



# PACIFIC PALMS PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2 June 2016

"Respect is the Key"

[www.pacificpal-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.pacificpal-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)



CARE – about yourself, others, learning and the environment

ISSUE 5 | TERM 2 | WEEK 6

## OUR STUDENTS EXCEL



### ***PSSA Hunter Touch Football Trials***

On Friday, 20 May Samantha, Lewis, Charlize and Gabrielle travelled to Newcastle to represent the Manning Zone at the Hunter Touch Football Trials. It was a successful day with many of our students being selected for the final "possible & probables" game. At the conclusion of this game students selected for the PSSA Hunter Touch Football Team were announced.

Congratulations to Lewis who was selected in the Hunter Boys Touch Football Team and will now travel to Tamworth in July to play in the NSW PSSA Touch Football Championships.



### ***PSSA Soccer Knock Out***

Our boys represented our school again in the second round of the PSSA Football (soccer) Knockout last Friday against Nabiatic Public School. It was a bleak and windy afternoon at the Nabiatic Sports Fields but the boys stood tall to take away another victory and move another step along in the competition. The game was played in great spirit with some quality skills on display from both sides. At half time the scores were level at one all but level heads and great teamwork saw us come home strong to finish the game 4 - 1 ahead. Thanks again to all of our supporters for their help with transport and encouragement on the day.



## WELCOME TO TERM 2

The following events are happening over the coming weeks:

### ***UP AND COMING EVENTS CALENDER***

Thur, 2 June	Shine on Workshop Forster
Thur, 2 June	School Assembly @ 2 pm in the hall. All welcome.
Fri, June	Hunter PSSA Cross Country @ Cessnock
Sat 4 & Sun, 5 June	Youth Art Festival
Fri, 10 June	Girls Soccer Gala Day
Fri, 10 June	Art Festival Opening Night
Sat 11 & Sun, 12 June	Art Festival long weekend
Tues, 21 June	Athletics Carnival on the back oval
Thurs, 23 June	NAIDOC Assembly @ 2 pm in the hall. All welcome.
Fri, 24 June	Stage 2 Excursion - Year 3 & Year 4 students only.



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## OUR STUDENTS EXCEL cont.

### ***Buderus 7's Rugby League and Girls League Tag***

Last Thursday our boys rugby league team and girls league tag team travelled to Taree for the Buderus 7's Gala Day. The boys started slowly but quickly realised that the best way to tackle was with their shoulder and quickly overcame their opposition. They grew more confident throughout their three games and wished there was a fourth. The girls dominated their first two games with quick play the balls and great passing. In their third game they came up against a strong St Joseph's team who were equal competition. Everyone had a great day. Thank you to Nick Montague who helped teach the boys tackling techniques and Adam Salt for helping with the girls on the day.



### ***Hunter Regional Cross Country***

Good luck to Rohan, Aidan, Jake, Sage, Charlize, Gabrielle and Lewis who will travel to Cessnock on Friday to represent the Manning Zone at the Hunter Regional Cross Country. Our talented runners will proudly represent our school as they race against other regional runners on a very challenging course.



## SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

### ***Life Education – Healthy Harold***

The Life Education van recently visited our school. The Life Education primary school program consists of 13 curriculum based modules focusing on issues around food and nutrition, personal safety, physical activity, cyber safety, safety with medicine and legal drugs; tobacco, alcohol and caffeine. Life Education supports us in teaching children what they need to know to make smart choices and develop healthy habits that last a lifetime.







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## SCHOOL HAPPENINGS Cont.

### *Ride to School Day – Wednesday, 25 May*

We had a very successful "Ride to School Day" on Wednesday, 25 May in perfect sunny conditions. The riders gathered at Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club at Elizabeth Beach at 7.45 am to begin the beautiful ride to school. A big thank you to all staff, Jackie in the canteen and parents for supporting this event. There were many children on bikes and everyone enjoyed the music and activities in the COLA while munching on a healthy breakfast of toast, cereal and fruit. Senior Constable Dave entertained us with his bike skills and important information on bike safety. Later in the day Constable Dave ran some bike workshops where the children practised riding around a track using the road signs 'stop, giveaway, children's crossing and a traffic light'. A note went home explaining how to register bikes with the police in case of loss or theft. Next year we will have a "Walk to School Day" and keep alternating it with a bike day to make sure everyone is involved.







