

Johns River Public School

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Caring & Sharing

A proud member of the Camden Haven Community of Schools



Welcome to Johns River Public School!

Information for Parents and Carers



Education
Public Schools



School Personnel

Meet our friendly, approachable and committed staff



Ms Sheree Quinlivan
Teaching Principal



Mr Josh Tomasone
Classroom Teacher



Miss Rhonda Craig
Administrative Manager

Our professional, university-educated teachers encourage students to develop a love of learning and a desire to succeed. They maintain the highest integrity and concern for your child's wellbeing.

The principal is responsible for the educational leadership and management of our school. If you would like to speak to the principal, please contact us to make an appointment.

Our school administrative staff can answer your enquiries or direct you to the appropriate staff member for help.

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Vision Statement

Student Learning of the Highest Quality



We will achieve this by

- providing a challenging, nurturing and caring learning environment that encourages high expectations for success through quality teacher instructions.
- equipping our students for the demands and opportunities of the 21st Century by providing a differentiated, effective curriculum and where children can achieve full potential in their academic, creative, personal, physical and moral development.
- promoting a safe and supportive environment where each students' self-esteem is fostered by positive relationships with students and staff.
- striving to have our parents, teachers and community members actively involved with our students learning.



School Aims

- To provide a stimulating and rewarding educational environment for children.
- To provide children with the fundamental knowledge and skills considered necessary for participation in modern society.
- To assist each student to maximise his or her potential.
- To instil in students, an appreciation of the worth of all people.
- To develop social awareness, mature judgements, responsible self-direction, moral awareness and self-discipline within students.
- To foster a spirit of cooperation between the school, parents and community.
- To promote parental and community involvement and participation in the school.



School Behaviour Expectations

We will respect school and other people's property.

We will use acceptable language.

We will show respect to all people in the school.

We will wait our turn to speak to people.

We will encourage good behaviour.

We will be happy for our friends when they succeed.

We will play games fairly and accept the umpire's decision.

We will keep our hands and feet to ourselves.

We will respect the learning rights of all children.

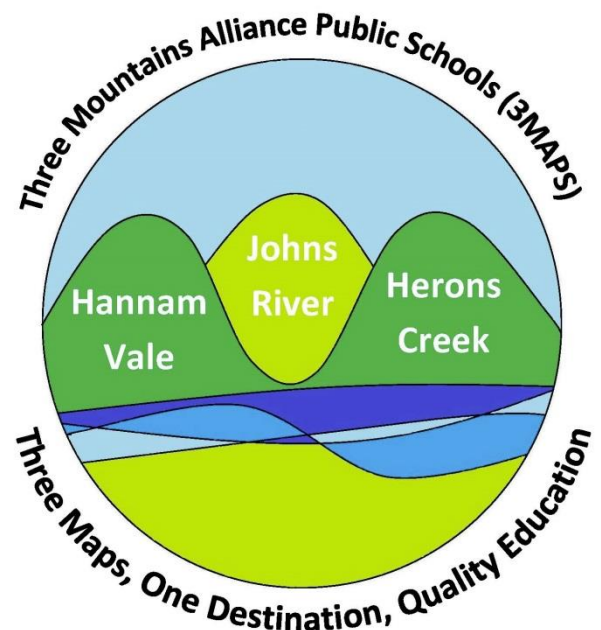
We will be honest and truthful.

Three Mountains Alliance Public Schools

The Three Maps Alliance Public Schools (3MAPS) comprises Hannam Vale, Johns River and Herons Creek Schools. We share support of 90 students from K–6. The rural and isolated settings mean that the schools plan and develop opportunities for differentiated learning and social engagement beyond local environments.

3MAPS are committed to becoming Positive Behaviour for Learning Schools, where we are building a strong focus on the mental health and wellbeing of our students. Our school culture is developed by living the positive behaviours that underpin our core values. Respect for each other as professionals and the importance placed on the partnership with our families in children's learning and development are essential with achieving our purpose as a school of excellence.

3MAPS provides quality teaching and learning in a warm, supportive environment, within two multi-staged classrooms at each school.



