

# Miranda North Public School Newsletter



**Welcome to the new school year from Ms Orlovich and the school staff**



A warm welcome to the 2020 school year. 2020 is shaping to be a wonderful year of learning for our students and we are excited to share some of our initiatives over the next few weeks at Meet the Teacher and Parents as Partners workshops.

Over the next week, we will finalise the enrolment of kindergarten students who will join us from the catchment area of Miranda North. We are expecting around 56 new students to enter kindergarten this year. Welcome to our new kinder families. It is wonderful to have you join us. We are expecting to form 15 classes in 2020, which is one class more than in 2019.

A very friendly welcome to the new families and students who are joining our school community in other grades this year. We know that you will be welcomed into our learning community with warmth and acceptance and it won't be long before you feel completely at home at our wonderful school!



## Welcome back!

Students were very excited to see each other in the school playground this morning and are learning in their 2019 class grouping for the next few days. It was wonderful to hear about their holiday experiences and how they are greeting the school year with such enthusiasm. As with any start to the new year, classes are finalised once all students return to school and the Department of Education confirms our staffing allocation for the school year. We anticipate minimal changes with overall student numbers and class structures however, we will form the 2020 classes once the final student numbers are actualised and confirmation of enrolment for students who have not yet returned is ascertained. We expect this to be in the next few days.

Teachers have worked together over the last few months of last year to place students into classes for 2020 and have considered learning needs, friendships and social combinations, and class structures to make decisions to best meet the needs of each student. As with any change, students may be feeling a little unsure of their new class and teacher in the early weeks of the year. This is completely normal and your encouragement and support in reassuring them is appreciated. Teachers will be working closely with students over the next few weeks to build positive classroom environments, settle students into school and learn more about each student. We acknowledge your support in being positive and reassuring in your discussions with your children over the coming weeks.

We encourage you to assist your child to embrace the challenge of adapting to a new classroom, with a fresh combination of peers to meet and learn alongside, as well as a new teacher with whom students can explore and learn. If you notice that your child is taking longer than expected to settle, make a time to speak with your child's class teacher so you can work together to settle your child into their new learning environment. Teachers are positive and excited about their new classes and have spent much time in the holiday break preparing for an exciting, engaging and fulfilling year of learning.



## Welcome to our new staff in 2020

We have welcomed some new staff to the school this year: Mrs Jacqui Sapsford, Mr Michael Byrnes, Ms Courtney Henry, Mrs Sue-Ellen Cox and Miss Jasmine Smith. Our new staff bring a very high level of expertise and commitment to our students and we are looking forward to having them join the teaching team at Miranda North.



## Meet the teacher opportunity

An opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and hear about the programs and organisation for the year will be on Monday 10 February and Tuesday 11 February 2020. Details with classes and meeting times will be sent home shortly.



## Recent Bushfire Activity

The recent fires across a large part of NSW have affected our students and schools in different ways. It is important to recognise that almost all distress or behavioural change following such an event is normal. There is no such thing as a typical reaction.

Children react in different ways depending on age and personality. Some may show much distress or they may ask many questions and appear preoccupied with the event. Some of these reactions may appear immediately but others may not show themselves for weeks or even months later.

Some reactions may include sleep disturbances, regressive behaviour (thumb sucking), nightmares, fear of the dark, clinging to parents/carers, loss or increase in appetite, physical complaints that have no medical basis, aggressive behaviour, competition with sibling for parental attention, withdrawal and/or loss of interest in regular activities.

Children look to the significant adults in their lives for guidance on how to manage their reactions. Parents and teachers can help children cope by remaining calm and reassuring them that they will be all right.

Importantly most children are resilient and return to their previous level of functioning over time.

### How you can support your child

- Monitor how much your child is being exposed to television/social media stories regarding the fires; children can be distressed by watching repeated images. Explain to them that news reports will repeat images and stories and it may not be a good idea to keep watching.
- Find out what your child's understanding of the event is and correct misunderstandings or confusion.
- Include your child in making plans for the future.
- Support your child to stay connected to friends.
- Keep to your regular routines and activities as much as possible.



