



# MERRYLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Wednesday 20 March 2024 Week 8, Term 1



## Principal's Message

### **P&C Executive**

Last Monday a number of parents attended our P&C AGM to elect someone for each of our P&C Executive positions. I am pleased to announce that each of the positions were filled. Thank you and welcome to our P&C for 2024: President: Miss Brannon, Vice Presidents: Mr Keedi & Ms Shabnab, Secretary: Mrs Griffin, and Treasurer: Ms Fox. The minutes of the meeting are included in this newsletter (page 16). Parents/carers are still welcome to complete membership forms from the office and attend the next meeting on Monday 8 April (Week 11).

### **Pulse 2024**

Last Thursday was an outstanding day for our MPS students who participated in Pulse 2024 - Performing Arts. Students represented our school in a combined school: choir, dance group, signing choir and First Nations dance group. It was a very long day of final rehearsals and preparations for the big event that night. I am proud to say our students performed beautifully. A few of them commented to staff that it was 'their best day'. Their smiles and their pride made all the effort worthwhile. A huge thank you to all the MPS staff who helped each group prepare and also to our families for your support for your children to participate. On Friday I received an email from a teacher at another school complementing our students on their friendliness and respectful behaviour. I totally agree, seeing it firsthand.

### **Sport Representatives**

I would like to add my congratulations to the MPS students who have been selected to represent not only our school, but the area in different sporting codes. This is a great achievement for them personally, but it also speaks to their qualities as a sportsperson as they combine ability and teamwork. We wish Malia M, Azaylia S, Setelo M, Joshua M, Khaled H, Noah J, Salesi F and Elijah B, all the best.

### **Fasting**

Our school respects that families have different traditions and expectations when it comes to religious practices. At this time, we are mindful that some children may choose to fast during the day as the adults may be doing so in their family. If this relates to your child, please remind them to refrain from strenuous sporting activity on hot days as it may impact negatively on their health. Understandably, if a child presents at sick bay saying they are unwell, our first question is usually what have you eaten today. If they say they are fasting, we may call you to clarify how you would like us to support your child.

### **Parent/Carer Partnership Meetings**

Thank you to all the families who attended our two afternoons of Parent Partnership meetings. My thanks also to all of our staff who helped cover classes and duties to release class teachers to hold these meetings. I trust our parents/carers found this a valuable discussion about your child's progress and support at school.



## Principal's Message Continued

### **Mural Renewal/Restoration**

We are excited to have a new mural project beginning next week that will be on one of our external walls. One of our teachers will be working with our SRC students to complete this Harmony mural. The current mural, which was painted many years ago has been photographed and will be transformed into an artwork to be displayed inside – similar to the one in N-Block from a previous external mural on the building it replaced.

### **Respectful Relationships at MPS**

In the last newsletter I notified our community that we have support from our local Police to help our students understand the seriousness of cyber safety and respectful relationships. **At MPS we acknowledge that the development of social skills and behaviours is a partnership with families.** Our young students have many potential influences upon them with regard to how they treat others, what is acceptable language, and how to manage conflict.

At MPS we are attempting to do our part through: explicit lessons on respect, kindness and tolerance such as our Meerkat Messages, special events that focus on tolerance such as Harmony Day, and a weekly program called Stitches for Yr.2-6 students that teaches how to negotiate social problems & how to be resilient.

Unfortunately, sometimes students still make mistakes and mistreat others or use racist language. In these instances, our ARCO (Antiracism Complaints Officer), Mrs McDonald and Mr Cassidy may be involved in discussing the situation with those involved and helping the child who made the mistake understand how the other person felt. Students who mistreat others will be expected to attend a half of lunchtime session in our Reflection Room where we discuss what happened and how they could behave differently next time. We also have an online record system called Sentral so that information is shared between a teacher and their team leader or school executive.

If your child tells you about an incident at school then please let the school know as soon as practical. Many times, you may be the first one they have told after school or days later. It is always better for the student to report it while at school so we can investigate what happened and speak to other students or staff. Please remind your child that there are MPS staff wearing high visibility vests on all supervised play areas who can respond.

