



# Heights Happenings

Winston Heights Newsletter

TERM 2

WEEK 4

## **Check In Assessments and NAPLAN Tests**

During the first few weeks of this term, our Year 4 and 6 students participated in the online reading and numeracy Check In assessments. These assessments supplement existing school practices to identify how students are performing in literacy and numeracy and help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to target student needs.

Students in Year 3 and 5 are currently completing online NAPLAN tests in the areas of reading, writing (paper for Year 3), language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. These assessments will be finalised by Friday 21 May.

I would like to congratulate every student who has engaged with the Check In and NAPLAN assessments for the exceptional effort and focus they have demonstrated when completing these tests. On behalf of all teachers at Winston Heights PS - we are very proud of you.

## **Pedestrian Safety**

Recently I have noticed a few cars speeding through the school zone on Buckleys Road, often not slowing down as they enter the pedestrian crossing zone. This driver behaviour is extremely dangerous and unsafe. The safety of our students and their family members is a priority. Consequently, I have liaised with Parramatta Police and have requested their assistance with this matter. I will continue to monitor and report any dangerous driving in our school zones.

We are very fortunate to have our Crossing Supervisor, Logan, assisting students at the pedestrian crossing on Langdon Road every morning and afternoon. However, we do not have a Crossing Supervisor at the pedestrian crossing on Buckleys Road. On some afternoons, a staff member will be present to assist students using this pedestrian crossing after school. Unfortunately, this isn't always possible.

I plead and encourage parents to discuss the following pedestrian safety information with your children.



### **Pedestrian crossings (zebra crossings)**

Talk with your child about waiting until all vehicles have stopped before starting to cross. Some drivers may not stop for pedestrians. If you are driving, you must slow down and stop when a pedestrian steps onto a marked crossing. You must give way to any pedestrian on the crossing. Crossings with poor visibility have zigzag white lines painted on the road to warn drivers.

If there is school crossing supervisor, hold hands with your child and wait together on the footpath, at least one step back from the edge of the road, until the supervisor indicates that it is safe to enter the crossing.

If you are driving, you must stop until the crossing supervisor's hand-held sign is no longer displayed, or until the supervisor indicates that you may proceed through the crossing.

### **Learning Support and Supporting Students in every Classroom**

This year our school is fortunate to have an amazing team of Learning and Support teachers working with our staff and students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The Learning and Support Team assists class teachers to deliver and differentiate essential aspects of the literacy and numeracy curriculum to students. They may also provide direct assistance to students with additional learning and support needs, including students for whom English is an additional language/dialect. (EAL/D). This year, another focus of the Learning and Support Team is to broaden the scope of literacy and numeracy skill development to a wide range of students.

The Learning and Support Teachers work in various ways depending on the need of individuals and groups of students at different points in time throughout the year. This may include teaching alongside the classroom teacher, as well as withdrawing small groups or individual students for targeted skill enhancement. These sessions may be a one-off lesson (to develop specific skills such as understanding of syllables or spelling rule); delivered over a few sessions or weeks; or span longer than a term. This year, our focus will be on literacy and numeracy. Kindergarten and Stage 1 priorities will focus on the development of phonological skills by assisting classroom teachers with the implementation of the InitialLit Program. Stage 2 and Stage 3 programs will focus on enhancing skills in reading comprehension, vocabulary, punctuation and grammar. The development of number skills and application is a focus in every classroom K-6.

The Learning and Support Team supports students on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Our Learning and Support Teachers are Mrs Sarah Kennedy, Mrs Linda Bryant, Mrs Amanda Wright, Ms Gail Adams and Mrs Janelle Su.

Letters will be sent home to families of students participating in our long-term targeted literacy and numeracy initiatives in Years 1 to 6.

### **Learning Support and Supporting Individual Students**

Individual Education Plans have been developed for some students at our school, to assist the classroom teacher, Learning Support Teacher and parents in planning adjustments and implementing strategies to cater for individual students' needs. These plans identify target learning goals, strengths and other information related to learning, behaviour, emotional and/or social development.

If your child receives an Individual Education Plan, their class teacher may have contacted you this week or they may do so next week to discuss your child's Individual Education Plan.

### **Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)**

All Government and non-Government schools across Australia are required to participate annually in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). Schools will collect data on their students who are receiving adjustments to meet additional learning and support needs in accordance with their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Disability Standards for

Education 2005. This data will be provided to the Australian Government to assist in the development of a consistent, national picture of the education needs of students with disability. The data provided to the Australian Government by the NSW Department of Education and Communities is provided in such a way that it cannot be used to identify any individual student or school. General information about the national data collection can be found at <https://www.nccd.edu.au/>

A privacy notice has been developed by the Australian Government to provide students, parents and carers with important privacy information in relation to the data collection. This notice is available at <https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>

If you have any questions about the data collection, please do not hesitate to contact our friendly Learning Support Team.

