

The Meadows Mag

A vibrant and caring learning community

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Issue 3 - Term 1 - Week 8

Friday, 19th March 2021

Office Hours Monday to Friday 8:20am - 3pm	Canteen Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:20am - 2pm
Before & After School Care  www.squiggler.com.au/enrol-now/ or for more information contact head office on 1300 778 444	Uniform Shop Uniforms are sold in the canteen Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:20am - 9am Payment by cash & cheque at school OR prepay online using MasterCard or Visa 

Calendar

Important Dates in Term 1, 2021

Week 9

Wednesday, 24 th March	Harmony Day
Wednesday, 24 th March	SISA – K-2
Friday, 26 th March	Summer PSSA

Week 10

Monday, 29 th March	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews 3:00pm-7:00pm
Tuesday, 30 th March	School Cross Country
Tuesday, 30 th March	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews 3:00pm-5:00pm
Wednesday, 31 st March	SISA – 3-6
Thursday, 1 st April	Easter Hat Parade
Thursday, 1 st April	Last Day of Term 1

Important Dates in Term 2, 2021

Week 1

Monday, 19 th April	Staff Development Day
Tuesday, 20 th April	Students Return

Principal's Message

2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan – School Vision

As part of the process of developing our school's Strategic Improvement Plan, I recently sent home a copy of our draft **School Vision Statement** for consideration by the school parent community. Thank you to those parents who responded with positivity to the statement as well as constructive suggestions for improvement.

The final version of our School Vision Statement is as follows:

*The Meadows Public School community is committed to developing and implementing strategies enabling **continuous improvement** for all students and staff.*

We aim to inspire and empower every student to embrace learning and achieve their personal best academically, socially, physically and culturally.

We foster an environment of high expectations and support, enabling our students to flourish as safe and respectful members of society, with a true sense of belonging and pride in The Meadows Public School.

The words continuous improvement are in bold in this newsletter to highlight our focus and commitment for EVERY child and EVERY teacher to be on a journey of continuous improvement in all areas. As a member of our parent community, we will continue to welcome your suggestions for improvement in all areas of our operation. Of course, one of the best and most regular ways of making such suggestions is through our P&C forum, with meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

P&C News

Our 2021 P&C Annual General Meeting was held on the 9th of March. As a result, I'm very pleased to announce the new 2021 P&C Executive as follows:

President – Melinda Hutchinson

Vice-President – Megan Terry

Secretary – Abigail Bunyi

Treasurer – Olwen Paul

It was nice to see some new members at our previous meeting and all attendees at our March meeting have been encouraged to 'bring a friend' to the next meeting on Tuesday, 11th May at 9:00am.

So what does the P&C actually do?

- The P&C is a key link between the school and the parent body,
- The P&C is opportunity for 'parent voice', to consider suggestions for school improvement. (E.g.: parent voice from the P&C resulted in the introduction of a girls' dress as a part of our school uniform),
- The P&C provides a service to the school. (E.g.: providing an off-site Athletics Carnival Canteen)
- The P&C promotes and coordinates fundraising efforts for two purposes:
 - To benefit the school and its students,
 - To aid charitable organisations.
- Across the past 5 years, these fundraising efforts have contributed towards:
 - New furniture for the library
 - Portable PA system
 - Maths equipment
 - Books for library / readers for classrooms
 - Contribution towards iPads
 - Support for Yr 6 Farewell and Yr 6 shirt costs
 - P&C equipment which will in turn aid future fundraising efforts (E.g.: Slushie machine, electronic esky, bain-marie for food heating)
 - Charities supported: Luke Priddis Foundation (Autism), The Smith Family, Day For Daniel (Daniel Morcombe Foundation – Child Safety Awareness)

The current fundraising goal of the P&C is to raise enough funds to make a 50% contribution towards the provision of shade-cloth shelters over the large play equipment area. The 2021 charity to be supported by the P&C will be Beyond Blue, an organisation linked to research, support and education regarding mental health, including the mental and emotional health of children.

