



# Parkes Public Panorama

Term 1, Week 3 Tuesday 11 February 2025

## Mrs O'Neill's Message



Welcome to the 2025 school year. We've had a wonderful start to the new school year.

I would like to welcome a new staff member to Parkes Public School. Tamara Wade has joined the Stage 3 team and is teaching the 5/6 class. I would like to welcome back to our school Liz Barry and Tracey Drummond. Miss Barry is teaching a 3-6 support class and Mrs Drummond joins Mrs Elliott on the Bump It Up program and teaches 3MD on Fridays.

Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) are holding a Parent Information session at 4.45pm this afternoon in 3MD's classroom. This room is downstairs in the double storey building on the Primary side. This is an opportunity for parents of children in Years 3 and 4 to hear what the teachers have planned for the year and to ask any questions they may have regarding school.

The P&C Welcome BBQ is taking place this afternoon. It starts at 5.00pm and finishes at 6.30. This is always a lovely event for our school community and we are looking forward to seeing you there. The P&C will hold their AGM next Monday 17 February in the library at 6.30pm.

Our annual swimming carnival (for Year 2 students who turn 8 this year and for Years 3 to 6 students) will be held tomorrow, Wednesday 12 February. Details about the day have already been shared with families. If you would like any details clarified, please give the school a call as soon as possible. Families are welcome to come along and cheer for the children and the houses.

Have a wonderful week, Coral O'Neill



### Current PBL Focus

**We are respectful when we follow staff instructions**



### Swimming Carnival

Our annual swimming carnival is happening tomorrow 12 February. All year 3-6 students are expected to attend and will require an absence note from their parents if they are away.

Year 2 students who are turning 8 this year and can confidently swim 50m will be attending. Students can be dropped off at the pool from 8.30am. We are expecting the carnival to be completed by 2.40pm. If we finish earlier than 2.40pm we will put something up on Facebook. Students who are not collected by parents will be transported back to school by bus in time for their usual home time routine.

Students are encouraged to wear their sporting house colours.



#### MISSION STATEMENT

Quality education for all



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#### P&C ASSOCIATION

**President**  
Mr Nathaniel Dixon:  
0432 174 171

**Secretary**  
Ms Kristie Murray:  
0412 216 398

**Treasurer**  
Mrs Kristen Jarvis:  
0427 928 214

# For Your Information



## Welcome to Kindergarten 2025

We are pleased to welcome the following kindergarten students to our school:

George, Spencer, Shailee, Eden, Levi, Luella, Xavier, Molly, Amari Jash, Kevin, Jye, Candence, Ruby, Kingston, Kurtis, Rylee, Luna, Freya, Austen, Alfie, Nate, Eli, Savannah, Izaac, Ava, Elly, Sunny, Brady, Jack, Jace, Elijah, Archie, Indy, Lucas, Danny, Amelie, Tobias, Alaiah, Riley, Amarah, Tatianna, Thomas, Connor, Stella, Walter, Miller, Robyn, Alaynah, Lacey, Kolton, Louie, Hallie Maddison, Charli, Addilyn, Emmanuel, Ryder, Mason, Charlotte, Harper, Ellis, Mathew, Eloise and Zahli.

## Welcome to our new students in Years 1-6

We have had a number of new students join our school this year.

We are happy to welcome:

Hayley, Gabriel, Gian and Eli.

We hope you are very happy at Parkes Public School.

## Kindergarten Literacy Information Meeting

On Thursday 13 February, the Kindergarten teachers will be running a literacy session for parents. This meeting will address all aspects of Jolly Phonics and what you need to know to help your child complete their homework.

The meeting will be held in the KW Kindergarten room at 3.00pm for 3.15pm start.

Childcare will be available in the Year 1 and 2 classrooms. This meeting should last no longer than 40 minutes.

Students who are not exposed to the continuous Jolly Phonics program do not experience as much success in reading and literacy. It is extremely important that parents try and attend this meeting to understand the program and how you can support your child at home.

It will also be a fantastic opportunity for parents to ask any questions and meet other families.



# Student of the Week

**Name:** Hayden Griffith

**Age:** 12

**Class:** 6W

**Teacher:** Mrs Woolstencroft

**Teacher Comment:** Hayden is a kind and caring student. He goes out of his way to ensure the people around him are happy and included. Hayden tries his best in all he does at school.

**Favourite Activities:** Running and spending time with family and friends.

**What career interests you?** I want to help people.



**Congratulations to the following students who gained a:**

**White Merit Certificate**

Amarlei Hodder 2G

**Badge**

Emily Griffiths 4-6D

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 11 February ..... P&C Welcome BBQ

Wednesday 12 February ..... 3-6 Swimming Carnival

Thursday 13 February ..... Kindergarten Literacy Information session

Monday 17 February ..... P&C Meeting



**Save the Date**  
**School Photos**

Thursday 13 March



## Medical Information

If your child has a medical condition please ensure you contact the office so our staff can provide appropriate care. There are forms we need you to fill out so we can ensure the care provided meets your child's needs. We need to be aware of conditions such as; asthma, allergies including anaphylaxis, or any other condition which may require additional support at school. If your child has an Asthma Action Plan, ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions or ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis please bring a copy into the office and fill out the relevant paperwork as soon as possible.