### **AP Merit Selection Panel**

Last term, Mr Gorrie was successful, through the Merit Selection Process, in applying for a Deputy Principal position at Northmead PS. Consequently, this means we have a vacant Assistant Principal position. I have been notified by DoE staffing, that this position must be advertised through the Merit Selection process this term. As such, a merit selection panel has been formed to advertise, interview, and recommend a suitable applicant for this position. The merit selection panel consists of myself (Principal), Mrs Olympia Linas (staff representative), Mr Lachlan Johnson (Director's representative), and Mrs Amber Edmonds (Parent and Community representative). Following DoE procedures, the successful applicant may be required to start at our school at the beginning of Term 3.

### **Casual Teacher Shortage**

This term, like some of our students, many teachers have been absent due to illness. As with students, when a teacher is unwell and displaying even the mildest flu-like symptoms, they are not able to be at school, must go for a COVID test and return a negative result before returning to school.

If your child is feeling mildly unwell in the morning before school, please do not send them to school. We are trying to eliminate the spread of germs through good hygiene practices, however your cooperation with this would be greatly appreciated.

You may have heard about the extreme shortage of casual teachers in the media recently. With the increasing number of staff absent from school due to illness and despite the best efforts of executive to find casual teachers (often on the phone for more than 2 hours of an evening), it has become impossible to secure enough casual teachers to cover classes each day. We do our best to find casual teachers, however this is not always possible. As a result, some classes may be split to other classes for the day. Where possible, we try to minimise the impact of classes being split and aim to avoid the same class being split on consecutive days. If your child is split to another class they will be provided with a 'split booklet' that contains learning activities aimed at consolidating concepts and skills taught. Students may also participate in teaching and learning activities of the class they have been split to.

When a teacher is absent, we do our best to provide their students with homework and home readers, however this is not always possible. If homework is not provided, their teacher will issue students with homework on their return to school.

We understand that parents may become frustrated, dismayed or curious when their child's teacher is absent, or their child has been split for the day. On occasion, we share your feelings at not being able to find available casual teachers. Please be assured, that we work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide

continuity of education for every student. Your understanding with this is greatly appreciated.

### **What to do if my Child is Unwell**

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded **NOT** to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms.

NSW Health has requested that schools encourage anyone who is unwell or has even mild flu-like symptoms, to arrange to be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the COVID-19 clinics.

Students and staff with flu-like symptoms will need to be tested and provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptom-free before being permitted to return to school.

Students who do not undertake a COVID-19 test will not be permitted to return to school for a 10-day period. Additionally, they must be symptom-free for at least 3 days prior to returning to school.

Our school is vigilant when implementing infection control, physical distancing and personal hygiene protocols to protect the health and safety of students and staff. We promote the need to follow good hygiene practices such as:

- regularly washing hands.
- avoiding sharing drinks or food.
- coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately.

### **Toys at School – Changes Coming ...**

The teaching staff at Winston Heights Public School care about our students and want them to be safe and happy in the school playground. Since the beginning of the school year, we have had a number of issues with students bringing their own toys to school. Toys have been broken and lost and students have argued over turn taking.

After consultation with members of the Parents and Citizens Association and the teaching staff, we have identified a need to change our position on children's personal toys being brought to school. We seek the support of all parents to keep toys at home. **From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021, children will not be permitted to bring their own toys to school.**

**Children will still be permitted to bring handballs, colouring books and card games (such as Pokemon Cards).** Please do not bring plastic, metal or soft toys. To provide students with an interest in the playground we will continue to have basketballs, soccer balls and giant chess set available. In addition, the Student Representative Council will be purchasing some safe toys for students to play with. There will be equipment such as skipping ropes, hula hoops and elastics for children to share.

Some lovely Stage 3 students have also offered to teach some of our younger students some games they can play in the playground. We also have Structured Play sessions for K-2 students and our Library is open first half of lunch from Monday to Thursday.

From time to time students may be asked to bring a toy for their Topic Talk or News. These toys can be kept safe in the classroom or students' bags during playtimes. Thank you for your assistance with this change.



### **K-6 Assemblies**

Our K-6 assembly is held every Thursday afternoon at 2pm in the hall. Although our first few assemblies were a little 'rough around the edges', I am very pleased with the vast improvement in student behaviour at this formal assembly, the singing of the national anthem and school song, live performances by the band, and fine-tuning our agenda so that we run to schedule.

We think we have ironed out sufficient 'assembly' creases and now invite parents to attend our assemblies. Whilst we would love to see parents at our assembly, please be mindful of the limited seating available. I also must remind adults to social distance (where possible) when attending our assemblies.