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## SCHOOL HAPPENINGS Cont.

### National Simultaneous Story Time

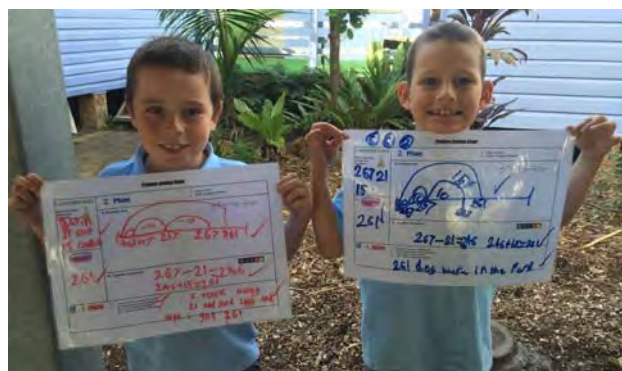


National Simultaneous Storytime is an annual campaign that aims to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books. Now in its 16th successful year, it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using an Australian children's book that explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum. This year National Simultaneous Storytime took place on Wednesday, 25 May at 11.00 am by sharing "*I Got This Hat*" written by Jol and Kate Temple and illustrated by Jon Foye. Thank you to 3/4P and Mrs Punton for an entertaining event and for sharing the story with all our students.



### Maths Problem Solving at the Palms

We are currently focusing on the importance of developing problem solving skills with all of our students. Our staff are engaging in a range of professional learning to ensure that all of our students are developing the necessary skills to understand mathematics through inquiry, exploring and connecting mathematical concepts, choosing and applying problem-solving skills and mathematical techniques, communication and reasoning. Teachers will explicitly teach 8 problem solving strategies and the steps to successfully solve a problem. Students in K-2 will solve problems the "superhero way" (underline, circle, answer and check) and students in 3-6 will use the UPAC model (understand, plan, answer and check). Students in Stage 2 have been using a Problem Solving Sheet to support their steps to successfully solve problems.





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## SCHOOL HAPPENINGS Cont.

### **Breakfast Program**

Our annual 10 week Breakfast program has begun with great success. Our students have enjoyed some fruit, wholemeal toast and a warm, milky milo drink to start their school day. Low-sugar cereals will be an added bonus on a couple of surprise weeks.

Research has consistently found that children who have eaten a healthy breakfast can concentrate better and for longer, helping them to learn and remain engaged in the classroom environment. They can also perform better physically after eating breakfast, as there is more energy available to their muscles. Breakfast can improve behaviour and mood, as children have clearer focus, and aren't tired or hungry. There are some simple and nutritious breakfast ideas at : [www.nutritionaustralia.org](http://www.nutritionaustralia.org)



Thank you to all the fun, happy and helpful volunteers we have had so far. A big thank you also to Mel Shoemith and the Green Team for preparing the fruit and monitoring the recycling of cups. Bakers Delight have generously contributed a large discount to our bread, and Coles Forster have donated a large proportion of the products needed. What a fantastic caring, community we live in!



This program will continue each Wednesday for the remainder of this term, and from Weeks 1-4 in Term 3. If you are able to volunteer some of your time from 8.00 - 9:30 am on any of these mornings, please let Amy Dorfling ([amy.dorfling@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:amy.dorfling@det.nsw.edu.au)) know.

## INFORMATION FOR OUR PARENTS

### **Pacific Palms Art Festival**

The 24th annual Pacific Palms Art Festival will be held in the school hall over the June long weekend. Opening night tickets for Friday, 10 June 2016 at 7 pm are available for purchase at a cost of \$25 at the front office.

**Youth Art Competition** - This year the Youth Art Competition will be held on Saturday, 4 June from 2 pm to 4 pm after the Official Opening and presentation of awards. The Youth Art Competition will also be open on Sunday, 5 June from 10 am to 4 pm. Entry is open to children aged 5 to 15 years. Entry forms are due tomorrow Friday, 27 May.

