



# Peel High School NEWSLETTER

WEEK 5 , TERM 2, 2021



## REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS & CARERS

As a safety precaution, should you need to drop any items off to your child during school hours please drop them into the front office.

Students are not permitted to meet you outside school grounds or wait near the front or back gates/fence to collect items from you.

This is a safety issue.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 31	Buckley Shield Rugby League
May 31	Basketball Training
June 2	Year 12 Pancake Breakfast
June 2	Talk with an Olympian- PE Elective
June 10	HSC Enrichment Seminars 2021
June 23	Year 10 11 & 12 Parent Teacher Interviews - 4pm-6pm

### In the Library each Week - After School

Tuesdays - Senior Study sessions -8am-8.55am  
Wednesdays - Homework Centre -3.20pm - 5pm

Parents please note:

Before School our playgrounds are unsupervised until 8.30am each morning and then only minimal supervision until Roll Call at 9.00 am.

Front Office Hours (Mon-Fri)  
8am to 3.45pm

Payment Office  
8.30am to 3.30pm



## CAPA REPORT

It's all happening over in the CAPA department with time travel being a concurrent theme across all our KLAS!

Year 7 Music are taking a refined approach to their music appreciation this term, heading back a few centuries to look at the classical music and the instruments of the orchestra!

Year 8 students have started Term 2 with a bang and are heading all the way back in time! Students will be undertaking a unit of work called "Art Through the Ages", where they will be going back to the beginning of recorded time and learning about Prehistoric Art, Ancient civilisations such as Egypt and Greece and moving along the timeline to study Medieval Art and the Renaissance.

Year 9 Music are taking a look at the history, development and reception of pop music, not to mention tickling the ivories or plucking those strings to try their hand at playing the form themselves. While Year 10 Music will be shredding, riffing and jamming their way through the history and techniques of Rock'n'Roll.

Year 9 Visual Arts have been busy this year, starting Term 1 with a Portrait Unit. The students had to study the artist Chuck Close and follow his style of enlarging portraits large scale. The students had to enlarge an A4 photograph to an A2 size and complete the drawing in lead pencil. The results were great and students works have been judged by the staff to get a final top 5 selection to be exhibited in the library for the whole school to see. The top 5 students were Claire Navarro, Baxter Fuge, Jorjia Day, Portia Jeffery and Denzel Kelman. We look forward to seeing who the top voted artworks were!

This Term, students will be examining different Art Movements as a focus of their unit of work.

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Meanwhile, Year 10 Ceramics, are taking inspiration from the ancient Romans and their revolutionary ceramic ware for both practical and decorative purposes, focusing mainly on the techniques of coils

and all the societal uses they had for them. Using these products, they explore the differences between underglaze and gloss finishes on their ceramics.

Year 11 Drama are also taking a trip through time, delving deep into the history of theatre, focusing on the most influential forms of theatre. They'll be getting hands-on experience with theatre or ceremony dating as far back as circa 2000BC Egypt through to Shakespeare, further onto Realism and all the way up to theatre as we know it today. This little posse of performers will also be going on an adventure off school grounds to attend a Drama workshop for senior students, the first one in the region for several years.

Lastly, a reminder for Visual Arts students that in T3, the Tamworth Art Gallery will be hosting the exciting exhibition, ART EXPRESS - a showcase for the HSC Body of Works from around the state that were awarded top marks.





## PEEL SHOW TEAM REPORT

Peel Show Team students recently gave up some of their holidays to prepare and show our sheep at the Gunnedah Show.

It was a wet rainy day but we managed to get the sheep there dry and warm.

On the day we won Best Champion Milk Tooth Ram and Champion Group.

In the handlers competition Charlotte Kesby gained first place.

A big thank you to the our students' parents for the effort and support they our team.

