

Miranda Public School



Term 2 / Week 4
14 May 2021



Kookaburra Gazette

Dates to remember

Term 2 2021	
11 to 21 May	NAPLAN online for Year 3 and 5 students
19-5-2021	K-2 excursion to Symbio Wildlife Park
15 to 17 June	Student Led Conferences
24-6-2021	Reports to parents
25-6-2021	Last day of term 2
Term 3 2021	
12-7-2021	Staff Development Day
13-7-2021	First day of Term 3 for students

Representative Sport

Three of our students have been selected to play in Sydney East PSSA representative teams, beginning with Imogen (5/6T) who will be playing at the NSW PSSA Girls' Primary Hockey Championships at Unanderra on 18-20 May. Imogen is followed by Samuel (5/6R) who will play in the NSW PSSA Boys' Primary Hockey Championships at Newcastle on 25-27 May. Harlem (5/6T) will compete in the NSW PSSA Rugby League Opens at Tamworth on 16-18 June. Congratulations, we're so proud of all of you!



Student Led Conferences

As part of our new school improvement plan directions we want our students to be empowered as confident and creative visible learners who actively engage with learning intentions and success criteria (LISC) and articulate their own learning goals with peers, teachers and their parents.

Student-led conferences are exactly what they imply; students take the lead on sharing examples of their work, discussing next steps and setting goals.

Student-led conferences create a partnership between the teacher, student, and parents to act as a support network or as stakeholders in the success of the student.

Student Led Conferences enable our students to apply the seven habits to best practice in teaching and learning. This is our first time for everyone – students, teachers and parents so we will learn with each other and improve. The roles of participants are:

- **Students:** Develop and reflect on their learning goals, strengths and learning challenges. They select appropriate work samples and rehearse what they will say about them. Depending on their ages and abilities, students will lead the conference with appropriate support from the teacher.
- **Parents:** During student-led conferences, parents focus the conversation on their children and reflect on their work with them. They look at samples and listen to their children's explanations and reflections. Then, they ask how they can help and what the students need from them.
- **Teachers:** In preparing for student-led conferences, teachers work with students to develop and reflect on learning goals, identify strengths and challenges, select appropriate work samples and prepare students for presenting their work. During student-led conferences, teachers take on the role of facilitator, rather than that of leader. They may also act as advocates for their students.

As you can see, in many ways, student led conferences are more powerful than parent-teacher interviews because they are focused on the voice of the student. A reminder too that parents are more than welcome to contact the school office on 9524 4631 to arrange parent-teacher interviews at any time throughout the school year.

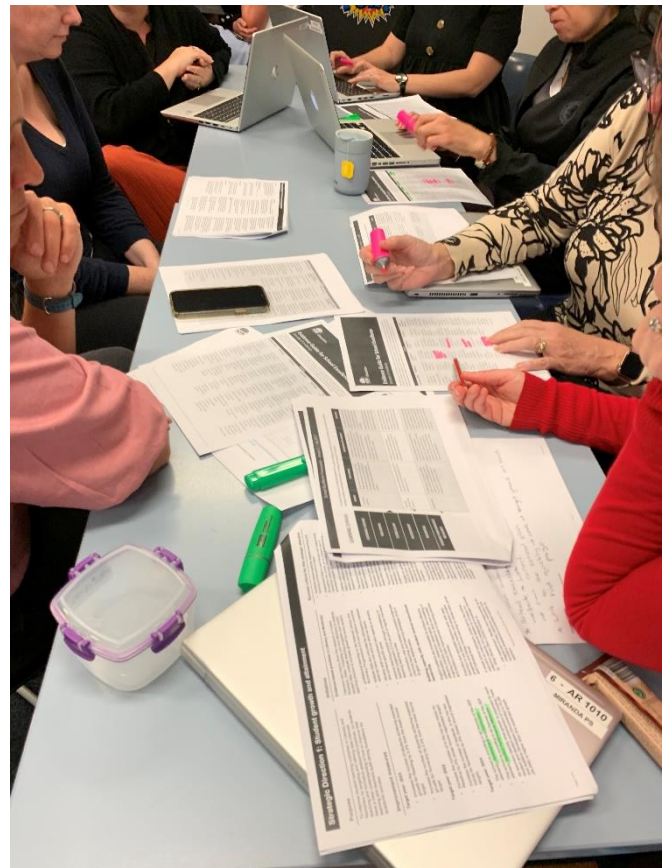
The student led conferences will be 15 minutes in length and held in Week 9. Parents will be invited to book sessions as we get closer to the date.

