



Norths' News



A Community with Expectations of Achievement and Success
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday	15 February 2019	Life Skills Lessons Begin
Friday	15 February 2019	Meet the Teacher Breakfast 8am-9am
Thursday	22 February 2019	K-2 Assembly 2pm-2.45pm
Wednesday	13 March 2019	School Photographs

School Phone Number 9623 1443 Fax Number 9833 1283 Office Hours 8:30am – 3:30pm
Email: stmarysnth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au Website: www.stmarysnorth-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

11 February 2019

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to the new school year at Norths. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday break with your family and made some special memories that your children can hold on to for years to come. A very warm welcome to our new students and their families. We know you will love St Marys North as much as we do.

We are ready to have a great year!



Our students quickly settled into their new classes this week and learning is well under way. A special mention must be made about our new kindergarten students. I am so impressed with the way they have all transitioned to school, their smiles simply light up their rooms!

NEW STAFF

This year we have welcomed back some familiar faces to our teaching staff. Miss Samantha Williams has returned from maternity leave and will be working with Mrs Melissa Shields on 2 Jade. We are also very excited to welcome back Mrs Jacinta Jackson, Mrs Jennifer Coffee and Mrs Tiffany Kowalczyk. We welcome Mrs Kristy Gray as a new member of staff. Mrs Gray comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience and will be joining our learning and support team.

YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

This year our classes are named after gemstones. Our teachers very excitedly welcomed their new little 'gems' on Monday. Your child's teacher is your first point of contact should you have a concern or enquiry, please contact them to arrange a time to meet if required. Generally, teachers are involved with classroom preparation at the beginning of each day so please try to avoid 'catching a teacher' prior to class in the morning as they will find it difficult to give you the time that you may require. All staff can be contacted to arrange an appointment via a note, a phone call to the office or at the classroom in the afternoon.

ATTENDANCE

The *Education Act 1990* requires you to ensure your child attends school each day that instruction is provided unless they are prevented from doing so by sickness or another acceptable reason and for you to provide an explanation for any absence. You are required to explain your child's absences within 7 days. Failure to do so will result in an unjustified absence being recorded. Attached to this newsletter you will find slips that can be used to notify the school of your child's absence and the reason.



The school day starts promptly at 9.00am each day. Last year, we saw an improvement in our whole school attendance rates. The introduction of the weekly attendance class trophy was enthusiastically welcomed by our students. We do, however, still have an increasing number of students who are continually arriving to school late or leaving early. Our focus this year will be to improve on our whole day attendance with students arriving at school on time and staying for the entire day. Arriving late to school impacts greatly on students academically and socially. Students who are late to class miss vital instruction that forms a part of morning routines and lessons. It can also be uncomfortable for a student to walk into class late as their classmates will be engaged in learning and they will need to interrupt the lesson to receive individual instructions. We are hopeful that 2019 will see all students arriving to school prior to 9.00am ready to start the school day on time and not leaving early. We thank you for your assistance in advance.

BOOK PACKS

All students are required to have a book pack purchased for them. The book pack contains all of the necessary stationary items and books that will be required for learning throughout 2019. Notes were sent home this week. Students require their book packs as soon as possible so that they have work books to record their learning in.

KEEP US UP TO DATE

At times, we find that our student contact records are out of date. This becomes a problem should we need to contact you about your child. If you have changed your phone number or address, please let us know as soon as possible.

At this time of the year it is also timely to ensure we have current student health care plans. It is vital that we are well informed about our students' health needs to ensure we provide a safe place for them at school. If you wish to check your child's information, please contact the front office. Some parents may be requested to provide up dated information from a doctor.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

We highly value parent participation and involvement in our school. The school P&C provides a wonderful opportunity for parents to become involved and I encourage all new and existing parents to make the time to join. It would be lovely to see many new faces join us. Another way to participate is to offer some time to assist in the canteen. Our school canteen is run by volunteers and without your support we find it difficult to have the canteen open and available to our students. If you think you may be able to spare some time, please let us know at the front office.



GATE TIMES

A reminder our gates open at 8.30am in the morning. Please ensure your child is not at school before this time as they will not have access to the playground. The gates on Debrincat Ave close at 9.15am and the Willow Rd gates shut at 9.30am. To gain entry to the school after this time you are required to buzz at the Willow Rd gate and the office staff will assist you. All gates open at 2.50pm in the afternoon.

A reminder that smoking on school grounds is strictly prohibited. There is also a 4-metre exclusion zone from the entrance gates. Please be mindful of the health of our students and community members and refrain from smoking near our school.

UNIFORM

Our students are very proud of their school uniforms. A uniform helps children identify as belonging to our wonderful school. Last year the P&C aided in the distribution of uniforms that were never claimed from Lost Property and from donations that were made by families when their children out grew their uniforms. Each morning a clothing rack is put outside the front office with pre-loved clothing. Please feel free to take a look for anything your child may need. Donations of uniforms are very much appreciated.

