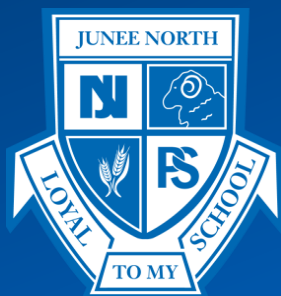


■ Last updated: June 2013

■ Principal: Kay Thurston



Junee North Public School

Starting Kindergarten



Parent Information Booklet

Welcome to Junee North!

- Phone: (02) 6924 1839
- Fax: (02) 6924 1794
- Email: juneenorth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
- Website: www.juneenorth-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Loyal to my School
Junee North Public School
1-15 Queen Street
Junee NSW 2663

Welcome to Junee North Public School. This booklet contains some information to assist parents of new Kindergarten students. We trust you will find this information useful. We look forward to a happy learning time ahead with your child.

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Who are the people at Junee North?

PRINCIPAL :

Mrs Kay Thurston

Leads and manages the school and ensures that the education and welfare of all students comes first. The principal is always happy to talk with you. To arrange a time please contact the school office.



ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS :

Mrs Philippa Bostock & Mrs Justine McDevitt

Support the principal in the efficient running of the school and lead teams in support, staff and curriculum development.



CLASSROOM TEACHERS :

Talk to the classroom teacher first about anything to do with your child.

The teacher will recommend who else you may need to see, eg assistant principal or school counsellor. Kindergarten teachers for 2014 are Mrs Justine McDevitt and Mrs Alison White.



SCHOOL COUNSELLOR:

Mr Paul Wetherbee

Mr Wetherbee provides support to students and their families, including counselling and individual educational assessments. He visits Junee North each Friday. You or the class teacher can refer the child and as a parent you are considered an integral part of the assessment and support planning process.

SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF:

Mrs Gaye Pengilly & Mrs Julie Smith

The office staff help you with any general enquiries such as bus passes, forms and making appointments to see the school staff. You also see them if your child comes to school late or need to leave early for any reason.



LEARNING & SUPPORT TEACHER :

Mrs Leigh Fitzgerald

Mrs Fitzgerald helps students with learning difficulties by implementing programs to support the development of literacy, numeracy and social skills. Mrs Fitzgerald works both within the classroom and with individual and small groups needing additional support. She works at Junee North Monday to Thursday.



READING RECOVERY TEACHER :

Mrs Alison Higginson

Mrs Higginson helps students in Year 1 experiencing difficulty with the development of literacy skills. Mrs Higginson works 1-to-1 with selected students on a daily basis. A specific support program is also provided



SCHOOL LIBRARIAN:

Mrs Gabrielle Commins

Mrs Commins teaches library skills for ½ hour each week to each class. Kindergarten students borrow from the library each week. All Kindergarten students are provided with a library bag for borrowing. Library day is every Monday unless advised.



LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS:

Learning support officers assist teachers in implementing programs and work with students with identified special needs.

Ensuring good communication with the school:

- Always make an appointment to see school staff as they are very busy.
- Go to the parent/teacher interviews, open days and other events where possible.
- Let the school know if your child is going to be away. Always send a note to explain the absence.
- Have a say in what happens at school by attending P&C meetings.
- Let the school know about issues that may affect your child at school, eg family illness

Remember, the school has the best interests of your child at heart and is willing assist your child and you in any way we can.

Junee North Public School Canteen

The Canteen committee of Junee North Public School welcomes your child to the school and wishes them well in their time at our wonderful school.

The school canteen operates as a service to the school offering fresh lunches and snacks twice each week on Mondays and Fridays. Volunteers assist the canteen supervisor. We need the help of as many parents as possible on the roster system.

Canteen is a very enjoyable day where you can meet other parents and carers, as well as seeing the school in action. If you are available to assist, you would be required between the hours of 9 am and 2 pm. However, if you are only able to spend an hour, assisting between 11 am and 12 pm over the recess period, that would also be appreciated! Any time you can provide is greatly appreciated and the children certainly love to see a parent working in the canteen. Without your help, our canteen cannot run effectively. If you can help, please fill out the attached volunteers form. If you have any enquiries about the canteen please phone the school office.

Please note that for OH&S reasons babies and children are not allowed in the canteen. A canteen price list is available from the office or our website.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Junee North P&C

The Parents & Citizens (P&C) committee meet every 3 weeks in the school staffroom. Meetings are held on Tuesday evenings commencing at 6:30 pm.

