## Erskine Park High School Newsletter



Pride in Achievement

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Issue 1 21 February 2019

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT Welcome back to 2019

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new families and especially to our Year seven students. I would also like to introduce new staff members Mr Grave (English), Miss Black (Visual Arts), Ms Christou El-Chami (Learning and Support), Mr Kokotovic (Counsellor), Miss Ryan (Science), Miss Asokan (Science) and Ms Lidgard (Agriculture). Our school values the positive and supportive relationships we have with families and we look forward to meeting Year seven students and their families on Tuesday 26th February at our annual Year 7 parents and teachers barbeque. We encourage all parents to contact the school if there are any concerns regarding your child. The first point of contact should be your child's Year Adviser while serious concerns can be raised with the Deputy Principal or Principal.

### Chinese visiting students

It has been a pleasure to host another group of visiting students from China. These students are teamed with a student from our school to experience a week in an Australian high school. Students from both countries enjoy the experience immensely, learning about the different cultures and making new friendships. This initiative supports our school focus around Asian Literacy, including the teaching of Mandarin and our relationship with our sister school in Shanghai. I will soon be calling for expressions of interest for students to travel to China for 10 days in April 2020. This opportunity will be available to students currently in year seven, eight and nine.







Dates to remember - Term 1 2019 Term 1 Week 4 - 6

22 Feb	Vaccinations
	Boys knockout volleyball - Penrith HS
25 Feb	P&C Meeting
	Year 11 Chemistry, Year 12 Physics & Inv Science ANSTO excursion
26 Feb	Year 7 Parent BBQ
	Werrington Zone basketball - Cambridge Park stadium
1 Mar	Year 12 Uni visit - Fast forward
4 Mar	SRC Induction ceremony
7 Mar	Year 11 Biology excursion - Longneck lagoon

### **School Community Charter**

The Department of Education has recently introduced a School Community Charter for all NSW public schools. Parents and carers play an important role within our school community and the charter supports parents and carers and the school to create a positive learning environment for our students. Read more about the charter towards the end of this newsletter or go to the <a href="School Community charter">School Community charter</a> page on the NSW Department of Education website.

### **Valentines Day**

Congratulations to our student leaders for a very successful fund raising venture on Valentines Day. Under the guidance of Mrs Walker and Ms Giaquinto

the School Representative Council (SRC) work very hard planning and preparing activities to support the culture of our school, including some very impressive fund raising drives to support local charities.





### **School Plan Update**

This year sees the start of our second year of the current school planning cycle. We are well on our way to achieving the identified milestones, but I would like to highlight a few areas we have included after the evaluation process at the end of last year. Of particularly note is the Year 10 Work Experience program. The format of this program has not changed for many years and the decreasing number of students accessing the work experience opportunity in the designated time period has flagged our need to look at a change in the way it is delivered or an alternative program that better meets the needs of the students as they transition from year ten to eleven. We will also be introducing an interim report for year eleven students so students requiring additional support with their senior studies can be identified earlier. We will continue to work on improving ways we can have more student input into decision making in the school and professional learning for all staff will continue under the theme of visible learning, with an emphasis on improving feedback to students about their learning. Of course, our relentless approach to improving literacy and numeracy skills for all students will continue and the introduction of Best Start testing, together with the Progressive and Achievement Tests (PAT) and NAPLAN data will measure improvements. More detail about the school plan will be presented at our first P&C meeting on Monday 25th February at 7.00pm in the school administration block. All parents are very welcome.

### 2018 HSC Results

Once again we were very pleased with the results achieved by our students in last year's HSC exams, and we look forward to acknowledging these achievements at our HSC High Achievers Assembly, where our 2018 School DUX will also be announced.

This will feature in our next newsletter.

### 2019 Year Advisers







**Year 8**Kristen
Tulloch



**Year 9**Kaitlin
Humphrey



Year 10 Rebecca Christensen

Ms Leiza Lewis

**Principal** 



Year 11 Brent Parkhill



**Year 12**Nikeisha
Mills

### **DEPUTY PRINCIPALS REPORT**

Welcome back and I would like to say thank you to all our students and families for an excellent start. I am excited to continue in the Deputy Principal's chair responsible for Years 7, 9 and 11. The year has started at a rapid pace with several activities taking place in the first few weeks. We have had our swimming carnival, Year 11 and 12 participated in study skills workshops, Year 7 BYOD induction lessons and our annual school photos.