## Resources

Headspace

[How to cope with the stress of natural disasters](#)External link

Beyond Blue

[Bushfire resources](#)External link

[Looking after yourself after a disaster](#)External link

## Where to get help

While most children will bounce back after a traumatic event, some children may show prolonged distress and may benefit from professional assistance. School counselling staff are available to support students. Please contact your school to discuss.

If students would like to speak with someone anonymously, confidential sources are:

- Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800 – [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)External link

## Online Lunch Orders

The flexischools online ordering system proved very popular with our school community last year and we are pleased to advise that student lunches can be ordered again this year commencing tomorrow.

Students are able to order their lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays through the canteen provider for Endeavour Sports High School. Orders are made and paid for online at [www.flexischools.com](http://www.flexischools.com) There is an information section of the website which explains how the online ordering system works and how to set up an account. It can be accessed by this link:

<https://support.flexischools.com/support/how-flexischools-works>

**Orders must be made before 6pm on the evening before (ie: 6pm on Monday and Wednesday).**





Orders are prepared at the commercial kitchen at Endeavour Sports High and then delivered to the school in time for lunch each Tuesday and Thursday. A menu is available on the website.

The Miranda North Friday snack canteen will reopen on Friday 8 February. Our lovely Canteen Coordinator Helen Hwang has asked us to let you know that the Canteen Committee are looking for volunteers to help out on Friday afternoons. If you are able to assist, please see Helen at the Canteen from Friday 7 February or contact her via the MNPS volunteers Facebook Page.

### REGISTER

- 1 Go to [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) and select the **REGISTER** option and enter your email address.
- 2 You will be sent a registration email. Click on the link in the email to complete the registration.
- 3 Fill in your details on the Registration Form and click "submit".
- 4 Add your students, select their school and class.

### ORDER

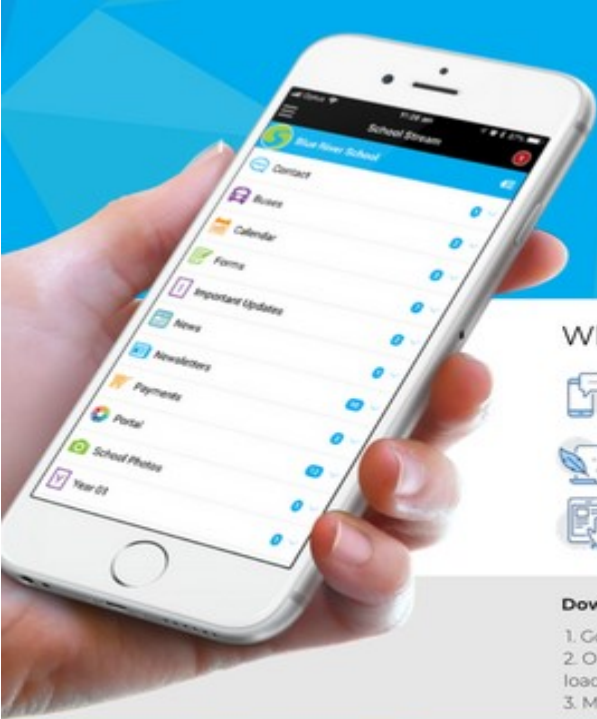
- 1 Go to [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) and select the **LOGIN** option. Click on "Start an order" for your student.
- 2 Select the service you wish to purchase from. You can also set up orders in advance.
- 3 Add each of your items. Extras and options will appear where relevant to the item.
- 4 Select your payment option. Pay for the one order or "top up" your account. Complete payment to place order.

 flexischools.com.au

## Checkout our School app and Facebook






Make sure you have the school app to keep up to date with school events, notifications and events.



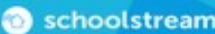
### Download our school app for free!

**Why download the app?**

-  Receive instant notifications for important news.
-  Easily register absentees and excursions.
-  Keep up to date with events and set reminders.

**Download instructions:**

1. Go to the App Store and download "School Stream" to your phone.
2. Open the app and type the school's name into the search bar to load the school's profile.
3. Make sure you agree to Push Notifications when prompted.

