



Kookaburra Gazette

Dates to remember

Term 4 2022	<i>Events are subject to the weather conditions and/or COVID restrictions at that time and/or decisions made by Department of Education.</i>
Wednesdays	<i>SRE and Ethics; Year 6 transition afternoons at Port Hacking HS (20 October to 24 November)</i>
25-10-2022	Kindergarten Orientation 1. Please arrive at 9:30am for a 9:45am start.
2-11-2022	Kindergarten Orientation 2. Please arrive at 9:30am for a 9:45am start.
2-11-2022	Stage 2 Museum in-School Visit
10-11-2022	Kindergarten Orientation 3. Please arrive at 9:30am for a 9:45am start.
22-11 & 1-12	Stage 2 Claymation in-School Experience
30-11-2022	Last Day for Special Religious Education and Ethics Classes
30-11-2022	Community "Thank You" Morning Tea
2-12-2022	Last Day of PSSA Sport for Term 4
8-12-2022	Proposed Date for P&C Disco and PSSA Raffle Draw
9-12-2022	Year 6 Fete Day
13-12-2022	Presentation Morning
14-12-2022	Year 6 Excursion Stage 2 Claymation Presentation Reports Sent Home to Parents
15-12-2022	Sport Presentation Morning Year 6 Farewell 5:50 – 8:30pm
Friday 16-12-2022	Last day of school for students
Monday 19-12-2022	Staff Development Day <i>(The staff have completed additional professional learning after school over the past two terms in lieu of the second professional learning day on 20-12-2022).</i> OSHClub Vacation Care opens 19 – 24 December.

Welcome to Term 4! During the school holidays the Secretary of the Department of Education announced that Monday 19 December will now be an additional staff development day. In response to this, we have needed to change some of the dates shared last term.

Public Speaking finals

Norah 2/3Q, Joshua 4/5O, Eva 5/6Z and River KR, proudly represented us at the Sutherland Public Speaking finals. They presented both their prepared and impromptu speeches confidently and even made new friends. We are very proud of them. As a bonus, River (pictured) placed third in this inter-school competition.



Congratulations Orto!

You probably heard a lot of yelling coming from the school this week as students cheered for Orto 5/6Z in his televised 100m events at the State Athletics Carnival. Orto placed 1st in his heat, 3rd in the semi-final and 5th in the overall final. A very impressive result for a student who had not had a lot of athletics training prior to our school carnival this year.

COVID and Staffing

Wednesday 12 October marked our first (and only) day since December 2021, that all of the staff employed to work on any particular day, were present at school. Staff absences greatly impact on student learning programs, and how quickly things can get done. Your efforts in keeping our whole community healthy are greatly appreciated.

The Department of Education states that students and staff must stay home when they are sick. Students, staff and visitors should only attend school when they are symptom free. We strongly encourage all students, staff and visitors to follow the guidance issued by NSW Health. We will continue to send home students or staff displaying symptoms.

Anyone who believes they have been exposed to COVID-19 is strongly recommended to monitor for symptoms and test if they have any concerns, as well as wear a mask. We are continuing our COVID-smart measures and rapid antigen test kits for students, are available at the office, if requested by parents and carers.

Our school will continue to operate with our baseline COVID-smart measures in place throughout Term 4 to minimise transmission and keep our school open. This includes a combination of layered safety measures such as maintaining hygiene and cleaning practices, using rapid antigen testing (RAT) when experiencing symptoms, maximising natural ventilation, strongly encouraged vaccinations and strongly encouraging mask-wearing particularly when indoors and/or physical distancing is not possible.

Work around the school

It was hoped that the synthetic multipurpose court would have been completed over the last school holidays, ready for the new asphalt and retaining walls to be completed by the end of October. The heavy rain during the holidays, however, prevented progress and damaged the synthetic court base. To Jaewon's (the builder's) credit, the damage was repaired and

additional drainage was added to prevent undermining of the synthetic court. The SRC students will be recommending outdoor furniture and equipment to be installed by the school.

In the meantime - Please be careful walking through the school from Wandella Road. If you have problems walking on uneven ground, please wait on the council footpath or use the Sylva Avenue gates.

