

WELCOME TO

PICNIC POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL



‘Strive to Excel’

Prince Street, Picnic Point, 2213

Ph: 9773 7817 Fax: 9792 3913

Website: www.picnicpt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Email: picnicpt-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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Staff Directory 2020

<i>Principal</i>	<i>Mrs Karen Sellick</i>	
<i>Assistant Principal Stage 1</i>	<i>Mrs Michele Austin</i>	
<i>Assistant Principal Stage 2</i>	<i>Mrs Sonia Stawski</i>	
<i>Assistant Principal Stage 3</i>	<i>Mrs Pammie Chatterton</i>	
<i>Rel. School Administrative Manager</i>	<i>Mrs Sue Trees</i>	<i>Mrs Rebecca O'Donovan</i>
<i>School Administrative Officers</i>	<i>Mrs Kim Pryde</i>	<i>Kindergarten</i>
<i>Classroom Teachers</i>	<i>Early Stage One</i>	<i>Mrs Michele Austin</i>
	<i>K Kyoto</i>	<i>Mrs Melissa Romeo and</i>
	<i>K Koi</i>	<i>Mrs Deborah McNamara</i>
	<i>Stage One</i>	<i>Years 1 and 2</i>
	<i>1 Osaka</i>	<i>Mrs Christy Hayes</i>
	<i>1 Tokyo</i>	<i>Mrs Laura Pokorny</i>
	<i>2 Pokémon</i>	<i>Miss Kristen Weissel</i>
	<i>2 Nintendo</i>	<i>Mr Mark Burdon</i>
	<i>Stage Two</i>	<i>Years 3 and 4</i>
	<i>3 Kumano</i>	<i>Mr Ben Bowen</i>
	<i>3 Manga</i>	<i>Mrs Glenys Collinet</i>
	<i>3/4 Hakuba</i>	<i>Mrs Sonia Stawski</i>
	<i>4 Kabuki</i>	<i>Mrs Deb Psomadellis and</i>
		<i>Mrs Emma Mayorga</i>
	<i>Stage Three</i>	<i>Years 5 and 6</i>
	<i>5/6 Katana</i>	<i>Mr Daniel Belgre and</i>
	<i>5/6 Samurai</i>	<i>Mrs Fiona Gray</i>
		<i>Mrs Amy Colusso and</i>
	<i>5/6 Suzuki</i>	<i>Mrs Fiona Gray</i>
	<i>5/6 OC Kaizen</i>	<i>Mrs Gai Hagan</i>
		<i>Mrs Nicky Perantuono</i>
<i>Support Teachers</i>	<i>RFF / Computer</i>	<i>Mrs Pammie Chatterton</i>
	<i>Reading Recovery / LaST</i>	<i>Mrs Kirsty Clarke</i>
	<i>EALD / LaST</i>	<i>Mrs Tania Black</i>
	<i>LaST</i>	<i>Mrs Emma Mayorga</i>
	<i>Gifted and Talented</i>	<i>Mrs Nicky Perantuono</i>
	<i>Instructional Leader</i>	<i>Mr Daniel Belgre</i>
	<i>Writing</i>	
<i>Learning Support</i>	<i>Mrs Wendy Pascoe</i>	<i>Mrs Rebecca O'Donovan</i>
	<i>Mr Peter Campbell</i>	
<i>General Assistant</i>	<i>Mr Don Dwarte</i>	
<i>Band Director</i>	<i>Mrs Toni Stewart</i>	
<i>School Counsellor</i>	<i>Mr Frank Virgara</i>	
<i>Crossing Supervisor</i>	<i>Mrs Anna Merrick</i>	

Orientation Program

As part of our Orientation program your child will need to attend both sessions. **Please pack a small bag** with recess (morning tea) for your child. These sessions will run on the following days in 2021:

Term	Week	Date	Event	Time
1	1	Thursday 28 January	Children Session 1	8:50am – 12:15pm
1	1	Thursday 28 January	Evening Parent Session – TBC	7:30pm
1	1	Friday 29 January	Children Session 2	8:50am – 12:15pm

The Parent Evening Session on Thursday 28 January is aimed at new parents to the school. You will meet school personnel, be given an overview of how our school operates, school programs and services available, there will be a uniform parade and question time. For the children sessions, the teachers will take the children into the Kindergarten classrooms where they will participate in classroom activities.

