

PANANIA PUBLIC SCHOOL



INFORMATION BOOKLET

WELCOME

The staff at Panania Public School would like to welcome all new families to our school. We hope that your child will settle happily and quickly into our school and we look forward to a positive and rewarding relationship with your family. This booklet has been produced to provide you with information about the activities, procedures and routines that will be relevant to your child.

OUR SCHOOL

Panania Public School is a coeducational school set in safe, secure, spacious, well-maintained grounds catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. It has a proud tradition of active community involvement and support.

The school offers a wide range of programs and opportunities for its students.

These include:

- a strong focus on teaching and learning with emphasis given to literacy, numeracy, student engagement and the integration of technology;
- a rich curriculum offering varied opportunities including dance, choir, music, drama, leadership opportunities, debating and public speaking;
- a comprehensive physical education and fitness program; and
- sport as a strong tradition in the school.

Panania Public School provides a quality education for all students in a caring environment where they are encouraged to achieve their personal best. We aim to prepare students to be effective citizens who have respect for themselves, for each other and the environment.

Principal:

Mrs Maria Siwak

Assistant Principals:

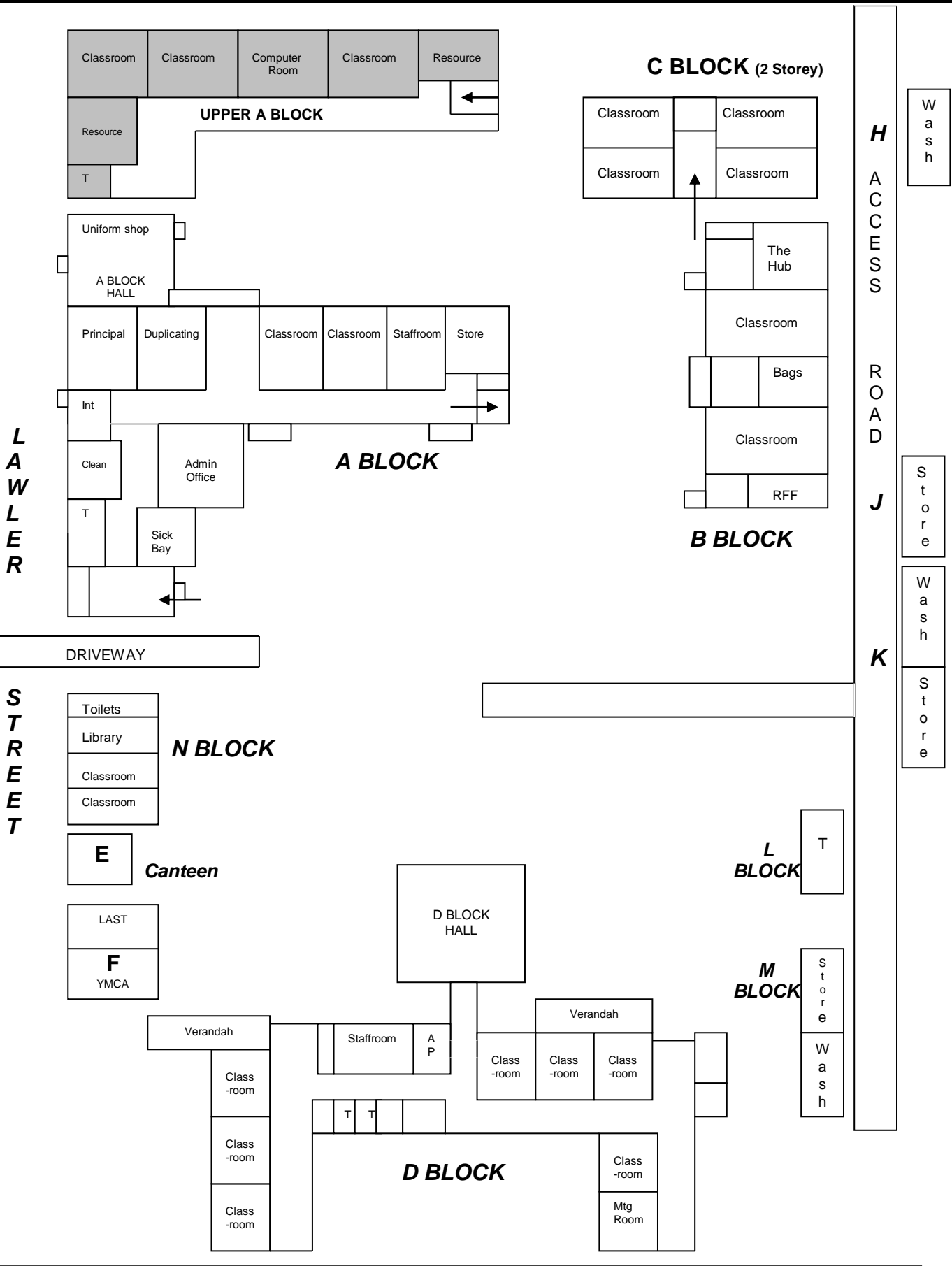
Ms Martha Adams
Ms Trisha Ambrose
Mrs Sonya Apostolovski
Miss Joanne McIntyre