### Assessment Handbook

Assessment booklets have be distributed to all students. Years 7-10 assessment booklets were emailed and Years 11 and 12 students were given a printed copy. It is important your child carefully read their booklet as it provides an outline for each subject assessment, due dates and information on submission of tasks. A yearly planner is also included for your child to collate and plan their time to complete assessment tasks.

### Year 11 interim reports

Interim reports will be written for all Year 11 students during the first 5 weeks of Term 1. The reports are to give parents/carers an idea of their child's academic progress and application to their subjects. These reports will also allow us to target those students who may require further support to meet the rigorous requirements of senior studies. Reports will be available via the <a href="Parent Portal">Parent Portal</a>. If you do not have a portal account please contact the office to organise your log in.

### BYOD induction lessons.

Year 7 students participated in a BYOD induction lesson in Week 3. Students set a new internet password and it was explained the importance of having a password they can remember and keeping it private. Students also set up three secret questions for changing their password. This allows students to reset their password by answering the questions if they forget it and need to access the school's online applications to complete school work at home.

Folders were created in Google Drive for each of their subjects to organise and save their school work in a logical and neat order. Ask your child to show you their Google Drive and the classwork they have completed.

BYOD @ EPHS

'Supporting Your Child with BYOD'
Parent Workshop
Monday 4 March, 2019
6:00—7:00pm
Teaching and Learning Centre

This workshop will provide parents (only) with an understanding of BYOD for their child at EPHS. Parents will be guided through the induction process of online applications such as G. Suite (Google Apps for Education) and Microsoft Office 365. Parents will be required to bring their child's laptop, including the internet username and password they use at school. Registering is necessary by telephoning the front office on 9834 3536.

### Uniform

Congratulations to our students and a big thank you to parents who ensure their child has the correct uniform. I have heard a lot of positive feedback around the school community about the students returning to school with an outstanding uniform and maintaining the high standards of our school. I would just like to reinforce that black socks and track pants are not part of our school uniform. A Uniform Pass will not be given to a student for these clothing items.

### Safe Internet Day

Safer Internet Day (SID) is a world-wide initiative that takes place each February to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology, especially among children and young people.



The 2019 theme is 'Together for a better internet', encouraging all Australians to collaborate with their communities and support each other in developing the critical skills required for navigating the online world. These skills take time to develop but they can help us in all areas of life - online and off. They are referred to as the 4 Rs.

- Respect I treat myself and others the way I like to be treated
- Responsibility I am accountable for my actions and I take a stand when I feel something is wrong.
- Reasoning I question what is real.
- Resilience I get back up from tough situations.

In Australia, the Safer Internet Day committee is the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner - <a href="www.esafety.gov.au">www.esafety.gov.au</a>. This is a comprehensive website providing e-safety information, practical guidance for keeping your child safe online and links to support networks.

Year 7 - Meet the parent BBQ



Tuesday 26th February 2019 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm COLA

Year 7 students and their families are invited to attend an informal after school barbeque on Tuesday 26th February. This afternoon is an opportunity for parents and caregivers to meet with their child's teachers.

Families are welcome to attend from 3.30pm. Please feel free to drop in at any stage throughout the afternoon according to your work and family commitments.

A sausage sizzle, cordial, tea and coffee will be available. We all hope you can join us so that we may begin to build a solid school/family relationship that will extend throughout your child's future high school years.

Mrs Melinda Waddell Deputy Principal



21 February 2019

## ADMINISTRATION REPORT Attendance Report

Welcome back to all our returning students and I would especially like to welcome our new students and families to Erskine Park High School. Part of my role as Head Teacher Administration is to monitor the attendance of every student who attends our school. Regular attendance is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. Erskine Park High works closely with parents to encourage and support the regular attendance of all our students.

On occasion your child may need to be away from school. If this occurs, a text message will be sent to parents and carers indicating the absence. Following any absence, a reason must be provided to the school within 7 days. Replying to that text message with a justified reason for the absence is sufficient.