School Times

8:30am	Students may begin to arrive at school Please note: Classrooms are closed prior to 9:00am. Students may place their bags into locker rooms after the 8:30am bell and then proceed to the designated playground area.
9:00am	Bell for students to assemble at classroom steps
9:00am – 10:45am	Class Lessons
10:45am – 11:05am	Recess During recess, students play in the asphalt areas and eat their recess. (For the first few weeks Kindergarten students play time will be supervised in a separate area from the older students.)
11:05am – 12:35pm	Class Lessons
12:35pm – 12:45pm	Eating time Kindergarten students may start their lunch a bit earlier during the first few weeks as they need more time. Children are supervised by class teachers during eating time.
12:45pm – 1:05pm	First Half Lunch Students may use the asphalt and grass areas. Equipment may also be borrowed from the Sports Storeroom. Students may purchase additional items from the Canteen. The Library is also open on certain days.
1:05pm – 1:25pm	Second Half Lunch (Canteen closes at 1:15pm)
1:25pm	Bell to Assemble
1:25pm – 3:00pm	Class Lessons
3:00pm	Bell for Home Time For the first few weeks, Kindergarten lessons finish at 2:30pm. A note will be sent home when teachers consider that the students are ready for the longer day. The teachers will bring the students to the silver seats near the library to meet their parents. In wet weather the waiting area is in front of the stage under the awning near the Kindergarten room.

Our School

Picnic Point Public School is a welcoming and safe learning environment that develops happy, self disciplined learners with the skills to shape their world.

Our inclusive and innovative curriculum lets us meet the personal, social and learning needs of all our students.

The morale at our school is high and we help students to be passionate about developing a learning culture that empowers them as learners and promotes personal and academic growth, along with self and social awareness.

Our close ties with the community are very important to us. The work of our school is built on a strong foundation of highly valued contributions of a caring, committed and professional staff together with a well informed and involved parent body.

School Rules

The students will adhere to the school rules based on the acronym “**CARES**”



The rules can be adhered to in the following ways:

Correct choices

- Come to school regularly and on time
- Look after all school property
- Keep the classrooms and school grounds clean
- Behave well at school, on excursions and when representing the school

Always be in the right place

- Keep in bounds
- Follow wet weather arrangements
- Keep bikes and scooters in correct areas
- Do not enter buildings before 8:30am or recess / lunch without teacher permission

Respect and cooperate

- Wear school uniform with pride
- Show respect to visitors
- Play sport fairly
- Protect the school's natural environment
- Follow teacher instructions in a polite manner
- Be courteous and respectful to peers
- Be honest and truthful

Engage in learning

- Pay attention in class and in all settings
- Be involved in all class and school activities
- Complete assigned work and do not distract others
- Be a good listener and active learner

Safety

- Running may occur on grass area or when playing basketball on court
- Keep to the left on stairways
- Use safe practices in bag rooms
- Move appropriately in playground areas

Rules are taught in the classroom to help our students to:

- Develop a love of learning
- Pursue excellence, high standards, personal and academic growth
- Develop care and respect for themselves and others
- Take pride in their work
- Exhibit a strong sense of fairness and social justice
- Have respect for and understanding of Australia's history including the cultures and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first peoples of Australia and Australia as a multicultural society
- Have an appreciation of Australia's history and multicultural society
- Actively participate as citizens

All students are expected to:

- Attend school every day unless they are legally excused
- Be in class on time and prepared to learn
- Maintain a neat appearance and follow the school uniform policy
- Behave safely, considerately and responsibly including when travelling to and from school
- Follow class rules, speak courteously and cooperate with instructions and learning activities
- Treat staff, other students and members of the school community with dignity and respect
- Care for property belonging to themselves

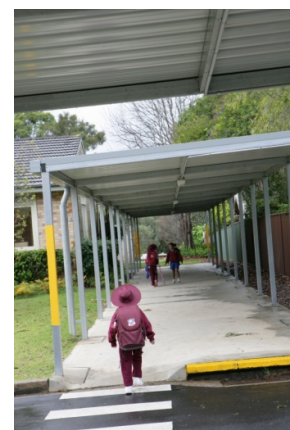
Any behaviour that infringes on other people's safety such as harassment, bullying or any illegal behaviour will not be tolerated at our school.

Safety at School

For your own and your child's safety at school, the following apply:

- No one (including staff) is to drive into the school grounds between the hours of 8:15am – 9:15am and 2:45pm – 3:15pm for the protection of pedestrians arriving on and leaving the school grounds.
- In the interest of student safety our gates are closed but not locked between 9:15am - 2:45pm. All visitors must come to the School Office in the Administration Block before proceeding on to approved business.
- Use of the driveways at other times is for staff and deliveries only.
- Please observe 40 km speed zones and parking restrictions around the school.
- From time to time children may experience problems with others. If you have a concern about your child, the first port of call is your child's teacher. Under no circumstances is it appropriate to approach another student on the school premises or whilst they are traveling to and from school.
- Bikes and scooters may be ridden to school. However, once on school grounds children must walk them to the bike racks. These are located behind G Block and in front of the office.
- Dogs (including those on a leash or carried) are not to be brought onto school grounds.
- Schools are non smoking areas.
- Schools are alcohol free zones during school hours and when students are present.

These matters are in the interests of maintaining a safe and happy environment for all.



School Information

School Website, Sentral Portal and Facebook

Our school website can be accessed at www.picnicpt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au.

