

Principal's Report – Nicholson Street Public School P&C Meeting

Tuesday 11 August, 2020

Term 3 learning guidelines for schools

At the start of Term 3 with COVID-19 still active within the community, we must continue to all work together to keep our school promoting good hygiene and physical distancing practices among adults, as well as adhering to health advice for students and staff.

All NSW schools have returned to full-time on-campus learning. With updated health advice and changes to state and national restrictions, schools have recommenced the majority of school-based activities. A limited number of activities remain under consideration.

The following principles underpin these guidelines:

- Schools continue to be safe and operations are in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines.
- All students should be learning on-campus unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.
- Existing infection control protocols at schools, and new health and safety measures put in place will help maintain the health and safety of students and staff.
- All activities permitted at school are safe and appropriate in living with COVID-19.
- Schools continue to monitor and plan for any changes in local circumstances that may arise, including changes in health advice or local restrictions.

Please note that non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds or at school events. This includes parents and carers except for face-to-face parent/teacher meetings that are essential (e.g. to discuss disciplinary or other welfare matters).

Students should continue to bring water bottles from home to fill at water bubblers rather than drink directly from the bubbler.

Activities on hold until further notice

A small number of activities remain on hold and will be reconsidered by the NSW Department of Education during Term 3:

- Kindergarten orientation
- School camps
- Most school excursions
- Parent and carer attendance at assemblies and other school events
- Parent and carer volunteers – e.g. parent reading helpers (note: canteen and uniform shop volunteers are permitted)
- School-based activities that involve large gathering of adults. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school BBQs, large parent information evenings, and large on-site cultural events.

Thank you to the NSPS staff

- For the fantastic work that the class teachers put into their films for Education Week
- Semester 1 reports out last term – first school in the area to do this
- Seamless transition this term

- For planning for future remote learning (if needed)

NSPS Staff and School update

- Joan Seller, School Administrative Officer, on Long Service Leave until the end of the year
- Christina Alenaje to work in the school office and library on Wednesdays and Fridays
- 5N carpet to be replaced (demountable building) this Friday
- New intercom system on the school front door, which is now locked at all times. This provides increased security for all.

Thank you to the P&C

- Thank you so much to our hard working P&C for organising the painting and positive messages in our student toilet blocks. The painting has really brightened up both blocks and the positive messages, which were specially selected by our staff and students, will be a great daily self-esteem "booster" for our students.
- Thank you to Hayes Montgomery from our P&C for organising the guest speaker, Nell Hardy (ex Nicho student). Nell is a wonderful ex-student role model, particularly as a female in a STEM-based career. This was a fantastic learning opportunity for our older students to meet such an interesting ex-student. We sincerely thank Nell for donating her time to speak to our students. Nell is just one example of many successful academic stories from ex Nicho students.
- For your never-ending enthusiasm and support around school projects, always having the students at the forefront of your decisions

Coming up in Term 3

For your information and for P&C records:

- Smiling Mind Mindfulness K-6 sessions
- Chess Club (we need more students in term 4)
- Kindergarten 100th Day of School celebrations
- SRC Fundraising activities
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- K-6 Public Speaking Competitions
- K-6 Spelling Bee Competitions
- Nicho's Amazing Science Adventures (NASA) Day
- Jolly Bops Science Show
- STEM Robotics Lunchtime activities
- Dance Groups
- Kindergarten Orientation film

Education Week

Education Week is an annual state-wide event held during the first week of August to celebrate NSW public education and the achievements of local schools and students.

This year, Education Week ran from Monday 3 August to Friday 7 August 2020 and the theme was "**Learning together**". It's a theme that reflects an incredible year for NSW public

school students, staff and parents, and the partnerships that have been strengthened in response.

In this year of bushfires, floods and COVID-19, the key messages of Education Week 2020 are:

- **Schools are the cornerstone of communities** - Parents and carers are our partners in learning. Schools and families benefit from strong, respectful relationships where responsibility for student learning is shared.
- **Change and resilience** - Our teachers and students are lifelong learners, collaborating in a positive learning environment to achieve their best. Learning together makes us strong and creates resilient communities.
- **Connect better and learn together** - Our school staff are dedicated professionals who know, value and care for all students. Technology enables learning together anywhere, any time.

Leading Evaluation, Evidence and Data (LEED) & 2021 School Excellence in Action

Last Tuesday I participated in my first ZOOM session on the LEED Project alongside many other Principals and Executive teams. This initial session supported the school planning process, guiding Principals and school executive through the development of a comprehensive situational analysis.

The subsequent modules will enhance the ability of school leaders to lead evaluation, evidence informed practice and data use. They will closely align with the 2021-24 school planning and external validation cycle.

Beginning this term, all NSW public schools will:

- develop a 4 year Strategic Improvement Plan during 2020, for approval by the end of Term 1, 2021
- know in early Term 3, 2020 the year in which their next external validation will take place (for Nicholson Street Public School this will be in 2023)
- have 3 terms during which they can unpack the School Excellence in Action material and develop their new plan.

While the overall aim of the LEED project is to enhance the capability of school executives and teachers, the project has also been designed to improve student outcomes and facilitate the ability of school's to meet their set targets. It is anticipated that schools who participate in this project will develop practical teaching and learning strategies that can be implemented in the classroom. These strategies will support student growth and attainment and play a positive role in whole school improvement.

Mrs Sue Ross

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