STOP PRESS:  
Relieving Principal 2015

Since the last newsletter Anne Matley has informed the School Director, Sue Brown, that she will be taking extended leave for the duration of 2015. Consequently, Carolyn Lupton has been appointed the Relieving Principal for Armidale High School for 2015. Carolyn has been working across the region and has been seconded to the Armidale Office as Acting Learning and Leadership Co-ordinator in 2014.

Carolyn is the substantive Deputy Principal at Armidale High School and is looking forward to leading the school and ensuring that Armidale High School continues to offer excellent opportunities for students into the future.

Roger Horton  
Acting Principal

Regular School Attendance

Education in NSW is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they are 17 years of age students must be:

· in school or registered for home schooling, or
· in approved education or training (EG TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
· in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified. For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

If Principals do not consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

It is important to understand that the New South Wales Department of Education and Communities may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

A small number of absences may be justified ‘Leave’ such as having to go to a special religious ceremony, a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral) or the student is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness. Parents have within 7 days to explain absences or they will be recorded as an “Unjustified” absence.
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A REMINDER

Students in Years 7, 11 and 12 start school on Wednesday 28th January, and Years 8, 9 and 10 begin on Thursday 29th January.