



# Excelsior Public School Newsletter

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Newsletter – Week 6 Term 1 (5<sup>th</sup> March 2020)

## Important Dates

Term 1	
Date	Event
<b>March</b>	
5.3.20	Interrelate Stage 3
5.3.20	Zone Swimming Carnival
10.3.20	NSW Futsal Tournament
10.3.20	Year 1 Reading Club Talk
11.3.20	High School EOI forms sent home
12.3.20	Interrelate Stage 3
12.3.20	Selective High School Assessment
16.3.20	Junior Choir Hills Festival rehearsal
17.3.20	Year 4 Excursion to Taronga Zoo
17.3.20	High School EOI workshop for parents 5pm
18.3.20	High School EOI forms due back to school
19.3.20	Interrelate Stage 3
19.3.20	3-6 Assembly – swimming ribbons and Silver awards to be presented
23.3.20	Multicultural Day
23.3.20	Term 2 Accounts sent home
24.3.20	Parent information session on Learning Environments 6pm
24.3.20	P&C Meeting
26.3.20	K-2 assembly – Silver awards to be presented
28.3.20	Welcome Party
31.3.20	Stage 1 Excursion to the Aquarium
<b>April</b>	
1.4.20	SRC Coin Drive
8.4.20	ANZAC Ceremony
9.4.20	Easter Celebrations
9.4.20	Term 2 Accounts due
9.4.20	Last Day of Term 1
27.4.20	Staff Development Day
28.4.20	Students return for Term 2

## Other Key Dates

NAPLAN (Years 3 and 5)	12.5.20- 14.5.20
Year 6 Canberra Excursion	1.7.20- 3.7.20
Year 5 Camp	21.10.20- 23.10.20
Year 6 Farewell	8.12.20

## From the Principal

It is hard to believe we are now half way through term 1!

It is great that we are now in our new building (Block L) and that students and teachers are making great use of our beautiful new facilities. At our last P&C meeting we started with a tour of Block L, hopefully all parents who wished to tour the building got a chance to do this either in the P&C meeting or during our parent tours in week 2. Coming up on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm we have a parent presentation about how the new learning spaces enhance student learning. Please see "Important Information" for more details.

Congratulations to all students who participated in our school Swimming Carnival. Unfortunately, it is not such a great day for those students representing Excelsior at the Zone Carnival today. I wish them all good luck and am very proud of their achievement. As you may know, Waves Swimming Centre will be closing at the end of the month. This has implications for our end of year swimming program. As we are within walking distance of a swimming pool we have been able to offer a K-6 swimming program at the end of each year. This program is well above the mandatory requirement of our school. Unfortunately, with Waves closing it is unlikely we will be able to continue to offer this K-6 program. Travel time and increased costs will mean it is more likely that the swim program this year will be limited to a single grade or stage. It is timely though to mention, the school swim program is designed as a swimming lesson booster – where students have the opportunity to swim every day for two weeks. It is not designed as a replacement for regular swimming lessons. The ability to swim is an essential one for all

## Important Information

### Selective High School Test

Applicants for Year 7 placement in a selective high school in 2021 are required to take the Selective High School Placement Test. The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on Thursday 12 March 2020 from 9.00am to 1.30pm.

Unless parents have made special arrangements with the High Performing Students Team to attend an individually allocated test centre candidates from this school have been sent to:

Crestwood High School  
17 Chapel Lane  
BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153

Go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7> to find:

- Test centre allocations by public school.
- A map of test centre addresses under the heading 'The test'.
- The bulletin, Test information for parents and students. The bulletin contains very important information about the test and should be read carefully.

### SRC Coins to Care for Aussie Animals Fundraiser

After the tragic events of the bushfires and flooding throughout Australia over the summer months, our SRC would like to raise funds to help WIRES Australian Wildlife Rescue Organisation and the thousands of precious Australian animals directly affected. On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of April, students will be asked to bring in coin donations to create a coin line to raise money for WIRES. Students may dress up in Aussie colours and bring in a stuffed toy Australian animal to raise awareness of animal endangerment and the importance of taking care of our natural environment.

We encourage Excelsior families to start saving coins for this very special fundraising event. For more information about WIRES, go the website <https://www.wires.org.au/>.

