



Our mission is to provide children with...

- a love of learning
 - a pride in achievement
 - a respect for themselves and others
- ...in a safe and happy environment*

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A Great Start!

We have had a great start to the year with no suspensions and very few students being required to visit planning room! Students and staff have been working hard at setting up good quality routines that will support them through the rest of the year. Our classes are established and stable with numbers holding with what was predicted at the end of last year. The Pre School has made the positive move to full day attendance for the students and this is progressing well and we are gradually filling places in the Early Intervention Unit.

School Fees

Over the past few years Telarah Public School has not charged a Voluntary Contribution Fee. This will remain the case for 2012 but will be reviewed with the P and C throughout the year. Individuals who wish to make a donation towards supporting any program at the school are very welcome to. We have a number of initiatives that are very reliant on donated money, resources and grants that we apply for, further resources will ensure their stability.

Early Intervention Unit

We are very fortunate at our school to have the Early Intervention Unit as a resource. The Unit is a designated resource for the Maitland District Area and caters for Pre School aged children with a diagnosed disability to help them get ready to come to school. Currently it is not at capacity, if you have a child who is pre school age or know of a child who may benefit from the service please contact the school and I will be very happy to provide more information. Enrolment in the Unit is subject to application, we will be very happy to support people through this process.

Anti-Bullying Policy

At our Staff Development Day at the beginning of term the staff discussed the schools anti bullying policy and its implementation. The purpose of this was to ensure that we have consistency across the school. I have provided

a brief summary of the steps that we teach our students to undertake if they feel they are being bullied at any time, inside school or out.

Step 1: **Attempt to ignore the bully**, if they do not get an immediate reaction they may go away or stop the behaviour.

Step 2: **Tell the bully to stop and leave you alone.** Sometimes the behaviour is seen by the bully as fun or a game. If the victim tells the bully it is not in an assertive not aggressive way this clearly outlines that it is not. Different ages say this in different ways, our pre school students may say "Stop it, I don't like it!"

Step 3: **Get Help.** This is not dobbing. This is identifying that there is a problem and getting help to deal with it. In the playground it is the nearest teacher on duty. In the classroom it the teacher on the class. At home it can be Mum, Dad or another trusted adult. The adult may talk the student through the previous steps and provide some advice ensuring they follow up with the student or they may move in to address the problem directly.

The aim within these strategies is to help build resilience within our students to enable them to address problems independently. There will be further work on this throughout the year, we will keep you updated.

2012 Calendar

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 7 February | P&C Meeting |
| Thursday 16 February | Swimming Trials |
| Friday 17 February | Yr 6 Show Day |
| Friday 16 March | Yr 6 Expression of Interest Due |

Hats

In terms 1 and 4 it is school policy that students do not play in the playground unless they are wearing a hat. If students do not have a hat, they will need to play under a shaded area. Throughout 2012 we will be reviewing this policy with the key discussion points being extending the policy to full year implementation with students required to wear hats all year round and directing students to wear full brim hats. Please ensure that at this stage your child brings a hat to school that has their name clearly written inside the brim. It would even better if it was a full brim one! Full brim green school hats are available from the uniform shop.

Emailed Newsletter

Our newsletter is published on our school website each time it is published and this year we would also like to begin emailing it home to families who would like to receive it electronically. In the near future we will be sending out the annual blanket permission note for school photographs, internet agreements etc. We will add a section for parents and caregivers to enter their preferred email address. Our aim is to create email distribution lists for all classes so that all notes and class information can be emailed to parents to avoid the "I lost it at the bottom of my bag" syndrome that occurs regularly.

Facebook

I have put the school onto Facebook and use it to regularly announce things that are happening at the school. We have had a few friend requests from students that have been declined as it is not legal for students under the age of 13 to have a Facebook account. Please be very aware that posting negative or derogatory comments towards students, staff or the school is not appropriate and in circumstances where this occurs we appreciate that the owner of the post removes any comment as soon as possible. To date we have had no real issues that have not been able to be resolved very quickly and appreciate our community's openness to communicating in this forum. Send us a friend request if you wish to receive regular updates!

All the best for a great 2012

Regards

Tony Gadd - Principal

P&C Annual General Meeting

Tonight we will be holding our P&C Annual General Meeting at 7pm in the administration block. Please be aware that only members who were financial at the last meeting are able to vote during the AGM.

Student Emergency Contact Form

All students will receive later this week a Student Emergency Contact Form for parents to check that we have the correct contact information for your child. This information is very important in the event we have to contact you for an emergency or if your child is sick.

