Jerrys Plains
Public School

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
At Jerrys Plains Public School we pursue academic excellence, support interpersonal relationships and promote civic responsibility.
SCHOOL PLEDGE

We are proud of who we are and where we come from.
We respect and protect the rights of others.
We understand that people in a community need each other.
We appreciate our culture and enjoy the differences of other cultures.
We take an active part in decisions about our future.
We care about our world.

SCHOOL CREED

This is our school.
Let peace dwell here.
Let the rooms be full of contentment.
Let love abide here.
Love of one another, love of the earth and its creatures.
And love of life itself.
Let us remember: as many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a school.
GENERAL INFORMATION

ADDRESS: 27-31 Doyle Street
JERRYS PLAINS NSW 2330

TELEPHONE: (02) 6576 4018
FAX: (02) 6576 4142
EMAIL: jerrysplain-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
WEBSITE: www.jerrysplan-p.school.nsw.edu.au

DAILY ORGANISATION

- **School hours**: 9:00am to 3:00pm
- **Recess**: 11:00am to 11:30am
- **Lunch**: 1:00pm to 1:45pm
- **Office hours**: 8.30am to 3:30pm (Monday to Friday)

STAFF

- Mrs Regina Stoltenberg: Principal
- Miss Carly Ross: Teacher
- Ms Kristen Carmody: Relief Teacher
- Mrs Melinda Morrison: School Administration Manager
- Mrs Renae Egan: School Learning Support Officer
- Mrs Jenny Johns: Speech Pathologist
- Mr Allen Stoltenberg: General Assistant

WEEKLY ORGANISATION

- **Monday**: Assembly
- **Tuesday**: Student Banking, Scripture, Song Room & Sport
- **Wednesday**: Library
- **Friday**: Cake Raffle

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

- A teacher is on duty from
  - 8:30am – 9:00am: Morning
  - 11:00am – 11:30am: Recess
  - 1:00pm – 1:45pm: Lunch
  - 3:00pm – 3:20pm: Bus duty

*If an occasion arises where early arrival is unavoidable, children should sit on the seats at the front of the school until 8:30am. Parents should note that students will not be supervised by teachers on duty until 8:30am.*
SCHOOL FACILITIES

Our success in gaining grants, along with positive community support, has allowed us to upgrade facilities for the benefit of our students.

Our play equipment is safely under a solid shade cover, protecting students from wind, rain and sun and allowing this area to be an all weather facility. Also rubber softfall under and surrounding this equipment enhances safety. Encompassed in this area is a large sand pit utilised for creative play and specific outdoor learning experiences.

Our artificial turf (with a rubber softfall base) provides a permanent and safe all weather area for free play and outdoor learning experiences.

Our full sized tennis court is utilised for a myriad of sporting and cultural activities.

A large playground, oval and cubby house complete our play areas. Students may also spend time in the vegetable garden or green house.

LIBRARY

Our well resourced library is open for borrowing and returns on Wednesdays. Students also participate in library lessons and literature appreciation during these visits. We encourage all students to become regular borrowers. We have a good range of books and welcome purchasing suggestions from parents and children, when our budget allows. Children are provided with school library bags by the P & C to protect their library books. If this bag is forgotten a plastic one can be provided to ensure borrowing goes ahead.

To encourage reading our students participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge each year.

CANTEEN

The canteen is operated by the P&C. At the beginning of each year parents are asked to volunteer for canteen duty. The school canteen runs a ‘special day’ twice a term. Our canteen is not currently run on a weekly basis and our students indicate that they appreciate a ‘special lunch’ far more than a weekly menu. The week prior to our ‘special day’ order forms are sent home. Students are asked to write their name clearly on a brown paper bag together with the amount of money tendered. Our school canteen continues to work toward the concepts of the ‘Healthy Canteen Initiative’.

