Kiss and Drop Zones
Please be aware that there is no parking in either of the Kiss and Drop zones. Apart from being against NSW road rules, it stops the flow of traffic and causes further congestion around the school. I understand you may need to wait in traffic but please be patient for the well-being and safety of all students. Do not try to overtake and keep one line of traffic if you are picking children up, particularly in the area near the office. I am taking this opportunity to remind all members of the community that it is illegal to perform a U-turn over double lines and it is extremely dangerous trying to turn into the side street off Swan Rd from the Kiss and Drop Zone. Turning into the driveway of the staff car park to perform a U-turn is not permitted as there are many families walking to the pedestrian crossing. Thanking you in advance for following the road rules and keeping everyone safe.

Absences
We will be having a visit from the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) next week. He will be checking student attendance particularly for students who fall under 85%. Please make sure you contact the office or send in a note explaining why your child is away from school. Please see the additional information outlined further in the newsletter.

Zone Swimming Carnival
The Zone Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 3rd March at Prairiewood Leisure Centre. Edensor Park Public School has two swimmers attending this event. Chelsea and Daniella, we are all cheering for you and know that you will try your best. We are proud of you both!
Assembly and Scripture
Scripture will start this Wednesday morning at 9:00am. The children will go into their class and the roll will be marked before moving onto their Scripture class. Our first Assembly for 2015 will be held on Wednesday afternoon at 1:40 (after lunch). All parents are welcome to attend. The first item of the year will be presented by 5/6H.

Kindergarten Best Start Parent Meeting
A meeting will be held for the parents of Kindergarten students on Thursday evening, 5th March, at 6:00pm. The Best Start literacy and numeracy assessment will be explained and reports will be handed out. These reports suggest a variety of ways that you can help your child at home. The Kindergarten children are not required to attend this meeting. I look forward to meeting with Kindergarten parents on the night.

Have a great week!

T. McCosker
Acting Principal

Edensor Park
School Readiness Program
Do you have a child starting Kindergarten at EPPS in 2016?

- A school readiness program for all children who will be starting kindergarten at Edensor Park Public School in 2016 will run each Wednesday morning from 9-10am in 1W’s classroom (C3), commencing on the 4th March.

- We will be focusing on social skills, cutting, pasting, colouring, colours, shapes, sounds and numbers as well as having a lot of fun along the way.

- Your child will get a chance to get to know the teachers, the school, make some friends and learn some skills that will help prepare them for Kindergarten next year.

- If you are interested in your child attending our School Readiness Program could you please see the ladies at the front office to sign up.

Places will be limited so get in quick.

Mrs Watson
School Readiness Program
On Monday 23rd February, players from the NRL Parramatta Eels attended our school as part of the NRL Community Carnival. They spoke to the students about "Well Being" and the importance of active healthy lifestyle and preventing bullying. Students enjoyed meeting the players and had the opportunity to compete with the players in a star jump challenge, sit up challenge and arm wrestle. Of course our students won each challenge!
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.

Principal’s may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principal’s 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 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.

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

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

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.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team
T 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
T 02 445 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities
A to Z Family Literacy and Numeracy Ideas

Here are some ideas and activities for building and encouraging your child's literacy and numeracy skills:

A: Ask your child to weigh and measure ingredients for your recipes both in the supermarket and at home.

B: Banking and interest rates could be discussed; how budgets work at home and in the workplace.

C: Create a special reading place in your home with your child's favourite books within easy reach. Let your child help decorate it with patterns, shapes and designs.

D: Demonstrate how to calculate the amount of ingredients when you want to change a recipe.

E: Encourage estimating skills, such as predicting how long a journey will take; how long it takes to set the table; how long it takes to walk the length of your street.

F: Family joke journals can be created by interviewing family members and writing down favourite jokes. Perhaps publish them in a word document.

G: Give time to reading aloud to your child, no matter how proficient he or she may be.

H: Have a new word each hour for a week to develop your child's range of words. How about doing this in both your home language and English? Make a game of it.

I: Involve your child in everyday conversations. Ask his or her opinion and reasons for answers.

J: Joining the Premier’s Reading Challenge really encourages reading, spelling and vocabulary skills.

K: Keep teenagers of all ages reading and writing. Give them magazines and newspaper articles about things that interest them: sport, music, fashion, TV and computers.
Let your child count out the change when making a purchase. Reinforce the importance of numeracy in everyday life whenever you can.

Measure things around the home: the difference between a towel, a hand-towel and a face cloth; the size of your dining table; the amount of food for your pet each day and calculate how much it eats in a week.

News and documentaries on TV and in the newspaper are excellent opportunities to develop talking and listening skills by discussing significant issues or events.

Organise a children’s book club or board game club with friends in your neighbourhood.

Play games such as Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders, dominoes or cards. Using two dice instead of one when playing board games can help with addition and subtraction.

Questions that only require a “yes” or a “no” are boring. Ask ones that need a longer answer or require your child to give reasons for a decision.

Remember that children learn by example. Think how you can set positive models of literacy and numeracy at home. Teach your child how to measure in your home language.

Sport offers opportunities for exploring literacy and numeracy. Calculate scores. Write a letter of encouragement to a sportsperson. Listen to sports programs and discuss the scores, angles of shots and probable results. Discuss camera shots and effects.

Turn off the TV for a while and talk to your child in your home language about some of the issues in the TV programs or things that have recently happened in society.

Use the computer as a research and learning tool. There are many sites to help your child practise his or her skills. Use it as a dictionary, a thesaurus or to check spelling.

Viewing films and talking about any issues will greatly expand your child’s thinking.

Working out how much time it takes to do things or go somewhere using a timetable will give your child opportunities to calculate.

Exercise your mind like a muscle! Let your child see you calculating things without a calculator.

You are the key to improving your child’s literacy and numeracy skills. Place a high priority on them in your home.

Sign up to your local library with your child and borrow books, magazines and listening tapes.
4th March : Scripture Classes commence
Assembly— 5/6H Performance

5th March : Best Start Parent Meeting, 6:00 pm

12th March : Selective High School Test 2016

13th March : Last Day for Book Club Orders

18th March : P&C Annual General Meeting @ 2 pm in the Principal's Office

19th March : Headstart @ Bonnyrigg H.S.

20th March : Harmony Day

24th March : Teddy Bears’ Picnic

1st April : Easter Egg Hunt

2nd April : Easter Parade

School Terms 2015

Term One : 28th January — 2nd April
Term Two : 21st April — 26th June
Term Three : 14th July — 18th September
Term Four : 6th October — 16th December

Term One 2016: Wednesday, 4th February (Yrs 1-6)
Thursday, 5th February (Kindergarten)