Together we can help children to grow up to be great human beings who know how to choose kindness, how to stay safe themselves and promote safety for others.

### **Easter Hat Parade**

We are looking forward to another wonderful school community event - our Easter Hat Parade. Each year at MPS there are some special visitors who go to the classrooms during the day and make a special appearance at our parade! Please see the details in this newsletter about our plan for the event. This will be a K-6 combined event as we celebrate the long weekend following. Please remember, this is not the end of the term as there are still two more weeks of school after this.



Thank you.

**Bronwyn York**

Principal,

Merrylands Public School

## OFFICE NEWS

### ATTENDANCE

Please find the below a graph of the school classes which shows percentages for Term 1 attendance. Great job 3E your attendance is amazing.

**Attendance summary by roll class (2024 All terms)**



### SCHOOL BYTES PARENT PORTAL: MANAGE STUDENT ABSENCES

Our school uses School Bytes to help manage student absences that can be accessed via a parent portal. The School Bytes parent portal enables you to view all your children in one portal and provide a response for any student absences that have been recorded by the school. The parent portal also allows parents to provide details of a planned absence if the absence details are known in advance for example, a scheduled medical appointment.



## OFFICE NEWS - CONTINUED

Please ensure your email address and contact details are up to date with the school. You don't want to miss critical information being sent to you. If you need to change, check, or add an email address, please email the school at [merryland-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:merryland-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au). Please monitor your inbox for communication we send to you. Please respond to digital correspondence received via email to make payments and/or give permission. Please ensure emails sent to you from [noreply@mail.schoolbytes.education](mailto:noreply@mail.schoolbytes.education) are not marked as spam/junk in your email system.

### Notes sent out:

Event	Event Date	Emailed	Consent Due date
Stage 3 Overnight Excursion (Years 5 & 6 only)	24/7	19/2	Payment reminder \$100 due by end of Term 1.
Walking or transport by MPS minibus (Whole school)	NA	19/2	Permission notes still need to be returned.
PSSA Summer Competition (selected students)	Complete	28/2	Payment is due.
League Tag Gala Day (selected students only)	10/4	11/3	15/3
Stage 1 excursion (Years 1 & 2 only)	4/4	11/3	21/3
Debating (selected students only)	28/3	18/3	4/4
Easter Hat Parade (Whole school)	28/3	18/3	NA

### Notes coming soon:

Event	Emailed	Consent Due date
Fun Run Invite (Years K-2)	1/4	NA
School Photos (Whole school)	Paper copy to be sent home	12/4
Reconciliation Day Event (Whole school)	1/4	12/4

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

	Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MARCH	8	18 K-2 Parent Partnership  NAPLAN	19 3-6 Parent Partnership  NAPLAN	20 K-2 Assembly (2pm-3pm)  NAPLAN	21 NAPLAN	22 NAPLAN
	9	25 NAPLAN	26	27 3-6 Assembly (2pm-3pm)	28 Easter Hat Parade  Debate Training Day	29 Good Friday NO SCHOOL
APRIL	10	1 Easter Monday NO SCHOOL	2	3 K-2 Assembly (2pm-3pm)	4 Stage 1 Excursion  Support Unit Athletics	5
	11	8	9	10 3-6 Assembly (2pm-3pm)  Care & Share NRL Tag Gala Day	11 Anzac Day Service	12 FUN RUN K-2  Last Day of Term 1
	TERM 2					
	1	29 SDD NO SCHOOL	30 RETURN TO SCHOOL	1 SCHOOL PHOTOS	2	3 Reconciliation Day event
MAY	2	6	7	8 Our Spec Choir Rehearsal	9 Mother's Day Stall	10 Mother's Day Breakfast
	3	13	14	15	16	17
	4	20	21	22	23	24
	5	27	28	29	30	31





## COMMUNICATION METHODS

### School Bytes



All School information will come through this platform.

Parents will receive Email notifications for 'event permissions and payment requirements', the fortnightly newsletter and also other basic communications.

Parents will receive SMS notifications for messages eg: Changes to daily routines including: Uniform shop, PSSA and Excursions. (Previously messaged through Audiri/ Skoolbag).

