



Newsletter 2022

Term One · 08 Apr 2022

Merrylands High School

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Principal's Report

Mr. Prasad



Merrylands High School Community,

I would like to thank our school learning community for supporting our 'safe respectful learners' this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Sue Stead (Community Liaison Officer) for her outstanding contribution in supporting the parents of MHS and making numerous visits to primary schools and promoting the school. The parents absolutely loved associating with Sue as she made transitioning look simple for their child at school.



Please take this opportunity to read our newsletter and the photos will highlight the activities and developments that has occurred this term.

Enjoy this holiday in a safe way.

Awards



Positive Letters Home

We continue to celebrate the successes of our students at MHS. Our teachers use varying reward methods, including Merit Awards, Merry 6s and logging Positive Incidents on Sentral, to acknowledge our safe, respectful learners. This term 674 Positive Wellbeing Incidents were logged on Sentral. In addition to this, students who received 3 or more Positive Incidents received letters of recognition. The letters were generated by the Positive Behaviour for Learning Team and were mailed home. Parents and caregivers can also access these incidents using the Sentral Parent Portal.



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Monday, 4th April 2022

Impressive Commitment:

Dear _____,

I am writing to you regarding your child,

We are pleased to inform you that _____ has been recognised by multiple teachers for his efforts. _____ work ethic and participation in multiple subjects has been excellent recently. We are impressed with the level of commitment and dedication _____ has been demonstrating. _____ makes a consistent effort to complete all set classwork and contribute in a meaningful way to class discussions. Maintaining this attitude and application will help achieve pleasing results in year 7.

Please congratulate _____ on his efforts and encourage him to keep up the good work.

Yours faithfully

Amika Prasad, Principal

GRIP Leadership

A full day leadership conference sponsored by Western Sydney University was really enjoyed by our Captains and Prefects. They heard stories from other schools about successful fundraising, environmental and cultural change. They were challenged with ideas to grow their public speaking skills. During the day they had several opportunities to met leaders from other schools and share some of their experience of leadership. The day in their words...

It was an amazing day to learn a range of leadership skills from leaders at other schools and strategies to work within a group cooperatively and effectively. –

Linda T

It was an exceptional program, it expanded our knowledge in regards to the different opportunities our school and leadership team can adapt to promote a positive school environment. – Zuhail R

The conference was effective and engaging in helping us recognise our flaws and strengths, as well as methods of how to further succeed individually as leaders as well as part of the whole team.

– Eliza K

The conference gave us the chance to interact with many leaders, opening our eyes to a wide range of opportunities and leadership strategies. – Hanaan A.



Congratulations Year 7

Year 7 have had a great start to High School in Term One. Many students have received Bronze Awards with some students receiving multiple and a Silver Award!





Safe, Respectful Learners

Feel included in our school activities, make friends and reach goals

Early Childhood

Year 12 Exploring Early Childhood students studied the module Children's Literature and were put to the challenge to design and manufacture their own Children's Book. Here are some of their creative designs.



Shapes and Measurement: Math In Action

L.E.A.P 2 and L.E.A.P 4 students are studying a unit of work on Shapes and Measurement in Mathematics. The students developed their knowledge and skills on the different types of geometrical shapes. They also learnt and how to find the area of the certain shapes. The students were engaged in transferring their theoretical knowledge into skills by making pillow covers and other projects. The project-based learning developed students' problem-solving skills and build a team spirit among themselves to work together and support each other to bring their project to the finishing line. Next week, the students will be exhibiting their skills and creativity by holding an exhibition at school. Well done students! We are very proud of you!

Thanks

Ms Thethi and Ms Elizabeth



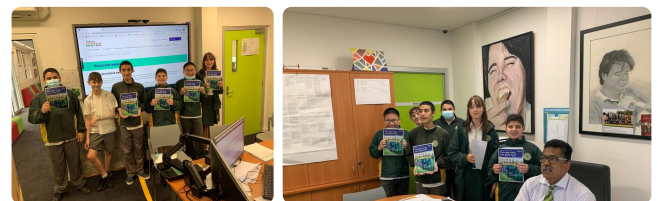
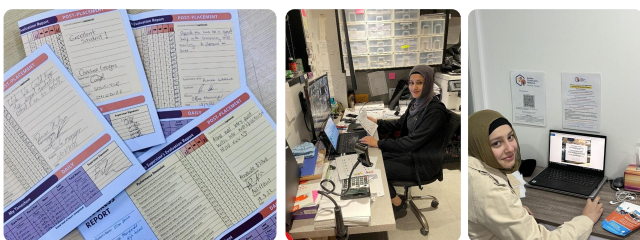
Healthy Planet Healthy Living

L.E.A.P two students are studying recycled water and its usage in everyday life. The students are engaged in inquiry-based learning, and as part of their inquiry, they interviewed Mr. Prasad and asked him if Merrylands High School has purple taps. Sydney water promotes the wider community to install purple taps and use recycled water for watering gardens, flushing toilets, etc. The recycled water is treated to a high standard and has safe uses.

