



MEPS MAIL

Term 1 Week 5- 26th February,

Key Dates

TERM 1

Principal's Report

What do we teach?

School Attendance

New Mural

Wet Weather

Dates

27.2.24—Visit by Olympian Jasmine Locke

29.2.24—Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival

5.3.24– PULSE Choir Rehearsal at Ken Rosewall Tennis Arena, Sydney Olympic Park

7.3.24—Auburn Zone PSSA Swimming Carnival

8.3.24—Round 1 of summer PSSA Softball / T-Ball Competition at Granville Park

13.03.24 NAPLAN begins.

30.3.24 OC on-line applications open

Principal's report

I am delighted to share with you that our students have settled into their classes exceptionally well, with classroom programs now well and truly underway. As we navigate through the academic year, it's inspiring to witness the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by our students in their studies, particularly in English and Mathematics.

In English, we understand the fundamental importance of learning to read and write. These skills serve as the cornerstone for success across all learning areas, providing students with the tools they need to express themselves effectively and engage with a diverse range of texts. Our teachers are committed to nurturing and developing these essential skills, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive and grow academically.

Similarly, in Mathematics, our students are embracing the challenge of problem-solving and critical thinking with enthusiasm. Mathematics lays the groundwork for logical reasoning and analytical skills, empowering students to tackle complex problems with confidence and precision. I commend our students for their dedication to their studies and their willingness to embrace new challenges.

It's almost that time of the year when our Year 6 students begin preparing for the next chapter of their educational journey: the transition to Year 7. We're excited to announce that the online application (a link will be sent home with students) for Year 7 placement will be available starting from the 6th of March.

The government has changed the intake area and the majority of our Year 6 students now live within the Merrylands High School intake area. Students wishing to apply for other public high schools will need to do so as an out of area application online. We understand that this adjustment may bring about questions or concerns and we want to assure you that we are here to assist.

Tomorrow, we are excited to have an Olympian, kayaker Jasmine Locke, visit our school and speak to Years 4-6 students about the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris.

An exciting event on our school calendar is our annual Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival, scheduled to take place on Thursday 29th of February at Holroyd Sports Ground. This day promises to be filled with competitions, team spirit, and plenty of opportunities for our students to showcase their athletic talents. The carnival will end around 11:45am due to the weather. We will be revealing the new house names: Respect (Red), Fairness (Yellow), Perseverance (Green) and Courage (Blue). All the house names are named after values.

WHAT DO WE TEACH IN OUR SCHOOL?

The NSW Education Standard Authority (NESA) produces syllabus documents for all public, catholic and independent schools under the Education Act (1990) and the NSW Education Standards Authority Act 2013.

The Education Act acknowledges that the education of a child is primarily the responsibility of the child's parents, but also acknowledges the right of every child to receive an education. The duty of the NSW Department of Education is to ensure that every child attending a NSW government school receives an education of the highest quality. Our teachers must follow the Act.

All schools in NSW are required to teach courses of study in accordance with the approved syllabuses developed by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Syllabuses are developed in consultation with the community (during syllabus design phase) to acknowledge and value diverse cultures, backgrounds, experiences, abilities, religions and beliefs and are publicly available on NESA's website for parents and community members.

From Kindergarten to Year 6, all schools are required to have teaching and learning programs in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- Creative Arts (Visual Arts / Music / Drama and Dance)
- Human Society and Its Environment (History and Geography)

The primary syllabus is not divided into individual grades but rather four stages of learning:

- Early Stage 1 – Kindergarten
- Stage 1 – Year 1 and Year 2
- Stage 2 – Year 3 and Year 4
- Stage 3—Year 5 and Year 6

Priority of a school week is given to English and Mathematics with just over 50% of school time devoted to those two learning areas.

