

Miranda North Public School Newsletter



Welcome to Week 9! A fun end to the term...

Term 3 has certainly flown by! Our students are looking forward to the SRC planned fun day on Thursday 24 September. A reminder for the students to bring a gold coin, come dressed in their house colours and to wear crazy hair styles and crazy socks. The students will enjoy a fun sports day on the oval with a class picnic. There'll be a special ice-block treat for every student.

We are proud of our students for their effort and commitment in planning this whole school event and for working closely with the teachers to organise a safe and fun day, within the COVID-19 health guidelines. We wish our families a safe and relaxing spring break when it comes around. A reminder that school returns for students in Term 4 on Monday 12 October, 2020 (no school development day in term 4) and concludes on Wednesday 16 December, 2020 for both students and staff.

It is important to make sure that you have enrolled your child if he/she is starting school in 2021. This will allow you to receive information regarding the upcoming kinder transition sessions and details about the first weeks of school in 2021.

Kindergarten Transition- Information for parents of children starting school in 2021

It is important to make sure that you have enrolled your child if they are starting school in 2021. This will allow you to receive information regarding the upcoming kinder transition sessions and details about the first weeks of school in 2021.

A slightly different transition to school this year:

The current COVID-19 guidelines mean that our transition program will look a little different this year. Rest assured that the staff have considered the many ways that we can develop a connection with you and your child over the coming months. We feel confident that we can still make a warm and encouraging connection with your child as they commence this very special time in their lives.



Session One: Thursday 22 October, 2020 from 9:30am until 11:00am.

You are invited to attend our virtual Kindergarten Orientation morning on Thursday 22 October, 2020 from 9:30am until 11:00am. Due to the current health guidelines in place for schools, the session will be held via "zoom". Your child is welcome to attend the video session or parts of the session with you so they can see and meet some of the staff. You might like to have an activity (such as puzzle or game) that your child can engage with whilst you take part in the information session.

The session will be an informative one, where parents and carers can hear about the school, its programs and what to expect when your child starts school in 2021.

Session Two: Wednesday 28 October 202 from 2:00pm until 3:25pm.

The following week, another zoom session will be held on Wednesday 28 October 2020 from 2:00pm until 3:25pm. This session will be an opportunity to hear about literacy and numeracy learning in the kindergarten year and also hear from the staff who may support your child whilst they are at school.

Details of how to access the zoom will be sent via the mail.

Tell them from me Survey for Parents

This Term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online on smartphones, iPads, tablets, laptops or computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 19 August and 25 October. Although participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, your responses are very much appreciated.

Here is the link to the parent survey. We'd love your input!

<http://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/MNPS20>

COVID-19 Information update as at 8 September 2020

Our students are at the centre of each decision we make at school and their wellbeing is always the priority in our planning.

We are guided by the Department of Health and Department of Education advice. Continued restrictions are in place to protect our school student community and staff.

Planning for Term 4

We are currently planning a number of events for term 4 that will be guided by current health advice. We appreciate that being flexible and adaptable will be key to adjusting to any changes which may be required, pending health updates: These include:

- **Kindergarten Transition Program:** Will commence on 22 and 28 October and be held remotely in the first instance. Families will receive a detailed letter outlining the events on offer for transition. Buddies are writing letters to the students at present and students will commence on the first day, with the rest of the school to have their first immersion in the school setting. Kinder will commence at 10am and finish at 3pm to encourage a calm start and finish.
- **Presentation Assembly:** Tuesday 8 December 2020: This will be planned for the day, in accordance with the COVID-19 restrictions and is likely to be held in stage groupings in the school hall. Award recipients will be photographed with their teacher and these will be made available to the parents. If restrictions are relaxed, adjustments will be made accordingly. At this stage, an adult audience is not permitted and the duration of the assembly will be significantly shortened.
- **Primary Sport** is likely to go ahead with some modifications to the venues and sports on offer. **K-2 swimming** is viable at present, given the current restrictions. Staff are currently liaising with the relevant venues to plan the COVID safe strategies. Sport is likely to commence in week 2 of term 4.
- **Christmas celebration, raffle and Giving Tree donation:** At this stage, it is not likely that this will be able to go ahead in the same way as previous years. Our SRC will be responsible for reimagining this event and we may have a special alternate day planned on school grounds, with Christmas dress ups and special lunch. It will be a memorable and special day, nonetheless.
- **Stage 3 events including camp, farewell, final assembly and gala day** will be planned according to the restrictions identified for term 4. The stage three teachers and year six students will co plan the events. We expect to be able to notify the community regarding school camp by the end of this term. At this stage, we expect that we will not be able to run camp in term 4 but are planning for our year 6 farewell, with relevant COVID-19 considerations.