The school website and newsletter are our primary point of communication. Please check the website regularly for calendar of events, current affairs, changes to sport, copies of notes, the Kalori (school newsletter), School Policies and other important information. We also have a Facebook page named Picnic Point Public School Official. “Like” this page to keep up to date. We use Sentral for sending out absent messages and teacher interviews.

To log onto the Parent Portal go to: ppps.sentral.com.au then scroll down to Students & Guest Access and click on Student Portal & Parent Portal Version 2. The school will provide you with your login details.

School Newsletter, Permission Notes & Emails

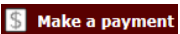
The school’s newsletter Kalori, meaning “message stick” is sent home fortnightly via email on Fridays to inform you of school activities and to provide information about parent and community activities and topics of interest.

The Kalori will be emailed to all families and is also available on the website. Please check the school website for past and current copies of the Kalori.

On occasions notes are also emailed so it is important to check this regularly and to keep the office informed of any changes to email addresses.

Money Collection

The school offers the following means of payments:

- Online secure payment via the  tab on our website.
- EFTPOS and credit card payments (Visa and Mastercard). These can only be used over the counter at the office between 8:30am and 1:00pm.
- Cash via an envelope to be placed in the locked payment box in the office. Multiple payments can be made in one envelope including payment for siblings. Please use a separate envelope if stated on any note or when paying for a P&C events.
- Uniform shop payments – cash can be placed in an envelope with your order and handed in at the office. Alternatively the Uniform Shop has an eftpos machine for Visa and Mastercard payments.

Subjects / Key Learning Areas (KLAs)

English	Speaking and listening Reading and viewing Writing (includes handwriting and spelling) and representing
Mathematics	Number & Algebra Measurement and Geometry Statistics and Probability
Science and Technology	Students learn about the natural and made environments by investigating, designing and by using technology
Human Society and its Environment (HSIE)	HSIE covers the subjects of History and Geography. Geography students learn about people, places, environments; geographical concepts such as sustainability; how to acquire process and communicate new geographical information. History students learn about personal family and community history; Australia's indigenous and colonial history; historical concepts and skills.
Creative Arts	Addresses the art forms of Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance
Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	Students learn to understand, value and lead healthy active and fulfilling lifestyles including: Sport, Anti-bullying, Child Protection, Drug Education, Life Education, Safety Bike Education, Peer Support and Buddies.



Best Start

The Best Start initiative is an ongoing commitment in all government schools. It is intended to ensure that all students are on track in their literacy and numeracy learning.

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is designed to identify each student's literacy and numeracy skills and understanding at the beginning of kindergarten.

2021 Best Start Dates

Wednesday 27 January

Thursday 28 January

Monday 1 – Wednesday 3 February

Thursday 4 February

Teachers only commence school

Students Years 1 - 6 commence school

Kindergarten students attend on one of these days to complete their Assessment

Kindergarten commence school

Uniform Code

We are proud of our school and the way in which our students wear their uniform. We seek your support in ensuring that your child arrives each day dressed according to the uniform code.

GIRLS UNIFORM

- SUMMER:** Summer dress, white ankle socks, black leather shoes or maroon culottes/unisex shorts, white peter pan collar short sleeve shirt, white ankle socks and black leather shoes.
- SPORT:** Royal blue sports skirt or shorts, sky blue polo with embroidered emblem, white ankle socks, white sneakers.
- WINTER:** Tartan tunic, white peter pan collared shirt with maroon tab, maroon tights or white ankle socks, black leather shoes.
- OR
- Maroon trousers, white peter pan collared shirt or white skivvy (no maroon tab), white ankle socks, black leather shoes.
- SPORT:** Maroon track pants or royal blue shorts, maroon V-neck jumper, sky blue polo with embroidered emblem, white ankle socks, white sneakers.

BOYS UNIFORM

- SUMMER:** Grey shorts, sky blue shirt, grey ankle socks, black leather shoes.
- SPORT:** Royal blue shorts, sky blue polo with embroidered emblem, white ankle socks, white sneakers.
- WINTER:** Long grey trousers or grey shorts, sky blue shirt, grey ankle socks, black leather shoes.
- SPORT:** Maroon track pants or royal blue shorts, maroon V-neck jumper, sky blue polo with embroidered emblem or white skivvy, white ankle socks, white sneakers.



NOTE

- JACKET:** Maroon and blue school parachute jacket, maroon zip up jacket or flyer jacket.
- CARDIGAN:** Maroon
- HAT:** School hat all year
- HAIR:** School colours for ribbons, elastics
- JEWELLERY:** Strongly discouraged (signet rings and small stud earrings and sleepers only)

Students representing Picnic Point Public School at special events are expected to be dressed in full school uniform appropriate to the event; this includes PSSA Sport each Friday.

The Uniform Shop operates each Thursday morning, 8:30am – 9:30am in E Block where hats, backpacks, library bags and second hand uniform items are sold.



School Stages

The curriculum students experience is organised into STAGES (rather than “years”). Kindergarten curriculum extends over the first twelve months. All other stages cover a two year period. Our teaching aims are organised to reflect these stages. Teachers work together to provide the best experiences for our students as they move through each stage.