### Roll Call

Arriving to school and class on time is important. Roll call starts at 8.30am and all students are required to be seated in their classrooms by 8.33am. If a student arrives late to roll call, they will still need to attend their roll call classroom and have their names marked present (with a late arrival). Teachers are able to make these changes electronically, therefore ensuring our database is kept up-to-date immediately. Students will not need to swipe in at the front office unless they have missed roll call altogether. Students who arrive late three or more times without a valid explanation will be issued with an after school detention which are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

### 100% Attendance

Congratulations to the students who achieved 100% attendance in Term 4 last year. Some of these lucky students were rewarded with canteen vouchers at the end of term school assembly. Well done to the students listed below.

### Year 7

Benjamin Bale, Alex Bowen, Aaron Brown, Joey Chen, Tanisha Chetty, Amber Ebirim, Janushan Jegatheeswaran, Jessica Kerr, Sarah Kim, Jaanvi Kumar, Sayer Mason Whaitiri, Khloee McKenzie, Kourtnee McKenzie, Kirk Murillo, Kira Solomon, Ryan Spark, Mei Vaughan.

### Year 8

Roni Alokou, Cameron Candy, Geoffrey Connolly, Chloe Giddy, Tiago Gigi Correia, Jessica Hayward, Zachary Heffernan, Jessica Hole, Areeba Khalid, Stephanie Marton, Christina Nkrumah, Vacha Patel, Erin Short, Gabrielle Woodger.

### Year 9

Luke Cammell, Claudine De Paz, Paige Fisher, Yvonne Fu, Jayden Milutin, Skye Noake, Motjaba Rahimi, Ravini Ravikumar, Emma Shennan, Joel Short, Isabel So, Amos Taylor, Michelle Wen, Jake Whelan, Jarrad Van der Meulen.

### Year 10

Kaustubh Alulkar, Michael Gerrish, Allan Hope, Ijlal Khan, Mercedes Planer, Moustafa Rahimi, Guruparan Shivan, Tim Yarkov.

### Changes to Year 12 examinations for 2019

Due to the recent changes to assessment guidelines for HSC students implemented by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority, there are no half yearly exams for Year 12 students. These changes mean that HSC students will complete only 4 assessments per subject, with only one of these being a formal examination. This formal examination will be a Trial HSC later in the year. Because of these changes, it is important that HSC students incorporate exam-style questions in to their study routine and work towards enhancing their skills in answering long response questions to better prepare for their trial examinations.

If you have questions or concerns regarding attendance, the Administration office is located in the General Learning Block next to Room 1.

Ms Langmack will be overseeing Yr 7, 9, 11 attendance and Mrs Romero will oversee Yr 8, 10, 12 attendance.

Ms Lesley Langmack and Mrs Amber Romero Head Teachers Administration

## MATHEMATICS REPORT Maths Faculty

Hello and welcome to another fantastic year of Mathematics. My name is Mr Smith and I started as the head teacher of Mathematics at the start of Term 4 last year. We are looking forward to improving the skills of the students in our care with the best possible techniques available to us, however, Mathematics is not a spectator sport. It is important to regularly revise the content being delivered and attempt and complete homework set as a way to get the practise in that is required for success. Each member of the Maths faculty is more than willing to give up time outside of class to help students reach their potential, its only a matter of asking.

### **Equipment**

The first act of organisation for any class is being packed for learning. In Mathematics this means an





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# RYAN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP





exercise book (only for maths), a pen (black/blue/red), a ruler (for margins and diagrams) a calculator (we currently suggest Sharp or Casio scientific calculators but from 2020 we will be recommending the Casio for Years 7-12) and your digital device. Having these in your bag each lesson will ensure a quick start to the lesson and it will give you the ability to participate in all facets of the learning being provided.

### **BYOD**

Erskine Park High School with the help of the P&C have purchased access to Mathspace. An online learning platform which provides help with worked solutions, practise questions and home work opportunities to better improve your mathematical skills. While it may not be used every lesson it is important that your digital device is ready and charged to take full advantage of the technology being incorporated into your learning. Be sure that if you are unable to have access to a laptop that you are on the school's list or if it's a short term problem, that a note is provided to your teacher.

### **Examinations**

A big change to the way Year 7-10 will complete their examinations is on the way, with this being the first year students will be able to bring with them a study guide to help them to recall facts and procedures during their assessments. This means that these tests will be able to assess what you can apply rather than what you can remember. This will be of great benefit to students who put in the effort to learn content and study regularly. Some things to note about these study guides:

- They will be on 1 A4 piece of paper
- They can be written on the front and the back
- They must be hand written
- They must not be photocopies
- They must be the students own work

This is part of a plan to teach explicit study techniques to the students in an effort to prepare them for senior studies. More information will be forthcoming in the near future, but students are encouraged to start taking examples from their daily lessons and writing them on a sheet of paper with the full worked solution. This will be the beginnings of a useful study guide and a log of their learning in class.