Staffing

I am happy to inform you that we have appointed a new permanent teacher, Miss Amy Gambin, to the special education unit. This position was left vacant after Mr Skene left the school in 2020. Miss Gambin will commence teaching K/6N on Monday 24 May 2021. I know that she will be warmly welcomed into the school.

I would like to thank Mrs Negro-Malfitano, who has taught K/6N this year, for her commitment and dedication to our students and for agreeing to help us with the transition period and handover to our new K/6N teacher. I'm sure our school community is deeply appreciative of her hard work and caring nature.

I also need to thank Mrs Susan Oliveri, Caringbah PS Principal, for her kindness and understanding in agreeing to release Miss Gambin early, in order to assist in maintaining consistency for the K/6N students.



Attendance “Every day counts and there is no ‘safe’ threshold for absences” – Hancock et al., 2013

Attendance matters. Our entire school community needs to value education.

Information about attendance was sent home in the last newsletter. The home school liaison officer (HSLO) regularly monitors attendance and supports schools and families. If families do not meaningfully engage in working with schools to improve their children’s attendance, the HSLO is required to report cases of educational neglect. Please note that:

- Holidays taken during school time are recorded as being unjustified.
- Partial absences (where students leave early or arrive late) for reasons such as traffic, sleeping in, taking brothers and sisters to school, or not wanting to make a return trip after attending a school event (eg: Easter Hat Parade) are recorded as being unjustified partial absences.
- Each time your child is away, please provide a written note of explanation when he/she returns to school. If your child has a pattern of absences due to sickness, the school has the right to request that parents obtain letters from a doctor. Your child may have a health issue that needs further investigation or a health care plan.
- If appointments can only be made during school time, it is advisable to ask the practitioner to provide a letter for you to pass on to the school so the absence can be marked as sick. Please make appointments out of school time wherever possible.