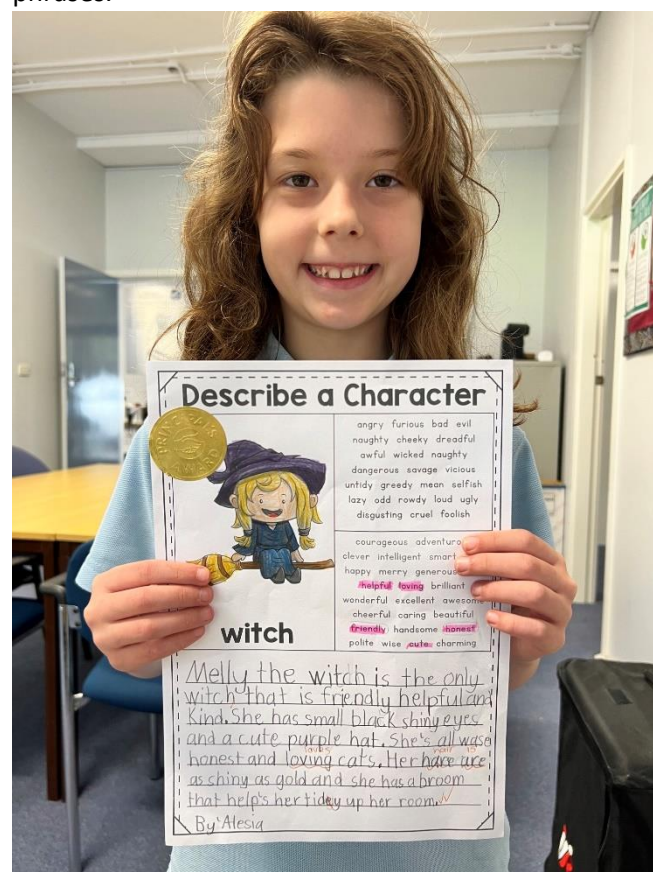
We are currently waiting for approval from the Assets Management Unit (AMU) to employ our preferred builder to complete the covered walkway adjoining the Block H toilets and Block F classrooms. The same builder will be installing proper concertina doors to the former canteen area in Block A.

Selective High School applications for 2024

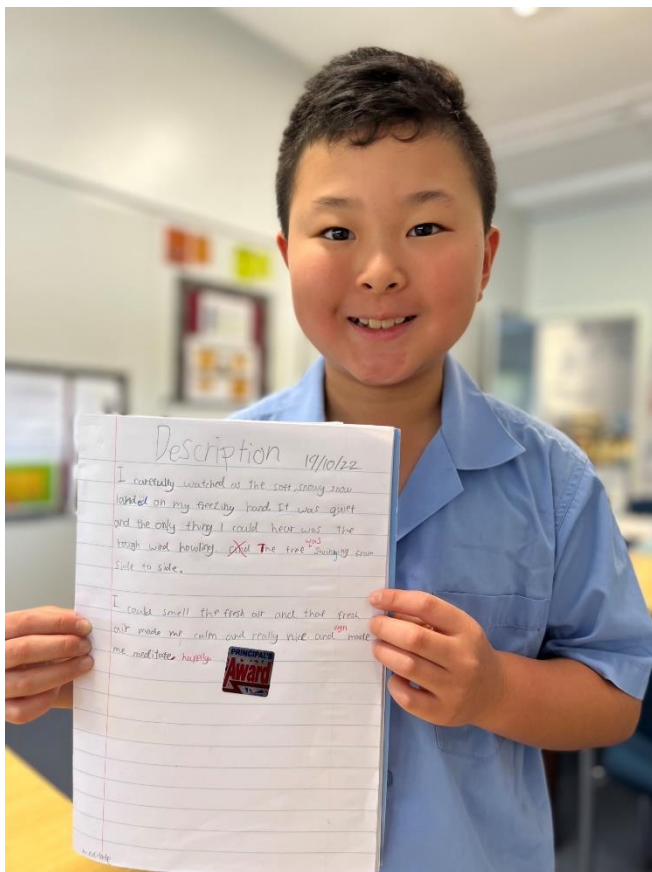
This information was emailed (with attachments) to Year 5 parents last week. Applications must be completed online before 16 November. Don't forget to also hand the paper EOI form to the office so we know to check for your child's online application.