HEALTHY SKILLS FOR LIFE

Our students will again this year be provided with lessons from the Life Skills Group. During the sessions students build awareness of their physical, social, and emotional health and wellbeing and are equipped with skills to deal with the upcoming challenges of growing up. Increased self-esteem, self-image, resilience and confidence are some of the skills that are taught through mindfulness activities. This term, years 4, 5 and 6 will have weekly lessons each Friday. It is beneficial if your child is dressed in appropriate clothing for these lessons, dresses can be a little difficult to do yoga poses in!

MEET THE TEACHER BREAKFAST

This week, Friday 15 February, we will hold our 'Meet the Teacher Breakfast'. The breakfast will be held in the hall and will begin at 8.15am concluding at 8.55am. The event has become one of our favourite community events that occur each year. It provides families with the opportunity to casually meet with their child/ children's teachers. Please note that this is not the appropriate setting to have a detailed conversation about your child. Should you wish to discuss your child and their learning, please make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher separately. We would love to see as many families, old and new, join with us to say hello. All are welcome.



I look forward to another exciting year. St Marys North PS is a vibrant learning community where we work together to ensure our students grow into well informed and respectful young people. We have so many wonderful things to look forward to, let the learning begin!

*'The capacity to learn is a **gift**; the ability to learn is a **skill**; the willingness to learn is a **choice**.'* – Brian Herbert

Mrs Parrello

Principal

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE.

We would like to welcome back our students, including our new enrolments, Kindergarten students and families for 2019. We hope you all had a wonderful school break and have returned feeling ready and refreshed to start the new year.

As you may be aware, online payments are available for any school activity and purchasing of school uniforms to make your life just that little bit easier through our school website. This is a great way to make payments if you are concerned about your child carrying money to school or just those moments where things slip our mind.

Unfortunately, any payments that are for the P&C cannot be paid online through our website. All P&C money needs to be handed into the office unless otherwise stated on a note that may go home.

Steps for online payment:

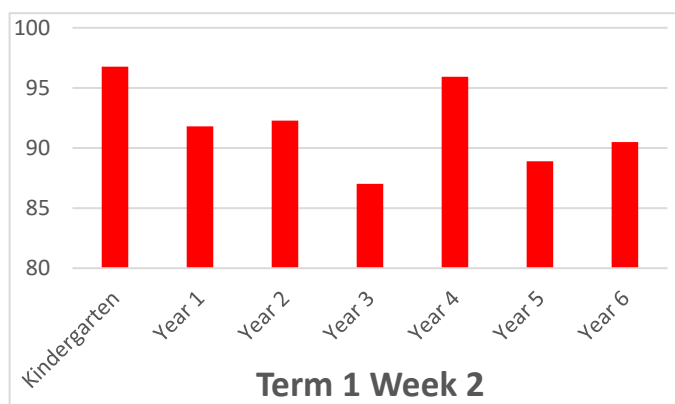
1. Go to the school website www.stmarysnth-p.schools.nsw.gov.au
2. Click on **Make A Payment** at the top of the school page
3. Fill in Student details. The student registration number and reference number is not necessary as they are not mandatory.
4. Fill in the payers Contact details
5. Please select what the payment is for, description and the amount.
6. It will ask for your card details.

If you are having trouble at all with the online payments, please do not hesitate to call us here in the office and we will help you as best we can. We are in the process of making 'Online Payment Quick Reference Guide' cards that will have a magnet strip for you to place on the fridge so that you can have quick access to it. Once they have been completed we will be sending them home with our students.

Mrs Sandie Homfray
School Administrative Manager

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – TERM 4

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	91.66	91.79								



Congratulations to the following class for having the highest attendance rates over the last 2 weeks and for meeting our school target.

Week 2 – 3/4 Sunstone 99.1%

STAFF LIST 2019

ADMINISTRATION:

Mrs Lisa Parrello	Principal	Mrs Sandie Homfray	School Admin Manager
Mrs Joanne Coleman	School Admin Officer	Mrs Lyndal Lapin	School Admin Officer
Mrs Jackie Greenow Tue & Thur	Community Liaison Officer	Mr Geoffrey Tanswell	General Assistant Wed - Fri
Miss Maryanne Wallace	Aboriginal Education Officer	Mr Mike Jackson	General Assistant Tuesday