School Administration Manager: Mrs Julie Robinson



SCHOOL MAP

PICNIC POINT ROAD



OUR CURRICULUM

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), develops syllabus documents in the following Key Learning Areas (KLA's). It is mandatory for all schools to follow these:

- **English**

- Reading and Viewing
- Speaking and Listening
- Writing and Representing
- Handwriting and Using Digital Technologies
- Spelling
- Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary
- Thinking Imaginatively and Creatively
- Expressing Themselves
- Reflecting on Learning

- **Mathematics**

- Working Mathematically
- Numbers and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

- **Science and Technology**

- Working Scientifically
- Design and Production
- Living World
- Material World
- Physical World
- Earth and Space
- Digital Technologies

- **Creative Arts**

- Music
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Drama

- **Human Society and Its Environment**

Geography

- Places
- People and Places
- People, Places and the Environments
- People, Places and the Environments of the World

History

- Personal and Family Histories
- The Past and the Present
- Australian History: Community and Remembrance, First Contacts
- Australian History: Colonial and National

- **Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)**

- Active lifestyle
- Dance
- Games
- Sport
- Growth and development
- Gymnastics
- Personal health choices
- Safe living

The curriculum aims to be relevant and challenging and offers a range of learning opportunities to enable students to develop the skills necessary to participate in and contribute to society. The experiences provided integrate the Quality Teaching framework and are in keeping with each individual's potential and the stage of development reached.

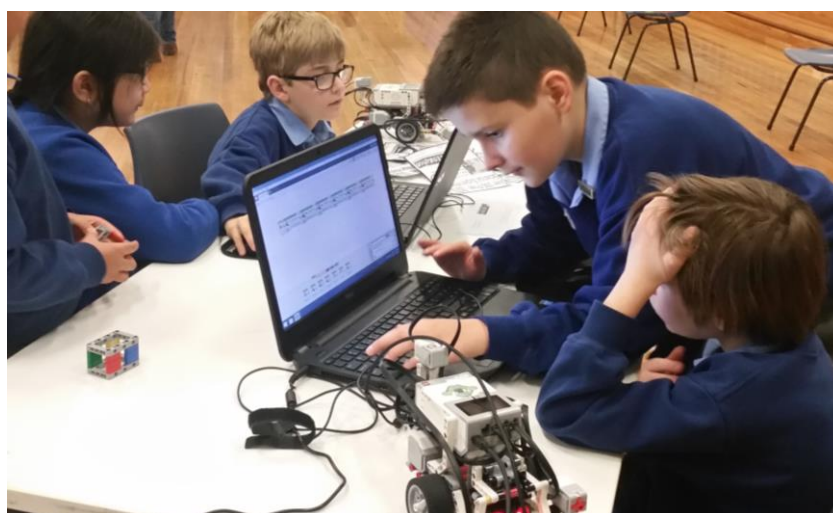
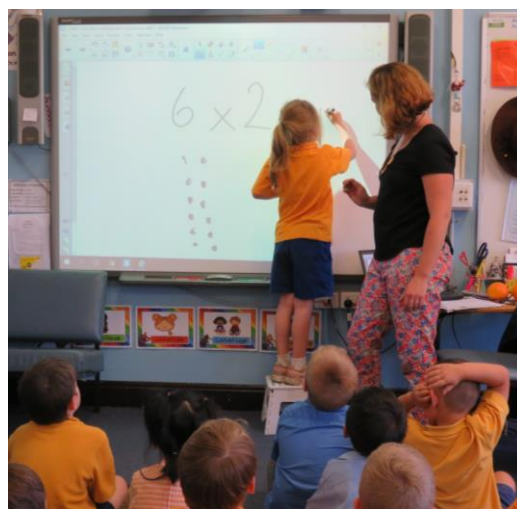
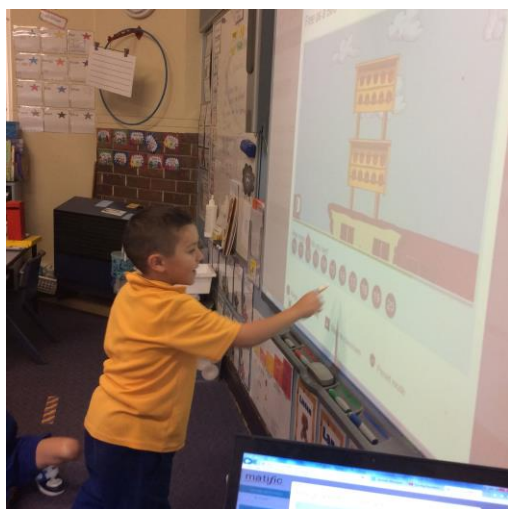
The curriculum is organised into 'STAGES' (rather than years).