Australians. If your child cannot swim 50 metres I encourage you to invest in regular swimming lessons to ensure they are safe and confident in the water. Parents are able to apply for 2Active Kids vouchers through Service NSW. Each voucher is valued at \$100 and could be used towards to cost of regular swimming lessons. Please see the link below for more information.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher>

I know many parents are very concerned about Coronavirus and how the school is working to keep our community safe. As you know we are regularly providing the community with updates as they come from the Department of Education. Along with that, staff are working with their classes to ensure they are implementing appropriate infection control procedures. These include discussing correct coughing etiquette and the importance of regular handwashing. Could I ask that parents reinforce these messages at home. Our aim is for all children to be practising safe infection control procedures, this will best happen if these procedures are being modelled both in the classroom and at home.

## Cough etiquette

### Cover your cough



- When coughing or sneezing, use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth
- Dispose of the tissue afterwards
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.

### Wash your hands



- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, wash your hands with soap and water
- Use alcohol-based hand cleansers if you do not have access to soap and water

Remember hand washing is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

Anyone with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection, regardless of the cause, should be instructed to cover their nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing; use tissues to contain respiratory secretions; dispose of tissues in the nearest waste receptacle after use; and wash their hands afterwards.



Kind Regards,  
Mrs Sandra McKay  
Principal

## Parent information Session SLEC

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March we will be holding a parent session of how the new learning spaces in our new building enhance student learning. We have been able to engage an expert in the field, Mr Jeffrey Lambert from SLEC (Schools Learning Environments and Change), who will be discussing why the Department of Education is moving away from more traditional classroom spaces. Parents will also get a chance to hear from our own staff and how they are utilising the spaces, as well as the data we have collected over the last 2 years.

**This meeting will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March in the school library from 6-7pm.**

Following this meeting will be our regular P&C meeting at 7.15pm in the MFR.

### The Importance of Regular School Attendance

Below is an article written by Mark Scott, Secretary of the Department of Education, which highlights the importance of regular school attendance.

#### Mind the Gap

Regular school attendance means more opportunities to develop learning and positive relationships with teachers and friends.



Students who attend school regularly have greater opportunities to develop social-emotional skills and positive relationships.

In education we share the aspirations parents have for their children to achieve their potential and become lifelong learners.

We want our students to develop positive relationships with their peers and feel a deep sense of belonging to their school community. We want students to be confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens.

It may sound simple but to be part of that community - for students to feel like they belong and to be part of their learning journey - the first thing we need to do is make sure our young people are attending school.

Students who attend school regularly have greater opportunities to develop social-emotional skills and positive relationships. Friendships, meaningful connections with teachers and ongoing engagement in school activities help foster a sense of belonging that attracts continued attendance. In other words, attending today makes it easier for a student to attend tomorrow, next month and next year.

Regular attendance promotes positive cycles of engagement that reinforce and accelerate learning and continuity of learning, friendships, wellbeing and belonging.

Even relatively few absences on a regular basis add up over time. A student who is absent from school one day a fortnight - or four weeks per year - misses out on more than one year of education over the course of their schooling.

In 2018 an average of 91.4% of students attended our public schools on any given school day. I want to see that figure increase and I ask all parents to be part of achieving that ambition with us.

Nearly 30% of students have close to perfect attendance, going to school more than 98% of the time. In primary schools, nearly four out of every five students attend more than 90% of the time - on average they are absent less than one day per fortnight.

High school attendance tends to be lower - closer to three out of every five students attends more than 90% of the time.

Absences from school disrupt a student's learning, friendships, wellbeing and belonging, which can begin a downward cycle towards compounding disengagement. Gaps in knowledge and skills can be difficult to catch up. These gaps can easily grow and students who miss out on a preceding building block of knowledge often find it difficult to keep up later.

Similarly, absences disrupt the social connections that are so crucial for education, from the classroom to the playground, the music room to the sporting field. When students miss out on sharing experiences of school activities, their connections to the school community can fray.

When school staff and students, families and the community work together we can cultivate a positive learning environment with high



expectations for all our students to achieve their potential.