### Pi Day

Pi is a number. Its very close to 3.14 This is why on the 14th of March (3rd month 14th day) we will be celebrating Pi Day! Activities revolving around Pi will be set up throughout the day with a challenge set for students to see how many digits of Pi they can

remember. I have issued this challenge to students in my previous school and the most they could do was 250! Prizes will be given out to anyone who can remember at least 10 and the top 3 will be given special prizes (can anyone say real pies!) It's a fun day and I look forward to seeing what the students of Erskine Park can come up with on the day.

Mr Scott Smith Head Teacher, Mathematics

### SCIENCE REPORT

"The practice of science happens at the border between the known and the unknown. Standing on the shoulders of giants, we peer into the darkness with eyes opened not in fear but in wonder." - Brian Cox, Wonders of the Universe.

### What are we studying in Term 1?

Year 7	Working Scientifically Let's Rock
Year 8	Forces Chemical World
Year 9	Working Scientifically What Lies Beneath
Year 10	Chemistry (for a better) Life

### Assessement dates for Term 1

Year 7	Week 8 Practical and Safety Assessment 30%
Year 8	Week 9 Group Research Project 30%
Year 9	Week 8 Individual Research Project 30%
Year 10	Week 10 Investigation 20%

Subject	Year 11	Year 12
Biology	Week 10 Depth Study 35%	Week 8 Research Task 25%
Chemistry	Week 10 Data Analysis 25%	Week 10 Investigation 25%
Physics	Week 10 Practical Investigation 25%	Week 10 Depth Study 30%
Investigating Science	Week 10 Practical Investigation 30%	Week 7 Investigative Report 15%

### Safety in Science

Due to frequent movement around the room when practical work is being conducted all students are required to put their bags at the back of the laboratory.

### **Staff Changes**

This year we welcome two new members to the Science faculty; Miss Ryan and Miss Asokan. We would all like to warmly welcome both of these teachers to our faculty for a new school year.



# Upcoming events Year 11 Biology excursion to Longneck Lagoon 6th of March 2019

This is a mandatory field study based on the syllabus topic "Biological Diversity" and will be used as part of the students' first Biology assessment task.

# Year 11 Chemistry, Year 12 Physics and Year 12 Investigating Science excursion to ANSTO 25th of February 2019

Students will tour the nuclear reactor and visit the research facility. The students will be completing engaging work which is relevant to all three senior Science subjects.

### **Titration competition**

The Titration competition is focussed on the skills of chemical analysis. This competition is conducted annually. Our school has participated in titration since 2000 and in numerous years has been awarded the gold medal. This year we are inviting HSC Chemistry students to enrol and participate in the competition to gain knowledge and skills required for the HSC course. This will take place in June. More information will be provided closer to the date.





Above: Year 7 students from Mrs Van Hoomans class completing work on their devices

### **Great start to 2019**



Students are already back into engaging and purposeful Science lessons. Laptops are a key learning tool in all Science lessons and have shown to be a

great supplement in the students learning. Across all years in Science students often use their laptops to access STILE as a learning platform. STILE activities are built into all of our programs in Science and allow teachers to provide engaging, interactive learning experiences for the students.

Donations of empty ice cream or butter containers would be greatly appreciated. Students can bring them to the Science staffroom

Mrs Kristine Bachtis Head Teacher Science

### PDHPE REPORT PDHPE Staff 2019

Ms M. Tucker (Maternity leave)

Mr J. Brenner (Sports Coordinator)

Ms L. Giaquinto (SRC Coordinator, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator)

Mrs L. Langmack (Head Teacher Administration)

Mr D. Lindsay (Learn to Lead Coordinator)

Mr P. Naicker (Head Teacher)

Ms K.Tullock (Year 8 Adviser)

Ms A. Vimero

Ms A. Wijoyo (GAT Coordinator)

### **Year 11 Senior First Aid Course**

Students from Year 11 PDHPE classes will be participating in a Work Cover accredited Senior First Aid Course in week 3 term 2. The course has an online and a practical component and run by instructors from the Royal Surf Lifesaving

Issue 1	21 February 2019
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Organisation. Students can get further information from PDHPE Staff.

