



# THE POINT

Your Community School Promoting Excellence

## Term 2 Weeks 9 & 10 Picnic Point High School Update

1 July 2022

### Rewards Day

On Monday June 27, 100 students were invited to participate in the Semester 1 Rewards Day celebrations at school. The students who were invited to this event successfully collected enough stickers and merits to become our highest point scorers for Semester 1. Students participated in fun, competitive games, with the winners earning chocolate prizes. But the biggest prizes came at the end of the activities when 10 lucky students each won themselves a \$20 Westfield Voucher in the raffle. A highlight of the celebration was coming together to enjoy a sausage sizzle and an ice cream. Rewards Day was a really fun and enjoyable time for all students and teachers involved.

The Wellbeing Team looks forward to celebrating more students at future Rewards Days. Thank you to all teachers who assisted with the organisation of this very successful event.

**Ms Herbert**  
Music Teacher



### Coming up @ PPHS

#### Social Media

##### Website:

[www.picnicpt-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.picnicpt-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

##### Facebook:

Picnic Point High  
School Official

##### Twitter:

@picnicpoinths

WEEK 1	
Monday 18.07	School Development Day
Tuesday 19.07	All students return Day 1
Wednesday 20.07	
Thursday 21.07	Parent Teacher Night (Yrs 7, 8, 9 & 10) 3-7pm
Friday 22.07	Prayer & Youth Group

WEEK 2	
Monday 25.07	Year 11 2023 - Subject Selection Evening
Tuesday 26.07	
Wednesday 27.07	
Thursday 28.07	
Friday 29.07	Prayer & Youth Group

## Year 12 Prefects - Fundraising

During Week 10, the prefects held a sausage sizzle at lunch to raise money for Motor Neurone Disease research. It was lovely to see everyone get involved with such enthusiasm. Not only did people purchase a sausage sizzle or a drink to raise money, some chose to donate whatever change they had which was wonderful to see. A big thank you to all the teachers and students who assisted in bringing this fundraiser together.

A few years ago, my stepfather passed away from Motor Neurone Disease. The same year I presented a speech at a leadership workshop to bring awareness to the disease. In this speech I also outlined how I wanted to hold a fundraiser for MND, hopefully bringing us one step closer to finding a cure. When COVID-19 hit, this goal of mine seemed like it would never come to fruition. But on Wednesday, my dream became a reality, and I will be forever grateful to everyone who was involved.

We raised a total of \$600, which was more than I ever could have hoped for. Seeing everyone walk around with blue ribbons on is something I will never forget. The blue ribbons were symbolic of hope, something many of those afflicted with MND may not have as there is no cure for this awful disease. But with our donation, hopefully we are one step closer to better treatments, and even potentially finding a cure.

Thank you everyone, it was a wonderful day!

**Sophie Edwards**  
School Vice Captain



## Picnic Point High Students say 'YES' to employability skills

In Term 2 this year, thirteen Year 10 students participated in a careers program at our local TAFE campuses in Padstow and Bankstown. The Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) programs are a special blend of industry training and hands-on activities which are being delivered to South West Sydney students in collaboration with local schools and TAFE campuses.

Students were successful in learning horticulture/landscaping/arborist skills and hairdressing/beauty skills and attended the course one day per week.

Local Horticultural TAFE teacher; Craig Meredith, gave feedback on how hard working PPHS students were. Well done everyone for your commitment to the program and trying something new!

Year 10 students will have an opportunity to put their skills to use through the formal work experience program in Weeks 8-9 of Term 4.

**Ms Waibel**  
Careers Adviser



## Students of the month June

Year 7	Maddison Tirant (absent)
Year 8	Florence Sinapopo
Year 9	Jack Ashburner
Year 10	Matthew Papagianopoulos
Year 11	Joshua Iofrida (absent)
Year 12	Bobby McFadden





## What a great few weeks of sport!

In the past two weeks our school has competed in the Opens Girls Netball, Under 15s Girls Basketball, Under 13s and Under 15s Canterbury City Cup Rugby League Knockout, Opens Girls Football (Soccer) Second Round Central Venue Day and the BSSSA Zone Athletics Carnival!

Our Open Girls Netball team showed an abundance of school spirit and resilience playing teams that consisted of many more older and taller girls. With their positive attitude and team work they were able to leave the day with a two from four game winning record. The future looks bright for this team with many more years of playing together to come!