Raffle tickets were sent home to all families and are available for purchase \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Prizes include artwork by 2015 winner Terry Johnstone. Tickets will be drawn Monday, 13 June 2016.

The Pacific Palms Art Festival is a major fundraiser for our school and your support is appreciated.







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## INFORMATION FOR OUR PARENTS Cont.

### ***Athletics Carnival – Tuesday, 21 June 2016***

Our whole school athletics carnival will be held on Tuesday, 21 June on the back oval. Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 may come to school dressed in their sport house colours. Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend to encourage and support their children. We look forward to seeing you for an enjoyable day. The P & C will provide a canteen on the day. Your donation of slices, cakes and biscuits would be appreciated. Please deliver them to the oval canteen on the morning of the carnival. Volunteers are also needed in the canteen on the day – even just 15 minutes of your time would be great.



### ***Stage 3 Canberra Excursion – Tuesday, 11 October to Friday, 14 October***

Our Stage 3 Excursion to Canberra is now only **18 weeks** away. Thank you to all of the parents who have paid their deposits and are making regular payments. A gentle reminder that this excursion must be paid in full by the last week of Term 3. If you have any questions regarding this excursion please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### ***Voluntary Contribution Fee and Resource Levy***

Thank you to those parents who have already paid their Voluntary Contribution and Resource Levy. The Voluntary Contribution Fee for 2016 has been set at \$45 first child, \$65 for two children and \$75 for three children or more. The Voluntary Contribution Fee is capped at \$75 and goes towards general school costs. The Resource Levy has been set at \$50 per student and covers such things as exercise books, pencils, art supplies, access to Mathematics and Reading Eggs. Payment can be made at the front office. EFTPOS facilities are available. Thank you for your ongoing support.

## AMY DORFLING –

### **Reading Recovery and EAL/D (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) Teacher**

After three enjoyable years as the RFF teacher at Pacific Palms, I was given the opportunity to take on an exciting new role of Reading Recovery and EAL/D teacher.

As a Reading Recovery teacher, I work with a selection of Year 1 students in a 12-20 week intense literacy program of daily 30-minute one-on-one lessons, in an effort to build the successful reader and writer in each of them. My ultimate goal is to build independent strategies they can take back to the classroom and throughout their learning journey.

As the EAL/D teacher, I work with the clever students at our school who are able to speak more than one language. This may be in the classroom as an additional support, or by taking individuals or small groups out to enjoy language and social games and activities.





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## LIBRARY JOTTINGS

Term 2 in the Library will take stage 2 and 3 students on a learning journey embracing the Olympic Games. Making the best use of our bank of computers, students will create a Power Point presentation based on their research about the Ancient Olympics. Later in the term when the games are in full swing, we will be looking closely at the current Olympic host city, Rio de Janeiro, and Brazil through atlas activities and a mini fact finding web quest.

Learning for Stage 1 classes is planned around the History units "The Past and the Present". Year 1 will be analysing both web based sources and real artefacts that have represented how we lived in the past. Year 2 students will be identifying how technology has influenced our lives through its impact on travel, everyday items in our homes and the classroom.

Kindergarten students are very excited to be in the library and will start to learn how it operates including the borrowing and returning system. We also read a variety of texts from both fiction and non-fiction areas and complete activities related to the texts.

**Michelle Lowry, Crystal Giardina and Natasha MacArthur**







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## REBECCA PERKINS - RFF SCIENCE



Release from face to face (RFF) allows classroom teachers to have an allocated time where they can complete a variety of teaching programs and other teaching responsibilities. I am very excited about my new role as RFF teacher for 2016. It allows me the opportunity to get to know every child in the school and to teach a subject I am very passionate about.

For our budding Brian Cox's or David Attenborough's, I have chosen a Science focus across all stages using the Primary Connections program with an innovative and engaging approach to this key learning area.

I will be covering a range of scientific areas such as biological science, chemical science, earth & space sciences, and physical science. The units of work all include students learning how to work in small collaborative groups with roles allocated to each member such as Manager, Speaker and Director. This establishes a laboratory environment where each person plays an important role in organisation, investigations and reporting findings.