### **PDHPE Program for Term 1**

Students will be completing the following units of work in Term 1

Year	Theory Unit	Practical Unit
7 PDHPE	Challenges	Fitness Fun/ Movement Fun
8 PDHPE	My Health	Minor Games
9 PDHPE	My Safety	Team Games 1/ Fitness Fun
10 PDHPE	Drive and Survive	Invasion Games
9PASS	Outdoor Recreation	Fitness & Orienteering
10 PASS	Sports Coaching	Coaching Techniques
11 SLR	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreational Activity
11 PDHPE	Meanings of Health and Physical Activity Better Health for Individuals	Recreational Activity
12 SLR	Coaching	Coaching and participating in fitness, individual and team activities
12 PDHPE	Heath Priorities in Australia	No practical lessons

### **Assessment Tasks**

All students will be given a minimum of TWO weeks notice for all assessment tasks. It is essential that students submit tasks by the due date. Tasks submitted after the due date will be awarded a ZERO mark and students are able to make use of the appeal process as per the school's assessment policy.

### **Year 11 Life Ready Program**

All Year 11 students will participate in this mandatory program. This program will be complemented by the Year 11 Camp later in Term 2. Listed below is the program:

Class	Term 1A	Term 1B
LR1	Independence	Safe travel
LR2	Mental health and wellbeing	Independence

LR3	Relationships	Mental health and wellbeing
LR4	Sexuality and sexual health	Relationships
LR5	Drugs and alcohol	Sexuality and sexual health
IR6	Safe travel	Drugs and alcohol

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award (Year 9 and Year 10)**

Ms Giaquinto is coordinating the school's Duke of Edinburgh award program. Any student interested in participating in the program please see Ms Giaquinto for more information.

Mr Preggy Naicker Head Teacher PDHPE

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT**

It's hard to believe we are already weeks into Term 1 of 2019! Once again, the Teaching and Learning faculty has hit the ground running, supporting the learning needs of Erskine Park High students across the board. We are happy to see all of our regular students back at school, fresh from the holidays, raring to get back into their studies. And we're excited, too, to see a whole new cohort of Year 7 students, enthusiastic and eager.

Speaking of such, Year 7 have already begun sitting their Best Start Year 7 assessments. Best Start Year 7 is a new online assessment for students that helps provide information for teachers on the literacy and numeracy skills of students at the beginning of Year 7. The assessment, covers key literacy and numeracy skills that are important to a student's success in all subjects in high school. Students come to high school with a range of experiences, skills and abilities in literacy and numeracy. It is important that teachers have current information about their students so that they can plan programs and lessons that best support the learning needs of every student.

 No preparation is needed for this assessment. Its purpose is to provide our teachers with additional information to best support the teaching of your child. Please contact us via the office if you have any questions regarding the Best Start Year 7 assessment.

This year we welcome back the same Teaching and Learning team, with a few small changes. Below is a list of our current team and their main areas of support:

### **Learning and Support Teachers**

Mrs Alison Billiards - Head Teacher, Year 8, Year 12, and Numeracy

Mrs Amber Romero - Year 9

Mr Mark Giaquinto - Year 7, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Education, and EAL/D Mrs Sylvia El Chami - Year 10, EAL/D, and Literacy Mrs Natalie Nix - Year 11, and Numeracy Mrs Catherine Watkins-Wilson - Literacy Mrs Luana Grady - Literacy

### **Student Learning Support Officers (SLSOs)**

Mrs Nicole Lopes - Year 9 Mrs Jo Pracy - Year 7 Miss Rowena Paul - Year 8 Miss Monique Kucinic - Year 10 Mrs Michelle Bastoli - Year 11 and Year 12 Mr Connor Giles - Year 8, and Boys Miss Andia Loxley - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Education Miss Sindura Pather - Reading and Literacy

This year we also welcome back Mrs Sylvia El Chami to our team. Mrs El Chami joined us at the end of last year on a part-time basis and returns this year fulltime. With years of teaching experience as well as EAL/D and Learning and Support Teaching expertise (as well as a gift for cooking and great taste in music!) she is a very welcome addition to the team.

We will be sending letters and surveys home to some parents and carers in the coming weeks in order to gain information that will help us give our students the best support in their learning that we can. Any parents and carers that have any questions what-soever should feel free to call us via the office. Likewise. students should feel free to come down to our staff room - located in the Teaching and Learning Centre outside of class times, too, if they feel they need any extra support.