Positive Behaviour for Learning

These four rules are common across the 3MAPS:

Be safe

Be responsible

Be respectful

Work as a team

Long Term Objectives

Students:

- To develop respect for persons, property and the values of others.
- To develop self-discipline.
- To develop understanding and acceptance that the school rules are for the good of all.
- To foster a sense of personal belonging to the home, school and community.
- To develop positive self-esteem and a feeling of worth in each child.
- To develop individual skills so that children can achieve their potential.
- To encourage healthy lifestyles.
- To maintain a stimulating and pleasant learning environment.
- To develop pride in the school.
- To develop communication skills.
- To experience and appreciate aesthetic areas.
- To encourage an appreciation of our surrounding environment.
- To respect and encourage the individuality of persons and cultures.
- To demonstrate the ability to function appropriately and independently in small group situations within the classroom structure.



Teachers:



- To foster a sense of pride in all undertakings.
- To promote and develop staff cohesion and constructive communication through the support of fellow professionals.
- To maintain a policy of equity of opportunity.
- To be comfortable in introducing and using appropriate technology.
- To demonstrate respect for other people and property.
- To utilise individual skills and talents and to encourage creativity and leadership skills.
- To provide a child-centred curriculum.
- To enhance self-esteem through job satisfaction.
- To promote the value of environmental awareness.
- To appreciate and respect the values of those who make up the school community.

Community:



- To develop systems of communication between home and school.
- To involve parents in decision-making in regard to students' learning experiences.
- To develop understanding of current teaching methods.
- To develop and utilise a network of community skills and talents in the school.
- To encourage involvement in the development and implementation of student welfare initiatives.
- To foster an understanding of the administration and organisation of the school.
- To encourage a belief that the school is a positive focal part of the community.



Department:

- To facilitate job satisfaction by promoting staff morale.
- To encourage the development of effective student welfare networks.
- To improve the school facilities in response to the needs of the children, staff and community.
- To evaluate resources, monitor uses and anticipate future needs and educational trends.
- To encourage and provide support for integration proposals.
- To provide avenues for the development of activities for exceptional children.
- To develop a positive, child-centred curriculum.
- To foster community involvement in school-based activities.
- To provide support for those attempting to solve problems through school-based communication networks.
- To encourage and foster educational change.



Absences

If your child is unwell in the morning before school, it is advisable to keep them at home for the day so that they can recover in a home environment rather than struggle through a school day. Parents are a better judge of their child's health than school staff.

If a child becomes sick during the day at school, staff will endeavour to contact the parents/carers to notify them of the situation and make care arrangements for the child. This may include organising for the child to be collected from school or agreeing that the child may be made sufficiently comfortable and remain at school for the day. Staff will always attempt to alert parents/carers of illness (even if only minor) out of courtesy.

When a child is absent, parents/carers are required to furnish the reason to the school verbally or in writing within seven days of the absence. Children may hand notes to their teacher before the morning bell or during roll marking in class.

Occasionally, children may be required to be absent from school for reasons other than health (eg, unforeseen event, attendance at a funeral, participation in an event which is not school-related etc). If this is the case, parents/carers must provide a written explanation to the Principal, who will determine whether the absence is justified or not.

If you are planning a family holiday, a meeting can be arranged with the Principal prior to the absence as your child may be eligible for extended holiday leave.

Assemblies

School assemblies are held at the end of each term to celebrate student success and share achievements. Assemblies are student-led and showcase a range of items and work samples from the term. We encourage the wider community to join us for assemblies.



Accidents

Extensive playground monitoring by teachers and numerous Work Health and Safety (WHS) measures promote the safety of your children within our school. However, we all know that accidents may occur from time to time.

In the event of a serious accident at the school the parents / carers will be informed as soon as possible, depending on the severity of the incident and any associated injuries.

If the injury is minor, (cut, graze etc) the child will receive first aid treatment from the school's First Aid Officer (Miss Rhonda Craig).

The school reserves the right to summon medical assistance in the first instance if it is considered necessary.

If your child suffers from a chronic medical condition it is essential in the interest of the child that the school is aware of this. Some medical conditions may require the implementation of a Health Care Plan, which will be developed in consultation with parents, medical practitioners or health care professionals.



Book Club

Our school participates in Scholastic Book Club throughout the year. Brochures and order forms are handed out to each family to peruse for approximately one week before any orders and payments are returned to school for processing. Orders usually take approximately two weeks to arrive at school once processed.