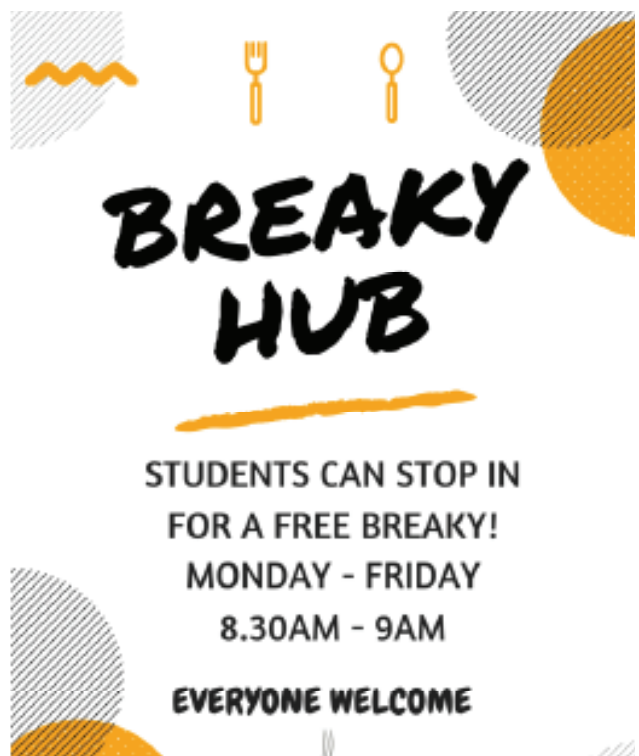


## PEEL'S BREAKY HUB

It's shocking to know that around 3 kids in every classroom across Australia are going to school hungry. Our program is kindly sponsored by PHS P&C and FoodBank Australia.

This year our focus is to provide a 'Grab & Go' breakfast program. Students can simply come up to the Breaky Hub and either choose to sit down or simply take a meal with them. We have found students were more likely to make a meal and take it with them back to the playground.

Staff kindly volunteer their time in the morning to set up, make breaky and ensure all students have access to food.





## BUSH TUCKER BBQ

Year 9 and 11 Food Technology classes have been learning about traditional Aboriginal food. Recently we headed to the yarning circle and enjoyed some Johnny cakes featuring native herbs and spices and kangaroo skewers. Brad Withers, our Aboriginal Education Officer shared his wealth of knowledge of traditional hunting and gathering, along with the preparation techniques and Aboriginal totems.

Everyone had a great day celebrating Aboriginal culture and learning about traditional native foods.



## YEAR 10 STUDENT TO TAKE PART IN Y NSW YOUTH PARLIMENT PROGRAM

Caitlin Blanch of Year 10, will take part in the Y NSW Youth Parliament. This is a program driven by engaging youth who have the same or similar passions in advocating for their electorates and young populations as a whole.

With 10 weeks before the committee meeting in Sydney, the focuss is on preparing participants by creating bills, educating them on proper mannerisms for Parliament, different terminologies and joining the unique committees with their members. This endeavour will also entail a series of debating, refuting and team building during our time together at NSW parliament.

Caitlin will be a part of the Justice Committee which will model a bill to improve legislation and current practises that aren't presently effective. Our focus is on LEPR (Law Enforcement, Powers and Responsibilities Act), as well as the re-education of Police and Correctional officers on the treatment of people with disabilities, mental health and those of colour.





## CAREERS ON COUNTRY



Peel High School students recently participated in the Careers on Country expo, held at Trelawney Station in Somerton. This expo provided our students the opportunity to speak to people from local industry, TAFE, University and local employers about employment and training opportunities available in the local area.

Our students said the day was "informative", "interesting" and "well-run". We would like to thank the Opportunity HUB and the Local Aboriginal Lands Council for offering this opportunity to our students & we look forward to participating again in 2022.

Mrs Herdegen – Careers Adviser





## JOBLINK BARBERING COURSE

Recently we had a group of students participate in a week-long barbering course which was run by Joblink Plus and Karly Brogan, our Regional Industry Education Partnership Officer. Students spent the week taking part in teamwork drills, learning new communication skills in the workforce, all whilst getting hands on experience in this industry.

This group of students represented Peel High School with pride and the feedback we received from the students has been overwhelmingly positive.

We are so proud of this group of students and we are excited to offer them more opportunities of this kind in the future. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Karly, Christian and Kylie for giving this opportunity to our students.



## FLORESTRY WORKSHOP

Year 12 student Erica Hall recently took part in a work experience placement at Designer Bunches. This opportunity gave Erica the chance to explore the prospects available within the Floristry Industry. She gained knowledge about employment pathways and training whilst experiencing the creative nature of the industry through a hands-on approach. The wreath that Erica made was donated to Peel High School and used at our formal Anzac Day commemorative assembly. This program was funded through the Department of Education REIP program and we would like to thank Karly Brogan for offering this opportunity to our students.





Education &  
Communities

# 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.

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.



# CANTEEN PRICE LIST



To avoid  
disappointment, please  
order your Recess before  
School and Lunch at  
Recess



## PRICE LIST

### HOT FOOD

Chicken Burger	4.00
Chicken Caesar Burger, Lettuce, Caesar Sauce, Cheese & Bacon	4.50
Chicken, Cheese & Sweet Chilli	
Toasted Wrap	3.50
Chicken & Gravy Roll	4.50
Pie	4.00
Potato Pie	4.00
Meatball & Cheese Sub	4.00
Garlic Bread	2.00
Chicken Fingers (4)	2.00
Chicken Crackles (4)	2.00
Cheese toastie	2.00
Ham & Cheese toastie	3.00
Ham, cheese & tomato toastie	3.50
Cheesy tomato pasta	4.00
Beef Lasagna	4.50
Cheeseburger	4.50
Dim Sims	3.50
<b>WRAPS</b>	
Chicken salad wrap	4.50
Caesar salad wrap	4.50
Ham salad wrap	4.50

