



# Kookaburra Gazette

## Dates to remember

Term 1 2021	
29-1-2021	First Day back for students. Best Start begins for Kindergarten
3-2-2021	First day for Kindergarten
5-2-2021	Swimming Carnival
15-2-2021	Cronulla Zone Tennis trials
16-2-2021	Cronulla Zone Basketball trials
17-2-2021	Cronulla Zone AFL trials
17-2-2021	Special Religious Education (SRE) and Ethics classes begin P&C meeting 7:00pm
19-2-2021	Cronulla Zone PSSA sport begins.
23-2-2021	Possible Meet the teacher evening Stage 1 and Stage 3 (subject to COVID restrictions)
24-2-2021	Possible Meet the teacher evening Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) and Stage 2 (subject to COVID restrictions) Year 5 Sports Gala Day at Port Hacking HS (subject to COVID restrictions)
1-3-2021	Cronulla Zone Rugby League trials
2-3-2021	Cronulla Zone Swimming Carnival
8-3-2021	Year 6 Writing Workshop and Sports activities at Port Hacking HS (subject to COVID restrictions)
16-3-2021	Sydney East SSA swimming carnival at SOPAC (Homebush)
23-3-2021	School photographs
29-3-2021	Cronulla Zone Rugby Union trials
1-4-2021	ANZAC Day ceremony
1-4-2021	Last day of Term 1
2-4-2021	Good Friday public holiday – school holidays begin
19-4-2021	Term 2 staff development day
20-4-2021	Term 2 students return

## An impressive first day for our 2021 Kindergarten!

Congratulations and welcome to all of our Kindergarten students (and their parents or carers) on a smooth and positive start to Kindergarten on Wednesday morning. All of the students walked happily to class with the support of their Year 6 buddies. This was also a nice opportunity to briefly meet with some of our families.

We have 35 Kindergarten students this year, including nine students in our support classes.





I would like to thank 2 members of our school office staff, Mrs Catlett and Mrs Galea, for their wonderful organisation of the transition to school last year.

I also want to acknowledge our community volunteers Mrs Faye Ellicott and Mrs Heather Mitchell for all the additional hours they provide to families at the start of each school year.

### **School Organisation**

Our staff have worked very hard to place every student in the most appropriate class, after considering a broad range of wellbeing, educational, social and emotional factors. We thank you for your support in being positive about your children's new classes and assisting them with a positive start to the new school year.

At this stage the 2021 classes are:

KS	Mrs Shields (relieving AP K-2)
K/1J	Miss James
1/2G	Mrs Tarrant (AP – K-2) and Mrs Greer
1/2W	Mr Wooley and Mrs Rigava
2/3C	Mrs Cooke
3/4M	Miss McMillan (relieving AP Stage 2)
3/4W	Mr Williams and Mrs Hitchcock
5/6R	Mr Richardson (relieving AP Stage 3)
5/6T	Mrs Townsend and Mrs Attard
5/6W	Mrs Wilkins (AP Stage 3) and Mrs Brennan
K/6A	Miss Atu
K/6D	Miss Dowling (AP Special Education)
K/DN	Mrs Negro-Malfitano

Please understand that class organisation depends on the number of students enrolled in the school each year and further changes could be possible if our enrolments increase.

All of our staff work together to meet the needs of your children including:

EAL/D (English as an additional language or dialect) teachers:

Mrs Holt (Monday and Tuesday)  
Ms Higgins (Wednesday and Friday)

LaST (Learning and Support Teachers):

Mrs Metros (Tuesday – Thursday)  
Mrs Cureton (Monday – Friday)  
Miss Tuite (Monday – Friday)

Teacher Librarian (and RFF):

Mrs Leavold (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

This is also a good opportunity to thank Mrs Tarrant, Mrs Shields, Mr Skene, Miss Dowling, Mrs Williams, I I

RFF (release from face to face) teachers:

Miss Tuite and Miss Higgins  
Mrs Lawson (special education)

School Counsellor:

Mr Garry Thomas (Tuesday and Friday)

School Chaplain:

Mr Stewart (Tuesday and Wednesday)

School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs):

Mrs Toohey, Mrs Mears and Mrs Hefren  
(special education)  
Mrs Feeney, Mrs Toutounji, Mrs Hristopanos,  
Mrs Graham, Mrs Stevenson, Mrs Silvera and  
Mrs Robertson, Mrs Lopez (mainstream)

Office Team:

Mrs Williams (School Business and  
Administration Manager)  
Mrs Catlett and Mrs Galea (School  
Administration Officers)

General assistant:

Mr Cameron (Tuesday and Friday)

Principal: Mr Duffy

### **Composite Classes**

Most of the classes in our school are composite (or multi-age) classes. The Department of Education applies a mathematical formula to determine the number of teachers allocated to a school. As a result, schools usually need to organise the students in multi-stage classes. This is advantageous for our students and teachers because we have more flexibility to meet the learning, wellbeing and social needs of the students. All teachers cater for the individual needs of their students regardless of class structure or size. They successfully do that by cooperatively planning and analysing student data with their colleagues. They also use a range of strategies in their classes including flexible groupings to target specific needs and open-ended rich tasks.