Could parents please sign the form and return to the front office as soon as possible.

Year 7 2013 Expression of Interest

All students in Year 6 are required to complete an Expression of Interest form for High School for 2013. This form will indicate which school you would like your child to attend for High School next year. All students in Year 6 received their Expression of Interest today. All forms need to be returned to the office by Friday 16 March. Please see your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Swimming Trials

On Thursday 16 February we will be holding our Swimming Trials at East Maitland Swimming Pool. This is for students wanting to represent our school at Zone level. If your child is interested in participating in the swimming trials, please see Mr Willcocks for a permission note.

Judith Tilbrook

Our tribute to Mrs Tilbrook has been completed. We now have a mosaic on our library wall, which depicts lots of things Mrs Tilbrook loved and also the beautiful reading seat and garden which Mrs Tilbrook's family helped to plant. All parents are welcome to come and see these wonderful gifts.

Many thanks to Karyn Kennedy, Trish and Madeleine Maher and Julie and Rob Greedy for all their time and hard work to create these memories.



First Craft night for Term 1 6 Feb 2012



Junior Craft Club

Monday Nights

4.30 – 6.00 pm

For children 8 – 14 years

St Christopher's Church Hall
92 Gillies St, Rutherford
\$3.00 per night.
All materials & afternoon tea
supplied.

For more information
4932 8604

First Chess night for Term 1 8 Feb 2012



St Christopher's Chess Club

When: Wednesday Nights
Time: 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm
Where: St Christopher's
Church Hall
92 Gillies Street
Rutherford
Cost: \$3.00

Beginners to experienced...
From 8 – 18 years...
All players welcome!

A group of the Anglican Parish of Telarah-Rutherford

For more information
Contact Janice Fleming
4932 4336 or 0402 239 813



Come and join the Quick Kicks fun! – NO BOYS ALLOWED!

Girls Quick Kicks is a program just for girls, developed by NNSWF to accommodate the burgeoning interest in women's football. It is a non-competitive, friendly entry level format of the game designed to target girls wishing to try football for the first time.

After the success of Girls Quick Kicks pilots launched in Term 4 of 2011, Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) will once again be running Girls Quick Kicks programs, this time in three locations across the Hunter, during Term 1 of 2012.

Whilst the format is ideally suited to new players, it is certain to attract established players as well who are eager to continue to play beyond the regular winter season, in a format of the game that offers a fun alternative to traditional club competition.

Girls Quick Kicks for Term 1 of 2012 will commence the second week of February at Charlestown, Cooks Hill and Maitland for girls in Years 3 to 9. An exciting five-a-side format will be featured and teams will play 2 x 30 minute games on fields 30m x 20m at the same venue and same time each week. All locations have a 5pm start for a 5.30 kick off.

Locations:

Charlestown Quick Kicks
Charlestown Oval (Lincoln St,
Charlestown)
Tuesday afternoons commencing
14th February to 3rd April

Cooks Hill Quick Kicks
National Park (Cnr Union St and
Park Ave, Cooks Hill),
Wednesday afternoons
commencing 15th February to 4th
April

Maitland Quick Kicks
Fieldsend Oval (Cnr Metford
Road and Fieldsend Street,
Metford), Tuesday afternoons
commencing 14th February to 3rd
April

How to register:

To play Quick Kicks, girls must nominate a team at www.quickkicks.com.au and then register as a player at www.myfootballclub.com.au with an upfront registration fee of \$25.00. The Registration Fee includes an official Quick Kicks playing t-shirt, registration with Football Federation Australia and Sports Accident Support Policy.

Teams will have a weekly participation fee of \$56.00 (per team)

Girls wishing to find out more or to register for Quick Kicks can visit the official Quick Kicks website at www.quickkicks.com.au

Regards,
Nyssa Suchanow
Female Participation Officer

NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL
235 Old Maitland Rd, HEXHAM
P 02 4964 8922
F 02 4964 8921
E reception@northernnswfootball.com.au



WEST MAITLAND SCHOOL BOYS

R.L.F.C

INVITE YOU TO PLAY THE GREAT GAME OF

RUGBY LEAGUE

AGES 6-17 ARE ALL INVITED TO HAVE FUN AND GET FIT
WITH YOUR FRIENDS, LEARN NEW SKILLS, AND BE PART OF
A TEAM.