Early Stage 1	Kindergarten
Stage 1	Years 1 and 2
Stage 2	Years 3 and 4
Stage 3	Years 5 and 6



Kindergarten Themes / Units

The following are examples of themes and units covered in Kindergarten. These units are usually integrated across some or all of the Key Learning Areas. For example, a unit on “Places We Know” which would be a Science and Technology unit, would also have related activities in English (for books read, stories written) and Creative Arts (craft items made, songs learned).

Reporting to Parents

Assessment and Reporting

Our teachers use a variety of strategies to assess each student’s work. This includes observing their work in class and looking closely at the work they produce throughout the year. Progressive Assessment Testing (PAT) testing is done at the beginning and end of the year. Teachers across a stage work closely together to ensure consistent teacher judgement of student assessment.

Twice a year teachers also assess each primary school student’s achievements based on the outcomes described in the NSW primary curriculum foundation statements.

A written report using the grade scale is sent home near the end of Term 2 and Term 4 to give you a clear picture of your child’s achievements.



Students have a number of assessments in primary school:

- Best Start Kindergarten assessments in literacy and numeracy – helps our teachers to identify the learning needs of your child.
- National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses students skills in numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar. All students in Years 3 and 5 sit for four tests in May.

NAPLAN results help the teachers meet the individual literacy and numeracy needs of students. You will receive a written report of your child's achievement in the tests.

Parent Teacher Meetings

You will be given a formal opportunity to discuss your child's progress at a parent teacher meeting. However, if you have any concerns, don't wait for a parent teacher meeting. Please make an appointment to discuss these concerns as they arise with the relevant teacher.

If you need an interpreter ask us to call the interpreter service. This is a free service.

Support Staff

Library

Each teacher visits the library to conduct a library lesson with their class every week. (For this, students need a bag to protect the books borrowed. Draw string bags are available for purchase from our School's Uniform Shop).

During the library lessons, the students will learn about books, the use of books, the different types of books, fiction, non-fiction and reference, and the use of the library facilities for research and information.

The Library is also used by classes, as needed, in addition to the lesson time and is open during the second half of lunch on certain days during the week for all students. These are advertised in the Kalori.

Reading is for life - start your child on this journey by doing everything you can to develop a love of books. Each year during Education Week we have a Book Fair where children visit and are able to purchase books or donate books to our library.



Release from Face-to-Face Teacher (RFF)

The RFF teacher provides each classroom teacher with 1½ hours per week of class free time. During this time, teachers are able to work on planning, marking of work, preparation of resources, meeting with parents and other teachers. The RFF teacher develops a program of work which links in with the classroom teacher's planning. This time is often used for specialist computer lessons as well as work in the other Key Learning Areas, particularly STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths).

English as Additional Language or Dialect (EALD)

The EALD teacher is available during the week to work with students who come from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB) and who need assistance in their spoken or written English. The EALD teacher works in conjunction with the class teacher so that the activities link in with themes and units being covered in the class. The students work with the EALD teacher either one on one, in small groups or in the student's classroom.

Learning and Support Teacher (LaST)

The LaST (Learning and Support Teachers) work with students needing assistance, particularly in the areas of reading, writing and maths. The classroom teacher and the support teacher work together to identify students who are not performing at the level expected. A program is then planned to meet that child's needs, the aim being that the child will work at an appropriate level with the support teacher's assistance. The students work with the LaST teacher either one on one, in small groups or in the student's classroom.

School Learning Support Officer (SLSO)

The School Learning Support Officers work under the supervision and direction of teachers to support students with specific or additional needs, providing assistance with school routines, classroom activities and personal and social skills development.

Casual Teachers

Casual Teachers are employed if the classroom teacher is absent (sickness, professional development course or other programs). The casual teachers employed at Picnic Point become well known to the students, as we endeavour to employ the same teachers during the year. The casual teacher will, as far as possible, continue the classroom teachers learning program.



Opportunity Class (OC)

Picnic Point Public School offers a range of programs to cater for Gifted and Talented students from Kindergarten to Year 6 including enrichment, extension and acceleration programs.

At Picnic Point we are fortunate in having one of the district Opportunity Classes. This class caters for Gifted and Talented students in Years 5 and 6. Students from within the school as well as from other schools are eligible to apply for the OC class.

School Counselling Service

In every school, school counsellors, teachers, supervisors, the principal and SASS Staff are available to assist students and their families.

All work to create safe, caring schools, free from violence and discrimination. All can help you or your child in different ways.

School counsellors are experienced teachers who have a degree in psychology and post-graduate qualifications in school counselling. They work with students of all ages, and their families.

Senior Psychologists (Education) also provide school counselling services and, in addition, coordinate a team of school counsellors. Every government school has access to a school counsellor or Senior Psychologist.