Writer's Corner

3/4A students have been sharing their wonderful descriptive writing, using adjectives and adjectival phrases.

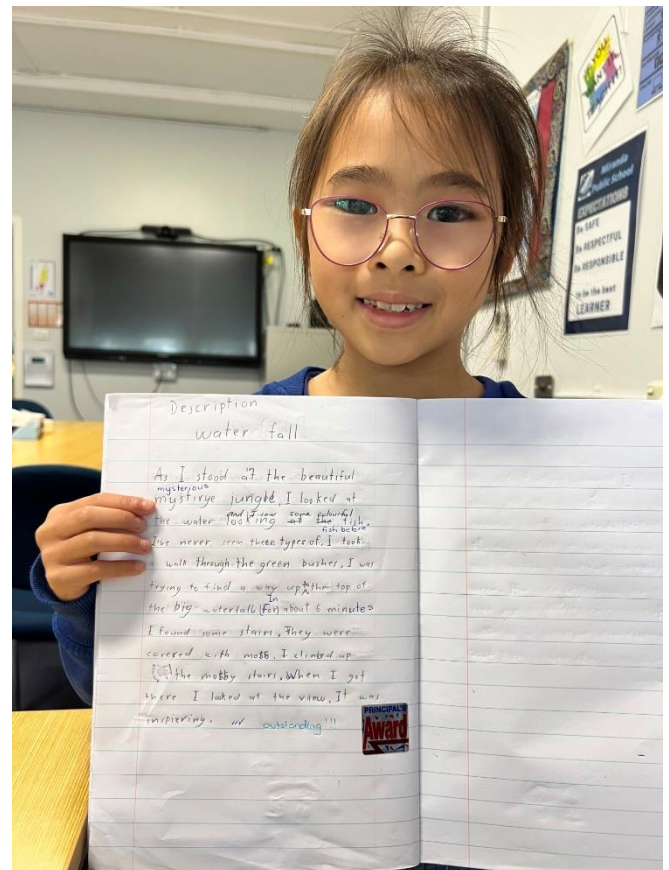


Alesia



Yamato

- How do you know?
- How can you improve?
- Where do you go for help?



Reia

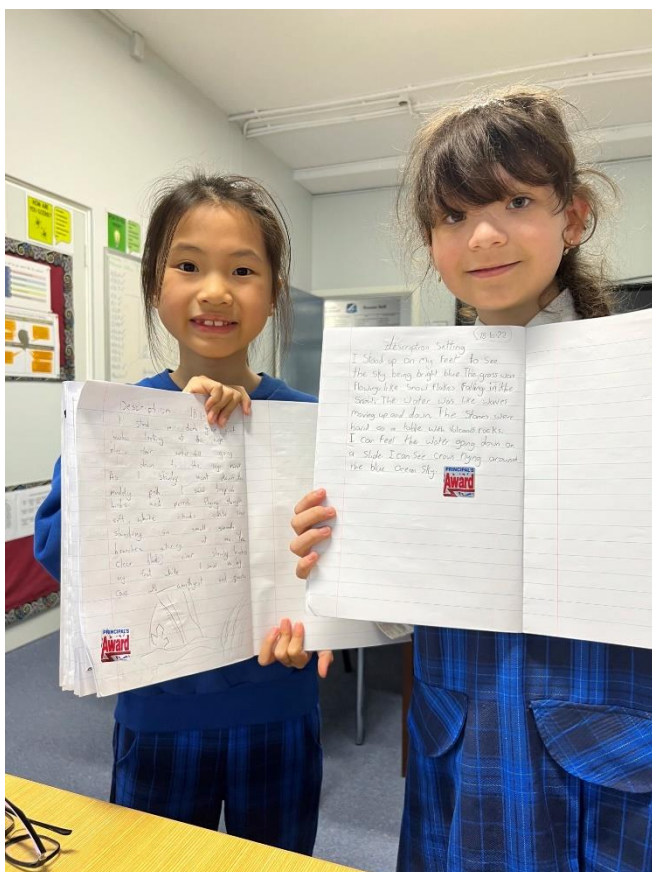
Aboriginal support officer

Miss Higgins is acting as our Aboriginal support officer in Term 3 and Term 4. She has been working closely with our students who identify as Aboriginal. We are establishing an art class for these students for seven weeks this term, led by Lyle Ah Sam (Soul Reign).