 [facebook.com/SchoolStream](https://facebook.com/SchoolStream)  
[twitter.com/SchoolStreamApp](https://twitter.com/SchoolStreamApp)

Have you checked out our Facebook page? We love to share the learning of our students (and the fun we have along the way!) We encourage you to take a look!

## Swimming Carnival

Date: Thursday, 20 February

Venue: Caringbah Leisure Centre

A note with all details will be sent home shortly.



## Traffic safety around our school

Our school is situated on a busy road and traffic safety around the school is paramount for our students. Please ensure that traffic signs are adhered to when dropping off and picking up children. Note that parking is not permitted on school grounds and entry to the staff car park is not permitted. Disabled parking for students with a physical disability is provided at drop off and pick up time upon consultation with and approval by the principal. We thank parents and carers for assisting in making the school surrounds safe for our students.

## School Banking resumes Friday 7 February



## School Community Charter

The Department of Education has a School Community Charter which outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

### **Respectful communication is a right**

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

### **Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:**

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time-wasting communication.

### **Communication with the school**

If you have questions or concerns, in the first instance, make contact with your child's class teacher. Please be aware that your child's teacher may not be able to meet with you before school due to professional/meeting commitments and so it is preferable to make an appointment for a mutually convenient time. This can be done by speaking with the teacher, phoning the office or visiting the office to make an appointment.

Your child's year/stage leader or member of the leadership team may also be available to meet with you. In 2020 the leadership team is:

Kindergarten: Mrs O'Connell (rel Assistant Principal)

Year 1 and 2: Mrs Butterfield (Assistant Principal)

Year 3 and 4: Mrs Carroll (Assistant Principal)

Year 5 and 6: Ms Mitsoulis (Stage Leader and rel Assistant Principal-Friday)

Communication with Ms Orlovich, the principal, can be made through the office for issues related to the whole of the school.

### **Sources of Communication:**

1. Keep abreast of the news that occurs at school by downloading the school app from the app store. The app is called "school stream" and contains the calendar of events and notes. You will also receive information and updates via the app to keep you informed.
2. Read the school newsletter for fortnightly updates. It is emailed to you if we have your email address or download it from the school website or app.

Check out the Miranda North Public School Official Facebook page for news items about our school.

### **Label all items:**

Please take time at the beginning of the year to label all items (hats, jackets, lunchboxes, drink bottles and snack containers) with your child's name and class. Items can be easily returned if they are labelled. Lost property is situated at the front of the outdoor assembly.

### **Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend school each day. If your child is absent from school, please let the school know by either sending a note to the teacher or contact the office to explain the absence.



## School Community Charter

### Starting and finishing times:

#### Before school:

Please ensure that your child is in attendance by 9.20am each day. Students must not be at school prior to 8.55am when a teacher is on supervision duty. The school day commences at morning assembly.

Parents are welcome to watch the morning assembly and toddlers and pre-schoolers need to be standing with parents at this time. If parents and carers stay for assembly it is appreciated that parents watch quietly and model facing the flag for the raising of the flag as a sign of respect. Please allow students to walk independently to the classroom with their teachers at the conclusion of the assembly. This allows students to focus closely on teacher instructions and show independence.

#### After school:

At 3.25pm, students are expected to leave the school with care and attention to pedestrian safety. Students are not permitted to use the play equipment without parental supervision. Students and their parents should vacate the school by 3.35pm each afternoon and by 4:00pm on Fridays after the P and C Canteen. Primary students without a parent or carer must not stay at school after the bell as supervision is not provided.

#### Mobile Phones:

It is Department of Education Policy that students are not permitted to use mobile phones whilst at school. It is preferable for students not to bring the devices to school. If students are required to bring the device to school, the phone must remain turned off during school hours and not be taken out of the schoolbag. No responsibility is taken for mobile phones that are brought to school.



## FACT SHEET

# SAFE SCHOOL TRAVEL

Welcome back to a new school year! Sutherland Shire Council Parking Officers will be out at all schools again this year helping you to ensure that all children get to and from school safely.

### DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN

Schools are areas where there is a lot of interaction between cars and pedestrians: your children. Children are small, hard to see, behave unpredictably, and are extremely vulnerable.