School Counsellors

School counsellors work with students, parents or carers and teachers in a variety of ways. Their work includes:

- Counselling students
- Assisting parents or carers to make informed decisions about their child's education
- Assessing students' learning and behaviour
- Assisting schools to identify and address disabilities that affect students' learning
- Liaising with other agencies concerned with the wellbeing of students.

School counsellors are members of schools' student welfare and learning support teams. With the agreement of parents or carers, school counsellors will pass on to teachers, information that will assist them to better meet the needs of their students.

Students may refer themselves to the school counsellor or may seek an interview at the suggestion of a teacher, a parent or carer, or a friend.

A student's reasons for seeing a school counsellor may include worrying about school work, conflict with friends, being in trouble at school or just feeling "down".

Parents or carers may seek advice from school counsellors about their child's school progress, educational options, including access to special education services, behaviour and for information about help available from other agencies.

Except when students refer themselves to the school counsellor, parents or carers will be involved from the outset. Their consent is required before any psychological testing is undertaken.

Whether working with students, parents or carers, or teachers, school counsellors will explain how they work, listen carefully to what is said, help clarify options and encourage informed decision-making.

Confidentiality

School counselling is a confidential service and school counsellors will check with students, parents or carers before passing on information (such as the results of tests of learning difficulties) to others. Confidentiality will be maintained unless legal requirements, e.g. child protection legislation, override it. Nor will confidentiality be maintained where someone may suffer serious harm from information being withheld.

Referral

School counsellors are not at every school every day. It is necessary for parents or carers to make an appointment by telephoning the school. Priorities for the school counsellor's time will be determined, in consultation with the school counsellor, by the principal and through Learning and Support team meetings.

Students will be told of the arrangements as to how they can see the school counsellor.

Special / Extra-Curricula Programs

Concert Band

The school has a Concert Band Program which is available for students from Years 3 – 6. There are two bands, a Training Band and a Senior Band. Auditions are held each year for students wishing to join the band. No previous experience is necessary. A range of instruments can be hired from the school. Fees apply.



Dance

A Year 1 - 2, Junior (Years 3 - 4), Senior (Years 5 - 6) girls and Boys (Years 3 - 6) dance group is selected each year and perform in the Bankstown East Hills District Dance Festival in Term 4.

Choir

Students are auditioned each year to join the school's Infants and Senior Choirs. As with the band and dance groups, the choir is provided with opportunities during the year to perform in public.

Jellybean Music Program

The 10 week program for students in Stage 2 brings a motivated, experienced and highly qualified Music Specialist into our school to deliver a systematic music program covering:

- Singing
- Movement
- Performance Skills - through Percussion and Recorders
- Aural/Listening Skills
- Composing
- Improvising

The emphasis is meeting all NSW curriculum requirements by covering musical concepts and providing a level of Creative Arts assessment relative to the curriculum at the course completion.

Public Speaking

Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are given the opportunity to participate in a Public Speaking Competition each year. The students are all involved in presenting short speeches to their class and then students from each class are selected to present their speeches to the whole school at an assembly. Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 (K - 2), Stage 2 (Years 3 - 4) and Stage 3 (Years 5 - 6) students are then selected to represent the school in an inter-school Public Speaking Competition.

Peer Support



A Peer Support Program runs across all grades. The students are put into small groups K - 6 with Year 6 students trained as leaders. During the peer support time the students explore topics such as friendships and working and playing together. The leadership skills, bonds and understandings developed between the students contribute to a happy, participative school culture.

ICAS Competitions

Each year, students from Years 3 - 6 can choose to participate in external Maths and English Competitions run by the University of NSW. An entry fee applies.

Primary School Sport Association (PSSA)

Students in Years 3 - 6 have the opportunity to participate in an inter-school sport competition each year. Fees apply. Students can try out for the following:

Season 1	Season 2	Season 3
Newcombe ball (NC)	Basketball	Cricket
Netball	Soccer	T ball/Softball
Boys Touch Football		Girls Touch Football
* (NC) – Non Competitive		AFL (NC)



A school sport program runs for students not participating in PSSA. This involves skill building in a variety of sports.

We also provide opportunities for expert coaches to come into our school to teach specific sports e.g. tennis. Fees apply



Basketball Academy

In conjunction with the Bankstown Basketball Association, students from Years 3 - 6 are able to participate in an inter-school basketball competition. Training is held before school and the games are after school.

Sport in Schools

The Sport in Schools program is for Years K - 6 and runs during the year at school where full use is made of qualified trainers. Fees apply.

Kids on Keyboard

Every Thursday a qualified music teacher brings a set of keyboards to the school and provides students with a 45 minute lesson. Fees apply.

Chess

A Chess Program is run by the Sydney Academy of Chess for interested students from Years 2 - 6 as an after school program under the guidance of a chess tutor.

A small fee applies. The children may also participate in an inter-school competition. This is a parent run program.

Scripture

Special Religious Education (SRE) is provided in public schools, during school time, by authorised representatives of approved religious groups for instruction in that faith. Special Religious Education (Scripture) is voluntary and the schools organise it according to parent preference.