### **Approaching our School**

From time to time parents or other members of the community may need to approach the school to:

- Discuss the progress or welfare of own child; or
- Enquire about school policy or practice.

Please phone the school to make a time to speak with the teacher concerned.

Occasionally students may tell their parents about issues involving other students. If this happens, please assist your child in developing resilience by asking your child to talk with a teacher. You are also welcome to contact your child's teacher or an executive teacher. **Never approach any child, other than your own child, to address an issue at school. Please do not approach other parents about issues involving the students – that is the school's responsibility.**

### **Staff Changes**

Thank you for making all of our new teachers feel very welcome: Mrs Rigava, Mrs Cooke, Mrs Hitchcock, and Miss Dowling, as well as welcome our returning teachers: Mrs Townsend and Ms Higgins.

Congratulations to Mrs Chaplin, who was appointed as Relieving Principal of Jannali PS for the 2021 school year. Mrs Chaplin is a highly capable leader and I know that you will join with me in wishing her all the best.

### **COVID-19 Response**

COVID-19 is currently well managed in Australia, however, as we have seen, the latest strains spread very quickly. We all need to be vigilant and protect one another, as well as our vulnerable people in the community.

COVID guidelines are constantly changing and often interpreted differently. It is not my intention to inconvenience anyone, however, it is my responsibility to keep our community safe and minimise the risk of infection by maintaining a balance between COVID-19 guidelines and the safety and wellbeing of our students. If members of the school community were affected, your children's education could be impacted for up to two weeks or more.

For this reason and to ensure safe social distancing, **only staff and students may walk through the school.**

We acknowledge the lack of parking and space for parents to wait safely outside of the school and hence, parents and family members may enter after 3:00pm and wait in the designated areas ie:

**3 to 6 and 2/3C students** – Enter and exit via the **Wandella Rd** gate and wait at the silver seats under the trees

**K to 6 and Special Education students** – Enter and exit via the **Sylva Ave** gate and wait on the grass area next to the driveway – please DO NOT wait or sit under the COLA area.

If you have older children attending Miranda PS, they may collect their brothers and sisters and meet you at



your preferred gate. Please discuss this and make the arrangements with them.

If students are being collected by older siblings, attending other local primary or high schools, please ensure they follow these procedures.

Access into the school for any other reason (including the uniform shop) must be made via the school Office, to ensure COVID login procedures are followed.

### **Morning Drop Off**

This will continue to be the same as it was in 2020. From Monday 8 February, all parents need to say goodbye to their children at the school gates.



Thank you for your support and understanding.

### **Please leave bikes and scooters at home**

Due to the high volume of traffic and narrow uneven footpaths surrounding the school, students are not to ride their bikes and scooters to school.

### **Student use of mobile phones**

Mobile phones and smart watches are not needed by primary students and they should be left at home.

If for some reason, you need your child to carry a mobile phone to contact you after school, (eg: to let you know that they have arrived safely at another venue), then the phone needs to be signed in by your child at the school office in the morning, where it will be kept and signed out again in the afternoon. Many students have similar phones so please ensure that the phone is clearly labelled. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged phones.

Set your children up for success: If we find that phones are being used inappropriately at school, they may be confiscated and other disciplinary actions may need to be taken.

### **Are you proud of your child's digital footprint?**

Habit 1 – Be proactive: *I choose my actions, attitudes and moods and don't blame others for wrong doings.*

Did you know that the comments, photos and texts placed on social media by your child could impact on their career prospects and reputation in later life?

## **DIGITAL FOOTPRINTS**

What do yours say?

### **BE CAREFUL ABOUT:**

- What you share.
- Where you share.
- With whom you share.

### **BE SMART ABOUT:**

- Sites you visit.
- Emails you open.
- Links you click.

**BE YOURSELF**  
but be your best self.



Schools play a significant role in teaching students about cyber safety, however, most of the instances involving cyber bullying or inappropriate messages have occurred when students are at home. You can help your children develop positive digital footprints by:

- Teaching and modelling how to use social media safely
- Following the age restrictions. Primary school students are too young to be using TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat and so forth.
- Allowing your child access to devices in the public areas of your house and not their bedrooms.
- Collecting your children's devices before they go to bed
- Checking your child's device regularly to see what they are using
- Asking questions about how they know their online "friends"
- Ensuring that your child's device does not have any access to your credit/debit cards
- Teaching your children what to do if something makes them uncomfortable eg: report it to a trusted, take a screenshot and save it, block the sender.
- Showing your child what SPAM and phishing emails look like so they know not to open them
- Using a reputable resource for more advice such as:

- the ThinkUKnow parent and carer page:  
<https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/for-parents-and-carers>
- esafety Commissioner parent page:  
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

### **Uniform Shop**

The school Uniform Shop is open on Wednesday mornings from 9.00 – 10:15am or you may obtain an order form to leave at the school office.