My Science programs are filled with concrete activities where learning experiences are built on to support knowledge and develop a logical way of thinking. To further facilitate this, I use the Primary Connections 5 E's model;

**Engage**

**Explore**

**Explain**

**Elaborate**

**Evaluate**

Following this process, students are enabled to discover their own conclusions about scientific concepts. They are also practising essential 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning skills such as communication, collaboration and critical thinking to establish their own scientific beliefs.

From camouflage to clouds, mini-beasts to migration, Science is interesting and dynamic! I would encourage all parents to ask their children what they have been learning about in Science!







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## MELISSA SHOESMITH - STUDENT WELLBEING OFFICER

Mel Shoesmith's role as Student Wellbeing Officer has enabled our school to provide significant support to the wide range of students, families and the broader community. Ms Shoesmith helps in fostering responsible behaviour through sporting and leadership programs, allowing students to develop peer to peer mentoring skills, resilience and greater student self-esteem.

Social Clubs have been a successful and popular initiative that Ms Shoesmith runs during lunch and recess. These fun activities encourage energetic play but also create opportunities for students to participate in inclusive games, make new friends, take on leadership roles and practice social skills under guidance.



Handball club is new for Term 2. A terrific group of year 5 and 6 students volunteer their time to teach kindergarten handball skills. These games have provided an opportunity for the older students to take on leadership roles and display appropriate behaviours like sportsmanship and fairness to our younger students. The kindergartens are loving the chance to play with the older kids, have fun with their peers and improve their handball skills. Handball Club is run every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday recess. All kindergarten children are welcome to come along.

**"I like to move it, move it!"** The school hall quickly fills when Ms Shoesmith starts the music each Tuesday during lunch and recess. Dance Club has established itself as the most popular club currently run. It has shown to be just as popular with boys as girls. Dance Club provides an opportunity for self-expression and self-regulation. Ms Shoesmith has noted that Dance Club has helped many students achieve greater confidence and self-esteem, improved balance and spatial awareness.





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## OUR LEARNING AND SUPPORT TEAM

At our school we aim to help every child achieve the highest level of success and growth in their education. The purpose of our Learning and Support Program is to provide support for both the teachers and all students so that learning is meaningful and relevant. We do this by working with the teacher to set goals to promote student growth in targeted skills and we collaborate with parents/carers to ensure that there is a strong understanding of what is happening at school and how they can support their child at home.

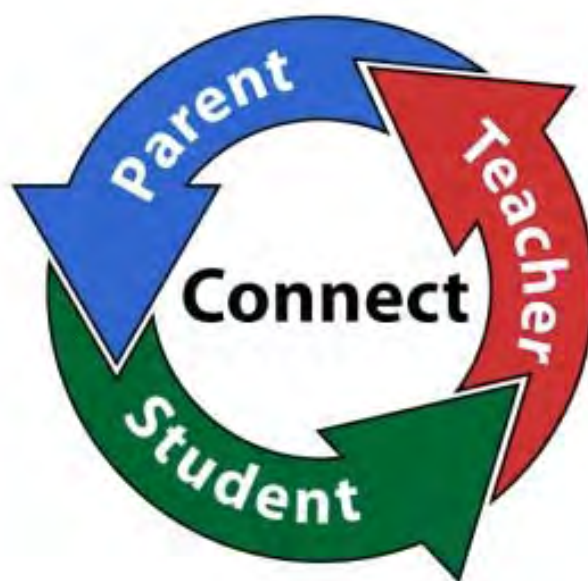
We review student progress every term and change our groups as required. Teachers give feedback to parents/carers regarding progress and discuss any further support options. The Learning and Support Team is just that: several members of our school community who work together to ensure that learning is maximised.

Learning and Support staff co-ordinate/support key school programs: transition to school/high school, OT, speech, attendance, reading, spelling and writing programmes, mathematics support, support with the development of fine motor skills and early reading skills. Also, English as an Additional Language/Dialect and Student Wellbeing.

The LaS team at school is a referral point for class teachers to support with students of concern – academic, behavioural, emotional or social. Communication with parents/carers is via phone calls, letters and meetings.