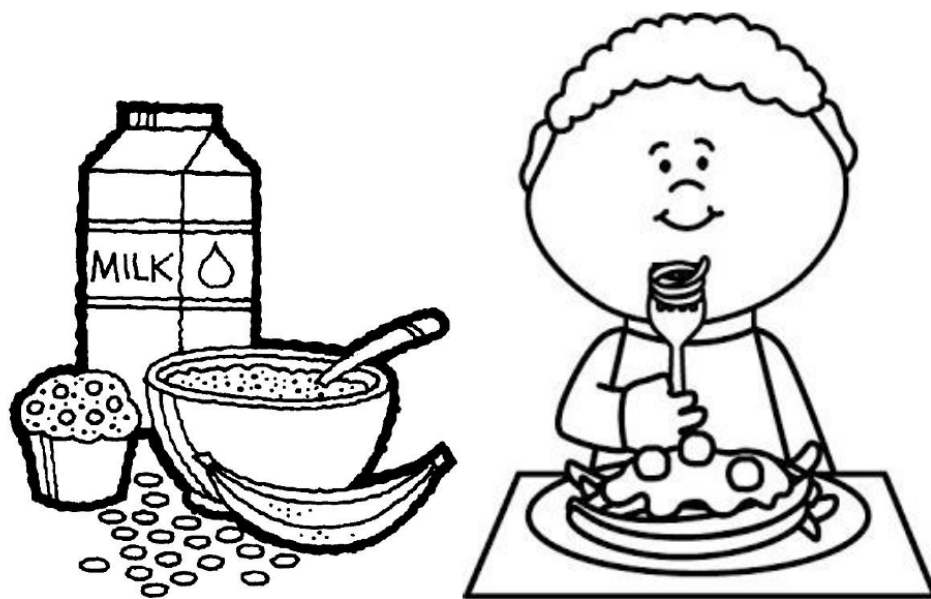
TEACHING STAFF:

Mrs Deborah Marsh	Assistant Principal (S2) 3/4 Sunstone Teacher	Miss Catriona McDonald	Assistant Principal (S3) Learning & Support
Mrs Donna Smith	Ass. Principal (S1) Inst. Leader (ES1) 1 Moonstone Teac.	Mrs Nicole Mawson	Rel. Assistant Principal (ES1) K Opal Teacher
Mrs Michelle Du Ross-Smith	Instructional Leader (K-2)	Miss Lee-Anne Bishop	Instructional Leader (Y3-6)
Mrs Nicole Mawson	K Opal Teacher	Miss Priya Mani	K Aquamarine Teacher
Miss Eliza Clarke	K/1 Onyx Teacher	Mrs Jacinta Jackson (M/T) Mrs Donna Smith (W-F)	1 Moonstone Teachers
Mrs Rebecca Krilic	1/2 Diamond Teacher	Ms Lysa Scott	1 Amethyst Teacher
Mrs Nia Donas	2 Pearl Teacher	Miss Samantha Williams Mrs Melissa Shields (W-F)	2 Jade Teachers
Mrs Michelle Taylor (M-W) Mrs Sharon Judd (W-F)	3 Topaz Teachers	Miss Amanda Allatt	3 Sapphire Teacher
Mrs Deborah Marsh	3/4 Sunstone Teacher	Mrs Alex King	4 Quartz Teacher
Ms Abbey Pagan	4/5 Emerald Teacher	Mr James Cox	5 Jasper Teacher
Mrs Amy McAlister	5/6 Cobalt Teacher	Mrs Carol Roddy	6 Ruby Teacher
Miss Catriona McDonald	Learning & Support Coordinator	Mrs Kristy Gray	Learning & Support Teacher (M-W)
Mrs Kathy Nolan	Learning & Support Teacher	Mrs Sian Barnard	Literacy/Numeracy Support Teacher
Mrs Bianca Rymills	Literacy/Numeracy Support Teacher (M-W)	Mrs Tiffany Kowalczyk	Literacy/Numeracy Support Teacher (W-F)
Mrs Kelly Stevens	Future Focused Teacher (M/Tu/W/F)	Miss Helen Campbell	Librarian
Mrs Jennifer Coffee	ESL Teacher (Tu/W)	Mr Andrew Vidler	School Counsellor

Student Learning Support Officers (SLSO)	Mrs Nicole Baker Mrs Lisa Dunn Mrs Allyson Drake Mrs Di Elphick	Mrs Kim Ferguson Mrs Daya Lewis Mrs Marina O'Connor
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Meet the Teacher Breakfast



Friday 15th February
from 8:15am
in the School Hall
All Welcome !

TIME FOR HAIRCUTS!

THE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER IS COMING!

13 MARCH 2019.



ENVELOPES WILL BE HANDED OUT SOON.

**WITH
PRACTICE
YOU CAN
LEARN
ANYTHING!!**



'KIDS SPACE'

Term 1 2019 after school program

Years 3 - 6

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Cost: Free

North St Marys Neighbourhood Centre
Cnr Debrincat Ave and Oleander Rd
North St Marys

*5th February - Craft
12th February - Science
19th February - Sport
26th February - Challenges
5th March - Movie
12th March - Cooking
19th March - Sport
26th March - Easter Craft*



For more information please call

Jemma 9673 3908 or email

jemma@communityjunction.org.au

Community Junction Inc. gratefully acknowledge support received from ClubGRANTS Funding

www.communityjunction.org.au



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4pm Session

5pm Session

6pm Session

7pm Session

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