Mark Scott

Secretary, Department of Education

## Recent Events

### SRC representatives 2020

The 2020 Excelsior Public School SRC was inducted at school assemblies on 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February. Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as Student Representative Council representatives for Excelsior PS, 2020.

2B- Ruby, Dominic	4B- Kimiya, Joshua
2A- Vikraant, Chantal	4L- Marcus, Nathan
2L- Lola, Joel	4H- Maya, Hassan
2R-Pradesh, Kanira	5E- Ella, Ryan
3S-Elijah, Maya	5G- Sienna, Zach
3D- Jasmine, Hayden	5/6A- Zara, Reja
3J-Minato, Sarah	6S- Michaela, Danika
	6W-Eva, Ghazal

The elected SRC members will also be joined by the school leadership team of:

Hayley, James, Cocco, Faris, Aadi, Giselle, Jesse, Caitlyn, Claire, Sarah, Georgia and Haysen.



### Swimming Carnival

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February we held our annual swimming carnival at Waves. It was a great day, full of House spirit and Excelsior pride!

Thank you to the parents who came to cheer on the students and to volunteer on the day. It is impossible to run a successful carnival without a band of dedicated volunteers

Thank you also to the team of dedicated teachers who spent many hours outside of school ensuring that the carnival was a success.

Swimming ribbons will be presented in the Thursday 3-6 assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> March.







### Young Leaders' Day

On Monday, the school leadership team and the Year 6 class SRC's go the privilege to go to National Young Leaders Day at Darling Harbour. We met 4 very inspirational speakers including: Erin Molar, Rove McManus, Bianca Chatfield and John Coutis. Each of them had very powerful quotes that resonated with all of us:

"Never give up through the hardest times"- Erin

"Never let anybody take anything away from you"- Rove

"Life is a rollercoaster"- Bianca

"Be thankful for the little things in your life"- John

Written by Haley and James, Excelsior School Captains



## Around the Grades

### Focus on Year 2

Year 2 have experienced an excellent start to the new school year in their brand new co-teaching classrooms. They have utilised the new learning spaces and furniture to learn in a new and exciting way.

Year 2 students in the presentation area listening to a News presentation.



Year 2 students taking an art lesson in the large practical activities space.



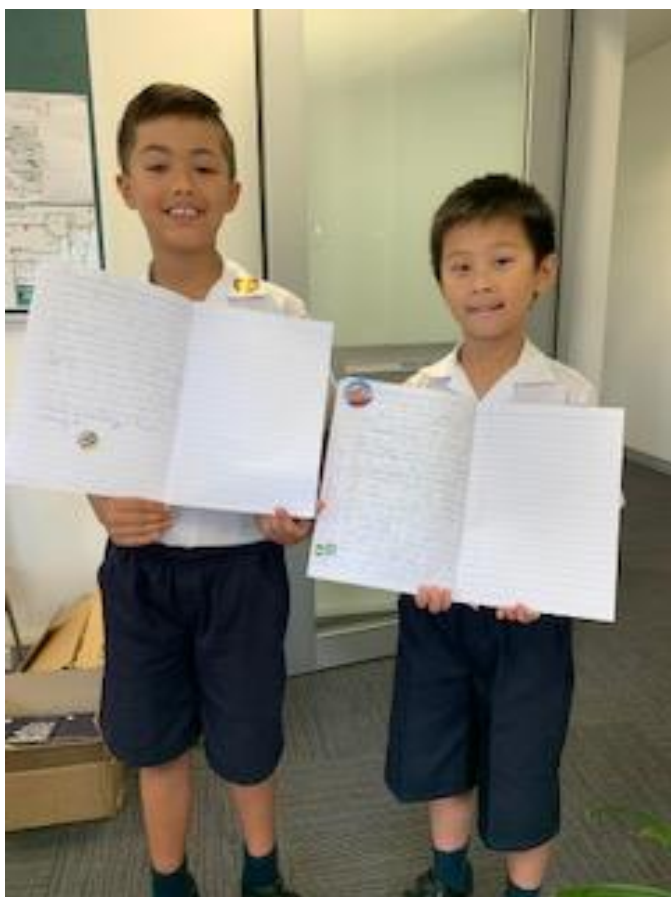
Year 2 students utilising the new spaces around the room during reading groups.