The students developed some questions on recycled water and asked Mr. Prasad if Merrylands High would consider installing purple taps at Merrylands High. The students received a positive response as Mr. Prasad assured the students that the school would explore the options to install purple taps at school.

Year 12 Business Services

Our Year 12 Business Services students participated in their work placements in Term 1. The students exhibited their excellent level of knowledge and skills relevant to the Business Services industry and received great feedback from their employers. Merrylands High School thanks all our Host Employers and SouthWest Connect for providing opportunities to our VET students to enhance their skills and prepare them for the real world.



Modelling Financial Situations

Our year 12 advanced maths class have been modelling financial situations using series and sequences and technology such as excel.

Each student has created a financial modelling report for a fictitious character and scenario.

This report has allowed the students to understand the financial decisions required of a new homeowner.

Students have studied the relationship between loan periods, interest rates, frequency of

payments and the major effects that a change in deposit can cause.

They used the skills learnt in the classroom to manually calculate repayments, and then used the excel software to verify their answers.

Year 10 Lino Printing

Year 10 Visual Art have hand carved and lino printed designs inspired by Still Life.



Year 12 Visual Design

Visual design have been screen printing on a variety of surfaces during Term One including shirts and aprons.



Pyramids of Ancient Egypt

During Week Ten, the pyramids and camels of Ancient Egypt came to visit Merrylands High School.

Year 7 students were given the challenge of creating 3D models of important features of Ancient Egypt. Students enthusiastically engaged with creating 3D models of ancient pyramids, mummies, and palm trees. This demonstrated their prior knowledge of the artefacts and life in Ancient Egypt. This activity provided students with an insight into the topic ahead and developed students' ability to work collaboratively to construct their Ancient Egyptian models.



Literacy Planet

This term, Year 7 and 8 students have been working on Literacy Planet on a weekly basis. Literacy Planet is an online educational learning tool that students complete online activities on comprehension, spelling, grammar and punctuation. It is packaged within a captivating, gamified environment. Learning comes naturally when students want to be involved and are supported in their academic achievement through reward and recognition. Our students are always eager to play literacy-based games, and encouraged by their progress. Teachers can monitor student progress and learning outcomes per activity across each literacy strand. Allowing teachers to identify learning gaps that need attention, then conducting mini lessons focusing on those literacy strands. Congratulations to our Year 7 & 8 students who performed so well in the Competition Round of Literacy Planet Word Mania that they have made it to the Final Round, where schools will go head-to-head to compete for the major prizes and certificates.



LOTE

As part of a group activity, students created posters on what they know about France. They also presented this information to the class as a 3-minute speech.

Students engaged in a collaborative learning experience and build on the skills of working together, taking accountability and responsibility for their group projects.



Learning through Models

Modelling can often make the unclear clearer.

Research indicates:

Models provide representations of scientific concepts that can make the ideas more understandable to learners (Huddle, White and Rogers, 2000). Modelling requires the user to make links between the model and the reality that is being modelled.

Here some examples of models made by our Science students this term:



Industrial Technology

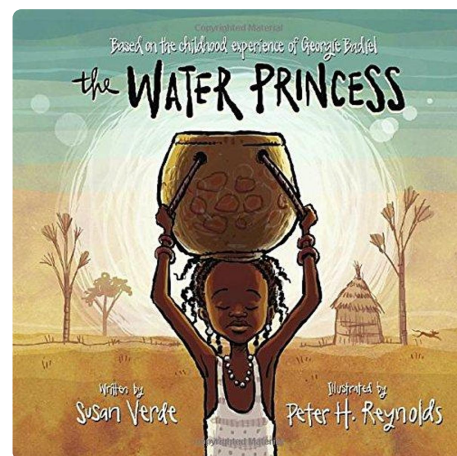
Timber and Furnishings students have been putting the school's new laser cut to very good use. Students have designed inlay patterns and templates to lathe matching table legs for their projects. The use of a variety of technologies and industry-standard processes for manufacturing their projects will have a significant impact on their HSC major project results which are externally marked and count towards 60% of their HSC mark.