Parent survey

We will be surveying the parents about our school programs shortly this term, including your uniform preference for additional options for students not wanting to wear tunics or dresses. Your feedback is very important to us, however, it needs to be focused on improvement. When giving feedback please remember to be:

- Kind (helpful intention is to improve)
- Explicit (so we fully understand the issue)
- Helpful (Provide practical solutions or alternatives)



Caroline and Trinity

Caroline not only shared her confident descriptive writing, but also gave comprehensive answers to the big 5 questions (Lyn Sharratt):

- What have you been learning and why?
- How are you going?

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Feedback on the school wide expectations matrix has been received from the students (via the SRC) and we acknowledge the considered depth of thought that the students demonstrated in their feedback. We are now ready for parent feedback. A copy of our expectations matrix has been provided at the end of this newsletter. Our teachers have written lessons for each expectation so they can teach the students how to be safe, respectful, and responsible learners in our various school settings. The lessons are adjusted for the different age groups using the common language displayed on the matrix.

Please provide your feedback to the office by writing directly on the matrix and returning to the office, or by emailing your comments and suggestions to the school. When giving feedback please remember to be:

- Kind (helpful intention is to improve)
- Explicit (so we fully understand the issue)
- Helpful (Provide practical solutions or alternatives)

The proposed awards system should be ready for parent and SRC consultation shortly.

Speech Program

We welcome Kate Romeo (a speech pathologist with Learning Links), to support our students and their teachers. Kate will work in the school each Thursday from 20 October until the end of Term 2, 2023. Kate will support our teachers in helping to screen students and/or identify and cater for students who require speech and language interventions. Kate will identify some students with whom she will work in a short-term capacity in small groups, and also work in classrooms with the teachers.

If your child has a speech pathologist, it is important that you continue with these lessons. This program is completely different, and it will not take the place of your private or NDIS funded speech pathology visits.

Important Information from the School Office

The end of our school year is fast approaching, and we still have some families who have not finalised payment for this year's online subscriptions and

resources. Invoices have recently been sent out to those families who still have outstanding balances to date.

We are continually mindful that many of our families were left in financial difficulty due to COVID. Therefore, we have only asked our families to pay for online subscriptions, school magazines, textbooks, and art projects this year. We have not requested any voluntary contribution, as we ordinarily would.

These costs enable your children to access additional resources at school and at home, for example, the magazines and textbooks become the property of the students. Online subscriptions are very costly for the school, and we cannot afford to cover these costs each year. We ask that you endeavour to meet these costs and we are happy for families to pay off these expenses throughout the school year.

Please endeavour to pay your balances before the close of our financial year, 30 November 2022. If you would like to discuss anything related to the payment of these expenses, please contact Mrs Williams, in the school office, or Mr Duffy.

Uniform Shop

As most parents would be aware, the administration office is now running our school uniform shop. We now keep all stock in our administration area, which allows us to make this service available to our families 5 days a week. Please feel free to come to the office from 8.40am to 3pm Mon-Fri if you would like to place an order or try on some uniform items.

We also still have some second-hand clothing for sale and are always very happy to receive your generous donations, which are also very handy.

Parents of our Year 6 students, who are moving on to high school next year, please keep in mind that we would be happy to receive any uniform items in good condition, if you do not have a younger siblings or friends to hand them down to.

Newsletters

Our "Kookaburra Gazette" is published at the end of every **even week** and can be received by email, Facebook "*Miranda PS (official)*", and the NSW Education Parent app (now on Apple and Android): <https://education.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/schools-digital-strategy/nsw-education-parent-app>

New Sensory Resources

Miranda Public School would like to take the opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to Mr Shtannikov and Ms Fokina (Leonhard and Mira's parents) on behalf of Viv Court Trading, for their very generous monetary donation to our school.