BOOK WEEK 2020

This year, our Book Week celebrations have been moved back to October. We are planning some fun activities; competitions; and students and staff will enjoy dressing up their favourite book character or 'curious creature', even if we are unable to hold a parade. We will keep you posted.

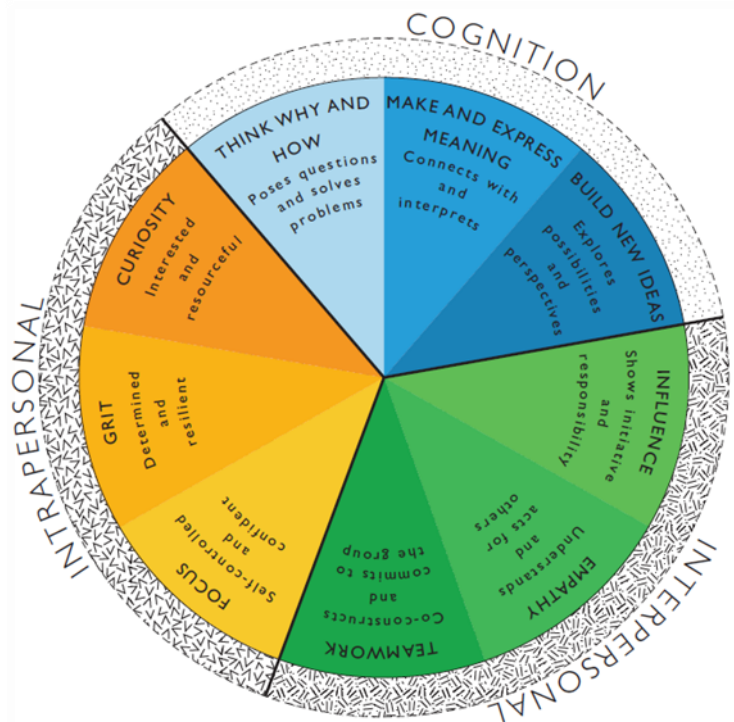
Dates: Term 4: October 17-23 2020

Theme: 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'

Our SRC is taking shape and gaining success in their endeavours– showing influence and responsibility

The SRC has been meeting regularly with their teachers to plan the new playground initiatives as well as fundraising events for the student body. The goal of the SRC is to shift the influence and responsibility to the students and build their confidence to identify, plan and develop student led initiatives that are designed by and for students. Some of the student led initiatives that are currently in progress include:

- Playground equipment for lunch and recess- stage based equipment which is loaned out to students, sanitized after used and returned.
- Designated game areas for soccer and oz tag to enable maximum use of oval space. New goals and line markings
- Student supervised play areas including the buddy bench and new playground markings
- Fundraising activities to raise funds for further playground initiatives including a chalkboard wall (an initiative of the junior SRC students). This will be in the form of a fun run/obstacle course and silly sock/hair



Embracing change:

Although changes to regular routines can be disappointing, challenges like these present a rich opportunity for us to share with our students the importance of adaptability, resilience and a positive outlook. It's a chance for us to build students' capacity to deal with disappointment, change and unexpected events. As teachers, we embrace this opportunity as it allows us an authentic opportunity to gently build resilience and adaptability as well as reimagine events with a creative mindset. Parents and carers can support their children by speaking positively and reassuringly about the changes. Teachers are well skilled in assisting children to adapt to such changes and will scaffold their adjustment in a gentle way.

Fathering Project

One of the key focus areas for our school is growing our strong partnership with parents for student learning and wellbeing. Already in establishment is our Parents as Partners Initiative, which is in its fourth year. Throughout last year, we began researching effective partnership programs that build the relationships of all members of the school community and found The Fathering Project.

The Fathering Project In Schools is about giving kids the best fathers and father-figures they can have. Within schools, The Fathering Project works with both staff and fathers, supporting them to build their community of positively engaged families – for the benefit of the kids. The project involves 4 events throughout the year, with a focus on spending fun times engaging with each other.

We anticipate being able to launch the project in early 2021, pending the lifting of restrictions around gatherings on school site. In the meantime, check out the following link to read tips and ideas about making great connections with your child.



Photo day Monday 21 September

Envelopes for school photo day have been distributed. Please return the envelope with payment on photo day. Students are to wear full summer uniform with black shoes. Please ensure that hair accessories are only school colours or hair colour.

Congratulations to Brodie—showing empathy by acting for others!

A shout out to Brodie who raised over \$2500 for Camp Quality this week in shaving his much loved long locks! Brodie undertook the challenge to give back to others and raise funds for children and their families who are experiencing cancer. Great empathy, Brodie! We are proud of you!