Parents should use School Bytes Parent Portal for all accounts, activities and attendance.



### Seesaw

K-2 and Support Unit teacher to parent communications, showcasing whole class learning.



Education

### School Website

Functions include Enrolments eg: Kindy and Year 6 to 7, Uniform shop order form / photos and Newsletter.



### Facebook

Used to share community events, celebrations and success.

## MERRYLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL NEW AWARDS

### Merrylands Public School New Awards!



This year we are saying goodbye to rainbow awards and hello to Safe, Respectful and Responsible awards. We also no longer just have silver and gold certificates, there are now Bronze, Silver, Gold and Diamond! Students need to receive a certain amount of each type of award (Safe, Respectful and Responsible) to earn their Bronze, Silver, Gold and Diamond certificates.

30 Awards (10 of each type) = Bronze

30 Awards (10 of each type) = Silver

30 Awards (10 of each type) = Gold

45 Awards (15 of each type) = Diamond



### Matilda's Meerkat Messages!

Starting this year, each week we will have a message from Matilda the Meerkat. We will learn about the message in class and share it in the newsletter and online for everyone to see! This week's message is:

Term 1 Week 8

We always use  
our 5Ls.



Term 1 Week 9

We keep our  
hands and feet to  
ourselves.

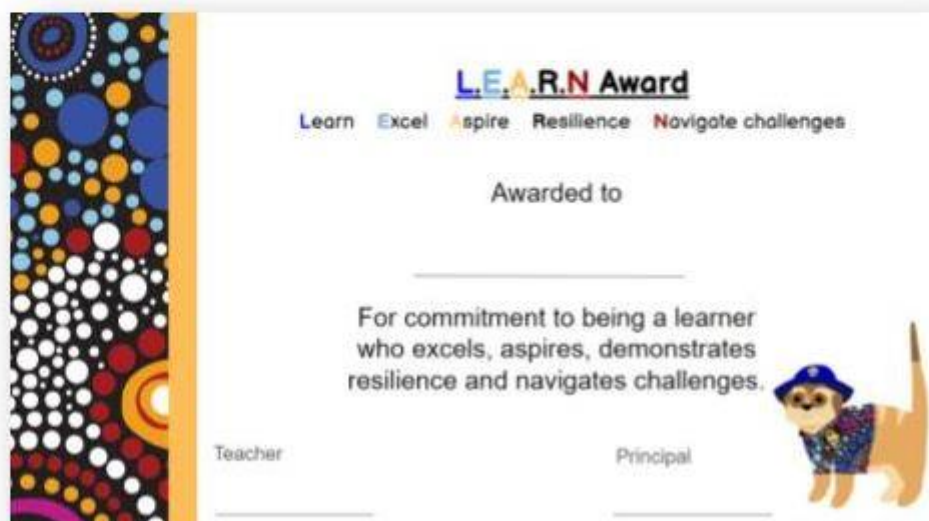


## LEARNING AWARDS

### **Introducing the L.E.A.R.N Award at MPS**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new L.E.A.R.N Award at Merrylands Public School. These awards are designed to recognise students who embody the values of **L**earning, **E**xcelling, **A**spiring, **R**esilience, and **N**avigating Challenges. The L.E.A.R.N Awards will be presented twice a term to students during our Stage assemblies.

Criteria for Eligibility: Any student who receives extra intervention/support is eligible for consideration for the L.E.A.R.N Award. We believe that every student's journey is unique, and this award seeks to celebrate those who demonstrate exceptional dedication and growth, regardless of the challenges they may face.



## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Congratulations to our students and families who have been selected to be a part of Merrylands Public School Student Representation Council (SRC). We would like to extend the invitation to our families to celebrate the handing over of the badges on **Wednesday 27 March at our 2pm** assembly in the hall. The Assembly is for Year 2 – 6.



## SPORTS

### League Tag

We have entered 4 teams in the Parramatta League Tag Gala Day on 10 April. We have finalised the players in those 2 junior and 2 senior teams. All players will be coached in game skill sessions this Thursday (2:00pm- 3:00pm) by NRL (Parramatta) Development Officers.