Canteen

A P&C-run canteen operates at our school for lunch orders one day a week. Our canteen menu has been reviewed by Good for Kids, Goof for Life to measure the quality of the food we provide in relation to the Fresh Tastes @ School NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy. We had an extremely positive outcome from this review, with our school being the first in the Hunter/New England region to provide a menu that is 100% 'green'. We believe this is a huge achievement for our small school and feel very proud to be leading a healthy school canteen movement.

Students are required to place their order and make payment at the school canteen in the morning before the 9:00am bell. A current list of items and prices is included in your welcome package.

At our school, students are encouraged to order their own lunches rather than parents doing it for them. This responsibility promotes the development of social skills and prevents confusion for students at lunch time.

Child Protection Lessons

It is mandatory for all NSW Government schools to conduct Child Protection lessons as part of the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education curriculum (PD/H/PE).

During these lessons, children will learn about keeping themselves safe and healthy and will cover a broad range of Stage-appropriate personal topics. Teachers ensure that each lesson is carefully constructed with content that is appropriate for each student in the class.

If you do not want your child to participate in these lessons please make an appointment to discuss with the Principal.

Enrolment

Parents/carers wishing to enrol their child at our school are welcome to visit any time. School staff will make themselves available to show prospective families around the school and introduce them to staff members and fellow students.

Enrolment packs are available at the school office, which contain a copy of this book as well as a range of forms that require completion.

If your child has never been enrolled in a NSW Government school before, an Application to Enrol in a NSW Government School will be supplied along with relevant information. This must be completed by the parents/carers and returned to school along with a copy of the child's Birth Certificate and immunisation record. Parents/carers are also required to provide proof of their own identity as well as evidence of their current residential address.

If your child is enrolling at this school from another NSW Government school, admin staff will ask for the child's name, date of birth and the name of their previous school. With this information, staff can locate your child in the online enrolment and registration program ERN. From here, a copy of the student's current enrolment information will be printed. Parents/carers are required to read through and amend the information as necessary before signing the back and returning it to the school with a copy of the appropriate identification and immunisation documents. Legislation requires the Principal to contact each new enrolment's previous school to obtain behavioural information on the student. In order to adhere to these regulations, children may not attend the school without the appropriate clearance. This is usually a straightforward process, and parents are contacted once their children are approved to attend.

Discipline

Our Student Welfare Policy carefully outlines the school's discipline philosophy.

Essentially, the school's role is to guide each student towards the realisation that actions have consequences, which results in the development of self-discipline.

At the beginning of each year and as the need arises, the school's behaviour rules, which are based on common courtesy and decency, are explained to the children. If a serious breach of rules occurs the parents / carers will be asked to attend the school to discuss the matter. Parents are encouraged to discuss our discipline philosophy if they have any concerns. Further information can be sourced from our Student Welfare Policy.

Healthy Lunches



Here at Johns River Public School, we encourage students to care for their bodies by exercising, getting plenty of sleep and eating well.

Please help us raise a school of healthy kids by providing lunches that are nourishing and within our policy guidelines. This means avoiding sending packets of chips, lollies and chocolate where possible. Although we have a canteen operating for lunch once a week, one of the easiest and cheapest lunch options is a simple sandwich with vegemite or honey or salad, along with fruit or crackers for recess.

As is the case in nearly all schools these days, we request that parents/carers exercise caution when packing food containing nuts. We request that where possible, parents refrain from sending nut products in their children's lunchboxes in case one of our students has an undiagnosed allergy.

Some fantastic resources are available at the school office for parents/carers who would like to learn more about providing healthy school lunches for their children. Our teaching staff are also more than happy to discuss ideas and answer any questions parents/carers may have.



Homework



Homework is a fundamental aspect of teaching and learning at Johns River Public School, which is carefully developed to complement the current class focus.

Homework is not designed to overwhelm students with challenging work that has not yet been thoroughly explored in the classroom. Rather, it should give students an opportunity to revise concepts that students and teachers have been learning about together in our secure, supportive class environment.

Homework has long been an aspect of school that many students have resisted. Therefore, we always strive to make homework a more enjoyable experience, rather than a dreaded task.