Weekly Scripture Classes are held on Friday mornings. Visiting clergy provide Scripture Classes for Roman Catholic, Protestant (Baptist, Anglican, Uniting, Presbyterian), Islam, Buddhist and Christian Orthodox groups. Your child will attend the scripture group which you nominate when enrolling your child at school.

Please notify us in writing at any time if you would like to change the nominated group.

It is expected that all students will attend one of the above scripture groups however a non scripture group is available for other students who will do their work with a teacher.

Annual School Contributions and Text Book Fees

During Term 1 you will receive a School Contribution and Textbook Payment Notice.

Voluntary School Contributions are currently \$50 annually.

They are a very important source of funds which we use each year to help with essential running costs of such things as the school photocopier, provision of classroom supplies, purchase of learning resources for students, improvements to classrooms, the school grounds and much more.



A walk around the school will show what we have achieved through our community. Some examples: library and classroom learning resources, electrical, sound and other audiovisual equipment, digital and video cameras, computers, storage cupboards, musical instruments, sport equipment, COLA, classroom air conditioning and learnscape projects.

Absences

If your child is absent from school, please send a note to your child's teacher on their return to school explaining the absence. Please date the note, include your child's name, date of absence, reason for the absence and sign the note. For your convenience an absent note proforma can be found on the schools website. Alternatively, absences can be explained via email or via the Sentral parent portal.

Sick Students

If students are sick before school it is wise to keep them at home or arrange for alternative care. We appreciate your assistance in preventing the spread of illness to other students and staff.

If your child has an infectious illness, e.g. measles, mumps or chickenpox, we would appreciate a telephone call so that we are aware of the situation.

For minor injuries or upsets we are able to provide care for the child and they will return to the classroom once their needs have been attended to.

In the instance where a child has been injured or is too sick to continue at school, parents will be notified and asked to pick up their child.

Please keep the School Office Staff up to date with any changes to your address or contact phone numbers so that your child can be cared for with minimal delay.

Health Care Plan

If your child has a medical condition, such as asthma or anaphylaxis, please provide the school office with a current Health Care Plan from your family doctor. Please keep this information up to date.

Anaphylaxis

We have a small number of students who are at risk of anaphylaxis. To support students with nut allergy, families are requested to refrain from sending any nuts / peanut butter / Nutella and related products to school. Your support will be appreciated.

Medication

We generally discourage the bringing of prescribed medication to school, however, should it be essential please remember:

- Must fill out a Request for administering prescribed medication to the student form and be approved by the principal before we can start administering.
- All medication (in original packaging with the chemist script label) should be directed to the office and should be clearly labeled with the child's name, the dosage to be given and the time the medication is to be given.
- Only the dosage required for the day should be brought to school. For prescribed medications, please ask the child's doctor to prescribe doses which can be given before and after school if at all possible.
- Teachers will endeavour to remember the times for the medication to be given, but cannot be held responsible for the medication not being given to the child.
- This does not include Panadol and Nurofen as these are not prescribed medications.

Personal Possessions

We ask that EVERYTHING that your child brings to school has their name on it. Please keep checking that your child's name is legible. From drink bottles and lunchboxes to clothing, including the inside of shoes, which are sometimes taken off for certain activities.

Lost Property

If your child has lost any belongings these items will be placed in the Lost Property Basket located in the E Block behind the picnic tables next to the Library.

All items marked with your child's name will be returned to your child. Please feel welcome to check the lost property items at any time.

Before and After School Care

Kids Capers OOSH (Out Of School Hours) is at Picnic Point Public School. This service is located in the school hall. It provides before and after school care for children from Picnic Point PS and Vacation Care (during the school holidays) for all children who wish to attend, with first preference given to children from Picnic Point PS. Our service is licensed by the Department of Education. They are there to provide a caring, reliable, safe service where your child is cared for in a relaxed, fun, stimulating and supportive environment.

Their programs are based on the interests of the children who attend. They provide a range of activities including sport, craft, drama and passive activities such as stories and drawing for those who need to relax and unwind after a big day at school. An area for homework is also available. Staff are trained in first aid and child protection.

Direct all enquiries to Julie-Ann on 0412 398 539.

Sun Safe Policy

At Picnic Point we have a Sun Safe Policy, which is aimed at reducing the incidences of skin damage from the sun and possible skin cancer. This policy has been developed with the support of parents and the Student Representative Council (SRC) which have sought information from the Cancer Council.

A school hat must be worn at recess and lunch and other times when students are out in the sun for a period of time, such as Sport. If a school hat is not worn the child must remain under the shelter area (between the stage area and the sports storeroom) to play. The school hats are those approved by the Cancer Council as they protect the student's ears, neck and face.



The P&C Association supplies sunscreen for each classroom and students are encouraged to apply this to their face and arms before going outside. If you do not wish your child to use the sunscreen provided please let your child's teacher know in writing.