P&C meetings at Junee North are friendly get-togethers where school matters are discussed, fund-raising events co-ordinated and staff present information sessions on programs occurring in the school.

P&C meetings are a wonderful opportunity to find out about what is happening in the school, to ask questions and to suggest ways to support the staff and students. Please come along.

The P&C welcomes our new parents to Junee North Public School!

School Uniforms

School uniforms are a wonderful way to instill school pride in our students. We expect all students to wear correct school uniform at all times. School uniforms are sold through our school canteen. Uniforms are available for sale on canteen days – Mondays and Fridays. If parents are unable to attend during these days, simply collect a uniform order form from the front office and send in the order with money for your order to be filled. A uniform order form/pricelist is attached to the end of this booklet.



Kindergarten Checklist

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Listed below are some desirable skills that will assist your child to settle easily into Kindergarten.

Knows own name, address and age.	Yes	No
Can write own name from memory.	Yes	No
Confidently uses the toilet.	Yes	No
Talks well, using sentences.	Yes	No
Enjoys listening to stories.	Yes	No
Can tell simple stories.	Yes	No
Knows the alphabet.	Yes	No
Can count to 10.	Yes	No
Knows at least 6 colours	Yes	No
Can remember simple nursery rhymes.	Yes	No
Can clap in time to music.	Yes	No
Consistently uses either left or right hand with pencils and scissors.	Yes	No
Can confidently colour in and use scissors	Yes	No
Likes to complete interesting tasks (eg. finishing a puzzle).	Yes	No
Can put on outer clothing (shoes, socks, coat)	Yes	No
Runs confidently	Yes	No
Can co-operate and follow simple directions.	Yes	No
Confidently leaves parents.	Yes	No
Mixes easily and co-operates with other children.	Yes	No
Willingly seeks assistance from adults other than parents (eg. teacher, friends or family).	Yes	No

Other special needs that would assist your child's teacher (eg. Medication, behaviour needs, interests)

Thank you! We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Junee North Public School.

Jolly Phonics – “See it, Hear it, Feel it, Do it”

Jolly Phonics is a highly structured literacy program based on the teaching of letter sounds (phonics). Sounds are introduced in seven sets of six sounds. At the end of each set of six sounds, the children watch a revision video. There are 42+ sounds in all. The children will be introduced to all of these sounds by early in second term and this will provide the foundation for their reading and writing program in Term 1.

Jolly Phonics uses a multi-sensory approach to learning. The children learn by seeing, hearing, feeling and doing. Children are not only taught letter sounds, they are taught how to write them (correct letter formation), and how to use them when reading and writing words. Actions are associated with each new sound eg “s” snake crawling in the grass. Children are taught to blend letters to read words and experiment with letter blends to write words. Children also learn about tricky words ie those that cannot be sounded out phonetically.



Sound Books

Each child will have a “Sound Book” in which a new letter is pasted each night. Please revise the letter sound your child has learnt that day and revise letters already learnt. Your assistance will ensure that your child will be consolidating work already taught in class. The action for all letter sounds is included on each sheet sent home, which should make the homework more fun for you and your child.

Letter formation

A NSW Foundation Handwriting chart is included on the next page. The chart can be used as a reference when your child is unsure about the correct letter formation used at school. It indicates pencil orientation and directionality. It is most important that you encourage your child to use accurate letter formation at all times. Correct letter formation now, leads to more fluent handwriting and eventually in later years, an easy transition to cursive, ‘joined-up’ script.

Home/School Partnership

The link between home and school is critical in the learning process. Your role is significant as the parent/carer in the delivery of this program. At times the tutoring may be challenging as it will require time and patience, but you will be rewarded by the progress your child achieves through this program.

English K-6 NSW Foundation Style Handwriting

English K-6

Appendix A

Appendix A — NSW Foundation Style

The NSW Foundation Style (graphic overview)

THE SMALL LETTERS
 u y v w a d d (optional) g q c e o
 f j s n r m h k b p l t i x z

THE CAPITAL LETTERS
 U C G O Q J S
 B P R D I L E F H T (optional)
 A V W M N
 K Y X Z

THE NUMERALS 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

The quick brown fox
 jumps over the lazy dog.

Brain Gym

At Junee North, "Brain Gym" is a regular part of the Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 program. Brain Gym is the registered trademark for the name given to the 26 specific movements that are part of the Brain Gym and Educational Kinesiology program.

