



MEPS MAIL

Create the Future

17th February, 2020

Key Dates

03/03/2020

- Kindy Hearing Screening

05/03/2020

- Auburn Zone Swimming Carnival

17/03/2020

- Athletics Carnival

20/03/2020

- International Day of Happiness

23-25/03/2020

- Year 5&6 Canberra Trip

31/03/2020

- Cross Country Carnival

09/04/2020

- Last day of Term 1

28/04/2020

- First day of Term 2

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

Our school year has commenced with 15 classes, including 4 new Kindergarten classes. I am always in awe at how Kindergarten students can settle in our school, make new friends and follow teachers' instructions.

At this time of the year, a number of parents ask about homework. In our school, the compulsory homework for all students is Home Reading. This will commence in the next fortnight for students in the younger grades with home readers taken home each day. For primary students, we encourage the Premier's Reading Challenge. Information about the challenge can be found at:

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

Our school library and Merrylands Library have a wonderful collection of books for children to read. It is through reading that we learn about the world and develop our imagination while pursuing a leisure activity. Along with home reading, a number of class teachers may set additional individual tasks.

It is amazing how resilient students can be towards each other but at the same time end up having conflicts. This is not unusual as children grow physically and emotionally. It is part of our school role, along with parents to teach values and social skills to all our students and equip them to be active positive citizens in our community. This year, we are placing emphasis on values and teaching children what they mean and how they practically look. To start off, our class names are all values and our teachers will help students explore what they mean.

School Uniform

In 2020, our school will be undertaking a school uniform review through a consultation process with students and families. A school uniform provides a sense of belonging for students. Over the past couple of years, I have noticed that the wearing of the correct school uniform has slowly deteriorated. I am hoping to improve this by looking at a range of options. It is anticipated that through a consultation process, we could have 3 or 4 options for a new uniform decided by a vote from students and parents. Since this is potentially a change by the school, there will be **no cost** to families as the school would fund the first set of any changes to the school uniform. In the meantime, the wearing of our existing uniform is compulsory.

Year 6 Moving Into Year 7 2021

On the 11 March 2020, all Year 6 students will be receiving a booklet with an application form for high school in 2021. All students need to complete the form and return it to our school by the 20 March 2020. The Department of Education's revised enrolment policy indicates that schools have an enrolment cap and must accept students in area only and out of area applications are only to be considered if the school has not reached their enrolment cap. The vast majority of high schools in our area have reached their cap.

All students have a local high school. For the majority of our students, it is Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School. There is a bus from Merrylands Station that takes students to and from the school each day.

Traffic

Just a reminder for parents to adhere to the No Parking and the Bus Zone signs around our school. Cumberland Council Rangers and the NSW Police regularly patrol schools and will book motorist that park in signed areas, double park, park in driveways or have incorrect child restraints in vehicles. The fines are quite hefty. **Parking on the footpath is illegal and disrespectful to our neighbours.**

Maintenance

The tradespeople on site are almost finished. Rain held up the works for a few days but they are moving as fast as they can to replace the roof of four of our buildings and the awning outside the Year 6 rooms. Thank you for your patience while this work is being carried out.

Mobile Phones

All mobile phones brought to the school by students are to be handed to the office in the morning and picked up in the afternoon. Mobile phones are not to be kept in the classroom unless there is a classroom activity and requested by class teachers.

Supervision

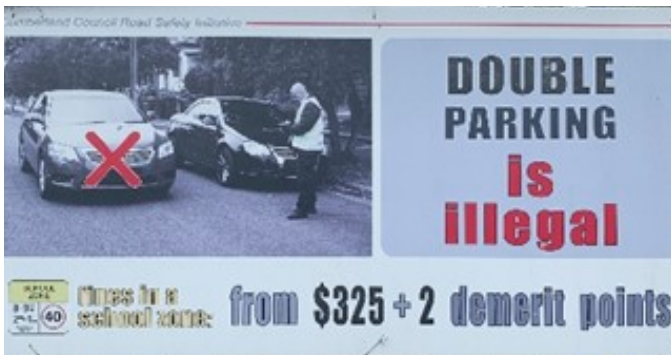
Merrylands East staff provides supervision for students from 7:30am to 1:15pm each day. Parents are asked to ensure that their child is picked up no later than 1:15pm each day. No child should be at school before 7:30am.