### **Dogs Not Permitted on School Grounds**

We understand that pets are often a much-loved part of your family and walking your dog to and from school is a healthy experience for you all. I have noticed that, on occasion, some people have brought their dogs onto school grounds while waiting to pick up their child/ren.

I remind all visitors to our school, that **dogs are not allowed on school grounds** except where the principal has given permission. With the exception of working dogs, all dogs must be kept on a leash if permitted to be on school grounds.

Thank you in advance, for your understanding with this matter and adhering to the expectations.

### **Principal Gold Awards**

Each week at our K-6 assembly, one class is selected to receive the Principal's Gold Award for demonstrating safe, responsible, and respectful behaviour around the school, in their classroom, during playtimes and at the assembly. The winning class will receive a Principal's Gold Award, every student will receive a Principal's gold token, and their class photo will be featured in the newsletter.

**Principal's Gold Award** class for Term 2, Week 3 was 6N. Congratulations 6N!





**Principal's Gold Award** class for Term 2, Week 4 was 3/4L. Congratulations 3/4L!

Have a wonderful week - stay safe, keep smiling and enjoy the sunshine!



**Terri Bullock**  
**Principal**





*In 2LW we  
love  
working together!*





## Vacancies in Keyboard Program

There are currently spaces available for students in grades 1-6 who would like to join the school keyboard program. Lessons are half an hour, once a week and take place Tuesday-Friday mornings before school. Fees are: 1/2 year \$265 + \$55 music levy + \$20 book. If you would like more information about the program, please contact Sara Wienand on 0413 193 002 or at [keyboardcoordinator.whpsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:keyboardcoordinator.whpsmusic@gmail.com)



WINSTON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

**canteen**

### WEEKS 5 & 6

Date	Recess Orders	Lunch Orders	Over-the-counter sales
Monday, 17 May 2021	Yes	Yes (incl. Sushi)	Yes
Tuesday, 18 May 2021	No	No	Yes-no lunch orders
Wednesday, 19 May 2021	CLOSED		
Thursday, 20 May 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes
Friday, 21 May 2021	No	No	Yes-no lunch orders
Monday, 24 May 2021	CLOSED		
Tuesday, 25 May 2021	No	No	Yes-no lunch orders
Wednesday, 26 May 2021	CLOSED		
Thursday, 27 May 2021	CLOSED		
Friday, 28 May 2021	No	No	Yes-no lunch orders





# Merit Certificates



## Congratulations!

Well done to these PBL Award winners who have been Safe,  
Respectful & Responsible Learners

Alissa, Hannah, Avangeline, Tabitha

### AWARDED TO

#### WEEK 3

KB : Summer & James  
KE : Dylan & Mariella  
KL : Arvin & Aanya  
1L : Radha & Austin  
1S :  
1/2C : Charlie & Hayley  
2F : Callum & Tabitha  
2LW : Nolan & Jacob  
3H : Daniel & Aashna  
3P : Dean & Irene  
3/4L : Cameron & Evangeline  
4M : Sophia & Roham  
4O : Dawood & Alissa  
5B : Shantel & Te Teho  
5/6A : Thomas & Max  
6G : Ava & Winston  
6N : Keira & Patrick

**Library:** 6N & 1/2C

**Super Award:**

**RFF/The Studio:** 6N & 3H

### AWARDED TO

#### WEEK 4

KB : Eden & Myrah  
KE : Neev & Aria  
KL : Aaron & Ariana  
1L : Denice & CJ  
1S : Param  
1/2C : Eddie & Bodhi  
2F : Lachlan & Liam  
2LW : Estelle & Felix  
3H : Journii & Adrian  
3P : Emma & Walya  
3/4L : Willow & NFP  
4M : Olivia & NFP  
4O : Connor & NFP  
5B : Sean & Chase  
5/6A : Elena & Oscar  
6G : Alyssa & Thomas  
6N : Ellie & Kyaten

**Library:**

**Super Award:** Tyler & Daniel

**RFF/The Studio:**

# Winston Heights

## Run4Fun

# Colour Explosion

1st June 2021



The more money we raise the more we can provide for the students through vital school projects, in particular **the Year 6 gift to the school and Farewell!**

