Welcome to Ourimbah Public School. Learning is a lifelong journey and, at Ourimbah Public School, we provide educationally challenging opportunities to give every individual child the best possible preparation to achieve their full potential. Our school’s beautiful bushland and rainforest setting provides a unique learning environment in which our students learn and grow academically, personally and socially.

Excellence, opportunity and success
At Ourimbah Public School we believe in excellence, opportunity and success, and this guides everything we do. Our motto is “Endeavour to excel”, and we offer all students a wide range of experiences and opportunities to suit their individual talents and needs in order to achieve their personal best.

High expectations and strong school culture
At Ourimbah, our focus is on individual student care and development. We encourage all students by acknowledging and celebrating achievement in all that they do. We share high expectations of effort, participation, behaviour and school uniform with our school community.

The nine core values of integrity, excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, participation, care, fairness and democracy form the framework of school activities. They also guide our positive behaviour management strategies, including our very successful “Magpie Award” program, which enables acknowledgement of every student.

Caring and experienced teachers
Our teachers are experienced professionals. They continually monitor the performance and progress of all students to identify and address specific learning needs. Our teachers provide support for your children in their social and emotional development as they face the challenges of learning and growing.

Students with additional needs are catered for through the Learning Support Team, comprising support teachers, the school counsellor, the Principal, classroom teachers and parents. The team addresses academic, behavioural and social needs, and students may be referred to the team by parents or the class teacher. In partnership with parents, learning programs are tailored to best meet student needs.
Acknowledging and recognising excellence

At Ourimbah we aim to develop a lifelong love of learning, and an intrinsic satisfaction among all our students for achieving their personal best. We recognise and acknowledge student effort and achievement through praise, class and playground awards, house points, exhibition of student work in classrooms and around the school, and exhibitions and performances at our school “Showcase”.

The “Magpie Award” program, named after our school emblem, the black and white magpie, is a levelled reward system that runs throughout the year. It acknowledges good attitudes and good behaviour with weekly awards and end-of-term celebrations. It is a highly successful program that is supported by our Parents and Citizens Association.

Strong academic foundations

The key learning areas in the NSW Public Schools curriculum are: English; Mathematics; Science and Technology; Human Society and its Environment; Personal Development, Health and Physical Education; and Creative Arts. Our teachers are experienced and enthusiastic, and regularly participate in professional development activities in these core subjects.

The Commonwealth government sets standards for reading, writing and numeracy, and all Australian students are tested in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. Ourimbah Public School is proud of its results in these tests, with most students achieving or surpassing the national benchmarks.

Information Technology

At Ourimbah we have computers in every classroom, a large well-stocked library, and two dedicated computer laboratories in which whole class Information Technology lessons and computer activities are held. We are connected to the NSW Education Department intranet and all students have secure access to email and selected educational parts of the internet. We have several electronic interactive whiteboards to enhance teaching and use of technology. Our interactive classroom has video conferencing facilities, providing outstanding opportunities for local, global and virtual learning. We will continue to increase our technology capacity to support the integration of IT into everyday classroom practice.

Enrichment activities

Our teachers have experience in many special interest areas and provide opportunities for all students to be involved in engaging enrichment activities including: visual arts; public speaking; information technology; sporting groups and teams; academic competitions; excursions and camps; and performance opportunities in dance, drama, choir and the school band.

Students identified as “Gifted and Talented” are encouraged to participate in activities which broaden their experiences and develop their talents. They also have access to special camps for like-minded students.

Engaging in the arts

Music is a very important part of the curriculum at Ourimbah Public School. All junior classes have weekly music lessons and/or dance lessons.

Our school band, “The Bluegum Flats”, named after the original historic school at Ourimbah, rehearses twice weekly after school under the expert guidance of an external tutor and bandmaster. All band members also receive weekly small group instrumental tuition during school hours. Band members progress from beginners to senior band as their skill level develops.

Our two choirs (junior and senior) and our band perform at school functions and community events. The senior choir and senior band also perform at local events such as the Central Coast Choral Festival, the Flora Festival, and at regional and state events such as the Schools Spectacular and the combined schools choral and instrumental concerts at the Sydney Opera House.

Visual Arts is a subject highly valued by students, teachers and parents. Workshops in Visual Arts are offered to talented students.

Our school “Showcase” provides an excellent opportunity for parents and families to view artwork from students throughout the school, to hear our band and choir perform and to be entertained by our best public speakers.
Physical education and sport

Ourimbah Public School has a strong sport and fitness culture. All students participate in fitness activities and sport. We hold annual carnivals for swimming, athletics and cross-country running, and our school is usually well represented at subsequent zone and regional levels.

Ourimbah sends teams to the NSW Primary Schools Sports Association State Knockout competitions in a variety of sports, including tennis, rugby, AFL, soccer, netball and cricket. We also hold special skills days and coaching sessions as offered by the associations of the various sporting codes. Junior students are offered a swimming lesson program.