John Goh (Principal)

Parking & Stopping

Please adhere to all signage around the school.

Cumberland Council Rangers and the NSW Police regularly patrol schools and will book motorist that park in signed areas, park in driveways, double park or have incorrect child restraints in vehicles. The fines are quite hefty.



School sport

PSSA

PSSA T-ball and Softball teams are being selected this week. Students who have been successful in making the teams will be given a blue note with their name printed on it. The front of the return portion of the note must be signed by the parent. Students must read the 'Code of Conduct' on the back of the note and then both the student and parent must sign. Any breaches of this Code of Conduct will mean the student will be unable to continue playing in the team.

The competition will begin in Week 4

PSSA TRAINING

PSSA T-Ball and Softball training will be held at King Park each Tuesday.



Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop hours for 2020 are



Mondays: 7.45am - 8.15am

Wednesdays: 7.45am - 8.15am

Fridays: 7.45am - 8.15am

MEPS on social media

Please keep your eye on our social media pages for updates and important information.

Facebook

Merrylands East Public School

Twitter

Merrylands East @merrylandseast

Web Page

Merrylandseast.schools.nsw.gov.au



P&C News

The P&C meets once a month to organise fund raising events for our students. These include Sausage sizzles, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day stalls and raffles. Help is always welcome for these events and it gives parents a chance to be involved in their children's school.

The P&C also runs the Uniform Shop and the Canteen. Funds raised throughout the year help the school supply much needed resources to our students. Most recently the P&C have jointly funded the chilled water bubblers. We are now in the process of jointly funding a new sign board for the school playground.

We will be having a welcome morning tea in the next couple of weeks so please join us for a 'cuppa' and a chat. Children love having their parents helping at school so this is a great way to be seen by them.



President:

Sharyn Orel

Vice President:

Danielle Forbes

Treasurer:

Leonie Forster

Department of Education – Revised Enrolment Policy

Please read the revised policy on 'Out of Area' enrolments set by the NSW Department of Education.

As we have reached our cap and buffer, if you move out of MEPS local area, any siblings may not be eligible to enrol in our school in the future.

If you plan to move please check you are still in the MEPS local area for school enrolment.

NSW Department of Education

Information for parents

The Enrolment of Students in NSW Government Schools policy is in place to assist schools to meet their obligations under the *Education Act 1990* - to ensure that every student has a place at their local school. The policy also communicates to staff and the community a transparent enrolment process.

Why was the enrolment policy revised?

Across the state, many communities are changing. Some are growing at rates never seen before. Some schools that used to be able to accept out-of-area enrolments, no longer have the room to do so.

The revised policy is designed to support schools to manage all enrolment applications, encourage greater consistency in decision-making and make sure the enrolment choices are clear for parents.

What are the changes?

The enrolment cap

The enrolment cap is the number of students that can be enrolled at a school based on the school's permanent accommodation. The enrolment cap tells us whether the school may or may not have the capacity to accept non-local enrolments. It is not a target or limit on the number of local enrolments a school can take.

Within the enrolment cap, a number of enrolment places (the buffer) must be kept aside for the likely number of local students who will need to enrol during the year. For this reason, a school will not take non-local students once they reach their buffer, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

100-point residential address check

Parents planning to enrol their child at a school that is near or at its buffer or cap will be asked to complete the 100-point residential address check to confirm they live within the school's designated intake area. This means parents will need to provide documents to verify the child's current address. So that schools only seek information relevant to the child's enrolment, a list of approved documents for the residential address check is available from the school or the department's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/enrolment-of-students-in-nsw-government-schools>.

What has not changed?

Schools will continue to enrol students who live in their local intake area, regardless of the school's cap status. In schools with available places, there are no changes to enrolment rights of siblings of non-local students. If the school is below capacity, out-of-area applications for siblings of current students will be given

enrolment priority. Schools will continue to provide families with support and advice during the enrolment process, including assessment of exceptional and compelling circumstances particularly for vulnerable students and their families. Schools will also continue to apply the policy fairly and consistently using transparent and accountable processes when making decisions about enrolment applications.

But what do the changes mean for me?

What if my child is already enrolled but we do not live in that school's intake area?

Your child will remain enrolled at the school as the revised policy does not affect students already enrolled in NSW Government schools.

