



PUSHING THE
BOUNDARIES
OF EDUCATIONAL
POSSIBILITY

Merewether Public School

Great Teaching Inspired Learning 2021





An Insight into Merewether Public School



Greg Culhane
Principal

Merewether Public School is a high achieving school with a strong inclusive community focus. It promotes the values of QUALITY, RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY. Merewether Public School celebrates the uniqueness of each individual. This is reflected in the innovative approach to the provision of individual educational programs for all students. Class structures are tailored to meet student needs. Programs are implemented to provide high quality teaching and learning practices that better meet the full range of student needs. The school's strong emphasis on academic excellence, technology, performing arts, positive behaviour for learning and sporting programs ensures all students have the opportunity to succeed and excel.

Our Focus

1. **Holistic development of students.**
2. **Individualised learning programs for all students targeting maximised learning outcomes.**
3. **High-engagement, meaningful learning with an emphasis on implementing future - focused learning.**

Merewether Public is a school leading the way in innovative learning programs. We host schools from across the state as they come to see how we structure our teaching to cater for all student levels. Differentiation of learning, setting achievable targets and making learning visible to all students, are all reasons why we are so successful in what we do. Christine Taylor, a peer Principal from a large Northern Beaches School, sent the following email following a visit from her staff:

"Thank you so much for welcoming us to your wonderful school....The effort you went to to showcase your programs was just fabulous, every classroom was amazing and the teachers so prepared to share."

Merewether students' high participation rate in a wide range of academic, cultural and sporting activities reflects the school's motto of 'Succeed with Honour'. Many positive compliments are passed on to the school about the way students conduct themselves. Our students distinguish themselves to visitors within the school and outside the school by their behaviour, manners and appearance in their dress uniform.



Curriculum and Learning



Quality Teaching, Successful Students:

DIFFERENTIATING THE CURRICULUM TO CATER FOR ALL

At Merewether Public School, teaching and learning programs are innovative, differentiated and ensure the full support of students to meet their potential. Our teachers undertake regular teacher professional training in 'best practices' for future focused learning and work collaboratively to share knowledge and expertise. The school is committed to continually strengthening class programs to support and enhance individualised teaching and learning through differentiated programs such as DAILY 5, CAFE and TEN.

A differentiated curriculum for all students is a set of learning experiences that are designed to cater for the needs of ALL children. In a quality classroom, teachers are aware that students respond differently because each individual's innate learning style, learning rate and interests differ.

Learning experiences need to encourage the learner to accept responsibility for their own learning, supported by teacher guidance and encouragement. The ultimate goal is for the student to come to realise that they are competing against themselves, rather than peers and to understand that learning requires sustained application.

It is our hope that the students will come to appreciate that the process is just as vital as the end product, that risk-taking can be a stimulating component of learning, allowing the students to explore beyond the boundaries of pre-set thinking modes.

When examining ways in which the curriculum can be differentiated to suit learning styles and needs, teachers consider modification of content, process, product, environment and assessment.

Teaching and learning at Merewether Public School aims to provide each student with a range of learning experiences which will:

- *Assist them to improve their learning*
- *Promote excellence in learning*
- *Provide self-esteem, confidence and independence*
- *Enable students to make self-assessments of their achievements*
- *Encourage a positive work ethic, and*
- *Develop time management skills and self-discipline*



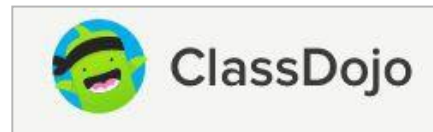


HOME and SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

At Merewether Public School we truly value the positive school-community relationships we currently enjoy. We recognise that parents lead busy lives and need easy access to school information in order to be involved, organised and effectively support their children both at home and at school.