"Healthy Planet Healthy Living"

At Merrylands High, L.E.A.P students are studied a unit of work on "Healthy planet, healthy living".

The Water Princess is a book about a little girl named Gie Gie who explains her thirst, frustration, and longing as she walks miles and miles from her home to collect water from the well every day between 3.00 am and 4.00 am. The story is set in a remote area in Africa. The students engaged in collaborative learning, discussed Gie Gie's life to get an insight into her mind through understanding the dialogues delivered by the little girl. The students related to the tribulations of the character in the story and compared it with their own life.





Investments For Students

Bringing opportunities to our students and community

Science Lab Upgrades



Dance Ensemble

The MHS Dance Ensemble consists of 20 students ranging from Yrs 7-12. It's so good to be back rehearsing and creating a dance work for Synergy Dance Festival, the audition for this festival will took place in Week 11 and we will find

out the outcome early on in Term 2. This years dance work is called 'Artistry of the Fan', fusing the Japanese fan dance and contemporary dance art forms together.



International Women's Day

Merrylands High School celebrated International Women's Day in the library with a display of books showcasing the achievements and successes of Women through the ages.

The 54 books on display are from a collection of 441 books which are offered by the Oliver Library website when the search term 'Women' is entered into the catalogue search.

The Oliver library search terminal is located at the entrance to the library, and students can also search for library resources using the "My school library" tab which they can access from the home page of their student portal.



Operation Pivot

Year 10 and 11 participated in the 'Operation Pivot' program which aims to curb youth violence, weapons and gangs in our regions. The presentation discusses those 3 topics in attempt to get our youth to focus on their activities and "pivot" their thinking in regards to these troubling topics.



Work Ready Day

Following the great tradition of providing our Year 11 VET students with an opportunity of learning and developing their knowledge and skills across all VET courses, Merrylands High School will be organising Work Ready Day 2022 in Term 2. In preparation for the day, the VET students are creating their resume and cover letters with their respective trainers. The students receive an opportunity to participate in the mock interviews and dress in formal attire.



Merrylands High School VET students at Merrylands Bowling Club attending Work Ready Day 2021.

Educational Pathways Program

Did you know your school is now part of the Educational Pathways Program?

To find out what opportunities are available for your child, talk to your school's careers adviser or read more:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/.../educational-pathways...>

HSC Writing Tutorials

Students participating in the HSC Writing Tutorial program that MHS now offers where students are given intensive support from experienced teachers.



Smashed Live

Year 9 students were involved in an educational incursion called 'Smashed Live', an empowering and relatable theatre in education program developed to meet the need for effective alcohol education in schools. Students were able to build their knowledge, understanding and attitudes to enhance their own and others health and safety in relation to alcohol misuse and underage drinking.

A big thank you to the Gibber company for their amazing performance.



Western Sydney University Collaboration

Merrylands High School and Western Sydney University annually collaborate through the Homework Centre Program. Aspiring teachers from Western Sydney dedicate themselves toward supporting and assisting students with the completion of Assessment and Homework Tasks. The enthusiasm and motivation of the Western Sydney Tutors has contributed to the success of the Homework Centre program and contributed to building students confidence and belief in their ability to succeed.



Art Club

This term Art Club has been working on the final designs for our Archi-bull program. As part of this program students have been exploring the different ways that climate change and overfishing affects the oceans and everything under it's surface. As a result of this learning, the students have come up with a design that explores the magic of “under the sea” as a reminder of what should be protected and preserved.

The students are sculpting areas of their cow to add more texture that visually connects to the ocean. One of the design elements suggested was to add sculpted barnacles, octopi, and shells made of papier-mache. The idea is to create a “sea-cow” that has cartoon animals painted on it. The main design influence was the Disney movie *The Little Mermaid* and the iconic “Under the Sea” scene. This project has been ongoing since the start of 2021. However, this project is still offering lots of entertainment. It is safe to say that the students are having a whale of a time.



Table Tennis Competition

Every recess and lunch student utilise the table tennis equipment to play and develop their schools. On the last day of Term One Mr Salama held a Table Tennis Tournament.





