

**Important Dates**

**Thursday 11/2**

\* School Swimming  
Carnival at Gosford  
Pool

**Tuesday 16/2**

\* P&C Meeting

**Tuesday 16/2**

\* School Banking



Congratulations to all our students who completed the Summer Reading is a Blast program. Congratulations also to Liam M. (1H) for completing 200 nights reading—Well done everyone!

**WELCOME BACK**

Welcome back everyone! I would like to extend a special welcome to our new Kindergarten students who have transitioned to 'big school' so smoothly and to our new families who have joined our school community. Over the coming weeks I will be visiting all classes to spend some time catching up with our returning students and getting to know our new students. This Tuesday we formed our classes for 2021, maintaining 21 mainstream classes and 3 support classes. Careful consideration has been given to the class placement of each and every student to ensure their best educational opportunities and I would like to thank our parent community for supporting us in our endeavours.

**Staffing Update**

Welcome to our new teaching staff. Ms Ali Carlisle will be supporting our Aboriginal students as well as teaching RFF on our multicat classes and Ms Rebecca Ross will be job sharing with Mr Dawkins on a Friday and teaching a combination of EALD, Technology and new arrivals programs throughout the remainder of the week. Welcome back also to Ms Hextall who has re-joined us and will be job sharing with Mrs Wardell following her maternity leave. Mr Adam Boulus was successful in securing a well-deserved position as Director, Educational Leadership this year and I have the privilege of relieving in the role of Principal until a permanent appointment is made. Mrs Kylie Williams has taken on the role of



Deputy Principal (Relieving) and Mrs Nicole Pattison has taken on the role of Principal (Relieving) at Maroota Public School for Term 1.

### **Part Time/Job Share Teachers**

Like many schools, businesses and government organisations, our school has staff who work on a part-time basis. This may be because of leave options, employment requirements or employee choice. As the Federal Government provides this entitlement to all workers nationwide, more and more employees will take the option if desired.

This results in many classes in schools across Australia being taught by two teachers on different days of the week. While some parents may not see this as desirable, it is a staffing arrangement that exists in all schools. Our teachers are committed and hard working and when those who job share, team up with a colleague, we ensure that regular and frequent communication takes place between them and that the effect of two teachers on the students is nothing but positive.

### **Composite/Split Grade Classes**

This year we have some composite classes. Composite classes are a regular inclusion in all schools across the nation. Inclusion in composite classes can be a very positive experience for students. The students, whilst participating in regular grade appropriate programs, will have the opportunity to work with their class mates to improve their learning performance. They will also develop their independence skills and enhance their interpersonal abilities. As in other classes, all students will be provided with learning programs relevant to their own needs and abilities. These students will regularly integrate with other classes in their grade for a wide variety of activities.

### **Grade Co-ordinators for Term 1**

If ever you have a particular problem at school, the first port of call is the class teacher. If required, any concerns regarding students in a grade can be referred to the grade co-ordinators indicated below.

Kindergarten : Mrs Amelia Flood and Mrs Juliet McLoughlin (Acting)

Year 1 and 2 : Mrs Joanne Figallo

Year 3 and 4 : Mrs Amanda Rutherford (Acting)

Years 5 and 6 : Mrs Kelly Beckton & Mrs Nadine Scott (Acting)

### **Voluntary School Contributions**

Each year we ask families to support their child/children through a voluntary school contribution of \$45.00 . This money is tax deductible and is used as a Library Fund to purchase much needed literacy and technology resources. For us to continue to provide quality literacy and technology resources, we appreciate your support. School Contributions can be paid by: cash, cheques (made out to Niagara Park Public School), credit card and EFTPOS. If you are making EFTPOS payments can you please make those payments before 3:00 pm each day so the transactions can be acquitted by the school.

### **Covid-19 Guidelines for Schools**

The department has issued all public schools with a unique QRCode. All parents/carers and visitors to the school must sign-in via this code **in addition** to the signing in at the front office. Covid-19 restrictions have remained largely unchanged since Term 4 2020, with a few exceptions. At present, parent information sessions may be held with restricted numbers attending, and swimming carnivals and athletics carnivals may proceed, however there are restrictions on spectator numbers and we are also

bound by the restrictions placed on the venues themselves. Students are encouraged to bring their own labelled drink bottle to school and practice safe hygiene through regular washing of hands and social distancing where possible. If your child is unwell please keep them home and inform the school. All cases of covid-19 or close contacts to cases should be reported to the school immediately. We are truly grateful for the amazing support our school community has shown in assisting us to adhere to the ever-changing covid-19 climate and we will keep you informed of any up-dates as they occur.

### **Summer Reading is a Blast**

The Summer Reading is a Blast holiday reading program has concluded. All students who have completed their cards and returned them to their teacher or the school office by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021** will receive a book.

### **Office Hours**

Please note that the school office hours are **8:30 am to 3:15 pm** Monday to Friday. It is not always possible to get messages to children after **2:30 pm** unless because of an extreme emergency. If there is a change in your child's going home arrangements, please let the office know as soon as possible **before 2:30 pm**.

### **Excursions**

Over the course of the year there will be a variety of excursion opportunities provided if covid-19 restrictions permit. Please ensure that excursion notes and money are returned before the date requested on the note, otherwise students will be unable to attend unless prior arrangements have been made.

### **School Uniform**

Our school uniform consists of a unisex polo shirt, culottes and cargo shorts in navy, white socks, a navy school bucket hat and a school jacket. Black is the colour of shoes at our school. Black shoes should not be mixed with multi colours or be of a slip-on variety. We remind students that nail polish is not permitted and that jewellery should be minimal, stud type earrings can be worn. You can order school uniforms online through flexischools. Please contact the school office if you require further information.