### DRINKS

Water 600ml	1.00
Water 1.5 litre	2.50
Flavoured Milk (300ml) Choc or Strawberry	2.50
Flavoured Milk (500ml) Choc or Strawberry	3.50
Juice Bomb (variety)	2.50
Juice (250ml) (variety)	2.50
Dairy Farmers Iced Coffee	3.50
Dare Double Espresso	3.80
Can Coke no sugar	2.70
Plain milk 600ml	2.00

### SNACKS

Sea salt chips	1.50
Grain waves	1.50
Chocolate muffin	2.00
Cheese & Jatz	3.00
Watermelon tub	3.00

### FROZEN

Juice	1.50
Quecher	0.80
Slushie	2.50





We create  
**collaborative**  
learning  
environments

We  
all play  
**a part**

We work  
**in partnership**  
to promote  
student  
learning

### Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process: [education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students](https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students)

### Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

### Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



**Collaborative.  
Respectful.  
Communication.**

**School Community Charter**

[education.nsw.gov.au](https://education.nsw.gov.au)

**CYBER-SAFETY.....**

Here are eight easy ways to help your kids stay out of trouble in cyberspace.

**At a glance**

- Don't let your child post photos of themselves wearing their school uniform – it can be enough to identify your child's school.
  - Ensure your child never organises to meet up with any strangers they have met online.
  - Talk about what websites are appropriate with your child so they understand and make the right choice.
  - By publishing without thinking, your child's innocent work online may be something that comes back later to haunt them.
  - If your child starts being secretive about what they are doing online, check it out.
1. **Keep computers out in the open**  
Your child may think twice about looking at inappropriate websites and won't be able to chat to their friends all night while you think they are doing their homework.
  2. **Mind your business**  
Remind your child to keep information such as their name, address, phone number, school and even your credit card number to themselves. When signing up to a chat room, they should use a screen name that is a nickname and not easy to work out. The same goes for choosing passwords – don't make them easy to figure out. If your child is going to put photos on the internet, ensure they don't show them wearing their school uniform – this can be enough to identify your child's school. Also ensure that any photos are not the type that would attract unwanted attention from strangers.
  3. **Just because it's on the internet, it doesn't mean it's true**  
Make sure your child uses multiple sources for research, and is careful not to plagiarise.
  4. **Stranger danger is online, too**  
Ensure your child never organises to meet up with any strangers they have met online. If they really want to meet up, encourage them to talk to you about it first and insist on going along with them. Remind your children to also be wary opening emails from strangers. They could contain spam (online junk mail), a virus (which will harm your computer), or be from a stranger looking for trouble.
  5. **Get a filter**  
Internet filters can help block inappropriate sites for children. None are completely reliable and it's best if you talk about what websites are appropriate with your child so they understand and make the right choice on their own.
  6. **Encourage your child to talk with you about their online experiences – good and bad**  
This will make it easier for them if they see something inappropriate or are emailed something unsuitable. If they are embarrassed to tell you, persuade them to at least tell a teacher or another trusted adult.
  7. **Good manners also exist online**  
Talk about this with your child and it may lead to a decline in bullying behaviour, not to mention the many disagreements that children have with each other.
  8. **Forever is a long time**  
A lot of blogs and websites maintain information as part of cyberspace forever. By publishing without thinking of the future, your child's innocent work online may be something that comes up later on and may negatively impact their career and personal life.

**Danger signs**

- Your child constantly sits on the computer in chat rooms or instant messaging, from straight after school to very late at night.
- Your child begins showing unexplained money or items that come from "a friend you don't know".
- Your child starts being secretive about what they are doing online – this could include anything from minimising screens as you walk past, to not letting you see their blogs/chat/social media sites.



**ARRIVAL ON TIME:**

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students don't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when the students are most alert
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Gives students time to greet their friends before class and therefore,
- Reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained by parents or carers in the same way as other forms of absence.

**MUST MY CHILD ATTEND ALL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING SPORT)?**

YES. Sport and other physical activities help the healthy physical and mental development of children. Sport and sports carnivals are normal school activities and students must attend.

Students are NOT encouraged to use sport afternoon to attend appointments. Participation in sport is an important part of their development and education.

Should a student be absent from sport, a note or primary carer phone call must be received by the Back Office prior to 12pm. Students who consistently fail to attend sport may receive a request for documentation to justify absences during sport. **If documentation can't be presented to the school, the absences may be recorded as unjustified.**

**CONSEQUENCES:**

At Peel High School the consequences or impacts of unexplained or unjustified absences might include the following:

- Ineligibility to represent school in sporting teams
- Ineligibility to represent school in extra-curricular activities
- Exclusion from Year Days and non-mandatory excursions, and;
- Exclusion from school functions such as school discos.
- As per Peel High School policies, students who have paid deposits, or part thereof, for excursions may not be able to have any money refunded if their behaviour or attendance is unacceptable.

**ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS:**

All students should:

- Aim for 100% attendance
- When absent, provide a justified reason for the absence
- Be on time and ready for all school activities and lessons
- When late, make sure you sign in at the Back Office
- Ensure they go through the Back Office if sick and need to go home early



### *Attendance Policy*

#### **School Attendance – “It’s not OK to be away”**

All children have a right to an education. Only by regular school attendance can students make the most of educational opportunities, leading to greater social and economic outcomes.

Schools, in partnership with parents/carers, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff and the Peel High School Head Teacher of Attendance, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL WHEREVER POSSIBLE:**

- Provide a safe learning environment enabling students to achieve the best possible outcomes
- Work with parents, carers and the local community to increase student attendance
- Monitor all student attendance and work with students and parents/carers to improve attendance where a concern has been raised
- Provide support through the school Welfare Team to address concerns leading to poor attendance
- Promote the benefits of regular school attendance
- Deliver quality curriculum based lessons
- Implement a reward system for 100% attendance and improved attendance
- Provide parents/carers timely feedback on all daily absences and fractional truancy

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT:**

- Attend school consistently and actively participate in learning opportunities
- Whilst present at school attend all lessons promptly
- Attend school wearing the correct school uniform
- To comply with the school’s welfare and discipline code

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENTS/CARERS:**

- The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents (including carers) ensure that children are enrolled at and regularly attend school.
- Provide written or verbal confirmation regarding student absences. If a student has more than 3 unexplained/ unjustified absences in the previous 5 week period, that student will be placed on the Attendance List and will be unable to participate in extra-curricular activities until attendance improves.
- Work alongside Peel High School to promote 100% attendance.

#### **WHAT IS A JUSTIFIED REASON FOR BEING ABSENT FROM SCHOOL?**

Justified reasons for absences may include the student:



- Having an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably, these should be made after school or during holidays)
- Being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- Being required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstances (such as attending a funeral)
- Being sick, or having an infectious disease
- Any other leave permitted by a doctor or psychologist for ongoing mental health or general health concerns (documentation must be provided to the school to support this leave)

**ABSENCES FOR REASONS SUCH AS SOME OF THE FOLLOWING MAY NOT BE JUSTIFIED:**

- Shopping
- Sleeping in
- Working around the house
- Minor family events such as birthdays
- Hair cuts

**LATE ARRIVAL NOTICE TO PARENTS:**

Peel High School sends out mobile text messages to primary carers when students arrive late to school. This is to ensure parents/carer's are aware of their child's late attendance on any given day.

Parents and carer's can now promptly respond to explain their child's late arrival to school.

Mobile text messages will also be sent to primary carers indicating a student's absence if communication has not been received by the school that morning explaining the absence.

We thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support of the Peel High Attendance Program and our efforts to provide positive learning outcomes for our students.

**KEEPING THE SCHOOL INFORMED:**

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the absence. To explain an absence the **student's primary carer may:**

- Send a note or email to the school
- Telephone the school's Back Office
- Visit the school and speak to someone in person
- Respond to the text message sent by the school

**The Principal (or delegate) of the school has the right to question an explanation given for a child's absence from school. Where a pattern of absence is identified, the Principal (or delegate) may request parents/carers to submit documentation justifying absences in the future. If documentation can't be presented to the school, the absences may be recorded as unjustified.**

**HOLIDAYS:**

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. If this is necessary parents should discuss these absences with the Head Teacher of Attendance at which point an Attendance Exemption from attendance at school may be put in place. This will ensure that these absences are not permanently recorded as unjustified.

1 NSW Department of Education

# Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:



Learn



Build friendships



Develop life skills



## Days missed = years lost

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

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight = **4** weeks = Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week = **8** weeks = Over **2.5** years missed





### Peel High School Variation of Routine Report Proforma

We have included a copy of our VOR report for the purpose of informing parents/carers and students that we would like the opportunity to report on students involvement and successes in activities outside of school events, such as sporting representations and community service involvements.

As the school is not always aware of participation in events outside of school, for them to be acknowledged it is the students responsibility to collect a copy of this form from the front office prior to the event and return it to the office after participation in your activity including information that is outlined on the form.



### Peel High School VOR Report

#### DETAILS OF EXCURSION

Name of Excursion / Visit			
Learning Area		Teacher in Charge	
Other Staff Attending			
Dates and Times		To	

**Orientation States:** who was involved in the event, what it was, where and when it happened.

**Sequence of events:** States a series of events that happened from start of the retelling. The events are retold in the time order that they occurred.