Eric and Chloe using the new booths to complete an independent work activity.



## Star Students



Zach and Archie from Year 3 proudly showing their wonderful writing. Well done boys!

## Sport

### PSSA – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Cricket vs Jasper Road PS at Masonic Oval  
 Softball/TBall vs Castle Hill PS at Fred Caterson  
 Touch Football vs Carlingford West PS at Ted Horwood  
 Basketball vs Sherwood Ridge PS at Hills Basketball Stadium (Fred Caterson)

### PSSA – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Cricket vs Baulkham Hills North PS at Eric Mobbs  
 Softball/TBall vs Beaumont Hills PS at Caddies Creek Oval  
 Touch Football vs Northmead PS at Ted Horwood  
 Basketball vs Murray Farm PS at Hills Basketball Stadium (Fred Caterson)

## Awards

### K -2 Merit Awards

KB	Sahiti K Vivaan G Lehara C Annabel H
KM	Joanne K Archer W Ruby P Simran K
KN	Emmanuel A Holly P Penelope P Zoe W
KW	Taemin S Riya N Krishan G Milena M
1B	Hayden L Ella S Eddy L Lexi W
1D/G	Dabi K Pablo M Nicholas B Anaya A
1K	Nicola K Michael Z Felix W Shanaya S
1S	Madeline G Alan R Sebastian E Joshua X
2A	Lucy P Maxwell C Chloe Z Joseph X
2B	Taya A Ethan C Mallahkai S Ruby Z
2L	Bella W Caesar N Aarav A Maddison T
2R	Hannah G Leo K Felix L Xander B

## Spirit of Excelsior Awards

Ayronveer G - 3S

## **P & C News**

Hello Parents and Carers,

I hope this week finds all of the children settled into their new rooms, teachers and routines. Our first P & C meeting for the year was held last month. We started with a tour of our new beautiful school building. Mrs McKay was very helpful explaining all the different features of the build and how the new areas are working for the students. Once again I would like to remind you that everyone is welcome to attend our meetings each month - you can come for the whole meeting or even 10 minutes. It's a great way to find out what is coming up for the school, how money is being spent, what decisions are being made and why they are being made. It's also lovely to have a chat with teachers and Mrs McKay. Our minutes are available on the Excelsior website also so please make sure you have a read of those. Enjoy the rain.

Regards,

Shannyn Geeve  
P & C President

## **UNIFORM SHOP**

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Saturday 7th March 8.30-9.30am  
Nerida and Tamara

Tuesday 10th March 2.30-3.15pm  
Nerida, Kathryn, Lidija

Tuesday 17th March 2.30-3.15pm  
Nerida, Kathryn, Lidija

Regards,

### **Excelsior Uniform Shop**

*(this is a voluntary P&C service provided to parents and students)*

## **CANTEEN**

### Canteen Roster

Mon 9th  
Cassie 12.30-1.40

Tues 10th  
Trudy 12.30-1.40

Wed 11th  
Nala 11-2

Thurs 12th  
Hong Ping &  
Rong Gui 9-11  
Sarah 12.30-2

Fri 13th  
Nadine 9-2  
Irina 12-2

Mon 16th  
Teresa 12.30-1.40

Tues 17th  
Sashi 12.30-1.40

Wed 18th  
Becky 11-2

Thurs 19th  
Rachelle 11-2  
Vicki 12-2

Fri 20th  
Lidija 9-2

## **P&C EVENTS**

Welcome Party – Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 4pm



## ***Learn Music on Keyboard at School Enrolment for Term 1***

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Cool music knowledge!*



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**5-6**  
YEAR OLDS  
(AGE IN 2020)

**7-13**  
YEAR OLDS  
(AGE IN 2020)

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**Starts Term 2 - Wednesday 1 April**

Cost \$85  
includes registration  
and participant pack

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**2020 NETBALL COMPETITION**  
TEAM VACANCIES - ALL GRADES

AGES	7	8	10	12	13
	4 PLAYERS	4 PLAYERS	1 PLAYER	4 PLAYERS	1 PLAYER

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