The Brain Gym movements prepare the brain and entire nervous system for optimal performance in all areas:

- Intellectual
- Creative
- Athletic
- Interpersonal

Brain Gym 'switches on' areas in the brain that are needed to cope with the day's learning. The skills are easy, quick and enjoyable, and they bring about dramatic and lasting changes in skills such as writing, organising, remembering, reading, concentrating, communicating, taking action, physical coordination and more.

Brain Gym is based on more than 80 years of research and has been shown in clinical experience, in field studies, and in published research reports, to prepare children and adults with the physical skills they need in order to learn, write and otherwise function effectively in the classroom or workplace.

Brain Gym is a learning readiness program with focus on the physical aspects of learning and behaviour. Doing the Brain Gym movements switches on the physical functioning of your brain and central nervous system, improving learning, thinking abilities, behaviour, motivation, self-esteem and confidence.

Understanding that there is a physical side to learning, we can open new pathways of communication within the brain to access more of our potential.

Helping your child settle happily into school

- Talk to your child about what their first day and week will be like.
- Discuss and familiarise your child with school routines to reduce the chance of surprises.
- Talk truthfully and realistically about school with your child. Answer any questions warmly and positively.
- Present school in a positive light – what you say is often what you get.
- Relax – if you are anxious your child will sense this and be inclined to be more clingy.
- Discuss new language – classroom, recess, canteen etc.
- Over the next few weeks/months try to get your child used to:
 - Putting on and taking off jumpers, shoes
 - Eating and drinking, opening containers without help
 - Using a handkerchief/ tissue correctly
 - Undoing a lunchbox and drink bottle lid
 - Using the toilet independently
 - Washing their hands correctly
 - Asking clearly for things
 - Saying his/her name, address and phone number
- Ensure your child goes to bed at a reasonable time – being over-tired will not help.
- Pack a healthy lunch and recess that your child will eat –use familiar, enjoyed foods.
- Plan ahead and avoid morning rushes if possible.
- Have fun on the way to school – relax, talk, play games.



Don't forget!

Next year

Get organised at home

Write your child's name on everything!
Make sure you have the school's phone number.
If you have a son, make sure he knows how to use a urinal.

The night before the first day

Lay out your child's clothes, shoes and socks.
Make your child's recess and lunch and pop it in the fridge.
Help your child to pack their school bag.
Pack a spare pair of underpants, socks and a change of clothes in a plastic bag. Let your child know these are in their backpack in case they have any toilet accidents at school.

The first day

Be confident about the first day with your child.
Let your child dress themselves as much as possible.
Tie back long hair or plait hair.
Apply sunscreen and take a hat.
Take photos!
Bring tissues! (for you, not your child!)
Pick up your child on time.



Things to assist your child when they begin school

Making friends at school

- Ask about the new people your child meets
- Use positive listening skills
- Ask 'How is this person a friend to you?'
- Encourage friendships
- Get to know the parents of your child's classmates
- Always speak to the teacher if there are any friendships problems



Communication

- Make the time to listen
- Don't minimize what is being said
- Encourage them to express their feelings
- Encourage them to 'sort things out'
- Be an advocate, not a judge



Encouraging responsible behaviour

- Talk with your child about our school rules and what each one means for them
- Find out and understand how the classroom teacher plans for understanding the rules and consequences in the classroom
- Explain what consequences are
- Work with the school to encourage and support appropriate behaviour

Homework

- Plan for the time and place to do homework
- Check on a regular basis
- Assist your child with setting up a homework routine
- Talk to the teacher about expectations and any problems that you encounter
- Ensure that you read to and listen to your child read every night if possible

[NSW Department of Education and Communities website](#)

The NSW DET has an extremely comprehensive website, with many handy tips and a wealth of information about NSW public schools. Visit the website at:

www.det.nsw.edu.au

Of particular interest to parents will be the site: "School A-Z – practical help for parents"

This site is filled with ideas for starting school, homework help, students health matters, healthy lunchbox ideas – just to name a few.

[Transport home](#)

It is vitally important that teachers know how your child will get home each afternoon. Parents are asked to fill in the "Transport Home" note and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Bus pass forms are available from the school office. If your child's transport arrangements home vary, please ensure that the school is notified.

[Media permission](#)

All parents are required to complete a media permission form in order for your child's name and/or photograph to appear in any form of media. Please fill this in and return it to your child's teacher.