### PSSA

This term's Summer PSSA is now complete. There will be more rounds in Term 4 followed by finals. This Friday 22 March, all teams will play 'fun' games at Merrylands HS or Merrylands Oval. To participate, team members must have completed the permission to walk and travel by bus on School Bytes. Lawn Bowls and School Sport will also finish this week.

Preliminary trials for Winter PSSA teams will be held on the final two Fridays this term 5/4 and 12/4 and be finalised early in Term 2.

Winter PSSA Sports are:

- League Tag
- Soccer/Football
- Netball
- Newcombe Ball

### P.S.S.A Results v Ringrose 8/03/24

TEAM	RESULT	BEST EFFORT
Girls T-ball	LOST	Kadijah – Great Game Linda Rose – Fantastic effort Nargis – Amazing batting
Boys T-ball	LOST	Jeremiah – Excellent batting Adham – Great sportsmanship Davey – Great fielding
Junior Cricket		Deniz – Straight bowling Hamze – Great batting Chadi – Great batting
Senior Cricket	LOST 42 - 28	Ali N – Amazing teamwork and motivation Khobe – Getting two wickets! Danyel – An awesome catch!
Girls Softball	DRAW 6 -6	Aaliyah – Great Captain Keleni – Trying hard. Jenissi – Supergame as catcher
Boys Softball	LOST 8 - 2	Salesi – Home Run! Noah – Thinking when batting Bilal - Improving
Bowling		Daniel A – Trying hard improving
Dancing		Megs B
Sport Skills	Netball	Annabella M & Areanna F
	Soccer	MJ Z

## SPORTS Contd:

### P.S.S.A Results v Hilltop 15/03/24

TEAM	RESULT	BEST EFFORT
Girls T-ball	DRAW 11 - 11	Shahad – Great Game Kadijah – Greal Fielding Medinah – Great Fielding
Boys T-ball	LOST 4 – 13	Kayden – Great Batting Mahdi – Amazing catch Soloman – Great communication
Junior Cricket	WON 10 – 14.3	Chadi – Bowling 2 wickets Irfan – Bowling 1 wicket Iman – Excellent fielding
Senior Cricket	LOST 17.3 – 39.5	Joshua – A great catch Khobe – Bowling a wicket Subhan – Great bowling
Girls Softball	WON 8 - 5	Jenissi – super pitching Zuhal – Sneakin Melika – Great hitting
Boys Softball	WON 9 - 0	Jordyn L – Nice game Elijah – Thinking Bilal – Great Fielding
Bowling		Pauline H- Skillfully rolling lawn bowling
Sport Skills	Netball	Khaled E
	Soccer	Mustafa E
	Newcombe Ball	Marwa A