# Messages from The Office

- Run4Fun Colour Explosion is on Tuesday 1st June. All students would have received an orange permission note yesterday. An electronic copy was also emailed. This permission note needs to be returned to school by Friday 21st May. Any cash fundraising should come to the office with your child's completed sponsorship booklet by 1st June. Students only need to complete the last page of the booklet to select their prizes - depending on how much money they raised. The sponsorship booklets were handed out in February with the original note. We do have a couple of spares left in the office should you need one.
- We are now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2022. Enrolment forms are available at the office or you can now enrol online via our website <https://winstonhts-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/> Click on the Enrolment tab then click 'Apply Online'. You will need to provide 100 points of residential identification (this form is located on our website under Permission notes tab), student's birth certificate or passport and immunisation statement. If you were born overseas we will need to sight your passport and visa.
- A reminder that all students should now be wearing correct winter school uniform. Girls are to wear white short or long sleeve skivvy or blouse, with their pinafore or school pants. Royal or navy blue tights may be worn with the pinafore. No tracksuit pants or slacks under the pinafore. Scarves and gloves can be worn to school, and must be either red or blue. They are not to be worn during class time.
- **Notes and Money Due:**
  - \* Third Settlement Walking Excursion - Yrs 1 & 2 - Permission note - **OVERDUE**
  - \* Run4Fun Colour Explosion - Whole School - Permission note due by 21st May
  - \* Great Aussie Bush Camp - Stage 3 - 2nd Instalment \$80 due by 28th May
  - \* Annual School Fees - Whole School - **OVERDUE**

**Office Hours 8.30am - 3.15pm**

**Mrs Lee Wood, Mrs Rachael Calvar, Mrs Carolyn Leverton  
and Ms Marlaine Schultz**

**Enrolments Are Open**



**Now Taking  
Enrolments  
for 2022**

*Contact the office for more information*



# Diary Dates

## TERM DATES 2021

**Term 2** - Tuesday 20 April to Friday 25 June

**Term 3** - Tuesday 13 July to Friday 17 September

**Term 4** - Tuesday 5 October to Thursday 16 December

*Please note the following diary dates may be subject to change.*

*Further information will be sent home closer to the event being held.*

### May 2021

<b>Tues 11– Fri 21</b>	NAPLAN online window
<b>Tues 18</b>	Year 1 excursion to Third Settlement Reserve
<b>Thurs 20</b>	Year 2 excursion to Third Settlement Reserve
<b>Mon 24 -Tues 25</b>	Band Camp
<b>Mon 24</b>	P&C meeting, 7pm in Staff Room

### June 2021

<b>Tues 1</b>	Colour Run
<b>Tues 15</b>	Athletics Carnival
<b>Fri 25</b>	Last day of Term 2

### July 2021

<b>Tues 13</b>	<b>Term 3 begins</b>
<b>Mon 26</b>	P&C meeting, 7pm in Staff Room

### August 2021

<b>Mon 9</b>	Kindergarten excursion
<b>Mon 23-25</b>	Stage 3 camp

### October 2021

<b>Mon 18-Tues 19</b>	Stage 2 camp (Great Aussie Bush Camp, Kincumber)
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### PSSA Sport Calendar

#### Netball

Students leave at 12.10pm

14/5	Bus to Wellgate Ave Kellyville
21/5	Bus to Wellgate Ave Kellyville
28/5	Bus to Wellgate Ave Kellyville
4/6	Bus to Wellgate Ave Kellyville

#### AFL

Students leave at 12.10pm

14/5	Bus to Hills Centenary Park
21/5	Bus to Hills Centenary Park
28/5	Bus to Hills Centenary Park
4/6	Bus to Hills Centenary Park

#### Soccer

Students leave at 12.10pm

14/5	Bus to Max Ruddock
21/5	Bus to Masonic Oval
28/5	Bus to North Rocks Park
4/6	Walk to Max Ruddock

#### Newcombe Ball

Students leave at 12.10pm if not at WHPS

14/5	Bus to Northmead Public School
21/5	Home
28/5	Bus to Winston Hills Public School
4/6	Bye

# P&C News

In February 2021 the WHPS P&C conducted a survey with the aim of finding out from the community the preferred future operational model for the canteen. Questions were asked about the following models:

- P&C run canteen with 100% volunteers (CURRENT MODEL)
- P&C run canteen with paid manager/s
- Canteen leased by private company/operator
- No school canteen service

From the 124 responses the results are broken down as follows:

- 23.4% for P&C run canteen with 100% volunteers
- 40.3 % P&C run canteen with paid manager/s
- 36.3% Canteen leased by private company/operator
- 0% No school canteen service

The P&C is only able to vote on either: a) keeping the canteen operating in its current model; b) employing a canteen manager; or c) closing the canteen.

In the event of the P&C closing the canteen, it then becomes the school's decision on how the canteen is run.

At the P&C General Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April the members voted to proceed with the operational model of employing a canteen manager, with volunteers still able to help in a reduced capacity.

If you are interested in reviewing the complete survey results, these are available to view in the office.



## P&C MEETING

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm in the staffroom.

All are welcome to attend.