Early Stage 1 - Kindergarten

Stage 1 - Years 1 and 2

Stage 2 - Years 3 and 4

Stage 3 - Years 5 and 6



SUPPORT STAFF

English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D).

The EAL/D teacher works with students from language backgrounds other than English (LBOTE) who require assistance in spoken and written language. Students may be withdrawn from class for specialised work or they may remain in the classroom, where the EAL/D teacher and classroom teacher work in a team teaching situation.

Release from Face to Face Teacher (RFF)

The RFF teacher provides each classroom teacher with two hours per week of class free time to plan, evaluate, undertake professional learning, meet with parents/carers etc. The class teacher and the RFF teacher work in collaboration to plan the educational program. The class teacher retains overall responsibility.

School Counsellor

The School Counsellor is available at the school two days per week. The counsellor works with teachers, students and parents/carers in an effort to maximise the learning of individual students. Teachers refer students through the school's Learning and Support Team, of which the School Counsellor is a member. Permission is sought from parents/carers before the counsellor undertakes any formal assessment or intervention. Parents/carers may also request an interview or a counsellor referral form for their child if they are concerned about issues, at home or school, that impact on learning.

Learning and Support Teacher (LaST)

The LaST works with staff and students who have additional learning and support needs. Students may be withdrawn from class for specialised work or they may remain in the classroom where the LaST and classroom teacher work in a team teaching situation.



PARENT / TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

Contact between the school and home is of utmost importance. There are many different activities for parents/carers during the year, some involve students and some are for parents/carers and teachers. However, please feel free to make an appointment at a mutually agreed time to discuss your child's progress.

Parent / Teacher interviews are held early in Term 3 after Semester 1 Reports go home.

Many class teachers ask for parent/carer helpers during the year to assist with activities. This is a very good way to become a contributing member of the school community. Parents/carers and teachers working together is a great partnership and always has positive outcomes for a child's education.



Developing School Involvement

Schools that function effectively build positive relationships and have community and parental support and cooperation at their core. Parents/carers can be involved by:

- Attending monthly parent body meetings;
- Attending school functions such as sport carnivals and open days;
- Participating in parent / teacher interviews;
- Attending information nights;
- Reading newsletters and other social media which give information about school events; and
- Generally supporting decisions made at school and seeking clarification if there is a concern.

Becoming Involved

Opportunities for community involvement exist through:

- P&C Association and Fundraising Committee;
- Orientation Program for Kindergarten;
- Parent/carer Workshops eg. in Computer Education and Mathematics;
- Assisting with School Sport;
- Volunteering in the School Canteen;
- STAR Reading Program;
- Working Bees.

SOME THINGS WE DO

Academic

- L3 and L3-1 literacy programs; TEN and TOWN numeracy programs
- Each grade has school excursions linked to the curriculum
- Technology Education
- Visual Arts Competitions
- STAR Reading Program
- Enrichment Programs K-2 and Years 3-6
- Incursions

Enrichment

- Choir
- Dance
- Public Speaking
- Debating
- Student Representative Council (SRC) K-6
- Peer Support
- Drama
- Performing Arts Festivals
- Open Day – Education Week
- Mobile Music Bus
- Year 5 students participate in a three day camp
- Year 6 students undertake a three day excursion to Canberra
- DanceSport program for Years 5 & 6

Sporting

- Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals
- Primary School's Sports Association (PSSA) and Knock Out Competitions Years 3 - 6
- K – 6 Sport Program based on fundamental movement skill development
- K – 6 Gymnastics Programs



Athletics Carnival



Cross Country



Year 6 Excursion



Dance



Incursions



Debating

GENERAL INFORMATION

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The YMCA provides before and after school care on site at Panania Public School. If you require this service please call the YMCA direct on 9771 6033 for all information.