Our aim at Merewether Public is to ensure open, up-to-date and accessible communication. The different ways we do this are by:

- Online MPS Learning Hub <https://mpshub.edublogs.org/>
- Our 'Skoolbag' app is updated daily to include alerts, notices and newsletters
- Weekly school and P&C newsletters which can be accessed via email or on our website <http://www.merewether-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>
- Our school Facebook page which is used to share photos, videos and information <https://www.facebook.com/MerewetherPS/>
- Class Dojo, Blogs and Seesaw Learning Profiles to give parents up-to-date information on what happens in each class
- Comprehensive school reports sent home at the end of Term 2 and Term 4
- Formal and informal Parent/Teacher interviews throughout the year, by appointment
- *Positive and strong relationships* between teachers and parents/carers



Term 4 Edition 2 | Wednesday, 26th October 2017 | Musica Viva Australia

MEREWETHER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Musica Viva 2017! - Is on this Friday

Musica Viva has been inspiring students throughout Australia for thirty years. Over thirty groups from all genres of music tour over 1000 schools per year. Merewether Public School is fortunate to have Musica Viva visit our school with a performance called Entourage - A Mini Australian Opera.

When: This Friday 27 October
Where: School Hall
Time: 9:30am
Cost: \$7.00

Entourage

Hear the highly skilled members of Entourage perform An Australian Badgers Suite by Australian composer Paul Kopetz, who magically evokes the sounds of larkbeets, cicadas and the wind through the treetops. Soaring melodies on the clarinet, a rich cello bass line, stunning song poetry by Australian poet Sydneye Hodgson, and a range of colours on the piano create a rich tonal palette, providing an amazing opportunity to explore Australian flora and fauna. You will never listen to the sounds of the Australian outdoors in the same way again.

This performance is part of our school's learning programs and builds on lessons completed within the classroom. All students are expected to attend.

Please return your signed permission note and money to school by tomorrow Thursday 26 October.

Working Bee at School last weekend...

Thank you to all who helped!

A huge thank you to those who braved the chill and rain to attend the working bee. The team managed to:

- Remove the top layer of sand from the sand-pit, ready for topping up
- Plant and mulch the garden by the top back gate
- Mulch the footpath next to the top back gate
- Install the boat "Sir Harry" into the playground - decking yet to be installed adjacent
- Prune and trim many grasses, trees and bushes
- Undercoat & paint the handrails to the top classrooms red

Bren and Kirzly also cooked a great lunch of bacon and sausage sangaas, in between garden jobs. Thanks to the school for supplying the snags and bread and thank you to the P&C for the bacon and juice peppers.

"Sir Harry" was donated by the Jones family....

Sir Harry is a small fiberglass boat. It belonged to Ashley's (D/26) and Louie's (KJ) grandparents, Marilyn and Steven Jones.

Not long after they bought the boat, Marilyn's father Harry (Ash and Louie's great grandfather) passed away, and hence the boat was named after him.

The Jones' used Sir Harry for 17 years, pulling all around the waters of Port Stephens catching whiting, bream and flathead.

In 2017 the Jones' upgraded to a "finny", and Sir Harry being in a rather dilapidated state, was cleaned, painted and bought back to new - to be installed right here at school.

Thank you to the Jones family.



Moving into 2021: Future-Focused Learning



At Merewether Public we are recognised for our innovative and current teaching methods. We recognise that key skills such as creativity, critical thinking and flexibility are essential in today's rapidly changing world.

"In the 21st century, scientific and technological innovations have become increasingly important as we face the benefits and challenges of both globalization and a knowledge-based economy. To succeed in this new information-based and highly technological society, students need to develop their capabilities in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) to levels much beyond what was considered acceptable in the past."

(National Science Foundation)



In order to prepare our students for a rapidly changing world, we recognise the need to focus on project-based learning that takes each discipline of STEM and promotes and teaches collaborative, creative and critical thinking skills.

What we offer:

- Technology-Enhanced, Future-Focused STEAM programs carried out in a specialised, dedicated classroom environment
- Coding taught in every year group and supported further in extra-curricular clubs and activities
- Project Based Learning Tasks integrated into current units of work, and
- Access to current and emerging technology, integrated into all curriculum areas





Quality Learning School Program

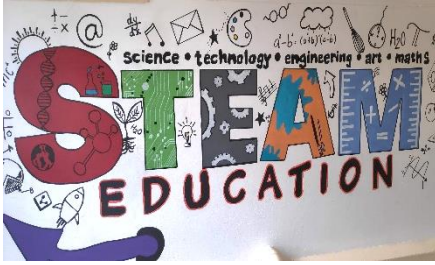
At Merewether Public School, we believe every child matters. The National curriculum at Merewether Public School underpins a range of events, programs and initiatives including:

- Differentiated curriculum to ensure best outcomes for all students focusing on individualised learning outcomes for all students
- Junior and Senior CODING classes
- Junior and Senior STEM classes
- Positive Behaviour Learning (PBL) School
- PBL assemblies, lessons and excursions
- Aboriginal programs and perspective embedded in curriculum
- Didgeridoo Group
- Harmony and NAIDOC Days/Week
- Aerobics competitions
- Annual Presentation Day to celebrate our achievements
- Chaplain Program - Community and welfare support
- Area and regional participation in Train-on debating, Premier debating and public speaking competitions
- Annual participation in statewide, skills-based assessment programs - ICAS, University of New South Wales Assessments, Premier's Reading Challenge, Spelling Bee
- Annual athletics, swimming and cross country carnivals
- Road and Water Safety Education Programs
- Crunch and Sip - Healthy Eating Program
- K-6 Fun Friends and Friends for Life programs targeting social/emotional development
- Life Education Program
- Optional scripture program
- Optional Primary Ethics program
- Easter Hat Parade, Grandparent's Day Open Day, Education Week open day
- Junior and Senior Choir
- Free Taekwondo classes
- Onsite morning and afternoon OHSC
- Vacation Care program through OHSC
- Annual participation in the Science and Engineering Discovery Challenge
- Onsite quality preschool
- Internship and practicum programs (teachers in training) through links with the University of Newcastle
- Junior and Senior Dance groups
- Junior and Senior Drama groups
- Weekly specialist art classes
- Annual StarStruck participation
- Annual Hunter Schools Dance participation
- Library Book Fairs and Book Week parade
- Musical program currently offering tuition in keyboard and soon band
- PSSA sport participation leading to zone and regional programs
- Periodic swimming netball and gymnastics sport options available
- Stage based excursions to complement classroom units of work - Canberra, The Great Aussie Bush Camp, Watagans National Park, Taronga Zoo, Reptile Park, The Rocks, Sydney and many more!
- Annual Kindy Club - Transition from preschool to Kindergarten and buddy mentor program
- Visiting performances – organised on a needs basis to expose our students to a wide range of cultural activities and programs - e.g. Musica Viva, Cultural Aboriginal Cleansing Ceremony
- Year 6 Farewell and transition to high school programs
- Specialist SLSO early intervention in literacy
- Speech Pathology in Schools (SPinS) model of service delivery run by Newcastle University
- 'Green Team' student environmental program





Quality Learning Environment



Merewether Public School ensures that students' needs, care and welfare are always a top priority. We consistently provide and maintain a high-quality school learning environment, fully equipped with the following facilities:

- Outstanding STEAM room which includes 3D printing, touch screen technology and a chef's kitchen
- Appealing and child-friendly learning environments enabling meaningful lessons to occur in and outside the classrooms
- Beautiful Community Kitchen Garden with *chickens* and a cooking lessons each week K-6
- Enclosed fenced grounds that meet Departmental safety standards
- Dynamic music program including Vacation programs
- Sun Safe play areas across the school grounds
- Covered Outdoor Learning Areas (COLAs)
- Latest interactive technology in every classroom
- Technology suite equipped for webinar conferencing
- Access to iPads, notebook laptops and desktop computers in every classroom K-6.
- High-speed WIFI System across the school, including school hall and OHSC facility radius
- Modern, healthy-school approved, online canteen facilities featuring seasonal menu options
- Modern, well-equipped school hall with grand piano
- On site District Behavioural Support and Senior Psychologist staff
- Spacious, well-equipped library with access to E-Books
- Specialist classrooms for technology enhanced, future focused, specialised STEAM classes, Primary Ethics, collaborative learning spaces and learning assistance programs
- TASK onsite – High quality before and after school care every day including Vacation care



*'We
create
better
futures'*

Call to make an appointment with the Principal
and take a tour of the school

49631318

Merewether Public School

High Achieving, Strong Inclusive Community

Henry Street
Merewether
NSW
2291

Phone: 02 49631318