Recognition

Recognising and valuing the effort and success by all

Harmony Week

Click on the image below to view our Harmony Week Cultural Dance Video.



Open Girls Prospect Zone Soccer Team

Congratulations to Soman Saleem and Katrina Tamano on their selection for the Open Girls Prospect Zone Soccer Team. The girls travelled to Kellyville with their Coach Miss Karantanas to the Sydney West Regional Soccer Gala Day. On the day, the girls demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship and dedication to their team with Soman scoring 2 of the winning goals. The girls played in the rain and won 2 out of 4 matches. Overall, the team placed 6th in our Region which was a great achievement. One student was

selected to progress onto the Sydney West Regional Team Trials.

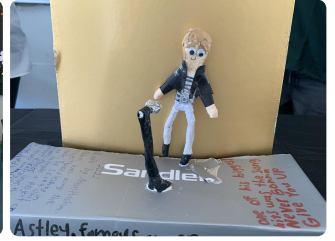
It was a successful day.



Harmony Day 2022

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. The message of Harmony Week is everyone belongs.

At Merrylands High school, L.E.A.P students participated in Harmony Day celebration. The students worked in collaboration with their peers to create their favourite object using wet clay and used a range of colours to make it stand out and look attractive. The students worked in an inclusive environment and helped each other to complete the project. The students will present



Parents & Carers

Sharing your child's education journey with parents and carers.



Susan Stead Retirement

Community Liaison Officer 2006-2022

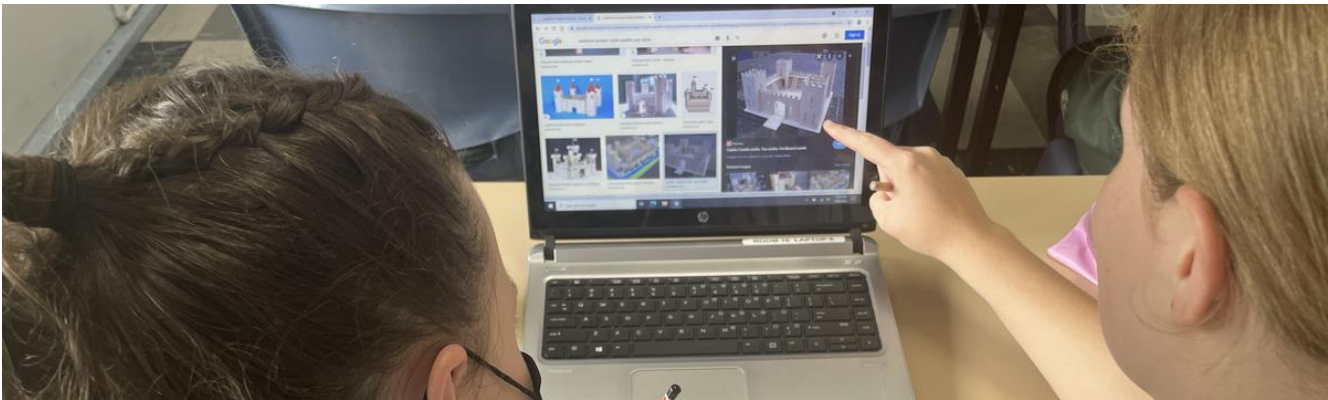
It's with great admiration, and some sadness, that we farewell our wonderful Community Liaison Officer, Sue Stead. While Sue's initial connection with the school was as a proud parent to her sons Michael and Steven and a dedicated member of the administration team, undoubtedly her greatest impact was made as our Community Liaison Officer.

In this role she has led, motivated and served colleagues, parents and students alike and has profoundly supported the learning of many thousands of students. It is a true testament to Sue's professionalism that she continued with this dedicated service until her very last day on duty.