This has enabled us to purchase a wide range of sensory toys, resources, and equipment to support the learning and wellbeing needs of our students. All of our students and teachers are so grateful for your kindness and generosity. All of these resources will be put to very good use.

Take a look at some of our new sensory resources below. (We are still awaiting delivery of a storage unit and some other items.)



Breaking News!!!



An earthquake has struck Miranda PS. Can the Stage 3 students work quickly enough to rescue Mrs Rigava from the rubble? Can they learn enough to create an earthquake resistant building?



Spot Mrs Rigava



The students in Stage 3 met with disaster upon arrival at school on Monday morning. Something terrible had occurred. The school was hit by an earthquake, with debris and smoke everywhere. Worst of all, we could not find Mrs Rigava. The students started a search mission and were successful in locating her within the debris, and extracting her safely to begin learning again. Here are some of their stories. They were inspired to write about the situation.

Amy:

The day was normal. Nothing was out of the ordinary. It was one of the nice sunny days that rarely come and I was at the office stapling a piece of paperwork. I walked to the printer to pick up more paperwork when a shake approached from the ground. I panicked and looked at my surroundings. Scared. Panicked. Frozen. I couldn't move, then suddenly the shaking became bigger, things around me were falling and breaking. I tried to run but I collapsed. The only way I could get to safety was to crawl to get under a desk. People around me were screaming while I was in shock cause minute by minute the earthquake started to shake more and more. Then while we were clutching on with all our might the earthquake stopped. I stood up as I breathed in the smoke that filled the air. The last thing I did was go to the others. I will never forget this.

Caleb:

The room was filled with fog that looked really blurry. The cracks were really easy to see from any corner of the room. On the wall, bright yellow coloured tape which said "caution" on all the sides. Chairs were flipped all around the room like there was a recent robbery. There were barely any earthquakes or even any disasters in Australia yet this caused a lot of damage. The floods were a small case compared to this. Black debris fell from the roof and the "inspiring" sentences on the wall were ripped off. It would take time and money to fix a mess like this. The colourful mat was now grey and dark. Our teacher "Mrs Rigava" almost died in the accident. The smoke smelled like overcooked pancake which spread to every corner of the room. It was like a fire but less harmful.

Preet:

Cracked windows. Fallen tables. Caution tape drooping everywhere. This place has lived a whole century, two decades and eight years. The smoke snaked down my lungs, poison slowly spreading. Lifeless. Doors slamming because of angry wind and confused officers. Panicked screams echo through the weak, crumbling walls. I didn't know that an earthquake could hurt like this. The lights flickered faster than ever. More echoing screams. The fans above our heads rumbled and shook and slowed down, as if tired of shaking. Then they spun faster. We all screamed in unison. Eerie thunder boomed and faint lightning flashed behind the clouds. The huge Mac was on the floor, glass and cables everywhere. Then came another scream. Fire!

Rares:

It was terrible. Everything was destroyed and there was caution tape on the remaining doors and windows. Most of the windows were broken and there was glass on the floor. The desks and chairs were turned over. There were people screaming, panicking and running around like crazy. Nobody could see anything because of the smoke that was spreading everywhere. It blinded anyone who was in the room so people were tripping and falling as they tried to escape. When the smoke cleared everyone could see what had happened. Some people made it out alive while some didn't.

Matias:

One Monday, just before school started, the teachers were setting up the classroom for the rest of the day, when they heard a low rumble that seemed to be coming from below them. At first they thought that it was the builders on the playground using a jackhammer to loosen some dirt, but when they looked outside, the fenced off area was only populated by a few birds pecking at the ground. Too late, they realized that they were in bigger danger than they thought earlier. It was an earthquake.