We are very appreciative of the time taken by our wonderful volunteers, Mrs Heather Mitchell and Mrs Faye Ellicott, who make it possible for our students and parents to have convenient access to new and quality used uniforms.

### **Equipment Lists**

This week teachers sent home lists indicating equipment requirements for students in individual stages eg. coloured pencils, glue sticks, erasers, rulers..

It is most helpful for the students to have their own equipment for classroom use. Thank you for providing these items for your children.

### **Approaching your school**

From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school to:

- Discuss the progress or welfare of own child
- Express concern about actions of other students
- Enquire about school policy or practice

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

On occasion, concerns may cause frustration and anxiety and digital platforms such as email and Classdojo are always appropriate. At such times it is always important to organise a time to talk with school staff in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere.

Speaking to teachers when they are supervising students or engaged in another conversation, is not appropriate. Please keep this in mind.

Classdojo is appropriate for passing on brief messages to teachers, as long as parents understand that teachers need to be teaching. They will not be able to respond to messages during the school day when they are supervising students or attending meetings. It is also unfair to expect teachers to respond to messages when they are with their own families or preparing for the next school day. If you need to contact your child's

teacher urgently, please contact the school office on 9524 4631 and a message can be passed on.

ISSUE	APPROPRIATE ACTION
The academic progress of own child	Directly contact the child's teacher either by note, by phone or in person to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues.
The welfare of your own child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For minor issues directly contact your child's teacher to clarify information before 9:00am.</li> <li>• For more serious concerns, contact the office to arrange a suitable time to talk with the staff member involved.</li> <li>• To convey information about change of address, telephone number, emergency contact, custody details, health issues and so on, please contact the office 9542 4631.</li> </ul>
Actions of other students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact the class teacher for a classroom problem.</li> <li>• Contact the stage team leader or principal for playground problems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Never approach any child (other than your own child) or other child's parent, to address an issue at school.</b></p>
School policy or practice	Contact office. State your concern and make an appointment to see the principal and/or appropriate member of staff.
School community issues	Contact the school's P&C President or executive members. Meetings are held two to three times each term.

### **Newsletter**

Our school newsletter is published and emailed to our families at the end of each fortnight (Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 in each term).

Thank you for your support and understanding, let's all have a great year in 2021!

### **P and C Meeting**

Please come to our next P and C meeting:

**17 March 2021 at 7:00pm**

This is an easy way to get to know our school community, learn about the school and make new friends.

Please enter by the office in Sylva Avenue and ensure that you login using the COVID QR code displayed on the window.

## Introducing you to our 2021 School Leaders

### School Captains:



Daniel



Emily

### Vice captains:



Amelia



Samuel

### Prefects:



Sterling



Imogen

### House Captains and Vice House Captains:



#### Blue House

Captains: Alecia-Jade and Brock  
Vice captains: James and Gianna

#### Green House

Captains: Anar and Leo  
Vice captains: Blake and Brydon

#### Red House

Captains: Harlem and Kelly  
Vice captains: Justin and Cody

#### Gold House

Captains: Noah and Flora (absent)  
Vice captains: Ngamiri and Levi

## **MPS P&C Meeting**

**Wednesday 17  
February 2021 @ 7.00 pm**

**via Office entry, Sylva Avenue**

2020 & 2021 Kindy & All Parents/Carers are encouraged to attend!

Get to know your MPS Community & School developments and planning

- ✓ Light Refreshments
- ✓ Children welcome!







# Kids multi-sport & fun fitness term 1 classes

Our 45min after-school classes are sports science designed for school kids (aged 5-18), structured for maximum fun and real results! **FREE TRIAL CLASS. Get fit. Get Gecko fit.**

PROGRAM	AGES	MON	WED
GeckoACTIVE: fun multi-sports program	Youngsters (5-8yo)	4.15-5pm	4.15-5pm
	Midsters (9-12yo)	4.15-5pm	4.15-5pm
GeckoFIT: bootcamp fun fitness program	Midsters (9-12yo)	4.15-5pm	4.15-5pm
	Teens (12-18yo)	4.15-5pm	4.15-5pm
GeckoBOX-FIT: fun fitness boxing program	Midsters (9-12yo)	4.15-5pm	4.15-5pm
	Teens (12-18yo)	4.15-5pm	4.15-5pm

## NEW VENUE: The Rec Club Miranda

COST: \$170 for 1 class/week.  
Includes a FREE Gecko kids tee shirt!  
Returning member discounts available.



**BOOK ONLINE** at [geckosports.com.au](http://geckosports.com.au) (search for Sutherland Shire location)





Dear Parents, Carers and Students.

The Conservatorium High School would like to inform your talented music students that:

## **AUDITIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR 2022**

Application to AUDITION for Con High entering 2022 are now open.

Go to <https://conhigh.nsw.edu.au/2022-entry-application/>

ADMISSIONS tab then 2022 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Closing date for registration is 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Auditions begin 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

