



MEPS MAIL

Term 2 Week 4 - 19th May 2022

Key Dates

Term 2

Friday, 20th May

- National Walk to School Day

Wednesday, 25th May

- Sydney Writers Festival

Thursday, 26th May

- National Sorry Day

Thursday, 2nd June

- Brainstorm Productions Incursion

Friday, 3rd June

- Auburn Zone Cross Country Carnival

Monday, 13th June

- Queen's Birthday long weekend - NO school

Friday, 24th June

- Yrs 3-6 Athletics Carnival

Friday, 1st July

- Last day of Term 2

Term 3

Tuesday, 19th July

- First school day of Term 3

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- P&C Meeting

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Year 3 and Year 5 students have completed the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This year, all students completed the assessment online for the first time. It was very different as our students are used to reading from books rather than screens at school and having that joy of turning pages with the anticipation about what happens next in a story. NAPLAN results this year will show the impact of Covid on our students and their learning. We know during the lockdown period, not every student had access to devices to learn online and not every student had access to all the resources needed for their learning.

The Covid-19 pandemic is not over. While many people have been fortunate to receive their vaccines, the virus continues to affect students and staff. Our school, like many others, is not immune from positive cases. During this term, we've had a number of positive cases with both staff and students who have all completed their 7 day isolation period. Where possible, we have tried to source casual teachers but this has not always been successful. Therefore, we have utilised our own teachers at the detriment of other education support programs.

We're very thankful to Club Merrylands each year for their support of our school. Club Merrylands provided our school with a grant of about \$9000 for purchasing gymnastics equipment. We will be setting up our hall after the election so that students can use the equipment more frequently as part of their physical education program with their class teacher. Regrettably, our normal external provider cannot conduct lessons this term as part of our Year 2 sport.

Earlier in this term, our school captains and I had the privilege of participating in the Merrylands RSL dawn service. It was a very poignant moment where the local community could take the time to reflect on those who sacrificed their lives in conflict for the greater good of humanity along with those that serve our community today.



Federal Election

Merrylands East Public School Hall will be a polling venue for the Federal Election on Saturday 21st May.

Parents will be able to access the school hall via the canteen gate or from the top gate on Myee Street.



Helping your child develop Literacy Skills

The Department of Education has put out information to support your child's literacy at home:

Reading

Children learn from being read to, reading with others and reading to themselves. Have fun reading together every day. Look for opportunities such as when you are walking to school, the book shop, the library and the supermarket. Talk about stories, the language used, words in the story, as well as the sounds of letters in words. Read books in your home language.



Read with your child every day

- Make reading fun and enjoyable. Children learn about reading by watching, copying and interacting with others.
- Let your child choose and re-read books they are interested in.
- Talk about the book before you start reading. Talk about the title and what could happen in the story.
- Discuss the pictures and how they add to the story.
- Whilst reading, ask your child questions about the story such as, "What do you think might happen next?" "Why do you think that?"
- After reading, talk about the story. Ask questions such as, "Which part of the story did you like best?" or "What was exciting, funny or sad in the story?"
- Take turns at reading favourite stories with your child and their brothers, sisters or friends.
- Choose a variety of reading materials such as newspapers, magazines, posters, street signs.

Drawing and Writing

Encourage your child to draw and write about interesting things. Ask your child to talk about their drawings and writing. Be interested in their stories and how they have chosen to draw or write them.



Write every day

- Have fun with drawing and writing. Ask your child to draw or write about things they like to do, make or play.
- Encourage your child to talk about their writing. This could include talking about their scribbles, drawings, letters or words.
- Use different materials to draw and write with, such as chalk, paper and pencils, markers, pens and keyboards.
- Ask your child to write their name. Your child could also attempt to write the names of other people who are important to them.
- While your child is writing or drawing talk about the picture and the sounds of the letters that he or she is attempting to write.
- Encourage your child to use their imagination and create stories. They could create a storybook by drawing pictures and writing words for the story.
- Support your child to write messages in their home language

Sydney Writers Festival

On the 25th May, 47 Year 5/6 students will have the opportunity to attend the Sydney Writers Festival at the Sydney Town Hall. The students will meet at Merrylands Station (Western side) at 7.50am and travel by train to the city. Students will return back to Merrylands Station at 2.13pm. It is important for parents to pick their child up from the station or make alternative arrangements for their child to go home.

