



What's Happening?

February

4th February – Preps start 9:30
(Preps – no Wednesdays)

7th February – Parent Club
9am in the Library –
new members
welcome

8th February – 3-6 Assembly
(fortnightly)

11th February – Family
Picnic/BBQ and
Home-Learning
information sessions

15th February – P-2 Assembly
(fortnightly)

28th February – Informal
Parent/teacher
Interviews

March

11th March – Labor Day Public
Holiday

New Bell Times:

8:55- School starts

9-11 – Session 1 and 2

11-11:30 – Recess

11:30 - Session 3

12:30 – Lunch inside

12:45 – Lunch

1:15 – Session 4

2:15 – Recess

2:30 – Session 5

3:30 - Home

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to an exciting school year! Emma and I have been walking through all the learning spaces and have been very impressed with how quickly all the students have settled into their new classrooms. It has been a pleasure watching your children make new friends, and reconnecting with old friends, too.

As you can tell, our school continues to grow at a rapid rate. We currently have 288 students. It is always such a pleasure to welcome new families into our school community, and what better way to do this than through our traditional 'Welcome BBQ and Picnic'. You would have all received a letter with a return slip. Please ensure you pass this slip back to your child's teacher by Wednesday 6th February. It will be a fantastic opportunity to get to know each other, and for you to spend some time getting to know your child's teacher.

There has been a lot of work during the holidays, and unfortunately we are still having further work completed in our school grounds. We thank you for your understanding and patience during this time. You will notice that there are diggers working in our back corner, behind the playground. They are currently working on improving our septic system for our toilets. We also have other work about to commence as we are receiving a new portable toilet block near our sports shed which will mean our portable 'treehouse' toilets will be taken away. The final work is being completed on the grade 3/4 portable where they are adding phone connections, the speaker system, and an internal bi-fold door to separate the two classrooms.

Welcome to new staff

As our school grows, so too do the number of teaching staff! We have eight new members of staff this year. If you see new faces, please make sure you introduce yourself and give them a Mickleham Community welcome. The website has had some updates. The current grade structure can be found there, along with a copy of our Parent Handbook 2019.

Attendance

At Mickleham Primary School attendance every day is an expectation. To encourage children to attend daily, there are a number of awards and rewards in place. Ask your child about these. They should be able to tell you about 'Golden pigs', 'Attendance of the Week' certificates, 'Hot Food Days', term certificates for 100%, and a free trip to the movies at the end of the year for students with 100% attendance.

Family holidays are not condoned to be taken during school term times. The Department of Education encourages parents to support their children's education by taking their family holidays during school holiday periods. Families will need to have a meeting with the Principal and classroom teacher to arrange work to be completed, to avoid missing elements of the curriculum, and attend a return to school meeting.



A day at the movies for 100% attendance

Congratulations to:

Michael keratianos, Matthew keratianos, Jorji Allison, Chloe Graham, Pelumi Abayomi, Kalani Tapungao and Oscar Blanc for attending school **EVERY DAY** in 2018. These students were taken to the movies in the last week of term 4 to celebrate their perfect attendance. Who will be coming in 2019?

Compass 2019

A reminder that we are now using Compass as our Parent Portal and information sharing app.



Thank you to all families who have already registered and are now using the app to notify of changes to information and student absences. All feedback suggests it is working well and parents appear very happy with the information/services it provides.

If you have not yet registered, it is extremely important that you do so as a matter of urgency. This will be the last newsletter that goes home as a hard copy and as of now all information will be sent home via the Compass portal.

As part of our Compass subscription, we now have a device similar to an iPad at the front office, where parents must report their children as late or sign them out early. In these instances, please make sure you come into the office to get a late or early departure pass. This must always be done prior to going to classrooms to drop off or pick up your children.

Parking

Please can all parents ensure that they are parking at the north end of the school in the mornings. The cones are used to separate the parents who are doing a 'kiss and drop' outside the front of the school, and the left lane is for those parent looking at parking to walk their child to their classroom. I ask all Mickleham Parents to be patient and respectful to each other in the mornings and after school, as per our school values. It does take some time to get used to the parking routine.

Parent Helper Sessions

If you are interested in helping in classrooms this year, there are a number of steps we have to take. Firstly, please can you get a Working with Children check. Then, Emma Fuller, the Assistant Principal, will be conducting a volunteer induction, and an information session later on this month. Please can you let Emma Fuller know before the 20th February if you are interested in becoming a classroom helper. If you need some help to organise your Working with Children check, please do not hesitate to see Emma.

Assembly

Due to the increase in population at Mickleham Primary School, we have decided to operate assemblies on a fortnightly rotation. Assembly will be held in the 'Rubber Area' behind the staffroom at 3pm, starting with grades 3-6 Friday 8th February. P-2 will have their first assembly on the 15th February. Parents and family are welcome to attend these events.

Parent Club

The first meeting for Parents Club is in the Library this Thursday 7th February. All parents are welcome. This is a fantastic opportunity to become involved in supporting our school.

Enjoy the start to the school year.

Sue Crispe - *Principal*