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

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



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au



Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight
M T W T F
M T W T F

= 4 weeks



= Over 1 year missed

1 day per week
M T W T F
M T W T F

= 8 weeks



= Over 2.5 years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

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



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

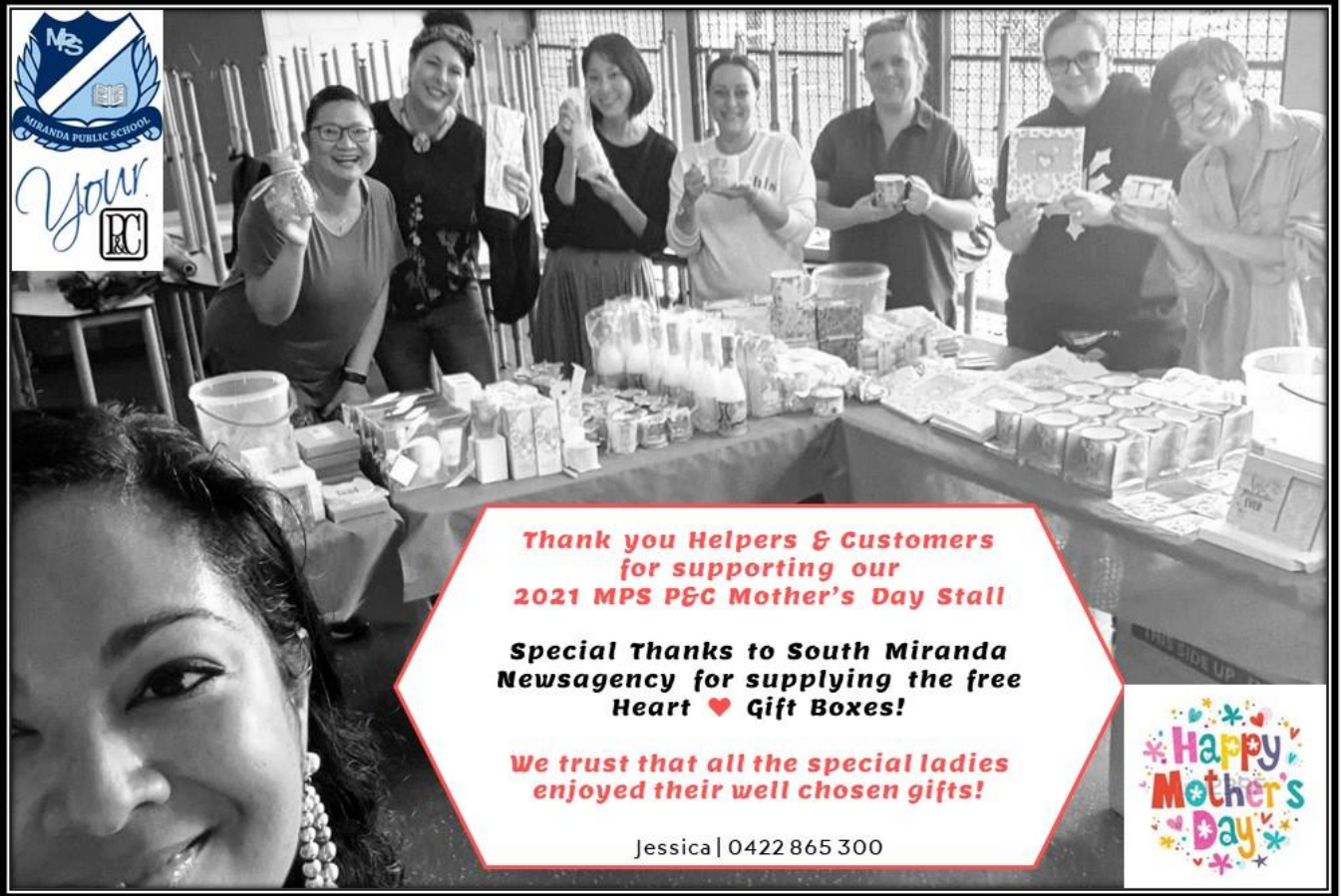
education.nsw.gov.au

EID Celebrations

Some of our families are celebrating the end of Ramadan this week and we wish them a wonderful EID with family and friends. Please note that the Department of Education allows one day of approved leave for EID, if a note of explanation is received.

P&C Mothers' Day Stall





**Thank you Helpers & Customers
for supporting our
2021 MPS P&C Mother's Day Stall**

**Special Thanks to South Miranda
Newsagency for supplying the free
Heart ♥ Gift Boxes!**

**We trust that all the special ladies
enjoyed their well chosen gifts!**

Jessica | 0422 865 300



**Congratulations to the
Winners of our 2021 MPS
P&C Mother's Day Raffle!**

**We trust that you have
enjoyed your prize!**

With your support we have raised
over \$1000.00 that will go towards
the needs of Miranda Public School!

Thank you!

Jessica | 0422 865 300.



Yes they did! (as you can see below) and we hope their mothers all enjoyed these wonderful prizes too!



COVID restrictions

COVID restrictions vary between schools because each school's response to the Department of Education's guidelines is based on each school's unique context. As a community, we also need to understand that the guidelines change very quickly.

Currently, parents/carers are welcome to enter the school grounds before and after school to drop off and pick up their children. This is based on the understanding that parents/carers understand that guideline may need to change quickly from one day to the next. Parents and Carers are expected to comply with social distancing from each other, teachers and other students. They also need to leave when the morning assembly song begins. If you are invited to planned events, use the uniform shop or enter buildings to attend parent/teacher interviews or meetings, you need to sign in at the office and use the COVID app.

As a school we are looking at different ways to hold events for our school community, while complying with the DoE's guidelines. We want to include parents as much as possible, however, social distancing means that we will not always have space available to invite parents and visitors into the school for whole school events. Thank you for your understanding.

Camps and Excursions reminder:

Symbio payments close this week, please remember to pay promptly so your child does not miss out. Payments will be received up to Monday 17 May ONLY. Please ensure we have a signed permission slip.

The Stage 3 Berry camp information will be coming out shortly.
This camp is scheduled for August 2021.



Mother's Day Keepsakes – K/6 A



Students in K/6A have put a lot of time and effort preparing beautiful handprint keepsakes to give to their mothers on Mothers' Day.

Principals Awards

Principals Awards are presented to students who have acquired ten Kookaburra Awards for practising the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Leaders. This fortnight, Cyrus in 1/2W and Tamara in 3/4W received their Principals Awards. Congratulations!



AED Census closes this week.

Thank you to Mrs Shields for her organisation and to all of our kindergarten teachers for supporting her in completing the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). The AEDC measures how children have developed by the time they start school. The AEDC looks at groups of children, not individuals.

With four sets of data collected every three years since 2009, valuable trend data is used to help governments and communities design programs and policies that better meet the needs of children and families. Teachers of children in kindergarten use the Australian version of the Early Development Instrument (AEDI), which measures children across five areas of development. These areas are closely linked to children's overall health, education and social outcomes as they mature into adults:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school based)
- Communication skills and general knowledge.

