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Term 1 Week 2 2025

Principal's Report



Welcome Back to School!

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

As we step into a new school year, we are filled with excitement and optimism for what lies ahead. We warmly welcome all our students back to school, especially our 3 new

Kindergarten students who are beginning this important chapter in their educational journey.

This year promises to be full of opportunities for growth, learning, and connection. I am delighted to welcome our new teacher Sabrina Curr who has demonstrated her passion for education and has been collaborating with all staff as we prepare engaging lessons and activities that will inspire curiosity and foster a love for learning. I also extend a warm welcome to our new School Learning Support Officer Sammi McCarthy who will be working to support Sabrina each Friday when our school lessons are K-6.

To our 14 students, we are thrilled to have you with us! This year will be pivotal in shaping your academic and personal growth. We look forward to supporting you as you forge new friendships, explore your interests, and strive for your goals. We encourage all students to embrace the challenges and triumphs that come with a new year, as each

experience is a stepping stone toward success.

Let's make this year one of collaboration, creativity, and compassion. Together, we can create a vibrant school community where everyone feels valued and motivated to achieve their best.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,

Jennifer Winkel

Principal

Hernani Public School





The 2025 school year has commenced with a strong focus on ensuring consistency across student classrooms and providing our students with clear, consistent school-wide processes and expectations. Feel free to ask your child about our new routines as we hope this becomes a positive part of their learning journey.

Special Request

Could all students please have a photo of a favourite pet/animal for this coming Monday? These could be emailed to the school or sent through as a text to the school mobile 0427 287 523.

This year we ask that **NO** toys be brought to school unless asked by a teacher.

This term in the K-2 class...

Dear Families,

As we embark on Term 1, my primary focus will be on building strong relationships with each student. I believe that fostering a sense of connection will create the best possible learning environment for everyone.

In our morning sessions, we will engage with the InitialLit program, followed by exploring the Department of Education English units. Our first text will be "The March of the Ants," where we will delve into the concept of representation.

In Mathematics, students will engage with the Explicit And Systematic Teaching (EAST) Mathematics Program through a variety of explicit lessons and activities aimed at building their foundational skills and boosting their confidence. We will begin by exploring the representation of whole numbers.

In Geography, we will investigate how people are connected to places and communities.

Our Science unit will focus on living things, a topic I am sure the students will find fascinating!

For Creative Arts, we will kick off the year by creating self-portraits to display in our classroom, helping us to get to know each other better. Additionally, students will continue their music lessons with Mrs. Mackson and will use Amplify to explore dance and drama.

In Physical Education, we will be playing cricket, participating in intensive swimming lessons, and practising athletics as we develop our fundamental movement skills throughout the term. Our focus in Physical Development and Health lessons will include engaging with the Second Step student wellbeing program, as well as unpacking how we care for and include each other respectfully.

I look forward to a fantastic term filled with learning, exploration, and fun!

Sabrina Curr

K-2 Teacher

Library News from Miss Curr

Library will be on Fridays. This year students will need to have a library bag and have returned all of their books to be allowed to borrow 2 books only each week. Any questions or queries please see Miss Curr.

An insight into learning in the 3-6 class

As Term 1 commences my focus will be to promote student engagement with learning, providing opportunities for educational challenges and individualised goal setting. In order to achieve this, students will be completing beginning of the year assessments in Mathematics and English to guide our teaching and learning programs.

In our morning sessions, we will engage with the Department of Education English 3-6 multi-age units. Students will use the mentor text "It's the Sound of the Thing" to gain a deeper understanding of the textual concepts 'imagery, symbol and connotation' and 'perspective and context'. We will be exploring how authors use imagery, symbol and connotation in poetry and how figurative language can influence meaning. Students will apply their understanding of structure and language choices to

create a mini anthology of poetry.

Our English lessons will also include learning activities to develop reading comprehension and fluency, vocabulary, spelling, handwriting, and digital transcription.

In Mathematics, students will continue to engage with the Explicit And Systematic Teaching (EAST) Mathematics Program through a variety of explicit lessons and activities including our daily review focus. Our first lessons will be extending student understanding of representing numbers.

This Term I am challenging students to think creatively and problem solve with daily 'Brain Teasers', 'Peek-a-Boos' and a general knowledge quiz. For example, can you solve these?

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A deeper dive into our learning this term

This term all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will be developing their understanding of representing numbers in mathematics.

Early skill development focuses on counting first to 5, then to 10, with the understanding that the numbers are always in the same order, and represent certain amounts.

A fun way you can support your child in this area is by singing counting songs like "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, once I caught a fish alive" and "1, 2, buckle my shoe". Also, counting out objects one at a time while saying the matching number is a very important skill and easy to do at home.

To progress further, students are working with numbers in the two- and three-digits. We are representing them with concrete materials like paddle pop sticks and Base 10 blocks, and learning that the value on the number depends on where it is placed, e.g. ones, tens, hundreds.

A great game you can play with your child to support them in this area is the [Nice or Nasty game](#), using only 2 or 3 boxes each.