Homework is provided to students each Monday to be completed and returned to school on Fridays. The amount and content of homework is specific to each child's individual needs. Students are encouraged to complete a little homework each night to avoid being overloaded with work late in the week.

Our Home Reading Program is another extremely valuable and successful feature of the school's homework philosophy. Reading aloud each night gives students the opportunity to reinforce reading skills using text that they are confident with. Teachers avoid providing home readers with text that is too challenging for students as this can leave children disheartened. However, students are continually encouraged to refine and develop new reading skills in the classroom with the support of a teacher. And remember, reading at home isn't limited to the home readers we supply. A great way to expose students to more challenging text is to read aloud to them at home. This way, children can become familiar with more difficult words and writing concepts without being expected to unrealistically decipher them before exploring this in the classroom.

Library

Library lessons are held once a week for all students at our school. During these lessons, students learn library fundamentals such as locating books, caring for books and research skills.

Students also have the opportunity to borrow books from our well-stocked school library for the week during these lessons. In the interest of preserving library books for as long as possible, each child must have a suitable bag for carrying borrowed books. Spare library bags are available at the library for students who forget to bring theirs. Also, students will not be permitted to borrow from our library if they have outstanding returns.



Licence and Registration

Occasionally parents/carers are required to provide transport for excursions or sporting events. Parents are asked to provide a copy of their driver's licence and car registration papers if they are willing to transport children to any school events.

Newsletters

A newsletter is published and distributed throughout the community on a fortnightly basis. Families are asked to retain these newsletters as they contain vital information regarding school events. Children's work and photographs are also showcased throughout our newsletters.

Current newsletters, as well as student notes, are available to download on our school website.

Office Hours

The school office is serviced by Miss Rhonda Craig each Monday and Friday, as well as every second Thursday from 8:30am until 3:10pm. Miss Craig is available to assist with any enquiries and is more than happy to arrange appointments with school staff if required. Notes or money can be left at the office if unattended, provided they are in an envelope with the child's name, amount of money and description clearly marked.

P&C Association

Johns River Public School is very lucky to have such a supportive P&C Association with members who work tirelessly to assist the school wherever possible and raise funds for our students.

Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month in the P&C Room, which is located behind the school canteen.

All interested parents, carers and community members are welcome to attend and share their opinions and ideas regarding school events and issues.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parents/carers are encouraged to arrange to speak with school staff whenever they deem necessary to discuss their child's progress. Parents need not wait for a teacher to request an interview. Teachers would prefer a parent to raise any concerns sooner rather than later so that a resolution can be developed.

If an issue arises that parents are not aware of, the teacher will endeavour to contact the parent (whether by phone or in the afternoon before collecting children) to inform them of the circumstances. However, our teachers always ensure that they don't just make contact with parents under negative circumstances. If your child has made a great achievement, or if they have simply had a lovely day, your teacher will endeavour to communicate this to you either in person or in the afternoon or through a friendly note in your child's bag.

Occasionally, a teacher may request an interview with a parent/carer. This may be verbal or in written form. Teachers and parents are then expected to negotiate a mutually convenient meeting time.

Parents are also encouraged to make an appointment for an interview to discuss their child's Student Report (which is developed at the end of each semester) if they have any concerns.

Permission Notes

From time to time permission is required for a child to undertake a specific activity outside the school. Permission notes should be completed, signed and returned with any payment owing at the earliest convenience. Without permission, students will not be permitted to participate in valuable extracurricular experiences offered by the school.

Reports and Assessments

Student Reports are distributed at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. These reports outline your child's strengths, weaknesses, capabilities and progress throughout the current semester. This is developed through analysis of weekly testing, book work, evidence in class participation and formal assessments at the conclusion of Teaching and Learning units.

Parents/carers are encouraged to arrange interviews with their child's teacher at this time if required.

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) occurs for Year 3 and Year 5 students according to DEC timetables. These results are then forwarded to parents/carers.

Scripture

Fortnightly inter-denominational scripture lessons provide students with an opportunity to discuss values, morals and ethics in a safe, caring environment.

Parents/carers must notify the school in writing if their child is not to participate. Students who do not participate in scripture will continue normal school activities during this time.

Student Banking

Student Banking through the Commonwealth Bank is available at the school each Monday. Students who wish to make a deposit may leave their bank books with a completed deposit slip and money at the school office on these mornings to be processed.