NAPLAN

During Week 4 and 5 of Term 2 (May 10 - 21), students in Year 3 and Year 5 are completing their NAPLAN assessments. With the exception of the Year 3 Writing test, students will be completing these assessments online. The *NAPLAN Online 2021* guide for parents has been attached for your information.

NAPLAN is just a group of tests and the results are not recorded on our student's school reports. The purpose of NAPLAN is to help the school celebrate our successes and clarify, along with our other school data, where we can improve our teaching and learning.



You can set your children up for success by encouraging them to do their best. Let them know that some of the questions may be from higher stages and it is ok if they cannot answer them all. NAPLAN is just an assessment task, and our students attempt to complete assessment tasks every other day at school. Help them relax, give them quality food to eat and plenty of sleep at night.

Thank you to Miss McMillan for her leadership of our NAPLAN organisation, along with Mrs Metros and Mrs Townsend, with the support of our Stage 2 and Stage 3 teachers and students.

Premier's Reading Challenge

The PRC student site is available again this year! Students can search for books to read, add books to their reading logs, and track their progress throughout the challenge. The challenge opens on March 2. You can find the site at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html#/> and there is a [useful help video available](#) to demonstrate how the site works.

K-2 Students will complete their challenge as a part of Library lessons each week. The K-2 student reading logs will be registered and updated by Mrs Leavold. Certificates will be distributed to students with end of the year reports.

Year 3-6 students are welcome to register and participate in the challenge. They are responsible for their own PRC reading logs. Please see Mrs Leavold if you need any assistance getting started. All entries should be completed by August. Please refer to the website for detail.

School Cross Country Carnival

We would like to say a very big 'Well done!' to our Miranda Public School students, who competed in the Cronulla Zone Cross Country Carnival this past Monday 10 May 2021. All of our competitors gave their very best efforts in their individual races and represented our school wonderfully, with their team spirit and encouragement of one another. All of the students completed their gruelling races (between 2km and 3km in length) and their behaviour was excellent. Brock (5/6W), Annabelle (2/3C) and Kelly (5/6R) came close to being selected for the Cronulla Zone team and all of the Year 6 boys sprinted to the finish line. To all of our competitors, 'Your school is extremely proud of you.'



THANK YOU TO ALL THE HELPERS & CUSTOMERS THAT CAME TO SUPPORT OUR 2021 MPS P&C CROSS COUNTRY STALL!



Special Thanks to PARKSIDE BAKERY for donating Rolls & Shortbread!

We raised over \$45000 that will be put towards MPS needs!

Jessica | 0422 865 300



Year 6 Farewell

The 2021 Year 6 Farewell is booked with Sharks at Kareela on Wednesday 8 December 2021 and Year 6 parents/carers received a note inviting them to join the Year 6 Farewell Committee. Year 6 students have already begun fundraising for their special evening. If you are interested in assisting in any way, please complete the slip on the note or contact Mrs Wilkins. The committee hopes to meet later in the term.

No Knives at School.

All schools in NSW have been asked by the Department of Education to share the following information:

There is no good reason to bring a knife to school. NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia. As a parent, you need to be aware of these laws, as you can also be charged if you allow your child to carry a knife.

If a student has a knife at school the principal may call the police. The student may be expelled or suspended immediately. Possessing a knife includes your child simply having one in their bag or locker. Having a knife for self-protection is also illegal. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or safety, contact the principal.

Every child has the right to feel safe and secure at school. There is no good reason for a child to ever have a knife at school. If you want to talk about children and knives at school, please contact the principal.

As school policy is designed to keep all students safe, no type of knife is allowed at school. That means no butter knives or fruit knives in lunchboxes, or knife tools for craft purposes. Flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives and star knives are all prohibited.

Your child cannot bring to school any item that can be used as a weapon (such as a chisel). In lessons requiring the use of knives, for example cooking or trades, your child's teacher will supply and supervise the use of the tools.

The law makes parents responsible. You need to make certain your child is aware of the school's rules and the State laws about knives. If you allow your child to carry or possess a knife at school or in a public place, you can be charged. The police can search any child they suspect of having a knife. They can confiscate any dangerous object they might find during the search. Your child must comply with such a police search, or they may be arrested and charged. It is also illegal for anyone to sell a knife to anyone who is less than 16 years old.

To our WONDERFUL 2021 MPS P&C Mother's Day
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