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE AT TELARAH BOWLING CLUB ON
SUNDAY 5TH & 12TH FEB

THEN EVERY WEDNESDAY IN MARCH

4-5PM AT CORONATION OVAL

OUR COACHES ARE A MINIMUM LEVEL ONE ACCREDITED AND ARE OVERSEEN
BY AN EXPERIENCED COACHING PANEL TO ENSURE YOU WILL HAVE THE BEST
POSSIBLE COACHING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0407417505



PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

Sunday 29th Jan 2012 – 10am to 1pm
Tuesday 31st Jan 2012 – 3:30pm to 5:30pm
Saturday 4th FEB 2012 – 1pm to 3pm
Tuesday 7th FEB 2012 – 530pm to 730pm
Sunday 12th February 2012 – 10am to 1pm

To be held at Maitland City Bowling Club
Registration online at www.myfootballclub.com.au
Previous Known as Rutherford Junior Soccer Club

Under 6 & Under 7 \$70
Under 8 TO Under 11 \$ 90
Under 12 TO Under 18 \$120
ADULTS Males & Females \$210

New players will need to supply a copy of Birth Certificate

Positions available in all age groups U6 to Over 35.

U10 U12 U14 U16 U18 Girls for Sunday Girls Competition & All Age Ladies needed.

.For further information please visit our website

www.rutherfordfc.com

or contact the Club Secretary on 0423361736



The Mutual
BANK@school
www.mightymutuals.com.au

Every Thursday

Please be reminded that Bank@School continues each Thursday at the school.
Students can make their deposits by placing their passbooks in the secured school
banking box at the School Office. At the allocated time a Mutual representative will
arrive to process transactions. Any students not currently enrolled in Bank@School
should see the office for an application.



About the Education Tax Refund

Who is eligible?

- A person who has received Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for a child undertaking primary or secondary school studies.
- Independent students in primary or secondary school.
- People on other allowances may be eligible too.

How much can be claimed?

Those eligible can claim 50% of eligible education expenses up to the maximum amounts.

For this year (2011-12) the maximum amounts that can be claimed are:

- \$818 for each primary school child — that is, a refund of up to \$409, and
- \$1,636 for each secondary school child — that is a refund of up to \$818.

What is new in 2011-12?

School-approved uniforms, including hats, footwear and sports uniforms purchased from 1 July 2011 can be claimed as part of the ETR at Tax Time 2012.

What else can be claimed?

Eligible expenses include the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:

- home computers and laptops
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, and disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- home internet connections
- computer software for educational use
- school textbooks and other printed learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery, and
- prescribed trade tools for secondary school trade courses.

How do people claim?

- The ETR is claimed in an individual's tax return, or
- For those who don't lodge a tax return, it is claimed on the *Education Tax Refund for individuals* claim form, available from the ATO.

For more information go to www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au.

For more information and an electronic copy of this fact sheet visit

www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au



Education Tax Refund Update



Associated Learning Materials



Computer Repairs



Stationery



Exercise Books

Winter Uniforms



School uniforms

The Government has changed the Education Tax Refund (ETR) so that people can now claim their kid's school uniforms purchased from 1 July 2011. This means people will be able to claim school-approved uniform items at Tax Time 2012.

What do I need to do and when?

Start keeping receipts for school uniform items purchased from 1 July 2011 so you can include them as part of your 2011-12 ETR claim.

What school uniform items will I be eligible to claim?

Items need to be distinctive and recognised by the school — but are not limited to items bearing a school crest. For example:

- A public school has a policy which states that students should wear yellow shirts, blue hats, grey shorts or skirts and black leather shoes to identify the students as attending the school. However, while wearing these colours is strongly encouraged, it is not compulsory. An eligible individual whose child attends the school buys items which fit within this policy from a store unaffiliated with the school. None of the clothing items contain the name of the school or school crest. As the items, including shoes, are approved or recognised as part of a distinctive school outfit and fall under the policy, they would be eligible expenses. This applies irrespective of where the clothing was purchased or whether the uniform was mandatory.
- A school has a dress code where students are required to be dressed in a neat and presentable fashion, but which does not indicate a more specific colour or style that the clothing should take. An eligible individual whose child attends the school buys clothes which they intend to wear to school. The items would not be eligible expenses. While the clothing meets the school's dress code, they lack the sufficiently distinctive quality of a uniform, and could not identify the child as a student at the school.



School Shirts



School Shoes



Summer Uniforms



Sports Uniforms

Education Tax Refund
Claim everything you are entitled to

For more information and an electronic copy of this fact sheet visit

www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au