UNIQUE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our school promotes and practises open ended learning. With a smaller student to teacher ratio learning is more individualised. Extension and support for students is prioritised on an individual basis to enhance the learning potential of each child. A close partnership with parents and caregivers is an enhancement of student learning. Staff practices team teaching with small groups of students. Students are grouped according to learning needs and abilities allowing for focus on curriculum and skills.
COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Our school boasts an effective computer lab, interactive white boards, and effective use of multimedia across the curriculum to promote and foster engagement. Student learning is enhanced by the use of technologies such as specialised computer programs in both literacy and mathematics and the use of iPads to extend learning.

Our school promotes the individual talent of our students and attempts to enhance these through a variety of activities and programs – utilising the expertise of school based staff, other DET personnel and outside agencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

Both programs merge and integrate with all areas across the curriculum.

All Students participate in the planting, growing, harvesting and eating of foods. Our fruit and vegetable gardens focuses on food that can be harvested and eaten immediately, to heighten the student response and retention of the benefits of fresh food.

Linked to this is our Crunch and Sip program. All students have a short fruit/vegetable break to enhance understandings of benefits of fresh foods and also to prolong student concentration. Students also are encouraged to drink water throughout the day and are able to have a water bottle with them in class to prevent dehydration and to enhance their energy and concentration. Students are involved in composting, worm farming, conservation of resources, and recycling.

LANGUAGE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Our school can boast of having the very high quality service of an “in-house” Speech Pathologist, Mrs Jenny Johns. The delivery of this extremely valuable program has stemmed from our positive partnership with Wambo Coal. Immediate and ongoing benefits, support and opportunities are inherent in this program for students, parents and staff.

SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

The School Parliament allows students to have a say in what’s happening at school and can bring about real and positive changes for the student body. Aligned with this is the Student Council and a set of committees who take on specific tasks throughout the terms to ensure the school environment is well looked after and special events take place.

Many opportunities arise for students to experience leadership roles and to build leadership skills and understandings.
SPORT

Every Tuesday, weather permitting, the children play sport. Over the year they will be involved in a number of different sporting and creative activities including dance, athletics, swimming and team games: cricket, soccer, rugby league and netball. All levels of ability are catered for and all children are encouraged and expected to participate. If any child is unable to take part due to illness or injury a note of explanation is required. Hats are required for all time spent in the sun. A water bottle should also be brought each day, especially on sports day to prevent dehydration.

Our students participate in the Small Schools Swimming Carnival, PSSA Knockout Competitions, Cross Country & Athletics. Zone Carnivals provide opportunities for students at representative level.

DEBATING

Our primary students participate in the Premier’s Debating Challenge, co-ordinated by the DET Arts Unit. No previous experience is needed, just enthusiasm and positive participation.

The Debating team participates in four rounds of debating – debating schools from across the Hunter/Central Coast region.

The multitude of cross curriculum and personal skill development, particularly team work and public speaking, makes this a very enjoyable and worthwhile program.

EXCURSIONS

All excursions attended by the children are carefully chosen to complement our teaching programs or to offer the children social and cultural opportunities. We expect all children to attend these excursions. It should be noted that it is departmental policy that no child should miss out on these kinds of opportunities for financial reasons. If payment for an excursion causes difficulty at any time, please discuss alternative arrangements with the Principal.

A cyclic program of excursions is employed with allowance for change due to influences and/or renewed focus areas.

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REPORTING
A progress report for your child will be given out at the end of Term 2. This brief but informative report outlines how your child is progressing in their learning. Opportunities for Parent/Teacher interviews will be held at the end of Term 2. Interviews by request will be held in Term 4 or when needed. Kindergarten parents receive a Best Start report in the later part of Term 1. If parents have any concerns they are urged to make an appointment with their child’s teachers as soon as a concern arises. Teachers are always happy to discuss progress and successes with parents or to address concerns.

POLICY ON BEHAVIOUR
It is our expectation that children who are ready for school will already know how to behave, though they may occasionally need to be reminded. Therefore, once the rules have been set, if a child forgets to behave appropriately or chooses to misbehave, she/he can expect to face the consequences of her/his actions.

