

KINGSGROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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19 March 2020

Dear parents and carers

As you are aware, the World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a pandemic and the situation continues to evolve. For this reason, schools are being asked to take action to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Our school will continue to follow the advice of the NSW Department of Education and keep you informed and updated.

To ensure our community are well informed, we have been providing daily updates.

Social Distancing

Staff have discussed 'social distancing' with the students. I have great confidence in staff to do this in an appropriate way to ensure students understand social distancing is about reducing unnecessary physical contact or games in close physical proximity to each other.

School Canteen

Mel's Tasty Bites has advised both school canteens will remain open for as long as possible provided they have the available stock. A new temporary menu will start from Monday, 23 March. The temporary menu will be uploaded over the weekend on Mel's Tasty Bites website. A copy will be sent home with students when it has been made available to the school.

<https://www.melstastybites.com/menu>

Physical activity

Tomorrow, students will be involved in modified physical outdoor activities with their class only. Students in Years 3 to 6 should come to school in their normal sports uniform. Please be reminded PSSA sport has been cancelled until further notice.

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence was scheduled to be acknowledged on Friday, 20 March however it has been postponed. Kingsgrove Public School will continue with activities as planned however, these will be completed in classrooms.

Students will be involved in lessons and activities encouraging them to take a stand together against bullying and exploring ways we can work to prevent and respond to bullying. In addition, our school is also participating in **Every Heart Needs Art** project; an initiative that explores themes in anti-bullying while promoting community, student voice and creativity.

It is always important to revisit Anti-bullying and Anti-racism strategies, particularly in this sensitive and challenging time within our school community.

Student attendance and absences

With the current situation some parents have enquired about expectations for student attendance. Our school is required to follow Department of Education procedures. Please read the information below from the NSW Department of Education.

Students who are required to self-isolate for the various reasons provided by the government will have their attendance recorded as 'flexible' and their attendance records will not be affected.

Students who do not attend school due to the Coronavirus for valid reasons such as chronic medical conditions or low immune systems that may be at increased risk of disease will have their attendance recorded as 'flexible' and their attendance records will not be affected.

For all other students, schools are open for instruction. Parents who keep their child home need to provide an explanation to the school as per normal processes. Absences which are not for one of the reasons above, or meet regular attendance explanations will be recorded as 'absent unjustified'.

We thank the school community for their support and understanding as we continue to implement advice and procedures of the Department of Education within our school.

Be assured that our school is managing the challenges efficiently and effectively to ensure we continue to educate, protect and care for our students, staff and school community.

We will continue to keep you informed as soon as we are aware of any other changes to our school routines.

Ms Fermanis
Principal