ASSEMBLIES

As the school is split physically we come together at the start of the day with a K-6 Assembly run by the prefects. Years K-2 and 3-6 have separate weekly assemblies where certificates are awarded to students who have made a special contribution to their class/school that week. These assemblies are held every Friday.

ATTENDANCE

Students are required by law (Education Act 1990), to attend school each day the school is open. It is the **duty of the parent or carer** to ensure that these obligations are fulfilled. The act outlines justifiable “defences” for non-attendance (including sickness) and the need for an explanation within 7 days of the absence. If no explanation is given, **or if the explanation given is not acceptable** (e.g. shopping, birthday, **last day of term**), the leave is denoted as an unjustified absence. Parents/carers are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven school days from the first day of any period of absence.

Principals may approve up to 15 days leave in a school year for such things as:

- misadventure or unforeseen event,
- short family holidays that cannot be taken within the normal vacation period,
- recognised religious festivals or ceremonial occasions.

An ‘Application for Extended Leave – Travel’ must be completed for students who are taking 10 or more days leave for holidays outside the normal vacation periods. This application must be approved and signed by the Principal and a ‘Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel’ will be issued to the family to be carried when travelling. The ‘Application for Extended Leave – Travel’ forms are available from the School Office. These days are counted as absences.

It is very important that students arrive by 9.10am ready for assembly. Valuable learning time is missed if students are late.

All student absences are tallied, recorded on a term by term basis, reported in the Semester 1 and 2 Reports and totals submitted to the Department of Education.

Late Arrivals – Students arriving late to school must report to the Administration Office for a ‘Late Arrival’ slip before entering class. This computer generated slip needs to be given to the teacher on entering class. This is recorded as a partial absence in the Class Roll and reported in the Semester 1 and 2 Report.

Early Leavers – To ensure safety, students are not permitted to leave the school grounds from the time they arrive at school until 3.10pm when the bell rings. Parents/carers who wish to collect their child early from school must obtain a computer generated release slip from the Administration Office to hand to the teacher on collecting their child from the classroom. This is recorded as a partial absence in the Class Roll and reported in the Semester 1 and 2 Reports.

If someone other than the person nominated on the enrolment form is to pick up a child, a note must be provided requesting the release.

A Department of Education Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) monitors student attendance and follows up where a pattern of poor attendance is developing.

BANKING

Students have the opportunity to bank each week with the Commonwealth Bank in special School Student accounts. The administration staff process the banking electronically. Each time the school deposits \$100.00 on behalf of students, the school earns \$5.50 in commissions. Banking day is Tuesday.

BIRTHDAYS

If parents/carers wish to celebrate their child's birthday at school, please supply individual cupcakes, doughnuts, muffins or slices as these are easier to distribute to each child. (No nuts please as we have students who are anaphylactic).

Please do not send lolly bags for children, as with our 'Healthy Eating' policy, we are not able to distribute these to students.

BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Australia Book Club forms are sent home once per term. Parents/carers have the opportunity to order from a selection of reasonably priced books for their children.

BUSES

Students from K-2 are eligible for a Student Opal Card. Students in Years 3-6 must live outside a 1.6km radius of the school in order to be eligible. Details on how to apply for a Student Opal Card can be obtained from the School Office.

CALENDAR

A Community Calendar of school events is sent home each term as an aid to allow parents/carers to plan to attend school functions and to budget for excursions and camps. The Term Calendar is also available on the school website.

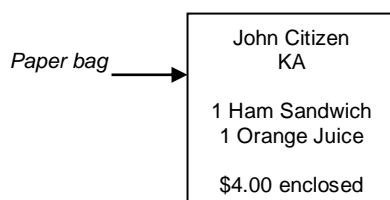
CANTEEN

The canteen makes an important contribution to school and community life, focusing on providing healthy food at a reasonable price. The canteen is open four days per week and is run, under the auspice of the P&C, by a paid manager. A current price list is sent home on a regular basis.

There are two ways to order your child's lunch:

- Online ordering through Munch Monitor - this allows parents/carers to create an account with the Canteen using a credit card. You can order your child's lunch up to 4 weeks in advance; or
- Using a paper lunch bag - write your child's name, class and lunch order on the paper bag, enclosing the correct money. Students take their lunch order to the Orange Drop Box at the Canteen before morning assembly.

