

Schooltalk 2013

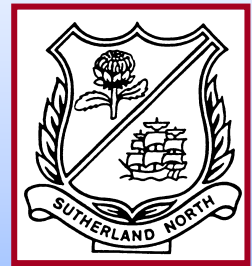
SUTHERLAND NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL E-Bulletin

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Term 1 - Week 2

Wednesday 6 February 2013

Principal's Message

- ✚ **You're invited to Meet the Teachers** – Parents are invited to attend a Meet the Teachers' function being held on Wednesday 20 February from 6.30–7.30pm in the Library. This is a great opportunity to chat to the teachers in an informal setting. All parents are invited to attend and then remain for the P&C meeting. We are hoping to increase parental involvement in P&C and other school activities this year. Nibbles & drinks will be provided by the P&C. Please note that this function is for adults only.

Classes 2013

This year we have an enrolment of 238 children which has enabled us to form 10 classes (see below). All children were organised into their 2013 classes last Friday and I'm pleased to report they have settled in extremely well. A great deal of time, planning & thought went into the formation of classes and many factors were taken into consideration including social and academic needs. We find that the children settle quickly into their new classes when parents are positive about the changes that occur at the start of the school year.

KK – Mrs Kinred, KP – Miss Lauren Field, 1DG – Mrs Dugan & Mrs Greaves, 1M – Mrs Moseley, Yr 2 – Mrs Whicker, 2/3 Mrs Buckle & Mrs Dargaville, 3/4 – Mrs Toh, 4/5 – Mrs Soames, Yr 5 – Mr Warwick, Yr 6 – Mr Shields.

Composite Classes

This week I have had several conversations with parents about why the school has **composite classes** and how we decide which children go into these classes. These are classes that have children from more than one year group in them, e.g. 2/3, 3/4 or 4/5. In any school there will always be a need to form composite classes. Most composite classes are formed because of the student numbers in each year group and the fact that the Department of Education and Communities allocates staffing to schools based on the recommended student numbers in each class in the grade. Unfortunately, the numbers of students per grade never neatly matches the number of classes and so students from different year groups have to be combined in a composite class.

The really important things to remember about these or any classes are:

- ✚ The quality, experience, personality and efficiency of the class teacher are the **most important factors in how a student performs**, not the structure of the class. It is the teacher's responsibility to assess the needs of each student, plan and implement programs based on the appropriate syllabus outcomes and review student progress constantly. I am very confident that all our teachers, particularly those on the composite classes do this particularly well, setting high expectations and planning well so that the progress of the students in the class will be at the appropriate academic level.
- ✚ The teachers on each grade/stage meet together regularly to review the progress of children in each class in the stage. They plan together from the syllabus documents for that stage and decide common assessment strategies to be sure that every child is doing work from that stage at the right level for them.
- ✚ Regular discussion and communication between teachers and parents about any classroom issue is a key part of ensuring success. Your attendance at the Parent Teacher Information sessions in Week 5 will be an important part of the communication in Term 1.

Road Safety

For the safety of all our children, please drive and park safely, observing all traffic rules and signs. This message is especially important when dropping off and picking up children at school each day. It is also important to respect the rights of nearby residents. Avoid parking on corners and across driveways as it is dangerous and causes inconvenience to others. Please see the attached information from Sutherland Shire Council.

Parent Information Meetings

Parent Information Meetings will be held during Week 5 from Monday 25 – Thursday 28 February. The meetings give teachers the opportunity to speak to you about general class organisation, requirements, teaching programs and plans for the year. The meetings will be held during the school day and then repeated after school on Tuesday 26 February from 5.00 – 5.30pm. A note will be sent home outlining the specific meeting time for each class. Please remember that the meetings are only for parents. We cannot provide child-minding and children are not to be left unattended in the school playground. Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held in Week 11 Term 1 to give both teachers and parents the opportunity to identify and discuss any issues regarding a child's progress or educational program early in the year.

Permission to Publish

At school there are often occasions when children (eg. classes, teams, dance groups etc) are photographed. These photos and videos may be used for a wide range of purposes including classroom displays, website information, school newsletters, promotional school flyers, Annual School Reports etc. The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) policy for child protection is that photographs displayed on school websites should not be labelled with the children's names. We would like all students to have parental permission for photos and videos to be taken and used for the purposes described above. The decision is up to parents and carers. **All children have received a permission note and I would ask that every student return this note, whether permission is given or not.** This permission must be sought and renewed annually.