### Your Learning and Support Team 2016:

- LaST Coordinator: Lorna Tavener
- Exec member: Mel Merchant
- Reading Recovery and EAL/D: Amy Dorfling
- Mel Shoesmith – Wellbeing Officer
- Sue Colditz – School Counsellor.
- SLSOs: Tina Jones, Virginia Healey, Natasha Macarthur, Katrina Read and Rob McMahon
- Class teachers
- Parents/Carers







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## PARENTING TIPS FROM SUE COLDITZ, SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

### *Challenging and Defiant Behaviour*

#### What is the issue?

- Almost all children will be difficult or demanding at times, especially toddlers
- Challenging, disruptive, and defiant behaviours are those which persist or become so severe that they cause major problems for families or communities
- Excessive disruptive or aggressive behaviour at any age should be taken seriously and should not be dismissed as a 'phase' or something they will 'grow out of'
- Behaviour problems can affect problem solving, coping with stress, disrupted schooling, friendship and family problems. This may continue into teen years and problems at school, with the law, in employment, and bringing up their own families
- It may begin with frequent loss of temper, irritability, impulsive behaviour, or becoming easily frustrated

#### What does it look like?

Aggressive behaviour may include:

- Explosive temper tantrums
- Physical aggression
- Fighting, threats, or attempts to hurt others
- Use of 'weapons'
- Cruelty towards family pets or other animals
- Intentional destruction of property or vandalism

#### What is not helpful?

- Physical punishment will often make children's behaviour even more difficult
- Harsh, unfair, reactive discipline can worsen the behaviour
- Seeing or hearing domestic violence can affect children as much as being assaulted
- Violent TV and games can affect vulnerable children

#### What can help?

1. Spend regular and relaxed time with them, doing something enjoyable
2. Let them know you notice the good things they do
3. See if there are other stresses affecting the child such as new baby, parent conflict, etc
4. Establish a secure and supportive environment - they need to know that no matter what you still love them
5. Establish a routine and stick with it
6. Set clear boundaries - your child should know what will happen for different behaviours; eg time out, privilege or possession removed for a day or two, etc
7. Be consistent! If you carry through one time and not the next they will feel they are in control
8. Avoid shouting or getting angry as they usually shut down when being yelled at. Keep your voice gentle but firm, soft but authoritative
9. If chronic and severe seek help from a mental health professional who will assess, and assist you to manage the behaviours in a positive way
10. There is a diverse range of local and online parenting programs contact Parentline NSW on 1300 130 052 or online at [parentline.org.au](http://parentline.org.au)



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPALS

### ***Winter Weather Uniform***

Welcome to Week 6 and the start of the cold weather. It is great to see the students in their blue school jumpers and jackets. Non-school jumpers of different colours are not part of our school uniform and we ask that the children leave these items to wear on the weekend. The warm blue fleece and blue / yellow zip jackets are available from our uniform shop which is open on Wednesday and Thursday mornings 8:30-9:30am. Lowes, Best & Less and Kmart also offer a variety of choices. If you are unable to purchase a school jumper for any reason, feel free to come and have a chat. Thanks to everyone, our students look great!

### ***Inappropriate language***

Sadly, we have recently had some instances of inappropriate language being used on the playground and buses. This is really disappointing for our school, and is not acceptable or part of our school culture. As a result this week we have discussed this in classes and have explained to students that there is zero tolerance for this behaviour. Thank you for your support.

### ***Arts Festival***

Please come along and support the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Arts Festival, there is more talent on show this year than ever and this is a great opportunity to showcase local talent. For the second year, the Youth Art Festival is occurring, with over 100 entries from children of all ages!! We truly appreciate your dedication to this important event and to the broader commitment of raising the profile of the arts in the palms community. Thank you.

### ***Athletics Carnival***

Our whole school Athletics Carnival is on Tuesday, 21 June on the school oval. Parents and carers are more than welcome to attend and we would love to see you all there. Thank you to the P&C Canteen Committee for their support in providing a canteen and delicious food on the day. A huge thank you goes to Mr Wilson and Mrs Brisbane for their organisation of the day's events.