The Under 15s Girls Basketball team managed to also compete with an abundance of team spirit and resilience to leave the venue that day undefeated with progression to the next stage. Congratulations girls!!

The Under 13s and Under 15s Picnic Point High School competed on the same day in their respected age groups for the Canterbury City Cup. The Under 15s were understrength with many away on game day due to elite sporting responsibilities. The Under 15s improved throughout the day with many humbling moments yet many more memories for the boys to share for as long as they can remember.

For many of the Under 13s this was their first taste of high school rugby league and knockout sporting excursion days. The excitement was high and their performances were even greater. The Under 13s managed to comfortably outcompete their opponents, winning each game by a difference of a minimum sixteen or maximum thirty two points, to secure the title of Undefeated Canterbury City Cup Champions! Well done boys!

The Opens Girls Football team managed to progress through their first game comfortably outscoring their opponents six to zero. It wasn't until the second game that they were really tested by their opponents which were a polished team consisting of players who play elite level football outside of school. The girls managed to compete competitively however were unfortunately knocked out. This was their overall fifth game and should be nothing less than proud of their achievement and overall standing in the state within this competition. Well done!



Most recently we had our BSSSA Zone Athletics Day. This was originally a two day event compressed into the one day due to the industrial action. This did not phase our athletes with many winning their events and our school becoming the overall BSSSA Zone Athletics Day Champions for 2022. What an amazing feat, you should all be very proud of yourselves and your success!

Good luck to all of those who have progressed to the next stage whether as a team or individually. This includes our Opens Girls Touch Football Team who are currently in the top 20 of the state and will be competing next term against another top 20 team for qualification into the top 10 tournament. Keep up the great work girls!

We also had students selected and competing in elite level sport within school based competitions as well as non-school based competitions. This includes travelling distances hours at a time to show the remainder of the state what a Picnic Point High School elite athlete is made of. Congratulations to all of those students who have participated in impressive elite levels within their specialised sporting codes.

**Mr Strbac**  
**PPHS Sports Coordinator**

## THANK YOU

THANK YOU for all your donations of wool and knitting needles, we do not require any more of these.

WE DO NEED more completed squares 25x25cm or fully completed blankets (28 squares joined together—4 squares wide by 7 squares long).

This is a great holiday activity for the family.

**Ms Lamaro**  
**Deputy Principal**



## POOCH – Helping Young People with Problem Solving

Ever wonder how you can help your young person deal with problems that just seem too big and too overwhelming?

Talking through problems with young people teaches them valuable skills to use when you are not around.

The SAFEminds program is a resource package created by Headspace to support schools, and parents and carers by providing early intervention resources to support young people's mental health.

A great resource is the POOCH Process.

POOCH is a problem-solving process that can be used in any number of different contexts. It is a guide to help adults have conversations with young people who are asking for help with a problem.



### Identify the **PROBLEM**

What is the problem or issue?

What is the nature of the problem? What is it like to have this problem?

Whose problem is it? Who else needs to be involved? What other factors are involved?



### Explore the **OPTIONS**

What has already been tried?

What other options have been considered but not tried?

What hasn't been thought of yet? (Brainstorm – no matter how crazy it seems).



### Discuss the **OUTCOMES**

What are the consequences of pursuing each option? Are you prepared to live with those consequences? What are the pros and cons of each option?

What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats involved in each option?



### **CHOOSE** an option

Re-look at consequences of that option. Work out what "Action 1" is.

Set a reward for carrying out "Action 1", regardless of the outcome of this first step (just for being brave). Set a time to get together to talk about how it went.



### **HOW** did it go?

How did "Action 1" go?

What worked and didn't work?

Do we have to work out a new "Action 1" or are we on track to keep going as planned? Do we need to work out a whole new plan and start our POOCH process all over again?

For further resources visit the SAFEminds website: <https://safeminds.org.au/parents-and-carers>

Ms Hagan

Student Support Officer (SSO) - Youth Outreach





## 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 of 17 years. 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 NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

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)

education.nsw.gov.au



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.

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.

#### 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 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 NSW Department of Education 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.

education.nsw.gov.au

## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



#### More information

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

#### Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

#### The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

#### 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.