## Senior Cricket Team



## HARMONY DAY



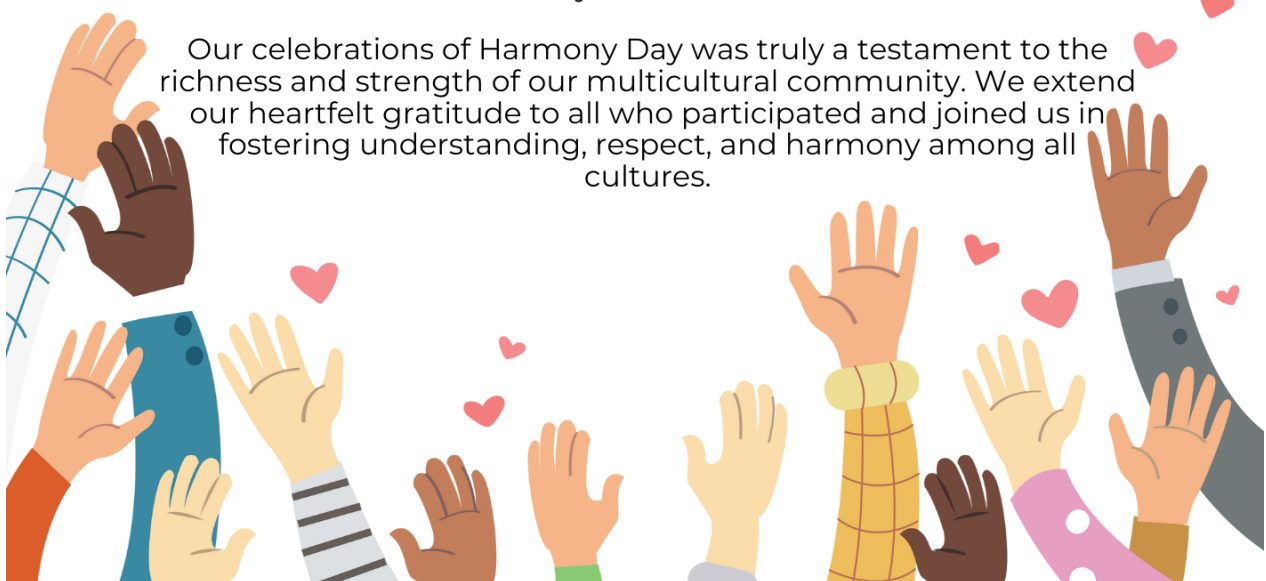
# HARMONY DAY AT MPS

On Wednesday, March 6, Merrylands Public School came alive with the vibrant colors and rhythms of cultures from around the world as we celebrated Harmony Day. Our school community was treated to a spectacular showcase of diversity, featuring captivating performances by our talented students.

The festivities began with mesmerizing performances by our First Nation students, showcasing their rich cultural heritage. The traditional Afghan dance transported us to the heart of Afghanistan, while the powerful Haka performance filled the auditorium with energy and spirit. Adding to the cultural tapestry of the day, the Pulse Dance Group took the stage with their dynamic moves, followed by an enchanting performance by the Arabic band from our local high school.

As the performances captivated our hearts and minds, we also indulged in a feast for the senses with a diverse range of cultural foods served for lunch. It was a delightful opportunity for our community to come together, share experiences, and celebrate the beauty of our differences.

Our celebrations of Harmony Day was truly a testament to the richness and strength of our multicultural community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who participated and joined us in fostering understanding, respect, and harmony among all cultures.







Everyone belongs!



## PULSE PERFORMANCE



## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY



On Friday 8 March was International Women's Day. It was wonderful to see so many mothers come to Community Connect and celebrate this wonderful day.





# YOU ARE INVITED

## MERRYLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL EASTER HAT PARADE

### THURSDAY MARCH 28TH

**11:30am – 12:30pm Easter Hat Parade**

**K-2 will be creating Easter hats in class.**

**Stage 2 and Stage 3 are invited to join in with crazy hair or  
an Easter hat made at home.**

**All students are welcome to wear an Easter themed top or  
school uniform.**





April 2024  
Sydney West

We Rock The Spectrum®  
**KIDS GYM**  
For All Abilities - Sydney West



## HOLIDAY PROGRAM

We Rock the Spectrum Kids Gym in Sydney West is offering a sensory-beneficial group School Holiday Program for kids of ALL abilities. With a safe environment, adhering to COVID-SAFE procedures and a controlled intake of just 12 participants per session, our program offers fun and sensory-focussed days of exciting activities, supervised play and social opportunities in our OT designed Sensory Play Gym.

### DAILY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES (IN GYM)

#### WEEK ONE

**MON 15TH** AM - Science exper PM - Sensory Painting

**TUES 16TH** AM - Arts and Craft PM - Messy Play

**WED 17TH** AM - Cup Cake Deco PM - Tie Dye

**THUR 18TH** AM - Sensory Disco PM - Sensory Art

**FRI 19TH** AM - Messy Play PM - Cooking

#### WEEK 2

**MON 22ND** AM - Arts and Craft PM - Sensory Play

**TUES 23RD** AM - Cookie deco PM - Bubbles

**WED 24TH** AM - Cooking PM - Messy Play

**THUR 25TH** AM - Just Dance PM - Arts and Craft

**FRI 26TH** AM - Messy Play PM - Cup Cake Deco

**NOTE THUR 25TH PUBLIC HOLIDAY RATES APPLIES**



**1:4 SUPPORT FULL  
DAY \$195**



**NEW COMBO DAYS  
AVAILABLE \$195**



**HALF DAY 1:4  
SUPPORT \$90**

**9AM - 3:30PM**

**1:4 Support and 1:1 support  
available  
Regular or Casual Bookings  
accepted**

#### Ndis Funding options

CB-Increased Social and community participation  
Core-Access Community, social and Rec Activity  
Core-Group Activities-Standard