Our school acknowledges the great range of views held by students, families and the community. Teachers ensure that these views are taken into account when delivering suitable teaching and learning programs and make adjustments if possible but the Act cannot be breached. Some aspects of curriculum may be considered controversial by our families, and the department's Controversial Issues in School policy is used to assist us in making professional and considered judgments on such matters. Our teaching approaches to controversial issues in the curriculum are age-appropriate, sensitive to student needs, and consistent with the values outlined in the Department's Values in NSW public schools policy.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2002-0045>

Link to the NSW Primary K-6 Syllabus can be found:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/understanding-the-curriculum/k-6-curriculum-requirements>

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

It's been great to have our students back in classrooms and settling into the school year. I know all our teachers are looking forward to a successful 2024 and are excited to work with you to make this a memorable year for your child.

The evidence is clear that consistent attendance is the essential first step for your child to have a positive experience at school.

Every day matters for your child's learning. In recent years we've seen too many students miss a day of school here and there. Missing school for students means missing assignments, time with friends, an important maths lesson or getting picked for a sports team. With days missed, years are lost.

Students are required to attend school every day, whether it's the first or last day of the term, Mondays, Fridays or days dedicated to sports carnivals, school excursions and incursions.

Help us make sure your child is achieving their best and stays ahead in their learning with regular school attendance. The more time your child attends school, the greater their opportunity to learn, make new friends and improve their wellbeing. Together, let's build positive attendance habits for a lifetime.

If your child is absent from school, please let us know why as soon as possible, even if it's just a few minutes at the start or end of the school day. Of course, there will be times when your child is unable to be at school (like when they are unwell). Medical appointments should take place outside school hours where possible and family holidays should be taken in term breaks.

If your child is feeling anxious about coming to school and you need support, please reach out to your child's teacher or me directly. Our staff are here to work with you and your child to help them attend school each and every day. There are also helpful resources for parents and carers on the [Every Day Matters website](#).

When it comes to attending school, every day matters .

If your child misses as little as 1 day per fortnight, they will miss the equivalent of 4 weeks of school per year, which adds up to over 1 year missed over their primary school life.

Make sure your child doesn't miss out on the important things like:

- Learning**
- Strengthening friendships**
- Build skills through fun**

NAPLAN

Each year the National Assessment Program-Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is undertaken by students in Years 3,5,7 and 9. Students will participate in tests for writing, reading, convention of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN 2024 will take place from Wednesday 13th March to Monday 25th March.

NAPLAN is just one part of our school learning assessment program. The tests assess literacy and numeracy skills your child is already learning at school.

In preparation for NAPLAN, our school will undertake activities to help students become familiar with the format and functionality of the online test. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not required nor recommended.

The public demonstration site is available to see the types of questions, tools and functions used in the NAPLAN test.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Further information is available on the NESA website.

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/understanding-the-curriculum/naplan/parent-information>

NEW MURAL

We are thrilled to announce a wonderful addition to our school's landscape that is sure to inspire and captivate all who see it. A brand new outdoor wall mural is currently being painted opposite the Kindergarten room and it promises to be a beautiful tribute to an extraordinary individual.

The mural will feature a portrait of David Williams (OAM), a courageous veteran who served in the Vietnam War aboard the HMAS Vampire. David's service to our country is not only a testament to his bravery but also to his unwavering commitment to equality and inclusivity. Throughout his navy days, David served with pride, knowing that he fought for the rights and freedoms of all Australians, regardless of their race or background.

The mural will depict David in his naval uniform, surrounded by symbols of unity and strength. His story serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have served in the armed forces, and the importance of upholding the values of integrity, respect, and excellence.

We look forward to unveiling this remarkable mural and celebrating David Williams' legacy with our school community. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting project!

Thank you to artist Hugues Sineux for undertaking the work.



WET WEATHER

Please check the weather forecast each evening in the media to see if there is predicted rainfall.

It is important that students bring an umbrella or wear a raincoat during wet weather.

During wet weather, students stay inside their rooms for recess. Likewise when there is severe windstorms or high temperatures.