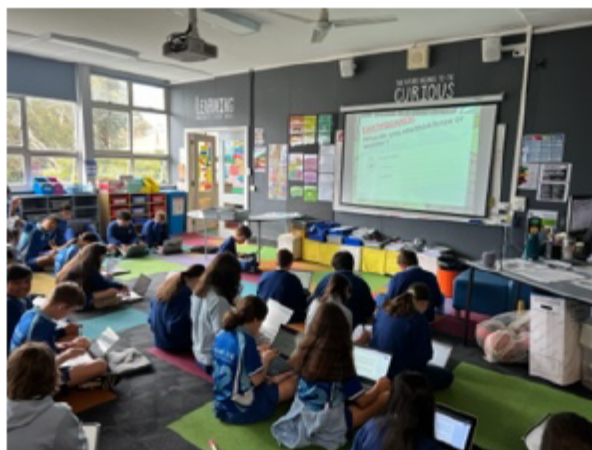
The walls surrounding them started to crumble. Dust was falling from the ceiling, and within minutes, the school was transformed into a field of debris that barely left the people inside alive. Fortunately, there were no deaths, but people were still hurt. An earthquake like this was unheard of in Australia, since it was right in the middle of a tectonic plate, so the teachers could only imagine how New Zealand and other countries on the ring of fire would be right now.

Madeleine:

I started to panic. My heart pounded. Screams are echoing in my head. As I start looking around... "BOOM!" "AHHHHH". I rushed inside the school to grab my belongings... As I'm on my way out to the playground to join everyone else, I hear the roll call. The teacher calls out my name. I scream and scream for help to get outside... no answer. Once I finally get to the exit I pushed the door... "NOOOOOO!" It was locked. I started to call for help as the earthquake escalated. The ground was shaking rapidly. The wall cracked open. The teacher was repeatedly calling my name. She got no response. I decided there was only one way out... A million thoughts rushed through my head. I thought about it for a minute... there was no other possible way to get out. I started to inhale smoke. I thought of all the good moments in my life. It could end in the blink of an eye but this was my only choice...

Monika:

CRASH!!! A Fan fell onto the table, screams of children ran across the room, some kids ran under tables. The couches fell down, people panicked as they ran across the room, the monitor fell down, and it crashed. Some kids didn't notice it because they stepped on it or tripped over it. A loud thud and shatter echoed across the room, the windows shattered and a whiteboard fell down, this was CHAOS.



Earthquake resistant building challenge:





Congratulations Orto!!!

Miranda Public School was a hive of noise on Wednesday and Thursday as the students supported Orto from 5/6Z as he raced in the 100m NSWPSSA State Competition. The competition was live streamed so the students could support him from school. He won his heat with a time of 13.87 and progressed to the finals on Day 2 of the competition.

Well done Orto for represented the school and the Sydney East District with pride.



NOT JUST A BRUSH – Pieces to Masterpieces

In exciting news - stage 2 students will have their artworks displayed at the Hazelhurst Art Gallery from the 28th October – 8th November. The theme for the exhibition is 'Pieces to Masterpieces' and stage 2 students will be represented by the collaborative hanging display created earlier in the year during their excursion to Hazelhurst Art Gallery. A special congratulations to the students who have also had their paper mache 'food sculptures' included in the exhibition. Well done Tamara N, Hayley, Haruka, Antonia, Leela K, Summer, Alesia, Bella W, Harlen, Jessica, Luka, Annabelle and Reia.



Intention to apply for Year 7 placement in a selective high school in 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Selective high schools cater for academically gifted students with high potential who may otherwise be without sufficient classmates at their own academic standard. Selective high schools help these students to learn by grouping them with students of similar ability, and by using specialised teaching methods.

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 7 selective high school entry in 2024, you need to apply on the internet using a valid email address (not the student's email address).

Detailed instructions on how to apply and the link to the online form will be available in early-October 2022 at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7>.

Applications open on 18 October 2022 and close on 16 November 2022. You must apply before the closing date.

You must submit only ONE application for each student.

The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on **Thursday 4 May 2023**.

The tear-off slip below is NOT an application, it is advice to the school that you intend to apply. The school CANNOT apply on your behalf.

Cut along the dotted line and return the completed slip below to this school by 16 November 2023

THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR ENTRY TO A SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL.

This is a notice to your primary school only that you intend to apply.