### ***Soccer Success***

Good luck to our boys soccer team who will play Hallidays Point Public School on Monday, after defeating Forster Public School and Nabyac Public School. The game will be a 'home game' played at our school oval at 11:30am, spectators welcome. We wish both teams well. Thanks also to the Super Coach Mr Jackson!

### ***Thank you***

Thank you to Amy Dorfling for organising a fantastic 'Ride to School Day'! It was a great morning enjoyed by all. Thanks also to our staff and parent volunteers who helped serve breakfast and to Constable Dave Russell who came along to speak to students and run workshops on bike safety.





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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPALS Cont.

Thank you to Katrina Punton and 3/4P for their entertaining reading of 'I GOT THIS HAT' to the whole school as part of National Simultaneous Story Time. This is an annual campaign that aims to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all teaching, SLSO and SASS staff, for your ongoing support and commitment to the children and families of PPPS. You are amazing people who work tirelessly and selflessly to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. I personally appreciate all that you do very much. Thank you.

The whole school team at Pacific Palms School is committed to our school value of CARE. Care for ourselves, others, our learning and our environment, underpinned by our core value Respect.

### Co-Principals

Kerry Tulloch and Mel Merchant

"Art isn't paint, it's love" Philip Hicken

# COMING SOON!



Pacific Palms Musical Production ***Robin & The Sherwood Hoodies!***

This adventure will be performed in **Week 8 of Term 3 (Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September through to and including Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September)**. Performances will include a full dress rehearsal, a matinee and two evening performances.

Rebecca Perkins & Linda Brislane



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## What's New from Transport NSW -

From 12 May 2016 applications for free school bus travel will need to be completed online.

2016/17

## Rural and regional School Travel Passes



- Your child may be eligible for free travel between home and school
- After 12 May 2016 you need to apply online for school travel passes

### What's new

From 12 May 2016, applications for school travel passes in rural and regional NSW will need to be completed online instead of using paper forms.

This change makes it easier to apply, as you only need to complete one form that covers all situations, including journeys that involve multiple transport operators or modes of transport.

It's also easier for schools and bus operators, as Transport for NSW will now handle the applications.

This change only affects the application process; no changes to any public transport services are planned.

### Who can apply?

To be eligible for a school travel pass, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

#### Years K-2 (Infants)

There's no minimum distance.

#### Years 3-6 (Primary)

1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking.

#### Years 7-12 (Secondary)

2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking.

### Who needs to apply

Most students who already have a school travel pass in 2016 won't need to re-apply for next year.

However, you need to update student details online if the student:

- Is moving from Year 2 to Year 3
- Is moving from Year 6 to Year 7
- Is changing schools or campuses
- Is changing address





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## How to update your details

If the student already has a school travel pass and their address, school or name changes, or the student is entering Years 3 or 7, you will need to update your details at [apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updatedetails](http://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updatedetails).

## How to apply for a new travel pass

**Applications for 2017 open from the start of Term 4, 2016.**

### Step 1

Once you have confirmed your 2017 school enrolment, complete the online application form at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students), nominating your home address and which bus company or transport operator the student needs to travel between home and school.

### Step 2

Print, sign and date the completed application, then return it to the student's school for endorsement.

### Step 3

The school then sends the endorsed application to Transport for NSW. You will receive an email confirming the outcome of your application. If the application is approved, Transport for NSW will inform your local bus or transport operator who will send a school travel pass to the student's school, or in some cases, to the student's address.

A parent or guardian must apply for students 15 years and under. Students 16 years and over must apply for themselves.

## Frequently asked questions

### Can I still apply using a paper form?

Carbon copy forms are no longer being accepted after Term 2, 2016. To download a paper form visit [apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts](http://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts).

### How can I apply if I don't have internet access?

Call **131 500** for assistance with your application.

### Is a school travel pass valid outside school hours?

School travel passes are only for travel to and from school. So for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students will need to purchase a ticket.

### What if there's no public transport in my area?

In areas where there is no public transport, eligible NSW residents may receive a subsidy for transporting the student to school by private vehicle. For details visit [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students).

### How do I apply if the student is in a shared parenting situation and needs to travel from two addresses?

Each parent (or the student if aged 16 or over) needs to make a separate application for each address. The same eligibility criteria apply.