Their lack of road experience means it is difficult for them to judge dangerous situations. Boys are twice as likely to be involved in pedestrian accidents as girls and children 10-14 years have the highest rate of child pedestrian casualties (RMS).

- Children up to eight years old should hold an adult's hand on the footpath, in the carpark or when crossing the road.
- Children up to ten years old should be actively supervised around traffic and should hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- Take the time to make sure your children are aware of, understand and follow traffic safety regulations when they are walking.

### HAVE A PLAN

Plan with your son or daughter how you will collect them. When and where will you be after school? Where should they wait? Make sure they know not to try and get into your vehicle while it is still in

traffic, even if you are stopped; they should wait until you have parked at the side of the road.

Plan to arrive AFTER the school bell goes in the afternoon, so your children are ready and waiting for you and you are not blocking traffic.

### NO PARKING ZONES

A No Parking zone is a pick up and drop off area: you can stop here for a maximum of two minutes to drop off or pick up passengers and must remain within three metres of the vehicle. When parents park in a No Parking zone for longer than two minutes they prevent other parents from stopping to drop off or pick up their children, creating frustration and dangerous situations. If you arrive before the school bell and block the pickup areas, you risk a fine.

Parking offences in school zones carry heavier fines and loss of demerit points. Sutherland Shire Council makes no apologies for fining drivers who break the law around schools and in school zones.

See the Roads and Maritime Authority website at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au) for more about Australian Road Rules and other road safety information.

## SIGNS YOU WILL SEE AROUND SCHOOL



### NO PARKING

#### What does it mean?

You CAN stop in a NO PARKING zone for a maximum of two minutes to drop off and pick up passengers. You must stay within three metres of your vehicle at all times.

#### Why is it there?

To provide a safe place for older children to be set down and picked up without endangering other children.



### NO STOPPING SIGNS & CONTINUOUS YELLOW EDGE LINES

#### What do they mean?

You CANNOT stop in these areas FOR ANY REASON.

#### Why are they there?

To keep sight lines clear for drivers AND children so both have more time to avoid crashes.



### BUS ZONE

#### What does it mean?

You must NOT stop or park in a bus zone unless you are driving a bus.

#### Why is it there?

To provide a safe place for large buses to set down and pick up. Cars parking in bus zones put lives at risk by forcing buses out of 'their' safety zone.







**Brad Hazzard**

Minister for Health Research

**Sarah Mitchell**

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning

Tuesday, 28 January 2020

### **UPDATED ADVICE AHEAD OF SCHOOL RETURNING**

The NSW Government has today requested that children who have visited China in the last two weeks not attend school or childcare services until 14 days have lapsed from their date of departure from China.

Health Minister Brad Hazzard and Education Minister Sarah Mitchell said although the risk to children is very low, the NSW Government has taken this step as a precautionary measure.

“I’ve been advised that it’s not medically necessary, but the NSW Government has acted in line with community expectations to ensure the safest possible environment for our students,” Mr Hazzard said.

“The internationally recognised incubation period for the coronavirus is 14 days, so this is the logical timeframe to ask students to refrain from attending school. After this time, there is no risk.

“Advice about not attending school has already been provided to any close contacts of confirmed cases.”

The Commonwealth Department of Health has confirmed that all passengers disembarking from planes from China are being given comprehensive information about coronavirus in both English and Mandarin.

NSW Health has been contacting passengers who were on the same planes as confirmed cases to provide appropriate advice and has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia.

Ms Mitchell said the Department of Education has issued guidance to schools and childcare services across NSW on protocols in the event of a child becoming sick.

“Although the risk remains very low for children, we believe it is the right thing to do to take this extra step and will continue to update the community with advice,” Ms Mitchell said.

There are currently four confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in NSW. All cases had travelled to Wuhan, China or had contact with a confirmed case in China.

Parents with concerns can contact their local Public Health Unit on **1300 066 055** for advice or visit the dedicated NSW Health information page at:

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx)

Anyone who develops a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath within 14 days of travel to Hubei or contact with a person with confirmed coronavirus, should immediately isolate themselves from other people, contact their GP or local emergency department or call the healthdirect helpline **1800 022 222**.