



# MEPS MAIL

Term 1 Week 3 - 9th February, 2023

## Key Dates

### TERM 1

#### Wednesday 15/02/2023

- Year 3-6 Swimming Carnival

#### Tuesday 28/2/2023

- Years 3-6 Cross country Carnival at King Park

#### Thursday 2/3/23

- Year 3 Excursion to Riverside Theatre— Sydney Symphony Orchestra

#### Friday 3/3/2023

- Year 2 Excursion to Riverside Theatre— Sydney Symphony Orchestra

#### Wednesday 15/3/2023

- NAPLAN commences for Years 3 and 5

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## Principal's report

Dear Parents and Caregivers



I like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land of Merrylands East Public School, the Dhurag people of the Eora Nation and pay my respects to elders both past and present. This year is a very important year as the Australian Government is holding a referendum on the National Indigenous voice to Parliament.

Welcome to the 175th anniversary of NSW Public Education and the 95th year of Merrylands East Public School. I would especially like to welcome all our new students and families to our school.

The very first school in Australia was Newcastle East Public School which started in 1816 as a church school and later became a public school in 1848.

During the year, we will be having a celebration of the 175th Anniversary with all our students. All students will be receiving a pin to commemorate the anniversary and as a reminder that they were at Merrylands East PS during the anniversary. However, we are also mindful and reflective that Aboriginal students could still be excluded from a public school up to 1972.

Over the vacation period, a number of staff changes occurred. Ms Greig has taken leave in Term 1 before heading towards retirement. The Department of Education appointed Ms Ibrahim and Ms Elbaz to our school while temporary teachers Ms Landall, Mrs Ahry and Mr Kim have joined our staff.

A number of parents have asked about school fees. NSW Public School cannot change a school fee. Instead, schools can set a voluntary contribution scheme—sort of like a school fee but voluntary. In our school, we have eliminated the scheme and do not request parents to pay. However, there are various programs where parents will have to pay, like PSSA, specific programs or some excursions.

On the 2nd and 3rd of March, our school has been invited to see and hear the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Riverside Theatre, Parramatta. The school will fund the cost of transport as the Orchestra is free for students. Year 3 will be attending on the Thursday 2nd with Year 2 on Friday 3rd March. A permission note will be sent home in the coming week.

Finally, I can reassure all parents that ALL students (with the exception of Kindergarten) have Homework. Home Reading is the compulsory homework along with other tasks provided by class teachers.

## Principal's report (continued)

We have commenced our school year with 14 classes based on our enrolment numbers. The NSW Department of Education provides teachers on the basis on total enrolments and not on the number of students in each grade. Therefore, a number of multi-age classes have been formed based on the staffing provided.

### Merrylands East PS Staff 2023

Principal: Mr Goh

Assistant Principals: Mrs Cruz, Mrs Fernandopulle, Mrs Vizard and Ms Mirzaee (Relieving)

Assistant Principal Curriculum Implementation (APCI): Ms Nguyen

#### Class Teachers

K	Ms Nguyen
K	Ms Asquith
K	Mrs Camilo
1	Ms Huynh
1	Mrs Co
1	Ms Gonzalez and Ms Ibrahim
2	Ms Babic
2/3	Mrs Cowan
3	Ms Elbaz
3/4	Ms Vizard and Mrs Johnson
4	Ms Landall
5	Mrs Cruz
5/6	Mrs Hitti
6	Ms Mirzaee

Teacher-Librarian: Ms Hughes

English as an Additional Language or Dialect: Mr Atkin, Ms Ahry and Ms Ibrahim

Learning and Support Teacher: Mrs Fernandopulle

Release from Face to Face Teacher: Ms Sen and Mr Kim

School Psychologist: Ms Lomov (Monday and Thursday only)

School Administration Manager: Ms Barber

School Administration Officers: Ms Linnell and Ms Ingold

Principal Support: Mrs Nehme

General Assistant: Mr Charalambous

### Sport (Students can wear their white sport shirt)

Year 3-6 Sport Day is Friday.

Year 1 and 2 have a Gymnastics program on Friday by qualified trainers.

Year 1/2 Sport Day is Friday

Kindergarten sport day is Wednesday

## Traffic Safety

The safety of all students is a collective responsibility. NSW Police and Cumberland Council Rangers make regular patrols around our school in the morning and afternoon. They will fine motorists that:

- Park in the Bus Zone on Myee Street,
- Park in the No Stopping Zone in York Street,
- Double parking
- Park across a resident's driveway.
- Driving and holding / talking on a mobile phone
- Passengers that are unrestrained or young children without the proper restraints
- Driving in excess of 40km in a school zones times.



Up to 6 months  
 Approved rear facing  
 child car seat



6 months to 4 yrs  
 Approved rear  
 or forward facing  
 child car seat



4+ years  
 Approved forward  
 facing child car seat  
 or booster seat



145cm or taller  
 Suggested minimum  
 height to use adult  
 lap-sash seatbelt

## YEAR 6 Moving to Year 7

The NSW Department of Education has advised schools that parents can complete an online expression of interest for Year 6 child seeking enrolment in a public school in 2024. Applications and a link will be available online from the **6 March 2023**.

Please be aware that all students have a local intake school. For many of our students, the designated school is Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School. Students seeking other high schools will be able to indicate that on the online form.

Students sitting the Selective High School Test will still need to complete a form in the event that they miss out on a place.

## Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is still only taking orders. Order forms can be collected from the school office.

Size 6 and 8 zip jackets are on order and should be available again in a few weeks.

Please be aware that uniforms only come in even sizes, that is, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16.

Orders will be made up on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only from now on and the Uniform Shop only takes cash.



## NAPLAN

The Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has advised schools that the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for Years 3 and Year 5 will be held a lot earlier this year. The starting date is March 15 .

NAPLAN is completed online except for Year 3 Writing. Students will not require devices as the school will provide. However, for NAPLAN, students can use their own headphones. The class teachers will show students the type of headphone connection required if students want to use their own.

Schools have two weeks to implement. Students will have Writing, Language Conventions (often referred to as Grammar), Reading and Numeracy Assessment times range from 45 minutes to 65 minutes. Students who miss out on the scheduled day will be able to make it up within the two week period.

NAPLAN is a snapshot of students at a particular time and the results do not define a student's future but helps schools to measure students' progress.



## Swimming Carnival



This event is for any Year 3-6 students **who can swim 50 metres or more confidently.**

Students will race each other to gain points for their sport house and potentially swim fast enough to gain a place in the follow-up district swimming carnival.

Any student intending to compete must be transported by private vehicle with parents/guardians and must be at the pool by 8.30am.

No child will be permitted in the water without teacher supervision.

**When:** Wednesday 15th February, 2023

**Time:** 8.30am - 10.00am

**Where:** Guildford Swimming Centre

**Travel:** **Students must be transported by private vehicle with parents/guardians.** Students must be taken to the pool by 8.30am and picked up at 10:00am from Guildford Pool.

## School Canteen

The school canteen needs volunteers to keep it running.

If you can spare any amount of time, as little as one hour a week or even a fortnight, we could really use your help.



It is a great opportunity to be involved in your child's school. Children love seeing their parents working in their school.

Please contact the school office if you can help.

## MOBILE PHONES

The NSW government has banned all primary students in having mobile phones in school.

Students with phones can leave them in the front office in the morning and collect them in the afternoon. This ensures a good balance of adhering to the NSW Government's policy and parental wishes.

In the event that a message needs to be communicated to your child during school hours, please phone the office on 9637 2638.