We were in area when my child was enrolled in the school. The department has since changed the school's boundary and our residence is now out of area. I have other children and I want them all to go to the same school. What are my options?

At times it is necessary for the department to make adjustments to a school's local enrolment intake area. This could mean a family with a child/children already enrolled is then outside the local intake area. When this happens, the family will still be able to enrol siblings together at the school, regardless of whether the school is over the buffer or cap.

I already have a child enrolled as an out-of-area student in a NSW Government school. Can I enrol my other children at that school too?

This will depend on the capacity of the school:

- If the school is **at capacity**, it will not accept non-local enrolment applications unless there are exceptional circumstances.

- If the school is **nearing its buffer**, then the school will form a non-local enrolment panel. The panel considers non-local enrolment applications when the number of non-local applications received exceeds the number of places available below the buffer. Again, in this instance, siblings of students currently enrolled will be prioritised, where possible, over other non-local enrolment applications.

- If the school is **not near its buffer**, then siblings should be able to be enrolled at the school. In fact, siblings of students currently enrolled will be prioritised, where possible, over other non-local enrolment applications.

What is the criteria for enrolment in a school that is not my local school?

Schools that are able to accept non-local enrolment applications establish a non-local enrolment selection panel, if demand exceeds the number of places below the school's buffer. Schools are required to make the selection criteria available to the school community.

My circumstances are challenging and I think this school is best for my child. We live outside the school's intake area. What should I do?

We understand that not everyone's circumstances are the same, and that there are instances where exceptional and compelling circumstances will need to be considered. If this is the case, you should talk to the principal of your local school.



School Leaders 2020

School Captains:	Mikayla Tuitavake and Waheed Nazari
Prefects:	Sania Rahimi, Mujgan Nazari, Dhairya Prajapati, Idris Ahmadi, Amelia Darek, Natasha Antonio, Imran Gulestani, Sanchit Arora

The House Captains and Vice Captains are:

Bass Captains:	Aisha Faizie	Idris El Falou
Bass Vice Captains:	Zahraa Kareem	Alexis Ihimaera
Flinders Captains:	Mia Oueik	Jerry Nsiah
Finders Vice Captains:	Zainab Khan	Imre Kiss
Phillip Captains:	Nadia Beryalay	Mohammed Almshat
Phillip Vice Captains:	Sajeda Akbari	Jawed Afzali
Macquarie Captains:	Antong Yu	Pita Saukuru
Macquarie Vice Captains:	Reda Zahid	Ahmad Shmait

MEPS 2020 Staff

Principal:	Mr Goh
Deputy Principal:	Mrs Noble
Deputy Principal Instructional Leader:	Ms Greig
Assistant Principals:	Mrs Cruz Mr Taylor Ms Wright-Ryan

Class Teachers

K Wonder	Mrs Fernandopulle
K Kindness	Miss Stretton
K Generosity	Miss Gonzalez
K Friendship	Miss Wilson
1 Honesty	Miss Huynh
1 Resilience	Ms Seymour
2 Perseverance	Ms Wright-Ryan
2 Fearless	Miss Le
3 Gratitude	Mrs Cruz
3 Hope	Miss Mirzaee
4 Inquisitive	Ms Hopkins
4/5 Justice	Mrs Healy
5 Harmony	Ms Amini
5/6 Generosity	Mrs Russell
6 Persistence	Mr Taylor

English as an Additional Language and Dialect:	Mr Atkin and Mrs Lee
Release From Face to Face:	Mrs Johnson and Mrs Hitti
Literacy Support:	Mrs Byrne
Reading Recovery:	Mrs Camilo
School Learning Support Officer:	Mrs Ghosn and Mrs Naji
School Administration Manager:	Mrs Forster
School Administration Officers:	Mrs Terry and Miss Linnell
Professional Assistant:	Mrs Clark
General Assistant:	Mr Charalambous

Welcome Kindy

A big welcome to our new Kindy families. It is an exciting time for all our Kindy students.

Please make sure you have a spare school uniform in your child's bag in case of a toilet accident.

The class teachers will soon be informing you of your child's library day and sport day. Please make sure you send your child to school with their library bag (the blue orientation bag given to them) on their library day. They cannot borrow from the library without a bag. Students should wear their sport uniform to school on sport days.

Bring your hat to school each day

It is very important for every student to have a hat at school each day. Hats must be worn during recess and sport.