Where behaviour is inappropriate but not covered by school rules the child will be counselled by a member of staff to make sure she/he understands why that behaviour was unacceptable.

Should a child continue to display inappropriate behaviour or behaviour, which is destructive or dangerous to him/herself or others, the staff may find it necessary to inform parents. Our purpose in informing parents is to enlist their help in overcoming behaviour problems that may prevent their child (and those who have to work and play with him/her) from achieving her/his full potential. We all play a part in their upbringing and we all benefit from their success.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION/EXCURSION LEVY
The Principal sets the voluntary contribution after discussion with the P&C Association at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of each year. The contribution is currently set at $20 per child and $40 a family.

UNIFORMS
All students are expected to wear school uniform each day to express pride in their school. School uniforms are available for ordering or purchase at the School Office. A minimum deposit of $20 is requested and a 3 month repayment period available if required.

BUS BEHAVIOUR
Children who travel on the school bus are expected to observe the requirements of safety, courtesy and consideration. We expect that parents will inform their children of these requirements before travelling on the bus and will support the driver in his/her efforts to maintain a high standard of behaviour. If your child’s routine is varied at any time a note informing the school of this change is
required. This note will overcome the problems caused when a child forgets about the change or becomes confused about arrangements.

**LOST PROPERTY**

All items of clothing and personal belongings, which are brought to the school, must be labelled with the child’s name. Every effort is made to return lost property to its owner. However, to a child, all jumpers/lunch boxes seem to look like someone else’s. Our office staff will store lost property and will be on hand to assist in the search to recover items lost. Parents and children are welcome to enquire about lost belongings at appropriate times.

**ILLNESS**

Any child who is obviously ill should be kept at home. Children find it very difficult to concentrate when unwell and the day becomes a misery for them and those around them. They are also likely to spread their germs to others. As we have no staff to care for sick students, it is our policy to contact the parents of any child who becomes ill during the day and arrange for the child to return home. If you are usually away from home during the day you may need to nominate a relative or friend who could be contacted in your place.

Students with specific illness or health concerns require an individual health plan setting out guidelines for observation, medical treatment and emergency contact details.

**STUDENT BANKING**

Student banking is available on Tuesdays. Those children who have school accounts bring bank folders and money to be banked. Kindergarten children will be given the applications to open an account. It should be noted that the school receives a good commission from the Commonwealth Bank for students’ deposits.

**CAKE RAFFLE**

A very successful part of our fundraising is the weekly cake raffle. Each Friday, one parent from our roster supplies a cake for the raffle. Tickets are 50cents (a limit of 4 tickets per person applies) and a happy winner is assured.

**P&C ASSOCIATION**

Meetings are held on Monday afternoons, approx twice a term at 3:30pm, in the staffroom. A reminder of this meeting is included in the school newsletter. Participation in the P&C ensures that you play an active part in making decisions about your school. The P&C membership operates in an open and friendly way supporting the school, the students and each other. The more hands, the lighter the workload. P&C minutes from meetings and any relevant P&C info is available from the school office upon request.
SCHOOL NEWS

Our school endeavours to publish a newsletter, Jerrys Journal, weekly. Through this newsletter, we keep parents informed of current and future events at the school, rosters and changes in routines. All items for the newsletter should be at the school by 9:00am every Wednesday. Hardcopies of the Jerrys Journal are available at the school and the BP service station in Jerrys Plains. The Jerrys Journal can also be viewed on our website. Immediate events and happenings are publicised on our school noticeboard and through extra notes as required.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

The staff of our school is happy to help with any queries or concerns which may arise. We prefer to deal with issues promptly rather than have parents or children worrying unduly. However, to ensure that you receive sufficient time in which to raise all issues and deal with them satisfactorily, it is best to make an appointment with the staff member to whom you wish to speak. This also ensures that your child’s valuable class time is not interrupted.

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