'Safe People, Safe Places'

Parents are encouraged to teach their children the following 'Safe People, Safe Places' messages:

- Make sure your parents, or another adult you know, knows where you are at all times.
- Walk to and from school in pairs or groups if possible.
- Always walk straight home or to the place you are walking to.
- Know where safe places are – a shop, service station, police station, library or school. If you are ever frightened, you should go to one of these places and ask them to call the police.
- Learn about safe adults you can look for and talk to, if you need help – police officers, teachers at school, adults you know and trust.
- Don't talk to people you don't know and never get into a car with someone you don't know. If a car stops on the side of the road and you don't know the person inside, do not stop.
- If you are scared and can use a phone, call 000 and tell them you are scared.

Library Borrowing

Book borrowing will not start for the next few weeks while the Year 2 class is using the Library as a classroom. This would be a fantastic opportunity for families to join and visit the Sutherland Shire library.

Canteen Volunteers Urgently Needed

Please consider volunteering to assist in the Canteen in 2013. Please complete the form below and return it to the office as soon as possible. **The Canteen will remain closed until there are sufficient volunteers to complete the roster.**

Leanne Noon - Principal

Repeat Items**Parents & Citizens' Association (P&C) Meeting**

On Wednesday 20 February we will be holding the first P&C meeting for the year starting at 7.30pm in the Library. The meeting includes the Annual General Meeting where the 2013 Executive Committee of the P&C is elected. The P&C is an important school group that gives parents a voice in the business of the school. We would like to extend a special invitation to our new Kindergarten parents. I am looking forward to meeting many new parents at the P&C meeting.

Student Resource Fee 2013

The student resource fee covers the cost of materials supplied to the children to support the teaching and learning program. As there are no textbooks a cost for printing student workbooks has been included. The School Contribution will remain unchanged in 2013. The cost is \$50 - 1 child, \$70 - 2 children & \$80 - 3 or more children and includes the \$2 P&C contribution. It would be greatly appreciated if the School Contribution was paid with the Student Resource Fee by **Friday 1 March.**

Band & Ukulele 2013

A note was sent home today with all children in Years 2 – 6 (band) and Years 3 – 6 (ukulele) asking parents to indicate if they would like their child to join or continue with the band or ukulele group this year. Please return the reply slip with payment as soon as possible so that I can confirm with the tutors that we have sufficient numbers to continue in 2013.

Lessons commence on Monday 11 February.

Swimming Carnival

The Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 19 February at Sans Souci Pool commencing at 9.30am. All children in Years 3 – 6 and 8 year olds in Year 2 who can **competently** swim 50m will be attending. Please see your child's class teacher for a note if your child is in Year 2 and should be attending the carnival. I hope parents can attend to support the children. A separate information note has been sent home. The permission note with an indication of your child's swimming ability and money must be returned to your child's class teacher by Friday 15 February. **Children who do not return a completed & signed permission note will not attend the carnival.**

Anaphylaxis Reminder

If your child is diagnosed at risk of a severe allergic reaction, particularly anaphylaxis, the Anaphylaxis Procedures contain information for schools and parents designed to minimise the risk to students. If your child has an allergy it is important to let us know – see Action steps for parents.

Find out more: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studenthealth/conditions/anaphylaxis/index.php>

All families are asked to assist the children in our school who are anaphylactic. **This is potentially a life threatening condition.** I ask your cooperation in not sending any of the following foods for your own children, whilst they are at school: **Peanuts and or peanut butter, other nuts (including cashews, hazelnuts, walnuts, pistachios, macadamia, Brazil nuts & Nutella) and muesli bars containing nuts.** Thank you for your support.

Birthday Cakes

To celebrate a child's birthday parents sometimes bring cakes to school. Please speak to your child's class teacher to check if it is convenient **before** you bring cake to school. **Only cupcakes or large slab cakes (eg. Sara Lee) pre-cut into pieces will be accepted.** Please provide serviettes. All cakes must be nut free. Please do not send in lolly or party bags as we are not able to distribute them. Please speak to your child's class teacher if your child is anaphylactic to make arrangements for a suitable treat or cake to be available.

What's on at Sutherland North?