#### 6 HOUR PRICE INCLUDES

GROUP ACTIVITY FACE TO FACE 04\_102-0136\_6\_1

NON FACE TO FACE SUPPORT PROVISION (0.75)-

04\_599\_0136\_6\_1

Centre Capital costs-04\_599\_0136-6\_1

Activity Used Transport 04\_591\_0136\_6\_1

**ndis**  
REGISTERED  
PROVIDER

#### MORE INFO:

Full Day - 9AM-3.30PM Half Day - 9AM-12.00PM or 12.30pm-3.30PM. Each full day includes Supervised Open Play, Specialist Class, Fine Motor/Sensory Activity. Suits kids of ALL Abilities. Ages 4 - 14 yrs. Limited to 12 kids per session. Gym will be closed to the public until 4pm. Kids requiring 1:1 Support Pricing: Full Day \$403, Half Day \$186 Enhanced Hygiene Procedures apply. Strict Health Policy applies for entry. Additional Health Risk Assessment waiver must be signed by parent/carer. Additional respite hours available through Private Facility Hire Sessions only at \$150 per hour per family. Program may change according to direction of Health Authorities. NDIS Funding Options available under Core support. Bookings Essential. Cancellation fees on all services apply according to NDIS Regulations.

PH-9725 2446 We Rock The Spectrum - 2/1345 The Horsley Drive Wetherill Park

April HOLIDAYS PROGRAM - Open for Bookings!

## P & C Meeting Notes 11.3.2024

Principal: Mrs York

Present: Ms ~~Shabnab~~, Ms Fox, Mrs Griffin, Miss Brannon, Mrs Ambreen, Miss Delphin, Mr ~~Keedi~~

Absent: Mrs ~~Shyamala~~, Mrs Eve, Mrs ~~Kaiou~~, Mr Fox

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Principal Welcome. Principal has a Ex-officio role in the P&C. Mrs York oversaw voting for positions. Congratulations to our 2024 P&C Executives.

President: Miss Brannon

Vice President: Mr ~~Keedi~~

Vice President: Ms ~~Shabnab~~

Secretary: Mrs Griffin

Treasurer: Ms Fox

### Other business:

Mother's Day Stall – P & C members with a current WWCC are welcome to volunteer as helpers at the stall. The school has purchased extra items to ensure there is enough for the event.

Principal suggests the school purchase T-shirts with a school emblem and P&C Member printed on them for P&C members to wear at events. Moved: Mrs Griffin Seconded: Ms ~~Shabnab~~. Carried. Mrs York to request sizes in the minutes email.

Next newsletter – P&C exec. Any ideas to the P&C email account. To be set up by the President

P & C - Code of Conduct – All members present bind the P&C Code of Conduct document

Complaints – Principal explained how the school responses to issues raised by parents.

School Staffing Recruitment P&C Panel members: Mr ~~Keedi~~, Ms Fox & Mrs Griffin.

Bullying – Principal explained how the school supports the children and responses to incidents of bullying recognising that it is a shared community issue.

Cumberland Council – The Principal and Mr Keedi has made multiple requests for a concrete section of the footpath at the Holdsworth Street entry at Gate 1. Discussion about safety for wet weather for students and adults, discuss need for layback for wheelchair access. Further follow up needed with Council.

School Communication –Parents wanting greater clarity with School Bytes messages eg: what grade the message is for, assemblies what time and location.

School Bytes question – As SeeSaw is now only oneway communication how do families communicate to school? Principal to request information in Newsletter to families.

Next meeting: Monday 8 April 3:15pm School Staff Room