The First Day... Smiles or Tears?

After the conclusion of Kindergarten Orientation you will be notified about the day, date and time of your child's enrolment at Picnic Point Public School.

On arrival at school on the first day, you and your child will have a brief interview with the Principal or Assistant Principal. During this interview we will ensure that we have all the information needed regarding your child. You may also take this opportunity to discuss any concerns which you may have regarding your child starting school.

If you have not yet presented proof of your child's date of birth and submitted the immunisation certificate (available from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register) please bring these documents with you for your appointment.

Leaving your Child

Make sure you, as a parent, are ready to allow your child to enjoy their new adventures at school. Don't let them see you upset about leaving them. Let them see school as being exciting and friendly.

On delivering your child to the classroom on the first day it is best for the child if you say "goodbye" and leave quickly, no matter how upset your child may be.

Most students calm down within a matter of minutes and become involved in the activities prepared for them. Teachers are most sympathetic to the needs of the child starting school and will do all they can to ensure that your child settles into school.

If your child has been upset, you may like to call the school later in the day to ask how he or she is settling in.



Picking Up Your Child

Kindergarten finishes at 2:30pm for the first few weeks of the year. Parents are asked to collect their children from the silver seats in front of the library.

If, for any reason, you wish to collect your child early from school please inform your child's teacher in writing beforehand. Early leave passes can be obtained from the office before you pick up your child.

Survival Kit for Kindergarten

In Your Child's Bag Include

- Lunchbox containing:
 - Crunch and Sip - small piece of cut up fruit or vegetables in a separate container.
 - Recess - e.g. fruit, cheese, sultanas, carrot / celery sticks or a muesli bar, plus a drink "popper" or drink bottle of water.
 - Lunch - e.g. sandwich, roll or a salad plus a drink.
 - Explain to your child what is to be eaten at Recess (morning tea) and what is to be eaten at Lunch (big lunch).
- A school hat. The hat is compulsory and is to be worn at all times when outside or the student will only be able to play under the shelter.
- A school jumper or jacket in case the weather becomes cool.
- A spare pair of underwear and socks, just in case (in a plastic bag).

All stationery (pencils, glue, scissors etc.) are supplied by the school for Kindergarten.

Problems?

Teachers will appreciate being informed of any problems which you may be experiencing with your child at home, particularly if the problem relates to school. A telephone call may be all that is needed to help solve the problem.

If you feel that the problem needs to be discussed face to face with your child's teacher then feel free to ring the school to make an appointment with the teacher.

By making an appointment, teaching time will not be interrupted and we will be able to give full attention to the matter.



Students enjoying the Jellybeans Music Program

Some Helpful Hints

Getting Ready for School

The following checklist has been compiled with the view to assisting your child to settle quickly into school routines. These suggestions may help parents and children face going to school with confidence.

It would assist if your child:

- Knows their given and family name.
- Can read their name.
- Can write their name.
- Knows their address and telephone number.
- Can identify their own possessions and care for them.
- Can tie or buckle their shoes (it is recommended that you purchase school shoes early and allow your child to “wear them in” to avoid blisters).
- Can dress themselves (jumper, hat, paint shirt, shoes and socks).
- Can recognise a need to go to the toilet and use facilities independently including managing clothes and washing hands.
- Can sit still for a short period of time and listen.
- Can share and take turns.
- Can pack and unpack their own bag.
- Can unwrap and eat a packed lunch.
- Can handle small amounts of money for use at the school canteen.
- Can use a small pair of scissors.
- Is used to having mum, dad or guardian absent for a few hours.
- Knows how to ask for help if they are sick or troubled.
- Can use a tissue or handkerchief.



Talk confidently to your child about starting school, explaining that it is a happy and exciting place to be. If you are keen about it your child probably will be too!

Developing Independence

Reward and praise your child for thoughtful behaviour and attempting tasks which are beyond what you have asked for.

Talk with and listen to your child. Discuss days of the week, colours, recall simple stories.

Teach them to ask questions politely.

Try to understand your child’s reasoning and the way he or she thinks.

Show trust.

Admire work brought home - display it for a few days.

Read to your child often. Let them read to you and others in the family.

Realise the potential of your child, ask for their best and realise when he or she is giving it.

Give your child some responsibilities:

- Let them be responsible for getting the meal to the table on time
- Let them put the dirty clothes into the clothes basket
- Let them select what to eat from what is offered
- Let them choose friends
- Allow some choices and accept the ones chosen
- Don't criticise attempts at independence
- Set broad limits but leave the details for your child to decide
- In giving your child some money, you can guide the way in which the money is spent.
- Allowing your child to become independent, under guidance, you will not only assist their school performance but also their happiness and social relations.



Independence = Good Self Image

Calendar of Events

Notes will be sent home early in the year informing you of your child's Library, computer days, sport day and any special requirements.

Throughout the year you will receive notification of any variations to routine, special events etc.

The calendar provides a brief overview of the programs and events, which usually occur each term. Information about each activity will be provided via the school newsletter, Kalori or a note prior to the activity date.