Details on opening a Student Banking account with the Commonwealth Bank can be obtained at the school office.

Sport

Sport is held on Friday mornings during the hotter months and Friday afternoons during the cooler months. Different activities are organised to complement a range of sports such as tennis, gymnastics, netball, golf, volleyball, soccer, cricket and softball just to name a few.

Students also have the opportunity to train for a number of Primary School Sporting Association (PSSA) events throughout the year, including Cross Country, Swimming Carnivals and Athletics Carnivals.

During Term 4 the whole school participates in a two week School Swimming and Water Safety Program at Kendall Pool. The Swimming Program concludes on day 10 with a fun carnival, comprising students from Johns River, Hannam Vale and Herons Creek Public Schools.



Student and Family Information

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is notified immediately of any changes to the following information:

- Family address and phone numbers.
- Emergency contact details.
- Medical Information (including doctor details).

It is vital that the school retains this information accurately to ensure your child's safety. A printout of this information is sent home to families twice each year for parents/carers to amend as required and send back to the school for processing.

Transport Subsidy

Information on the School Drive Subsidy is available at the school office. Parents are required to apply online by visiting:

www.transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive

Regulations and eligibility are explained online as well as on the information sheet accompanying the paper application form.

Payment is made twice each year to eligible parents / carers, after the school submits an attendance return to Transport for NSW at the end of Term 2 and Term 4.

Uniforms

The Johns River Public School P&C Association run a Uniform Shop in the P&C Room each Friday morning from 8:45am – 9:15am. Uniform items can be purchased or ordered on this day at very reasonable prices.

Hats must be worn at all times when students are outside. Wide-brimmed hats with a school logo are available at the P&C's Uniform Shop.

Please ensure that your child's name is clearly printed on the tag of each uniform item to prevent bits and pieces from going missing.

Boys

Summer:

- Grey shorts
- Blue school polo shirt
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

Winter:

- Grey trousers
- Blue school polo shirt
- Navy school jumper / jacket
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

Girls

Summer:

- Grey skort
- Blue school polo shirt
- Grey socks
- Black Shoes

OR

- School dress
- White socks
- Black shoes

Winter:

- Grey trousers
- Blue school polo shirt
- Navy school jumper / jacket
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

OR

- School dress
- Navy tights
- Navy school jumper / jacket
- White socks
- Black shoes

Sport Uniform (Fridays)

- Black shorts or skort
- White school polo shirt
- White socks
- Joggers

Voluntary School Contributions

Each year, families are asked to contribute a small amount of money to their child's school. This is used to ease the cost of producing newsletters, as well as the expense of pencils, rulers, workbooks, glue sticks and other classroom consumables. The fees have been set as follows:

- **Kindergarten** - \$20.00
- **Year 1 – Year 2** - \$30.00
- **Year 3 – Year 6** - \$35.00

School Website

Our school website has a range of comprehensive information about our school as well as the latest photos, announcements and information for parents.

Go to

www.johnsriver-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



School Times

8:30am – Teacher on Duty

9:00am – Morning Bell

9:05am – Morning Fitness

9:25am – Crunch & Sip

9:30 – 11:00am – Morning Lessons

11:00 – 11:30am – Recess

11:30am – 12:45pm – Lessons

12:45 – 1:30pm – Lunch

1:30 – 2:55pm – Afternoon Lessons

2:55pm – Afternoon Bell

3:00pm – Parents Collect Children

***Note:** Children should not be in the school grounds before 8:30am or after 3:00pm. If unforeseen circumstances arise, parents are asked to alert the school ASAP so that arrangements can be made and supervision organised.*

School Pledge

On my honour,
I promise that I'll do my best,
To do my duty,
To my school and my country.

To help other people,
Without thought of reward.

To obey the school rules:

- Care
- Courtesy
- Common sense
- Cooperation
- Communication

To do things with my best effort,
And to play by the rules.

School Song

We are the children of the little bush school,

Ours is a very happy place.

We are very merry children where the trees are cool,

And we always have a smile on our face.

So if you ever come along you will be welcome there,

In this village of Johns River in Australia fair.

So come on all you children with your bags and your books,

You'll be welcomed at Johns River by the children's happy looks.