Beyond this, students are progressing to reading,

writing and representing numbers from four- to six-digits, that's in the hundred thousands! We continue to hone our understanding of place value as the numbers get bigger.

Finally, students are learning to read, write and represent numbers in the millions and billions! That's 12-digits! We like to use our place value houses to model and record the enormous numbers we are working with.

A fun activity we like to do to consolidate this learning is the game [Mastermind](#), which you can play with up to 10-digit numbers.

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School Photos 2025

Our school photos for 2025 are going to be taken by Dorrigo Photographic Services on Friday 14 February. Lou is sending information through to the school early next week which we will distribute to each family ASAP. If you have any questions please see Fiona.

School Swimming and Water Safety Program

In week 4 Monday 17 to Friday 21 February students will be participating in daily swimming lessons at the Dorrigo Swim Centre. As our program is running over 5 days and not the traditional 10-day program students will be completing double sessions each day with a break between each session. The consent note for this program is a paper-based consent form and will not be in School Bytes. Parents are requested to provide permission for each individual child.

Our 2024 School Swimming and Water Safety Program was collaboratively planned with parents in Term 4 to be held in Term 1 this year. As discussed at the P&C meeting held in Term 4 we have arranged for transportation to be via the Dorrigo Bus Service. We are grateful for the support of the P&C in paying for the bus as this ensures that parents do not have to provide private vehicle transport.

Our 2025 School Swimming and Water Safety Program will be held in Term 4 this year. This will ensure that the 2026 school year does not have the disruption to the Term 1 learning program for students.

NAPLAN 2025

Students in Years 3 and 5 will complete the NAPLAN assessments later this term between Wednesday 12 March through to Monday 24 March 2025. Parents of our Year 3 and Year 5 cohort will be provided with our schools planned scheduling for NAPLAN assessments - writing, reading, conventions of language and numeracy. NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum with results informing both individual learning programs for our students and school priorities. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have any questions.

Housekeeping

Please take the time to read through these important reminders:

- If children arrive at school before staff duty time commences at 8:30am, parents must remain and supervise their children until staff duty commences.
- Please remember to fill out a "Note of explanation for being absent from school" or inform us of your child's absence via email or in School Bytes. An explanation must be provided within 7 days or your child's absence will be recorded as "Unjustified."

Please note the points below:

- Regular school attendance is fundamental to student learning. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve educational success and increase their career and life options. Student attendance has been identified as an important aspect of a student's wellbeing, and failure to receive an education has been identified as a risk of harm factor. Poor patterns of attendance place students at risk of not achieving their educational, social, and psychological potential and disadvantage them in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations.
- Our school has a "No Hat No Play" policy and all students are required to wear their broad-brimmed sunhat.
- Parents are asked to ensure that their child/children arrive at school with sunscreen already applied. We will ask students to reapply sunscreen prior to outdoor play.

- Students require a labelled water bottle every day and will have these in class. For safety reasons please do not send glass water bottles or glass lunch containers to school.
- All students will be eating a vegetable/fruit snack at approximately 9.00am. Please provide your child with a suitable snack for this break. Items that are very messy, such as watermelon and oranges, are best saved for our regular lunch and recess times. Students continue to work during this break.
- Healthy nutritious lunch items are encouraged, and our school has a "No lollies or chocolate" policy for student lunches.
- After school hours: We welcome and value parents feeling welcome at school. We request that parents/carers are aware that they are responsible for their child's supervision after school hours. School rules are still to be followed to ensure safety for all students and visitors. Thus, out of bounds areas still apply and students are to play in accordance with normal school policy, such as wearing shoes and a sunhat.

We thank parents for their assistance.

- We welcome open communication and value the chance to discuss concerns, your child's progress, and other items. However, we request that parents please ask for an appointment. We will then schedule a convenient meeting time. Thank you.
- As time permits consent notes/forms and updates for the 2025 year will be sent home for parents to complete and return. We request that the school be notified of changed emergency contact details, please advise the school ASAP.
- All parents are reminded that the safety of our students is paramount. The Marengo Road can at times be busy and parking is limited. As such we encourage parents to use the grassed areas and keep the roadway clear. Students need to be collected from the school grounds and escorted to and from school by parents or their adult guardians. Thank you for your assistance.
- It is essential that the school is advised of changes for your child. This includes allergies, planned collection arrangements at the end of each day and prescribed medicines etc.

- Our school readers, library books, pencils etc are valuable items and it would be appreciated if parents could please assist their child/children to look after these.

Upcoming events

Week 3

Tuesday 11 February - Small Schools Swimming Carnival at Bellingen 8 years and over.

Thursday 13 February - P&C 2024 AGM 3.15pm.

Friday 14 February - School Photos.

Week 4

Monday 17 to Friday 21 February - Swimming and Water Safety Program, daily double lessons.

Week 5

Monday 24 February - District Swimming Carnival Macksville

Friday 28 February - Mid North Coast Swimming Carnival

Week 7 to Week 9 (Test Window)

Wednesday 12 March to Monday 24 March - **NAPLAN**