You will receive an invitation to join our Sentral Parent Portal. This will allow you to access the school calendar online.

Term 1	Parent Information Night, Swimming Carnival, Life Education, Easter Parade, Cross Country, Drug Education
Term 2	Semester 1 Reports, Parent Teacher Conferences, Child Protection, Gymnastics
Term 3	Peer Support, Athletics Carnival, Education Week, Sport in Schools
Term 4	Semester 2 Reports, Safety Education, Swimming Scheme, Dance Festivals, Showcase Day, Presentation Day, Picnic Day, Talent Quest, Year 6 Farewell

Pencil Grip

From the earliest stage, attention should be paid to the manner of holding a pencil.

The exact position will vary with each writer but the pencil should be held comfortably between the thumb and the next two fingers. The pencil should touch the middle finger approximately midway between the tip and the first knuckle joint, while the index finger should rest lightly on the pencil. Both index and middle finger should be about two centimetres from the pencil point. The fingers should be curved, not bent.

The side of the forearm and the fourth, or third and fourth, fingers should lightly touch the desk or paper, with the pencil sloping towards the elbow, not the shoulder.

If students acquire correct habits of holding pencils in their early years, their use of pens in later primary years will be easier and smoother.



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Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)

The Picnic Point Public School P&C Association prides itself in having an active body of parents, making it an integral part of the school.

The P&C Association offers parents the opportunity to have vital input to decisions regarding their children's education, the chance to form friendships with other parents and a means for being informed of school activities.



Fundraising is also an important function of the P&C enabling additional funds to be spent in the Key Learning Areas.

P&C Association meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of each month at 7:00pm in our Hall.

Notice of P&C Association meetings is given in the school newsletter Kalori. Please feel welcome to join in and take an active part in the school in which you have chosen.

The P&C regularly publishes a joint committee newsletter keeping you updated with current activities. Check the school website for copies of current newsletters or the P&C website: www.picnicpt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/p-c

Canteen

Our Gold and Diamond Award winning canteen is a Healthy Food Canteen and operates three full days per week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and two days at lunch time only (Monday and Tuesday) with the assistance of parent volunteers.

The aim of the canteen is to provide quality lunches at a reasonable cost to families whilst generating profits for supporting school programs. During the year current price lists are supplied to each family.

Students wishing to order their lunch must do so before school. Lunch bags are provided by the canteen (5c each) or you can provide your own paper bag.

Students may also purchase items for recess and for a snack at lunchtime during those breaks.

The canteen is staffed by volunteer helpers enabling costs to be kept down. If you are able to assist in some way please complete the form available from the canteen. All help is appreciated.

Useful Websites

School: -

<http://www.picnicpt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au> - School Website

<https://picnicpt-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-citizens.html> - School P&C Website-

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/home/> - Department of Education

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/practical-help-for-parents-and-carers> - NSW Public School – Practical help for parents and carers

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/practical-help-for-parents-and-carers/quick-guide-for-parents> - NSW Public Schools – Quick guide for parents and carers

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/home> - Education Standards Authority

For Your Information: -

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/> - Department of Health

<http://www.allergyfacts.org.au> - Anaphylaxis Australia

<http://www.parentline.org.au/> - Parents Help Line

<https://www.kidscapersoosh.com.au/>

- Kids Capers OOSH

<https://www.ymcansw.org.au/centres/ymca-revesby-oshc/> - YMCA (Revesby)

<http://www.learninglinks.org.au/> - Learning Links

ICT Information:-

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents> - eSafety Parent & Carers - Tips and advice on helping your child have a safe and enjoyable experience online.

Microsoft Office 365 and Adobe Software are available to all students through their DET Portal.

Parent Helpers

We involve parents in many classroom and school activities. During the year notes may be sent home by teachers requesting help for activities such as sport and craft.

TLC Tutors (Tutors / Learning / Children)

TLC Tutors are parents who are trained to assist students in their learning, in particular learning how to read. Tutors are valuable resources for targeted students in K – 6.

PALS (Parents Accelerating Learning)

We actively seek opportunities for parents and other community members to share their diverse skills and interests with students and staff to enrich learning experiences.

Bringing the “outside in” in recent times has seen students learning from parent guest speakers and workshop leaders in areas such as mother care, veterinary science, finance, research and scientific processes, the law and government, creative design, gardening and the environment, music, retail, sport, computer technology and travel.

Excursions

During the year the classes usually participate in one or two excursions. These are not held in Term 1 for Kindergarten.

The excursions are designed to complement learning taking place in the classroom and therefore will have certain themes e.g. Animals – going to the zoo or a farm.

Permission notes are needed for students to attend out of school activities.

Please return permission notes and payment to the school office in an envelope marked with your child’s name, class, the excursion/activity and the amount enclosed as soon as possible.

Parent helpers often accompany excursions.



Notes

[illegible]

Notes

[illegible]

Notes

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