All lunches are then distributed to the classrooms just before lunchtime.



The Canteen Committee is always looking for new volunteers to help in the canteen, so if you can spare a little time to help in this important activity, it would be very much appreciated. Canteen profits help to provide students with equipment not provided from other sources.

Young children should only have a small amount of money to spend at the canteen at any one time.

CAPTAINS AND YEAR 6 LEADERS

Students and teachers elect two School Captains, two Vice Captains and six Prefects at the conclusion of each year, for the next school year. Each sporting house also elects a Captain and Vice Captain. All Year 6 students are considered to be school leaders. Leadership development opportunities are a strong focus in the school.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR CONTACT NUMBERS

Please notify the school of any change of address or contact phone numbers, as soon as possible. Any change in residential address requires a 100 point proof of address. This information extremely important as, in an emergency, parent/carer contact is critical.

CHATTERBOX

Chatterbox, the school newsletter, is published every fortnight during the term. It contains news and information about the school and its activities and is a useful means of communication for parents and carers. This newsletter, along with the Community Calendar, is taken home by the **eldest** child in each family. Please encourage your child to pass on these important forms of communication, which are also available on our website and our 'Skoolbag' app.

CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES

During the first year at school, children may come into contact with early childhood diseases such as chicken pox. You also need to be aware of the possibility of your child having head lice or nits. If this occurs don't be upset or embarrassed, as it is something that happens to many children during their school life.

Schools follow Department of Health guidelines, relating to the amount of time a child needs to remain home, in the case of various communicable or infectious diseases. (See page 13 for a sample).

CLASS ORGANISATION

Classes from Kindergarten to Year 6 are organised on a parallel basis. This means that within each grade, each of the classes has an even distribution of students of all ability levels.

At the beginning of the year students are not placed in their new classes for the first few days, until enrolment numbers are finalised. All classes work on a meaningful unit of work focusing on Safety - Sun Safety, Road, Pedestrian and Bike safety etc.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE

During the year many parents/carers provide valuable assistance to teachers by helping in the classroom, which is encouraged and highly valued.

It is a mandatory requirement of the Department of Education that all volunteers obtain a **Working with Children Check (WWCC)** and provide the WWCC to the school prior to commencing volunteer work. A WWCC is obtained by completing an application form online and then attending a Service NSW Centre. There is no cost involved for a volunteer. Further information is available from kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au. As volunteers, parents/carers are required to sign the Visitor Register at the School Office and obtain a visitor's pass. This is necessary for Child Protection, Health and Safety and insurance purposes.



CRUNCH AND SIP

'Crunch and Sip' is a set morning break for students to eat fruit or salad vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Research has shown that drinking water and eating fruit and vegetables is essential for good health and can help concentration throughout the day.

CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

When students attending school are in the custody of one parent or carer, a copy of the court order outlining the conditions of custody should be sighted and a copy provided to the Principal. It is important that this procedure be carried out in the interests of your child. It is also important that the school is notified if there are any changes to this order. This confidential information is respected by the school.

ENROLMENT

Children who are five years old prior to 1 August may be enrolled at the beginning of the school year. Documentary evidence of date of birth, immunisation and proof of address is required. Each year, a comprehensive Kindergarten Orientation Program is held giving children and parents/carers the opportunity to make strong links with the school prior to children starting school.

EXCURSIONS AND CULTURAL VISITS

Excursions and visiting performances (incursions) take place throughout the year. Overnight excursions or camps occur in Years 5 and 6. All students are expected to participate in these arranged activities, as they are an integral part of the educational program and are directly linked to the curriculum.

Excursion costs and frequency throughout the year are closely monitored. Written parental permission is required for all excursions and a comprehensive risk assessment is completed prior to each activity. **It is very important that the 'final date for payment' for these activities is respected and adhered to. Late payment causes administrative problems and may prevent your child from attending.**

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS

Giftedness is a broad concept that encompasses a range of abilities, not only in the intellectual domain but also in the creative, social and physical areas. Giftedness becomes talent as a result of training and practice.

An enrichment program operates for targeted students, on a weekly basis, during the course of the year.

Programs in dance, choir, chess, public speaking, debating and sport cater for those students who express an interest and a commitment to be involved.

Many opportunities are also offered for students to compete in various competitions and contests at school including Enrichment Programs and Public Speaking.