### **Usage Agreement**

Each year we ask parents/carers to sign a Usage Agreement that contains permission forms for:-

Walking excursions

Child Protection lessons

Media coverage

Internet Usage

P&C Fundraising

Email

Facebook

Your support with your authority enables these programs to operate efficiently. The Usage Agreement will be provided next week and needs to be returned to your child's class teacher. All students are required to return a note.

**“Wayamadi” - Newsletter/Communication**

On every second Friday, our school newsletter, the “Wayamadi” is available for you to read. This is an excellent way of keeping up to date with what is happening within our school. You are also invited to visit our school website which has copies of the Wayamadi, school notes and other useful information. A form will be sent home next week asking you if you wish to receive the Wayamadi via email or a hard copy. Please indicate your preference.

Our school website is [www.niagarapk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.niagarapk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) You can also download the Niagara Park Public School app available for android and iPhone smart phones and you can find us on Facebook. The app and the school Facebook page will keep you up to date with events and activities.

**Parent/Student Information Note**

Shortly, parents will receive a note requesting up to date details concerning contact numbers, emails and medical information. We ask that you return this note to school immediately in order for us to keep our records current.

**Attendance**

2020 was a difficult year for many students with disruptions to learning, separation from friends and unfamiliar routines. This year, our focus will be on highlighting, promoting and encouraging the importance of good attendance to maximise learning time. At the end of 2020 the school's attendance policy was updated by the attendance committee to reflect this. Students will have an opportunity to record their own daily attendance and to receive superstar stickers for great attendance at the end of each term. Students will receive 1 sticker for 90% attendance and 2 stickers for 100% attendance each term, with a special rewards event at the end of the year for students who maintain 90% attendance or better for 3 of the 4 school terms. The draft policy will be presented to the P&C for ratification.

**Head Lice**

Head Lice are a concerning problem for all schools. Please check your child's hair regularly and if lice or lice eggs are detected, please treat your child's hair with appropriate treatments available from pharmacies. Household items such as linen, brushes etc also need to be treated.

**Swimming Carnival**

Our school Swimming Carnival will be held from **5:00 pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February** at Gosford Pool. A permission note has been sent home and students turning 8 years old to Year 6 are eligible to compete. Please indicate your child's year on the note, not their class and return them to Mrs Temple. No money is required as payment is paid upon entry to the pool on the evening. All heats are timed and ribbons will be presented to first, second and third in the event, not the heat. Covid-19 restrictions apply and these have been outlined in the permission note.

**High School Students On Our School Grounds**

In previous years we have had some issues with high school students arriving on our school grounds at the end of the day and causing problems for our students. As a result, we banned high school students entering our school as our students' safety and security is a priority. At present, the same covid-19 restrictions which apply to parents/carers also apply to high school students entering school grounds.

However, if in an emergency parents /carers wish for their high school child to drop off/collect his/her sibling, we ask that you request an “entry pass” by email to the school. High school students will be required to keep the pass with them when entering our school grounds.

**School Crossing Supervisors**

Please be aware that the crossing supervisors are at the top crossing (front of our school) and at the shopping centre crossing from 8:15 am to 9:15 am and from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please make sure that if your child is using the crossing, they must follow the supervisor's instructions, walk behind red lines on the footpath and that any balls are to be carried in a plastic bag or school bag and not be bounced to ensure students' and road users' safety. If you are walking your child to and from school you are also encouraged to utilise the school crossings wherever possible to model great road safety habits.

**Bus Travel**

We have 3 bus routes from our school each afternoon.

Red Bus 2059: line up at Library courtyard – Dean, Hanlan and Fountains Roads area

Blue Bus 2051: line up in K-2 area – Maliwa, Showground and Narara Creek Road area

Green Bus 2063: line up in K-2 area – Mangrove, Pinetop, Bentley and Alan Street area

Should your child require a bus pass please apply online at [transportnsw.info/school-students](https://transportnsw.info/school-students). Once approved the opal card will be sent to your address.

**Staff Car Park Danger**

We request that students and parents **not** use the staff car park to walk into and from school for obvious safety reasons. The carpark is particularly unsafe at present for pedestrian traffic whilst maintenance workers are on-site. We have locked the middle gate for this reason. Also, please do not walk through the car park near the scout hall, use the path provided.

**Sport Days**

We are finalising our sport days currently and will let you know ASAP.

**P&C Meeting**

Our first P&C meeting for the year will be held on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00 pm**. **We are hoping to hold this in the staffroom rather than via zoom, however covid-19 restrictions on numbers currently apply.**

**Holiday Work**

Over the break we had work completed on the Admin Block and D Block, with the roofing replaced on both. Unfortunately we suffered storm damage to our electronic sign, computer system and lift which are still in the process of being rectified. Thank you to Mr Curry for his assistance during this time.

We are all looking forward to a terrific 2021. When we all work together, we do great things for kids.

Have a great weekend

**Vicki Young**

**Principal (Relieving)**

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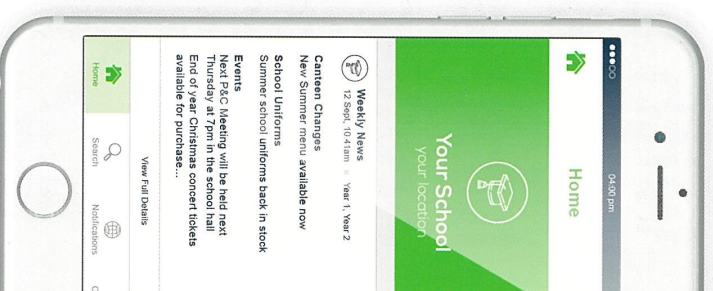
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Click the 'Order now' button located in the bottom right-hand corner of the app and select your student.
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