What's on at Sutherland North?	
Term 1 - 2013	Event
Monday 11 February	Band & ukulele lessons start
Friday 15 February	PSSA starts
Tuesday 19 February	School Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 20 February	Meet the Teachers 6.30pm, P&C Meeting 7.30pm
Mon 25 - Thur 28 February	Parent Information Sessions
Thursday 14 March	Selective High School Test
Wednesday 20 March	P&C Meeting 7.30pm
Thursday 28 March	Easter Hat Parade
Friday 29 Mar – Mon 1 Apr	Easter
Mon 8 – Thur 11 April	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Friday 12 April	Last day Term 1

Subscribe to our school newsletter – Visit the Website
 Schooltalk is published every Wednesday on the school website at
www.sutherland-n-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Student Welfare Policy – Behaviour

All students at Sutherland North Public School are expected to:

- ✚ attend every school day and be in class on time and prepared to learn.
- ✚ behave safely and responsibly at all times.
- ✚ show respect at all times for their peers, teachers and other school staff, including following class rules, speaking courteously and cooperating with instructions and learning activities;
- ✚ care for property belonging to themselves, the school and others.

Students are placed on discipline levels as a consequence of inappropriate behaviour in the classroom, playground or during any school activity. They are placed on levels through the classroom behaviour management system or by referral to the Assistant Principal or Principal.

Level	Behaviour	Action/Consequences
LEVEL 1 Behaviour Notification	<u>The student:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> repeatedly displays inappropriate behaviour and has their name recorded in the class behaviour book three times. is involved in behaviours such as fighting, hurting others, stealing or any other behaviour deemed serious. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The classroom teacher completes a behaviour notification which is then signed by an Executive and sent home to be signed by the student's parent. The student spends 1 lunchtime completing <i>School Service</i>. The classroom teacher will contact the student's parents to discuss the behaviour. A behaviour contract is put in place if necessary.
LEVEL 2 Green Card Referred to the Assistant Principal	<u>The student:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> repeatedly displays inappropriate behaviour or has had 3 behaviour notifications sent home. is referred to the <u>Assistant Principal</u> for being involved in behaviours such as fighting, hurting others, stealing, vandalism, arguing with staff, serious bullying, inappropriate language or any other behaviour deemed serious. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student completes 1 day <i>School Service</i> followed by 4 days in lunch time <i>Passive Play</i>. The student's parents are contacted by the Assistant Principal to discuss the behaviour and a notification is sent home. A behaviour contract (Green Card) is put in place for 1 week with possibility of extension – monitored by AP.
LEVEL 3 Red Card Referred to the Principal	<u>The student:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> persists with inappropriate behaviour while on Level 2; is referred to the <u>Assistant Principal or Principal</u> for being involved in behaviours such as fighting, hurting others, stealing, vandalism, arguing with staff, serious bullying, inappropriate language or any other behaviour deemed very serious. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student completes 5 days <i>School Service</i> followed by 5 days in lunch time <i>Passive Play</i>. An interview with the student's parents is held and a <u>Formal Caution letter</u> is issued. A behaviour contract (Red Card) is put in place for 1 week, followed by a Green Card for 1 week. The student will not participate in PSSA sport or attend excursions. The student is not eligible for any awards. The student will remain on Level 3 for 1 week and Level 2 for 1 week providing there is no further misbehaviour. A referral to the Learning Support Team will be made for the student.
SUSPENSION Referred to the Principal	<u>The student:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> displays serious inappropriate behaviours as outlined in the DEC Suspension and Expulsion of Students Policy. 	<p>The student will be suspended at the discretion of the Principal and in accordance with the DEC policy:</p> <p>https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_serv/discipline/stu_discip_gov/PD20060316.shtml</p>

Canteen News

Please consider volunteering to assist in the Canteen in 2013. The canteen successfully ran at a profit in 2012 even with a small number of volunteers. Please complete the form below and return it to the office as soon as possible. Even one day per term helps to fill the roster. **The Canteen will remain closed until there are sufficient volunteers to complete the roster.** Thank you to the parents who continue to volunteer their time. At this stage we have only a few volunteers. The children really enjoy being able to go "shopping" at the Canteen particularly in Term 1 when they like an ice block on the hot days. Please ask other school mums, dads & grandparents to help out.

Thank you

Canteen Committee

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CANTEEN VOLUNTEER FORM 2013

Your Name:				
Child's Name:				Class:
Phone:	Mobile:			
<u>Names of people I would like to be rostered on with:</u>				
<u>Please circle the days that you can help - list any dates that you are NOT available</u>				
<u>Monday</u> 10.30am-2pm	<u>Tuesday</u> 1pm-2pm	<u>Wednesday</u> 10.30am-2pm	<u>Thursday</u> 1pm-2pm	<u>Friday</u> 10.30am-2pm
<u>Comments:</u>				



Players needed for our

Under 8's & 9's teams.