So yes, it's looking like a busy year for our P&C. You belong to our school, you are welcome to attend, participate and ultimately feel like you are personally contributing to the improvement of The Meadows Public School!

Staffing News

It is my pleasure to announce that Mr Brandon Duckworth will remain as the teacher of Class 5/6D for the remainder of the 2021 school year.

Cross Country

Unfortunately due to the wet weather, our school Cross Country Carnival needed to be postponed. The new date is next Tuesday, 23rd March with our gates opening at 11:00am. Please bring a chair or a picnic rug and please use the Service NSW App to sign in via the QR code posted on the school gates. The P&C will be operating a Zooper Dooper Stall (\$1 each) on the day.

Please be advised that students are able to attend the carnival wearing their house colours. Of course, appropriate running shoes and a school hat are a must!

Sports Houses

Gordon – GREEN

Kendall - RED

Lawson – BLUE

Paterson - YELLOW.

Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews

Parents had until today to request an appointment time for this term's Parent/Teacher/Student interviews. Thank you to those parents who have responded as this is a key opportunity to discuss your child's progress so far, and their learning goals and focus areas for improvement as we head into Term 2. The interviews will be conducted on Monday, 29th March (3:00-7:00pm) and Tuesday, 30th March (3:00-5:00pm).

Teachers will be issuing notes to confirm appointment times next Wednesday.

Easter Hat Parade

The Easter Hat Parade is on the final day of term, Thursday, 1st April. The event will take place under our K-2 COLA area from 10:00am. At this point in time, due to COVID-safe capacity restrictions, invitations have been limited to K-2 parents only. Parents of K-2 students had until the end of today to return their RSVPs. Next Monday, if possible, an invitation will be issued to parents of students in Years 3-6 as well.

NAPLAN

As children progress through their school years, it is very important that checks are made along the way to see how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and mathematics – skills that will set them upon the path to success as adults.

NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy And Numeracy) is a point-in-time assessment that allows parents to see how their child is progressing in literacy and numeracy against the national standard and compared with their peers throughout Australia. At the classroom level, NAPLAN provides additional information to support teachers' professional judgement about student progress.

All students in Years 3-5 will be sitting online NAPLAN assessments across the areas of Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar / Punctuation and Numeracy. The test window for all schools to complete NAPLAN is in Term 2, **across Weeks 4 and 5, from Tuesday, 11th May to Friday, 21st May.**

Parents of students with a disability are asked to contact Mr Haynes if they wish to obtain a formal **exemption** for their child or information regarding possible adjustments for their child.

Actual **withdrawals** from NAPLAN are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. Participation by all students is expected, however, in certain circumstances students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer. Ultimately, this is a decision for parents/carers but is best done in collaboration with the school. A formal application must be received by the Principal prior to the testing. Please contact Mr Haynes if you wish to consider withdrawing your child from the 2021 NAPLAN program.

Attendance News!

At the time of writing, we still have 59 wonderful students across K-6 who have maintained PERFECT attendance across the first 7 full weeks of the school year with ZERO absences and ZERO late days! Congratulations to all! Keep it up! Who can stay 'perfect' until the end?

A target rate of attendance for **EVERY child** is a **minimum attendance rate of 90%**. This only allows for one day of absence every fortnight. While 90% may 'sound' good, a child with a 90% attendance rate will still miss 20 days per school year of 140 days (almost 3 terms of education) across their primary school (K-6) education. Therefore it is the minimum we expect. At this point in time, 228 of our 282 students are on target and above 90%. We need to work collectively to continue this great start and move the 54 students below 90% into the 'on-target' group!

If your child is absent from school, please ensure you provide a note explaining the absence upon your child's return. Parents and carers who fail to do so will be issued with an Unexplained Absence note to return to school.

Additionally, if your child is late to school without an explanation, your child will be issued a note informing you of the unexplained late arrival to school. Let's work together to make a difference this year. "In line, on time, at 10 to 9!"