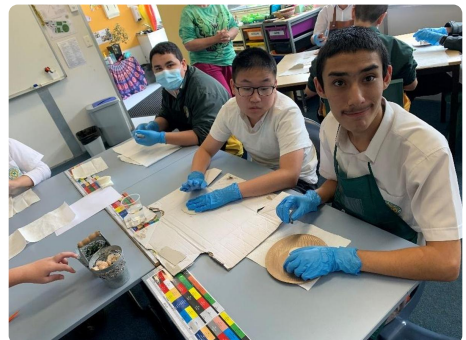
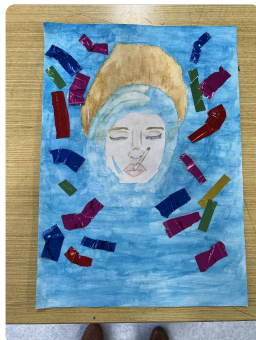
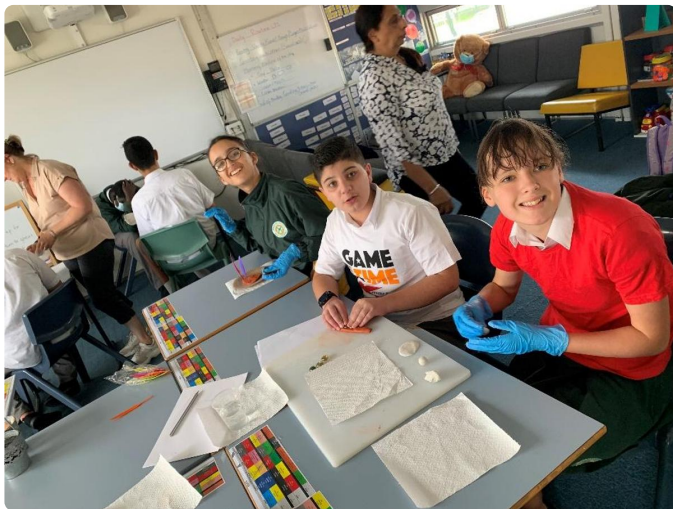
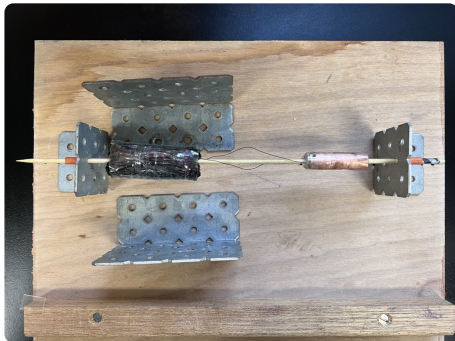
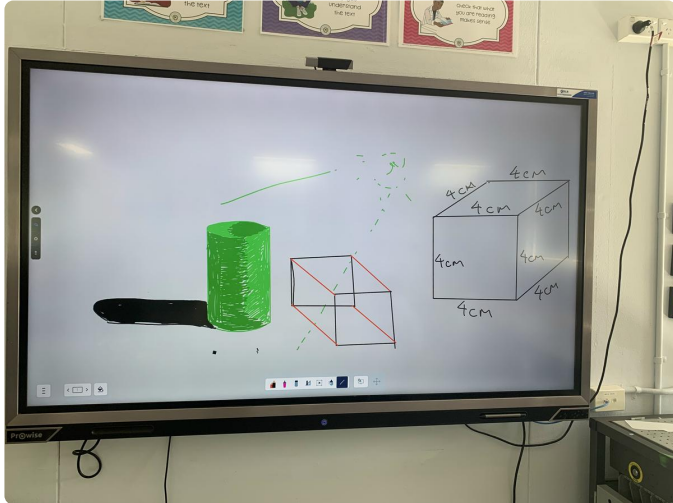
The admiration and respect that Merrylands High School enjoys in the community is due in large part to the deep connection Sue has established with many hundreds of parents and the valuable links she has helped foster with our partner primary schools. Sue's honesty, integrity, humility and reliability will be missed by both, the colleagues she has led, and the community she has tirelessly supported.

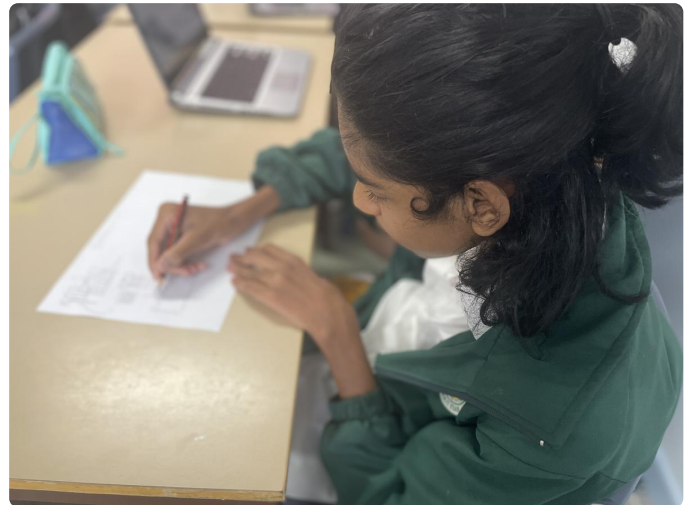
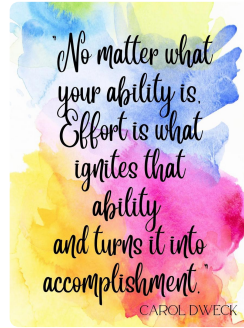
The staff of Merrylands High School thanks Sue for her friendship and service and wishes her and Trevor a wonderfully happy retirement.