This year, the program has exciting authors; Nat Amore, Remy Lai, Matt Stanton and Corey Tutt.



National Walk Safely to School Day

National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is on Friday, 20 May 2022. Now in its 23rd year, the annual campaign encourages all primary school children, their parents and carers to walk safely and regularly to school. The event seeks to promote road safety, health, public transport and the environment. Walking regularly is the best exercise because you can build it into your daily routine. The objectives of the day are to encourage parents and carers to walk to school with their children to:

- Promote the health benefits of walking and create regular walking habits.
- Help children develop vital road-crossing skills and ensure children up to the age of 10 years hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- Reduce car dependency and traffic congestion.
- Reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles



NSW Health message

Reducing the risk of illness this winter

- We all have a role to play in helping protect our loved ones and our community from not only COVID-19 but also other viruses like the flu.
- Students and staff are encouraged to get a flu vaccine as NSW Health are predicting a bad flu season over winter 2022.
- The flu vaccine is available now from your local GP, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service.
- Flu vaccines are free for all children aged 6 months to 5 years, or for a small fee for those aged 5 years and older.



Mother's Day Stall

The Mothers Day Stall, held at school two weeks ago, was a great success. The students had a fabulous time choosing gifts for the special women in their lives and the P&C volunteers enjoyed assisting the students with their choices. Thank you to the P&C for supporting our students and our school and for hosting such a beautiful event.



Sickness

It is important that students do not attend school if they are unwell, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19. Rapid Antigen Tests can produce false negative results and symptoms of other illnesses can also be similar to COVID-19, including flu, the common cold and stomach bugs.

Health advice is that students who are sick should always stay home to rest and recover and avoid putting other students and staff at risk of getting sick.



Student Absences

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn

education.nsw.gov.au



Make friends



Build skills through fun



Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

5 mins
per day



= 3 days



30 mins
per day



= 18 days



education.nsw.gov.au



Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.

The Department of Education requires all students to attend school every day of the school year.

Students should only be absent due to sickness or a specific religious day like Eid. All other times, students need to be at school.

Kids Helpline

Trauma can often affect people of all ages. Sometimes we don't even know we, or our loved ones, are experiencing trauma.



Kids Helpline is Australia's only free, private, and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25. Counselling is currently offered by phone **1800 55 1800**, Webchat, and email, but they're constantly expanding and new ways of contacting them will soon be available. More information can be found at:

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

kidshelpline
Anytime | Any Reason

Incursion

Brainstorm productions will again be bringing their exciting educational theatre experience to our students on Thursday 2nd June.

This year's production is called 'Sticks and Stones' and is a fun and inclusive student wellbeing program for primary schools that reinforces positive relationships and supports vulnerable children to build confidence and social and emotional skills. This live performance encourages safe, positive behaviour, cooperation, impulse control, boundaries and respect.

Brainstorm
Productions

PSSA sport

PSSA is back!

This year we have a soccer team and a netball team.

Friday 20th May

Netball - against Rosehill Public School at MEPS

Soccer - against Rosehill Public School at King Park

No bus fare required this week

Friday 27th May

Netball - against Lidcombe Public School at Lidcombe Public School

Soccer - against Lidcombe Public School at Phillip Park, Lidcombe

Bus fare is required this week



Athletics Carnival

The weather has not been very kind to us lately with school events. Our Athletics Carnival, at Holroyd Sports Ground, was postponed for the second time due to the conditions of the ground.



The new date for the carnival is:

Friday 24 June 2022.

P&C NEWS

MEPS P&C is always looking for new members.

The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th May, 2022.

The meeting will be held at 12.30pm in the Community Room under the Year 6 classrooms.