Happy Learning!

Mrs Alison Billiards Head Teacher Teaching and Learning

### **YEAR 7 REPORT**

Welcome to our very first newsletter for Year 7 2018. My name is Mr Mendoza and I am the Year 7 adviser for the cohort of 2019. I will be working alongside with Mrs Crowshaw to support our students in their transition into high school, and mentor them to be proactive members of the Erskine Park High School community.





Above: Mr Darwin Mendoza and Mrs Hayley Crowshaw

I hope all students and their families had an enjoyable and refreshing break. Students have settled in well, and are on their way towards and exciting year full of new friendships, experiences and learning opportunities. Students have already experienced their first swimming carnival at Erskine Park High School. Students participated with great enthusiasm and sport house pride.

### **BYOD**

Year 7 have embraced our schools strong BYOD policy. They have been using their devices across all subjects to enhance their learning experiences. It is essential that students bring their devices to school fully charged, every day.

### **Upcoming Events for Term 1**

Week 5	Year 7 meet the parents (Tuesday the 26th of February, 3:30-5:00pm)
Week 8	Year 7 aquatic week (Wednesday the 20th of March to Friday the 22nd of March)
Week 11	Year 7 camp (Wednesday the 10th of April to Friday the 12th of April)

I look forward to an excellent term, where our Y ear 7 cohort strive for excellence.

Mr Darwin Mendoza and Mrs Hayley Crowshaw Year Adviser and Assistant Year Adviser

### YEAR 8 REPORT

Welcome back to Erskine Park High School and to Year 8! I hope all students and families had a refreshing holiday as we come back for another exciting year with lots happening for our year group. Both Ms Lawson and I are here for you throughout the year, should you have any concerns, questions or just need someone to talk too.

Remember you can find us in the following staffrooms Ms Tulloch - PDHPE Staffroom Ms Lawson - TAS 1 Staffroom

### **CLUES**

CLUES is an important part of our school's wellbeing program, in CLUES lessons we have focused on enabling students with the knowledge of issues that affect them directly. In Term 1 students will be working through the Beyond Blue, Mental health program and learning about the importance of looking after all aspects of our health.



We will also be starting our 'Choose Kind' movement this term. Choose Kind is an anti-bullying campaign inspired by R.J. Palacio's debut novel, Wonder. Year 8 will be discussing the importance of choosing to be kind and practicing it in CLUES lessons and roll call this year.

### **Sporting Achievements**



Congratulations to Bella McEachern who will be representing Australia with her Dance school in the World championships. Worlds is held in America and Bella will compete with her Hip Hop group in April this year. We wish her all the best with her upcoming preparations for the competition. Well Done Bella

### Swimming carnival

Year 8 are off to a great start with the annual swimming Carnival on the 8th of February. Year 8 were enthusiastic, positive and displayed sportsmanship throughout the day. It was wonderful to see so many Year 8 students participating in events.





Miss Kristen Tulloch and Miss Rebecca Lawson Year 8 Year Adviser and Assistant Year Adviser





### **School** Community Charter



Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.

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

#### What our schools provide Positive environments

NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when parents and schools work together.

The School Community Charter aligns with the NSW Department of Education Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022.



It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

- Parents and carers can expect:

  to be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.
- communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.
- professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
- to be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

prioritise the wellbeing of all students and staff

**behaviour** is not acceptable in our schools

together with the school

Ensuring respectful learning environments for all members of NSW Public Schools communities.



in partnership

### Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process: <a href="mailto:education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students">education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students</a>.

#### 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.



School Community Charter





### **School Opal Card**

As part of our campaign against fare evasion, and our on-going commitment to provide the level of service needed to transport students to and from your school, Busways conducts regular checks of School Opal card.

All students must be in possession of a valid Opal card or pay a fare.

Students in possession of an Opal card must also tap on/off with their card when boarding our buses.

This is important, because the Opal data collected determines the level of service we are able to provide to your school. If students don't tap on and off, the services will appear underutilised and may be considered for cancellation based on low passenger numbers.

To apply for a School Opal card or to report a lost or stolen card, go online to <a href="https://www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/">www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/</a>

Students who are ineligible for School Opal will need to purchase a Child/Youth Opal card or pay a fare to travel on our buses.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support.