Children's Fun Page

We have another opportunity for students to win prizes in this edition of The Meadows Mag! Boys and girls, head straight to the back page for more information about a Reading Challenge between now and the end of term.

Look after each other,

Scott Staveley

Principal



CONGRATULATIONS Award Winners!

Week 7

Teacher's Awards (2 points)

KH	Anthony Claire
KP	Rian Viaan
KS	Caitlyn Mahi
1/2C	Preety Corinth
1/2L	Srithika Daniel
1/2O	Arpith Kcee
1/2P	Achchudan Braxton
2/3A	Malakai Shu Chen
3/4R	Jerekai Issa
4T	DJ Brooklyn
3-6P	Lauren
5/6D	Lachlan Jasmine
5/6H	Aiden Jovan
5/6S	Jaydn Alessandra

Week 8

Teacher's Awards (2 points)

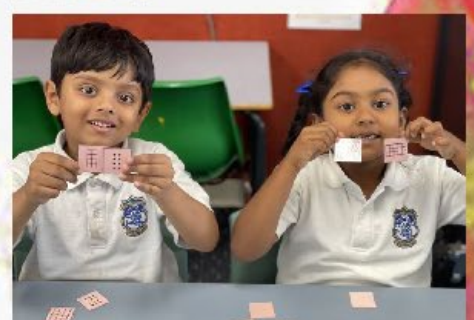
KH	Sara Thanush
KP	Lior Eyan
KS	Samrudh Lucas
1/2C	Nagul Andrew
1/2L	Lauryn Micah
1/2O	Riley Mustafa
1/2P	Sheryl Devak
2/3A	William Aman
3/4R	Arshi Zac
4T	Alex Joanna
3-6P	Alex
5/6D	Ana-Leah Abby
5/6H	Disha Vinoth
5/6S	Mohammed Srivitha

Stage 1



Stage 1 have been working hard in numeracy learning about addition and subtraction and patterns and algebra

We have been using technology to help us solve problems





We have been learning to write different Informative texts this term such as recounts, procedures and information reports

The lovely Ms Buckman has visited our classes every week this term to help us with our writing



Clean Up At The Meadows Public School

On Friday, 5th March, our wonderful students worked together to locate and dispose of any and every piece of rubbish, remaining on our school grounds. It was pleasing to see the older students assist the younger students with things such as putting on rubber gloves and taking care with the types of rubbish being collected. Our students are generally careful and considerate when disposing of rubbish on a day to day basis but it was impressive to witness them taking pride in our grounds. I can also advise that Mr Phil, our General Assistant and keen groundsman was happy that the identification tags remained attached to the plants this year and not mistaken for rubbish.



Community Noticeboard

The Meadows Public School, as a service to parents, will advertise community events that may be of interest. The Meadows Public School does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility for the management or organisation of these events.

SEVEN HILLS FESTIVAL



Saturday 27 March | 10 am to 4 pm | Grantham Reserve, Seven Hills
blacktown.nsw.gov.au



CommonwealthBank



School Banking

is on Wednesday

COME JOIN US

WALK FOR CORD BLOOD RESEARCH



WHEN: Sunday 18th April 2021

WHERE: Francis Green-Blacktown Showground Precinct

TIME: Any time between 9am and 2pm

WHAT IS IT: A simple 2 km walk to save a life

REGISTER: Register and pay on the day

OR: Google search "Inner Wheel Australia National Project"

follow the prompt, complete the registration form - donate

WHY: To raise funds for Cord Blood Research

www.innerwheelaustralia.org.au/national-project



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Students Fun Page



Mission 100!



Can you find the time to read for 100 minutes in the next 2 weeks? Complete the challenge and hand this in to Mr Staveley by **Thursday 1st April** to have a chance of winning a HOYTS Movie Voucher valued at **\$50**. Up to three children can use this form.

Try to read for 10 minutes a day, for 10 days, giving you 100 minutes of reading in total!

[illegible]