Term 1 Gallery









things to remember when you get stuck



EVERY MINUTE COUNTS...

When your child misses just...	That equals...	Which is...	And therefore, from Kindy to year 12, that is...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour a day	½ a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year	Over 2 ½ years of learning

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day!

We start at 9:00am!
BE ON TIME!



EVERY DAY COUNTS...

A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	That equals...	Which is...	And therefore, from Kindy to year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ a years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

Give your child every...

Monday



Give your child every chance to succeed!

Every day counts!



YEAR ADVISORS



YEAR 7	Ms Raj & Ms Smith
YEAR 8	Mr Belista & Ms Raikadroka
YEAR 9	Ms Shaddid & Mr Wilson
YEAR 10	Ms Kaur & Ms Gharibeh
YEAR 11	Mr Dagdanasar & Ms Karantanas
YEAR 12	Mr Viuga & Ms Smith



5 Daily Reminders

1. I am amazing.
2. I can do anything.
3. Positivity is a choice.
4. I celebrate my individuality.
5. I am prepared to succeed.



Small Aspirations

- smile a lot
- smell good all the time
- be kinder
- step outside of comfort zone
- discover new music
- laugh
- be passionate
- care less about others acceptance
- show love
- take better care of self
- value nature
- make goals happen
- be happy





WELLBEING SUPPORT



Offering advice, support and encouragement.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COORDINATORS Ms. Gharibeh

GIRLS ADVISOR Ms. Kumari

CAREERS ADVISOR Mr. Ford





Term 2 Calendar

Monday

- Breakfast Club
- Art Club at Lunch in room 15
- Week A & B - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36

Tuesday

- Week A & B - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36

Wednesday

- Breakfast Club
- Week B - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36
- Week A P4, Week B P3 - Stage 6 tutorials

Thursday

- Week A - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36

Friday

- Breakfast Club

APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 END OF TERM 1	9 HOLIDAYS
10 HOLIDAYS	11 HOLIDAYS	12 HOLIDAYS	13 HOLIDAYS	14 HOLIDAYS	15 HOLIDAYS	16 HOLIDAYS
17 HOLIDAYS	18 HOLIDAYS	19 HOLIDAYS	20 HOLIDAYS	21 HOLIDAYS	22 HOLIDAYS	23 HOLIDAYS
24 HOLIDAYS	25 ANZAC DAY	26 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY	27 YEAR 11 TAFE PROGRAM	28	29	30

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- Week A & B - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36

Tuesday

- Week A & B - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36

Wednesday

- Breakfast Club
- Week B - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36
- Week A P4, Week B P3 - Stage 6 tutorials

Thursday

- Week A - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36

Friday

- Breakfast Club

MAY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	YEAR 11 TAFE PROGRAM CROSS COUNTRY 4	5	6	7
8	9	10	YEAR 11 TAFE PROGRAM UAC UNI WORKSHOP 11	12	13	14
15	NAPLAN 16	NAPLAN 17	YEAR 11 TAFE PROGRAM NAPLAN 18	NAPLAN 19	NAPLAN 20 PROSPECT ZONE CROSS COUNTRY	21
22	23	24	YEAR 11 25 TAFE PROGRAM 26	27	ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 28	29
30	YEAR 5 30 OPEN DAY	31				

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Tuesday

- Week A & B - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36

Wednesday

- Breakfast Club
- Week B - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36
- Week A P4, Week B P3 - Stage 6 tutorials

Thursday

- Week A - Dance Ensemble at Recess in room 36

Friday

- Breakfast Club

APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	END OF TERM 1 8	HOLIDAYS 9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS	HOLIDAYS
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
HOLIDAYS	ANZAC DAY	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY	YEAR 11 TAFE PROGRAM			