Certificate and Lucky Dip</p>	<p><u>Gold Level</u> 75 Gotchas</p> <p><u>Reward:</u> Certificate and Wristband</p>	<p><u>Platinum Level</u> 100 Gotchas</p> <p><u>Reward:</u> Certificate and Badge</p>

PBL News

There will be a new behaviour focus each week. Our focuses for the next fortnight are below.

Term 1 Week 1 Behaviour focus

School Wide Expectations



Term 1 Week 2 Behaviour focus

Classroom Behaviour

Classroom Behaviour

We are learning about :

- Being Respectful to yourself and others in the classroom
- Being Responsible by having everything that you need ready to learn
- Being a Learner by giving my best effort
- Being Safe by walking in the classroom and keeping hands, feet and objects to myself

The poster features a decorative border and two bee illustrations: one on the top left and one on the bottom right reading a book.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Medication at school

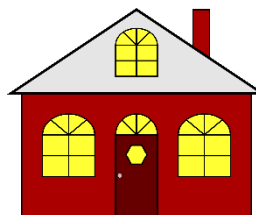
It has now become a departmental requirement that **ALL** medication administered to children at school **MUST** be labelled with the student's name, date of birth, dosage and the child's Doctor's name on the label. This includes Panadol, Nurofen, Ventolin, Asmol and any other over the counter medication. If the label does not contain the required information, we are not permitted to administer it to your child.

Visitors

Just a reminder that **all visitors and volunteers**, other than persons doing the standard drop off and pick up, should report to the office to sign in and out. This is an Education Queensland requirement to ascertain who is on the school premises at all times. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

It is very important that we are notified of any changes to home addresses, mobile numbers and email addresses. If you have made any changes, please notify the office so we are able to update our records.



Parking

Please be advised that **parking in the Good Start Kindergarten is not permitted** as it is designated for their parents. Peak Crossing parents are not permitted to use this car park as a pick up or drop off zone. Also, if you can please **not park in the Bus Zone**, School parking is available at the front of the school or across the road in the park. Thanks for your co-operation. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASSED AREA OPPOSITE GOOD START KINDY**

Mobile Phones & Electronics

Phones, iPad, Smart watches

As the term commences parents are reminded that all devices should be handed in each day by students to the office. This includes 'smart watches' which can access emails, the internet or are capable of recording still or video images.

THINGS TO REMEMBER



School Grounds and School Watch

Unless prior permission has been sought, nobody should be entering the school grounds outside of school hours. Anybody entering the school grounds outside the normal scheduled school hours is risking being prosecuted for trespassing. If you see anything, or anybody acting suspiciously outside of normal school hours, please contact **School Watch on: 131 788; or Policelink on: 131 444. Alternatively, in the event of an emergency, contact 000**



Playground Equipment

Children are not permitted to play on the playground equipment before or after school due to workplace place health and safety policies. The equipment is specifically designed to meet safety requirements however, as the equipment is on school grounds, it is a departmental requirement that students are only to engage play on the equipment during school hours. Thank you for your co-operation in adhering to this policy.



Dogs on School Grounds

Please be advised that we can no longer allow dogs to be brought on to school grounds as we have some students who suffers from allergic reactions to dogs. We ask that you please respect this and keep your dogs at home.



Tennis coaching lessons are conducted by Stuart Ware from Tall Gums Sports Centre at the school on Tuesdays from 8.00 to 8.45, cost each week is \$16.00 including GST. If anyone is interested in joining the lessons or would like to discuss further, please either email us on tallgumssportscentre@bigpond.com or phone 54645599. We hope to commence on Tuesday 30th January.



Tuckshop News

The tuckshop is currently closed until we are able to get volunteers interested in the tuckshop convenor role. If this is something you would be interested in, please attend the P & C meeting on the 12/2/24 at 6.00pm. We will keep you updated so please watch this space.



UNIFORM SHOP INFORMATION

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES AND DETAILS.

PEAK CROSSING STATE SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP - pcssuniforms@gmail.com

The Uniform Shop will open for dates in January, February, December and throughout the year, otherwise we are appointment only, please don't hesitate to contact us for an appointment.

BANK TRANSFER ONLY, unfortunately cash is not accepted. **Once you make payment** to the Peak Crossing P&C account (details below), **please send through your confirmation of payment to pcssuniforms@gmail.com**. During term orders will be prepared once a week unless otherwise arranged. Uniforms will be left with your child's classroom teacher after payment receipt is received or can be left at the office if required.

Bendigo Bank
Peak Crossing State School P&C
BSB 633 000 Account Number 184698280
Reference: Surname/UNIFORM

STOCK LEVELS -

All size polo shirts \$25 and reversible Flinders and Goolman bucket hats \$20 in stock. Please email the uniform shop prior to payment for confirmation of sizes available for formal shirts \$41, Dresses size 4-8 \$48, Dresses size 12-16 \$20, Red Wool Jumpers \$40, Jackets \$46, and black school hats \$15. Red school hats are also available - \$5.

Senior Shirts - Design will be chosen by students in Term 3. An order will be placed at the beginning of Term 4 and the middle of Term 1. Payment will be required when ordering.

Black Shorts, Skorts and Socks - Embroidered shorts, skorts and socks will be available as a trial. More details to come.

Uniform sizing is as follows - 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. Hats - one size (Flinders or Goolman).

Uniform Shop updates will be provided through the Peak Crossing P&C Facebook page and Newsletter. If you do not have Facebook and would like to join a Uniform Shop mailing list please email us.

Thanks,
Jody & Suz