***Free registration for all new players including jumper, shorts
and socks.***

Register at Sutherland Oval, Grand Pde Sutherland

10th & 17th February 10am - 2pm

For more info call Mark 0407 709 161 or visit

www.sutherlandloftusjrlfc.com

Starting Kindergarten at Sutherland North is fun!





Take care when going to and from school

Welcome back to the new school year! Sutherland Shire Council Parking Officers will be out at all Schools this year helping you to ensure that all children get to and from school safely.

Dropping off or picking up your children

Schools are areas where there is a lot of interaction between cars and pedestrians; your children. Children are small, hard to see, behave unpredictably, and are extremely vulnerable. Their lack of road experience means it is difficult for them to judge dangerous situations. Boys are twice as likely to be involved in pedestrian accidents as girls and children 10-14 years have the highest rate of child pedestrian casualties (RMS).

Have a plan

Plan with your son or daughter how you will collect them. When and where you will be after school? Where should they wait? Make sure they know not to try and get into your vehicle while it is still in traffic, even if you are stopped, they should wait until you have parked at the side of the road.

Plan to arrive AFTER the school bell goes in the afternoon, so your children are ready and waiting for you and you are not blocking traffic.

Parking offences in school zones carry heavier fines and loss of demerit points. Sutherland Shire Council makes no apologies for fining drivers who break the law around schools and in school zones.

No Parking Zones

A *No Parking* zone is a pick up and drop off area, you can stop here for a maximum of two minutes to drop off or pick up passengers and must remain within three metres of the vehicle. When parents park in a *No Parking* zone for longer than two minutes they prevent other parents from stopping to drop off or pick up their children, creating frustration and dangerous situations.

If you block the drop off and pickup areas, you risk a fine.

Some signs you will see around your School

You can find out more about the Australian Road Rules and other road safety information on the RMS website www.rms.nsw.gov.au

Bus Zone



What does it mean?

You must not stop or park in a bus zone unless you are driving a bus.

Why is it there?

To provide a safe place for large buses to set down and pick up. Cars parking in bus zones put lives at risk by forcing buses out of "their" safety zone.



No Stopping

What does it mean?

You cannot stop in this area FOR ANY REASON.

Why is it there?

To keep sight lines clear for drivers AND children so both have more time to avoid crashes.



No Parking

What does it mean?

You can stop in a NO PARKING zone for a maximum of two minutes to drop off and pick up passengers.

You must stay within three metres of your vehicle at all times.

Why is it there?

To provide a safe place for older children to be set down and picked up without endangering other children.

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - Australia's No 1 parenting educator

Getting kids to school ON TIME!

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

"Come on Jack! Get a move on. School starts in ten minutes and you're not even dressed yet!"

If this scenario sounds familiar then you are not alone. Anecdotal evidence suggests that getting children to school or pre school on time can be one of the most difficult tasks for parents.

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do precious minutes are lost. A child who is fifteen minutes late to school each day misses one week of school every year.

How can you get your dawdling kids out the door without yelling yourself hoarse? Here are a few techniques and ideas for you to try to get your punctually-challenged children to school on time:

✓ **Establish a morning routine.**

Make sure your children know what is expected of them in the morning, and also what you will do. Resist nagging but be willing to take them to school even if they haven't fully prepared for the day.



✓ **Identify and remove distractions such as television.**

If the children are regular watchers before school change the routine and keep the TV off. It should only be turned on when children are completely ready for school.

✓ **Teach some of the basics of time management.**

The average adult underestimates by about 25 per cent the time it takes to do various jobs. Make sure you have realistic time estimates and stop packing so much into the time you allocate. Encourage older children to estimate how long it takes to do activities such as getting ready in the morning. Then they can measure the time taken to do these tasks and compare their estimates with real time.

✓ **Arrive at school ten minutes early.**

Plan to arrive at school early rather than be there on time. This idea works well for perpetual latecomers, whether young or old.

✓ **Model a good routine.**

Its pointless expecting children to be organised in the morning if you are in a muddle yourself. Set a good example by being as methodical as possible and avoid sleeping in unless your children are so organised that they get you breakfast in bed. And pigs might fly as well!

Published by Michael Grose

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For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au

