Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to 2013

Welcome to all of our new students and parents. I am sure you will find our school truly is a diverse and inclusive school of choice. I encourage you to get involved in our school community — there are opportunities for students and for parents to be involved in the activities that we plan throughout the year. This e-Buzz provides you with information relating to school organisation, so that we can provide the best service to you and your child. The most comprehensive information is found in our Student Handbook. In addition to this handbook, we have a website that is updated throughout the year. This website can be found on our school’s home page. Our P&C is very important and I encourage you to join — we meet informally each month on the last Tuesday.

Communication

Our major form of communication is through the use of technology:
Social media sites:
- Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/EvansHighSchool
- Twitter: http://twitter.com/evanshigh
- YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/EvansHighSchool

(You do not need to have any of these accounts yourself to be able to view the posts, just to make comments or ask questions.)

Notes for excursions are sent home in written form and we link a copy of that note to the school calendar. Please refer to the calendar in case they are lost. Occasionally we will send a written note home, but past experience tells us they are lost in the bottom of bags!

Attendance every day is important — ‘It’s not OK to stay away’

Last year we introduced a new category in our student achievement awards in recognition of the importance of consistent attendance. We will be continuing with the Excellent Attendance awards this year.

Some things to do to help show your child you think attendance is important
- make sure your child attends school every single day (even if they are sick)
- plan their trip — either by bus or walking — to make sure they have enough time to get here on time, ready for class at 8.30am
- make medical or other appointments after school hours, not during the school day
- limit family holidays outside of school vacation times and, if unavoidable, apply for permission in advance so work can be provided.

Regular or even semi-regular breaks in schooling has an accumulative effect — students miss the building blocks of learning and fall further and further behind. If your child is absent please provide a note that states they will catch them up when they have caught up on missed work. If you have difficulty in getting your child to come to school, please talk to their Year Adviser to see how we can help.

At absences, either partial or full day, are recorded on student reports. As you know, employers often request copies of school reports, as good attendance record is a ‘skill for life’.

Bus times

If your child catches a bus to school, there are 8 buses that leave Blacktown station in time to get here by roll call. The first leaves at 7.30am (number 2) at 7.32am (number 20), 7.35am (number 70) and 7.36am (number 724). The early bus leaves at 7.30am, so if they need uniform supplies this is a good one to get! You can view a copy of the bus timetable by scanning the code on the left, or clicking on this link: http://tinyurl.com/1sd37k

Dropping off and picking up students

Last year we started with counsel about the parking area in the front of the school. The permanent bus zone is one immediately in front of the school pedestrian gate. The other areas of the bus bay are only a bus zone in the afternoon from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. At all other times of the day, parking is permitted in those areas. Please use this area to drop students in the morning rather than driving into the school. In the afternoon arrange to meet your child along Walters Rd, or perhaps in one of the car-areas of the local shopping centre, as the bus zones are in operation and you can be fixed in that area.

Uniform

Our school community has agreed that we are ‘a uniform school’ and the uniform outline is in the Student Handbook. The uniform shop opens from 8.00am to 8.30am every morning for students to purchase any uniform items they need. The cost of the uniform is very reasonable and we are open to suggestions through the P&C and SRC (Student Representative Council) for changes.

Remember: when you are buying books for school, our school community has agreed to all black leather shoes, for safety, aesthetic and cost reasons.

School costs and payments

You may have received notes for excursions in the latest Student Handbook 2013 and also noted separately under ‘Schooling Costs’ on our website. This link should take you there: http://tinyurl.com/a084472

In order to assist our wonderful office staff, it would be appreciated if payments could be made on the following schedule:
- Years 7 and 8 by week and next week (weeks 2 and 3)
- Years 9 and 10 during week 4
- Years 9 and 11 during week 6

This schedule allows for subject changes in Years 11 and 9 and prevents extra administrative time spent on the book shop.

If you are having difficulty paying, speak to one of our staff and they can help work out a payment schedule or advise of other options.

Secure Schools Program

If you are aware, we are part of the Commonwealth Government’s Secure Schools Program initiative. During the vacation we had the infrastructure in place to the gates and cameras installed and the new bell and Public Address (PA) system installed. We have been enjoying music before the bells at the start of each class and lunchtime and worked through some teaching problems. At our assembly on Thursday we looked at the whole student body through the new sounds for evacuation and lockdown. It is anticipated the cameras and gates will be in operation by the end of the month.

Kind Regards

Kaye Smith
Principal

Local businesses that support our school

Amadull Pan: Abigail Poot; Amadull Pan Newsgallery; Chooks & Stuff Pizza; Gloria Jeans; MNL Chinese Takeaway; Radiant Beauty and Nail; Subway; The Bottle and Yummy Tummy

Website: http://www.evans-h-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

--

Evans High School
February 2013
A diverse and innovative school of excellence

In this issue ...
- Welcome back
- Communication
- Attendance
- Bus times
- Drop off and Pick up
- Uniform
- School costs and payments
- Secure Schools update