

Newsletter

20 May 2024



Millers Forest Public School

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Anti-Bullying Policy

Dear Parents & Caregivers

Our Anti-Bullying policy has been updated for 2024. Please read through this document which has been sent home with this newsletter. Miss Oastler is our Anti-Racism Officer for 2024 and all issues relating to racism should be directed to her in the first instance. In Term 3, all students will participate in the National Day of Action against bullying and Violence. This will take place at school on Monday 12 August.



The Care Continuum

Students may require different types of interventions delivered in different ways along a continuum of care used as part of our Behaviour Support and Management Policy.

The care continuum includes interventions for:

- all students - creating a safe and respectful learning and play environments for all students. Along the care continuum this is known as prevention or universal interventions.
- some students - providing early intervention and targeted support for disruptive student behaviour, including students at risk of developing negative behaviours. Along the care continuum this includes early and targeted interventions.
- a few students - supporting students with complex and challenging behaviour needs, including students who have been diagnosed with particular conditions, through intense, individual interventions.



Guitar on Fridays

If any student is interested in learning guitar, Paul has some spots available. Please contact Paul on 0413730915 to arrange. Very reasonable rates.

Christyne Phelps

PRINCIPAL



Attendance

Parents of children from Kindergarten to Year 12 must ensure their children attend school every day. On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Parents must provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence. Where an explanation has not been received within the 7-day timeframe, the school will record the absence as unexplained on the student's record. Parents of students at Millers Forest Public School will **soon begin receiving emails** each day their child is absent. Parents are able to respond to these emails via a direct link to explain the absence. Parents will also receive a weekly reminder of any unexplained absences. We hope that these communications can help to create an easier way for parents to explain absences and to improve our overall attendance rates.

Morning Arrivals

Student safety at Millers Forest Public School is our highest priority, and the safe and appropriate supervision of students is an important element of our duty of care. School staff are rostered for duty before school, recess, lunch and after school. School grounds are supervised before school **from 8:30am**. Whilst we understand parents may need to get to work in the morning, in order to ensure the safety of all students, parents/carers are requested to ensure that students do not attend Millers Forest Public School outside of these supervised times. Thank you for your cooperation.

National Simultaneous Storytime

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. This year the book we will be reading on Wednesday 22 May is "Bowerbird Blues" by Aura Parker.



Reconciliation Week

Next week, week 5, is National Reconciliation Week with the theme "Now, more than ever". Students at Millers Forest Public School will be learning about reconciliation and why it is important for our nation.

Rhianne Crichton

Assistant Principal – Curriculum & Instruction

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the Stage 2 and Stage 3 Premiers Spelling Bee participants. It was wonderful to see so many students participating this year. Congratulations to our Stage 2 Spelling Bee winner, Scarlett and our Stage 3 Spelling Bee winner, Archy. These two students will compete in the Premiers Spelling Bee Challenge Regional Finals in the coming weeks.



Zone Representatives

Congratulations to Blake and Tyler for representing Millers Forest Public School at Zone Cross Country on Friday 17 May. Good luck to those students who were selected to try out for Zone Soccer on Tuesday.



Miss Baker

Hawks Class Teacher & Sports Co-ordinator

Nutrition Snippet

LABEL READING



The supermarket can be overwhelming when you're trying to make healthier choices.

Check out our top tips for understanding food labels to make shopping for healthy food easy.

For more info read our blog
healthylunchbox.com.au/blog/label-reading-made-easy

healthylunchbox.com.au



Cancer Council
Healthy Lunch Box

Important Dates to Remember

Simultaneous Storytime	Wednesday 24 May 2024
National Reconciliation Week	Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
King's Birthday Public Holiday	Monday 10 June 2024

Assembly Awards

Week 3 – Term 2	
Principal's Award	Aubrey E – Outstanding dancing.
PBL Award	Cooper P
Citizenship Award	Armani – Helping others learn about Aboriginal culture and supporting others in culture club.
Rainbow Lorikeets Class Award Rainbow Lorikeets Virtues Award	Ari – Exceptional effort in maths. Harlan – Consistently showing our school virtues.
Bluebirds Class Award Bluebirds Virtues Award	Robbie – Sharing his thinking in maths. Georgia – Following our virtues and a great start to Term 2.
Hawks Class Award Hawks Virtues Award	Cooper M – For putting vocabulary into correct categories. (Tier 1, Tier 2 & Tier 3 words) Declan M – For embracing challenges as an opportunity to learn.
Art Award	Layla – Painting a landscape.
Assembly Award	J-Lee – Listening quietly.
Secret Compliment	Cooper P – Being nice and fair while playing.



Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents and carers

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or are registered with the NSW Education Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives students time to greet their friends before class
- reduces classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child had to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- Being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance e.g. attending a funeral.

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school, what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences**
You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.
- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order**

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court**

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Telephone interpreter service

Please contact the school if you would like more information. If you need interpreter assistance to contact the school, please call 131 450, tell them what language you need and ask the operator to phone the school. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

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 = **4** weeks = Over **1** year missed

1 day per week = **8** weeks = Over **2.5** years missed

More information

Further Information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.