## Mobile phones and smart watches at school

Students are not able to have phones at school. If they require them before and after school, the phones are to be dropped in at the office before school and picked up after school. Some students also have smart watches. If these are used to make phone calls or to text during the day, the student will need to follow the mobile phone procedure and leave their watch at the office.

## Food at School

Please be aware we may have students with food allergies within our school. Please do not send any foods containing nuts or nut products with your child.

## Volunteers

We appreciate parents and carers coming to school to help with various activities throughout the year. If you are volunteering at our school, including in the canteen, we have procedures outlined by the Department of Education that we need to follow. This process includes completing a digital declaration form and providing identification (usually just a drivers licence). This declaration needs to be completed by any new volunteers, as well as returning volunteers.

This process needs to be followed for the following;

- Assisting in classrooms
- Driving other students to events
- Assisting on excursions
- Assisting with sports, such as coaching or assisting at swimming carnivals, athletics carnivals etc
- Any person who is involved in any contact with students

## NRMA Kindergarten Bus Safety Presentation

As part of the Personal Development/Health Syllabus, the kindergarten students will take part in an NRMA Bus Safety Presentation at school on Thursday, 27 February. Part of this presentation involves students getting onto a bus and travelling along Clarinda Street, then coming back to school. This trip is scheduled to last approximately 10 minutes. Students will not get off the bus while they are away from the school. The buses are equipped with seatbelts and students will wear them while on the bus.

This excursion is very kindly organised for us by the NRMA in association with Parkes Police.

A permission note is being sent home today. Please fill it in and return it to your child's teacher by Monday 24 February.



## Breakfast Club 2025

The breakfast program will continue during 2025. We will require a permission note if you wish your child/children to participate.

This program provides breakfast for children who are identified to be in genuine need of this support due to family circumstances and hardship, or for children who live out of town and need to catch early buses to school.

The breakfast program runs daily between 8.35am and 9.00am from the K-2 school canteen for Years K-2 students, and the Primary canteen for Years 3-6 students.

This year, the food being supplied will be: Toast with margarine, Vegemite or jam.

If you wish your child/children to attend, please ask your child's teacher for a note, or students can collect one from breakfast club at the canteens.

Please fill out the form and return it to the staff at Breakfast Club and provide the reason your child needs breakfast at school.



NSW Department of Education

## Aurora College — applications now open

Online selective high school and opportunity classes for students in rural and remote locations

### Aurora College

The department's [Aurora College](#) provides online selective high school and opportunity classes for rural and remote students.

Students attend their local 'host' NSW public high school or primary school and join Aurora College's online classes for maths and science. In high school, this also includes their English classes.

Learn more and apply at:

[Selective high schools](#)

[Opportunity classes](#)

Apply now if your child is in:

- **Year 4** for entry into online **opportunity classes in 2026**

Or

- **Year 6** for entry into online **selective high school classes in 2026**.

Visit: [education.nsw.gov.au/shs-oc](https://education.nsw.gov.au/shs-oc)

Hurry, applications close on **21 February 2025**.



NSW Department of Education

# Applying for my child to attend an opportunity class or selective high school

## Why selective education?

Grouping high potential and gifted students together and using special teaching methods supports their:

- academic development
- emotional wellbeing
- friendships and social life.

Students tell us that they enjoy learning more when their classmates have similar abilities and interests.

## Is it right for my child?

Here are some signs that your child may benefit from selective education.



learns quickly and easily



goal-driven



asks complex questions



good memory



curious and creative



deeply explores passions

Keep in mind, some children's high potential may be hidden. Being in an opportunity class or selective high school could help.

# How can I support my child through the application process?



Talk to your child about the **benefits** and **challenges** of selective education and address their questions and concerns.



Ask your **child's teacher** (or other staff who know them well) whether they think selective education will suit your child.



Apply for any required **reasonable adjustments** for disability or medical conditions.



Encourage your child to use the department's **free resources** to prepare for the test.



Remind your child they only need to do a **small amount of preparation** for the placement test, and **don't** need coaching.



Support your child to continue **co-curricular activities**, see friends, eat healthily and sleep well in the lead-up to the test.

The **Equity Placement Model** reserves up to **20% of places** in opportunity classes and selective high schools for high potential and gifted:

- students from low socio-educational advantage backgrounds
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students
- students from rural and remote locations
- students with disability

Learn more: [edu.nsw.link/equity](https://edu.nsw.link/equity)

Resources in other languages:  
[edu.nsw.link/shsoc\\_languages](https://edu.nsw.link/shsoc_languages)



## Financial support

[edu.nsw.link/pubedu](https://edu.nsw.link/pubedu)

The [Public Education Foundation scholarships](#) offer financial support to help young people at NSW public schools to access opportunities and reach their potential.

*Please note there are no fees to apply and sit for the placement test, and there are no extra fees to enrol in a selective high school or opportunity class.*

## Get ready to apply

Learn more at our [website](#):



## Telephone interpreter service

If you need interpreter assistance to speak with your child's class teacher please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator the phone number you want to call and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.



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## ENROL NOW FOR 2025



Learn to play GUITAR



Learn to SING



Learn to play DRUM KIT