TO APPLY GO TO THE ONLINE FORM AT: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes>

----- Cut here and return the note below to the school -----

Intention to apply for Year 7 placement in a selective high school in 2024

Student's name: _____ Class: _____

I intend to apply for selective high school entry in Year 7 in 2024 for my child through the Selective Education Unit website between 18 October 2022 and 16 November 2022. I am aware that this is not an application and that the school cannot apply on my behalf.

Signature of parent/carers: _____

THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR ENTRY TO A SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL.

This is a notice to your primary school only that you intend to apply.

TO APPLY GO TO THE ONLINE FORM AT: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes>

EXPECTATIONS MATRIX for *Safe, Respectful and Responsible Students* at MIRANDA PUBLIC SCHOOL



	Always	Learning Spaces	Lining Up/ Assembly	Corridors/ Stairs / Pathways	Playground	Toilets / Bathrooms	Using technology / Online
Be Safe	Follow directions. Keep hands and feet to yourself. Use equipment safely.	Line up to enter or leave the classroom. Walk in the classroom. Respect personal space.	Walk straight to lines/toilet when the music plays. Stand or sit in two straight lines.	Keep hallways and pathways clear. Walk calmly on the left. Stay off the railings.	Wait for the teacher before playing. Use equipment safely. Wear a hat or play under the COLA. Inform teachers promptly of issues.	Ask for permission to leave the room. Flush the toilet, wash your hands and leave. Walk safely.	Protect personal information. Report any issues or concerns. Always logout & shut down after using the device. Only download if you have permission.
	Move sensibly around the school.	Walk to the toilet buildings in pairs.					
Be Respectful	Respect yourself and the way you interact with others. Use friendly words and actions. Be kind and polite.	Follow the class rules Keep learning areas tidy. Raise your hand to speak Listen and participate actively.	Be on time. Stand still and remove hats for the National Anthem. Leave quietly in class lines with your teacher.	Move quietly so learning is not disturbed. Respect the property of school and others.	Show good sportsmanship Share spaces and equipment. Place rubbish in the bins.	Respect others' privacy. Be calm and speak quietly.	Follow the BYOD technology contract. Respect the rights, feelings and privacy of others when posting online.
	Wear school uniform with pride.	Respect school equipment.	Sit quietly.		Put equipment away.		
Be Responsible	Be your best. Be prepared. Listen to others.	Stay on task. Challenge yourself. Be organised.	Listen to the speaker.	Walk the most direct way to your classroom.	Think before you act. Make good choices. Use 'STOP, WALK, TALK'.	Keep bathrooms clean.	Stay on task while online. Use, carry, charge and store devices properly.
	Own your actions.						

Holiday and school term dates for NSW public schools

	Eastern division
Summer holidays	Wednesday 21 December 2022 to Thursday 26 January 2023

2023 school year

	Eastern and Western divisions
Autumn holidays	Monday 10 April to Friday 21 April 2023
	Eastern and Western divisions
Winter holidays	Monday 3 July to Friday 14 July 2023
	Eastern and Western divisions
Spring holidays	Monday 25 September to Friday 6 October 2023
	Eastern division
Summer holidays	Wednesday 20 December 2023 to Monday 29 January 2024

Term dates for NSW public schools

2022 school year	First day for students	Last day for students
Term 4 (Eastern and Western division)	Monday 10 October 2022	Tuesday 20 December 2022
2023 school year	First day for students	Last day for students
Term 1 (Eastern division)	Tuesday 31 January 2023	Thursday 6 April 2023
Kindergarten Best Start Interviews held between 31 January and 3 February. Kindergarten begins on 6 February		
Term 2 (Eastern and Western division)	Wednesday 26 April 2023	Friday 30 June 2023
Term 3 (Eastern and Western division)	Tuesday 18 July 2023	Friday 22 September 2023
Term 4 (Eastern and Western division)	Monday 9 October 2023	Friday 15 December 2023

2023 school development days

- Eastern Division – 27 January, 30 January.
- All schools – 24 April, 17 July, 18 and 19 December.

Please note that these dates were accurate on 20 October 2022.