Aboriginal education opportunities and support

Aboriginal perspectives are addressed throughout the school, with learning about Aboriginal culture, history, art and music. Significant Aboriginal Days are celebrated with special school assemblies, and we have created a Bush Tucker garden. All Aboriginal students have Personal Learning Plans developed in consultation with their families.

Multicultural education

At Ourimbah we value diversity and tolerance. Our programs in all aspects of the school curriculum aim to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to sustain these values, and to contribute to greater understanding and appreciation of different cultures. Students from overseas with non-English-speaking backgrounds are supported through specific Department of Education and Training programs.

Leadership opportunities

Ourimbah Public School has an active Student Representative Council, with members from each class in Years 2-6, allowing students to have input to school management issues. Our senior elected student leaders officiate at all formal assemblies.

We train all senior students each year to implement the Peer Support Program throughout the rest of the school. This helps reinforce our core values and provides opportunities for our students to develop the leadership qualities of self-discipline, self-evaluation, communication and conflict resolution. We also encourage positive relationships between students with a formal Buddy Program.

Healthy food choices at school

At Ourimbah we encourage awareness of healthy behaviour and healthy eating. The whole school participates in “Fruit for 5”, a 5-minute fruit break at 10am, and our Platinum award-winning canteen stocks a wide range of healthy food approved by the NSW Healthy Kids School Canteen Association and Fresh Tastes NSW Healthy Schools Canteen Strategy. The school also participates in Central Coast Health’s Q4 programs to encourage healthy eating and physical activity.

Communicating with parents

Parents and caregivers are kept informed about school activities through our regular newsletter. Class teachers hold information sessions for parents in Term 1, and individual parent-teacher conferences are offered early in Term 3 following the issue of half-year student reports. Reports are issued again in Term 4. Parents may make appointments with teachers to discuss their child’s progress at any time.

Working with parents

Parents play a big part in our school community. We strongly encourage parents and caregivers who are able to spend some time at the school to do so. Voluntary activities range from helping in classroom activities, being involved with the parent-tutor program, accompanying excursions, working in the canteen, and helping with the maintenance of our rainforest trail. Parents have also been able to offer special skills to enhance our school environment, such as painting a fabulous rainforest mural in our canteen area.

We have a very active Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association, which offers a forum for parents and caregivers to communicate with the school and to be informed about and involved in educational issues that affect their children. The P&C also manages the canteen, runs the clothing pool, coordinates maintenance of the rainforest trail and frog ponds, organises social activities for the children such as school discos, and raises money to improve the resources of the school on a regular basis.
A proud history in the local community

Ourimbah Public School opened in 1863 and is the oldest school on the Central Coast. It has many long-established links with local community groups, including the RSL, the CWA and environmental groups. Our school hall was built from local timber by the local community and remains available for community use.

More recently, Ourimbah has joined nine other public schools, including two high schools, to form the Valley Schools Learning Community. This group enables us to share our resources and talents for important events and performances.

A unique environment

Our bushland setting offers a peaceful respite for our students and allows unique opportunities for environmental studies. Our rainforest gully has an Aboriginal stream-bed site with axe-grinding grooves, and over 200 species of plants, 50 species of birds (including the famous bellbird) and 19 species of frogs (including several endangered species). The rainforest and frog ponds were regenerated in the early 1990s to include walking trails, bridges and a viewing platform, winning local, state and national environmental awards.

Location and school grounds

Ourimbah Public School is conveniently located on the Pacific Highway at Ourimbah, opposite the Ourimbah-Lisarow RSL Club. It is within walking distance from the Ourimbah Campus of the University of Newcastle and the Ourimbah Railway Station, and is well served by local buses. Parents and visitors to the school have access to the RSL club’s large car park.

The school has large grass playing fields backing directly onto bushland and rainforest. There is also a separate tennis/basketball court and a large multipurpose room to accommodate special activities such as music and creative arts.

Transition programs to and from primary school

We offer two transition programs – one for preschoolers coming to “big school”, and one for our Year 6 students who are progressing to High School.

Preschoolers and their parents attend in Terms 3 and 4 for tours of the school, escorted by Year 4 “Kinder Buddies”, activity sessions in the Kindergarten classrooms, personal meetings with teachers and a picnic.

Year 6 students attend sessions at our partner high schools throughout the year. This very successful program is designed to ensure a confident and supported start to secondary schooling.

Before and after school care

Before and after school care is available on the school premises. This is an independent, professionally run service providing supervision and activities including breakfast and afternoon tea, for your children in a safe environment.

Come and visit us

Ourimbah Public School welcomes new students at any time throughout the year. We look forward to meeting prospective parents and students, and encourage you to make an appointment to view our wonderful school for yourselves.

OURIMBAH Public School

For more information, please contact:

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