The school participates in cultural festivals, giving students with talent an opportunity to perform.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important tool to develop regular work habits. It is relevant to classroom work and provides valuable practice and reinforcement of basic skills. While the Department of Education policy does not stipulate times, approximate times per day are as follows:

- Years K - 2 - 10 - 20 minutes
- Years 3 - 4 - 25 - 30 minutes
- Years 5 - 6 - 40 - 60 minutes

All homework is marked and followed up by the teacher. Homework is a home-school partnership in the teaching/learning process. The child is responsible for his/her own work while parents/carers provide a supportive, encouraging role.

IMMUNISATION

At the commencement of schooling every student must produce an Immunisation History Statement provided by the Department of Human Services (Medicare). If this cannot be produced, at the outbreak of any contagious disease, students without a certificate may be required by the Department of Health to stay at home for the duration of the outbreak.

Diseases include: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

DISEASE	EXCLUSION	RE ADMISSION ON MEDICAL CERTIFICATE	CONTACTS (OTHERS IN FAMILY)
German Measles	Until fully recovered or for at least 4 days from appearance of rash.	Upon recovery.	Not excluded.
Mumps	9 days from onset of swelling or until swelling goes down.		Not excluded.
Chicken Pox	For at least 5 days AND until all blisters have dried.		Not excluded, apart from any child with an immune deficiency or receiving chemotherapy.
Measles	At least 4 days from appearance of rash.	Upon recovery.	Not excluded if immunised.
Whooping Cough	For 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment.	Upon recovery.	Not excluded if immunised.
Infectious Hepatitis (A)	Until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after onset of jaundice or illness.	Upon recovery.	Not excluded.

Note: For information on other diseases please contact the Principal, the South Western Sydney Area Health on 8738 6000 or the Department of Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au

LEARNING and SUPPORT TEAM

Members of the Learning and Support Team include the Coordinator, the School Counsellor, the LaST, the EAL/D teacher and the Principal. This team meets regularly to discuss the needs of individual students who may be referred by teachers, Stage Coordinators and/or parents/carers.

Appropriate strategies are recommended in relation to individual student learning. Outside support is recommended and sought where needed. Student progress is monitored and reviewed by the team.

LIBRARY

The Library is a most important learning centre in the school. All classes have weekly lessons and students have the opportunity to borrow books. They are encouraged to read widely both for enjoyment and for information, to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge and to respect the rules of the Library. The Library is open to all students during lunchtimes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

You can help by....

- ensuring your child has a library bag (school excursion bag) to protect books;
- reminding your child to return books each week; and
- making sure the books are kept safely away from younger members of the family and from pets.



LOST PROPERTY

A lost property basket is kept in A Block near the Staffroom and in D Block. It is regularly emptied and any labelled articles, are promptly returned. The articles which have no names attached are periodically given to the Uniform Shop for resale. Notice of this is placed in the Chatterbox with ample time for collection. Please label (and check that the label has not faded over time) all your child's belongings, especially school jackets and hats so they may be returned to your child promptly.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

No class teacher is permitted to administer medication of any description. Parents/carers of students who need to take prescription medication must speak to the Principal or delegate about the procedures necessary and a Health Care Plan will be developed. Un-prescribed medication will not be administered unless it is part of a Health Care Plan.

If asthma medication is needed, students may self-administer the medication from their own inhaler.

Students are not permitted to have medication of any description in their possession or in their bags (asthma medication is excluded).

This reflects Department of Education Policies.

NATIONAL TESTING

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests are conducted over 3 days in May in the following areas: Reading, Language Conventions, Writing and Numeracy. Results (in the form of a report) are sent to parents later in September.

In 2020 the National Assessment Program will be conducted from:

Tuesday, 12 May – Thursday, 14 May. (Please try to avoid activity which would take your child away from school at this time).

P & C ASSOCIATION

The Panania Public School P&C Association is an important and integral part of the school. P&C Meetings are held at school on the first Monday of each month at 7.00pm in the Staffroom in A Block. You are cordially invited to attend.

These meetings are an opportunity to meet other parents/carers and to be involved in the life of the school.

This is the major forum for discussion between school personnel and parents/carers. Election of officers of the P&C takes place at the AGM in November/December. A membership fee of \$1 per person per year entitles you to be a voting member of the P&C.

The P&C has various specialised functions and committees such as the Canteen Committee, Uniform Shop and the Fundraising Committee. All these committees work for the good of the school and the benefit of the students.

P & C Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee meets to plan activity for the following year and then, as required, when events are scheduled. This committee fulfils a variety of functions, the main one being fundraising. Interesting social activities are also planned.

The children love to know that you are involved with these activities. New members are always very welcome.

PARKING

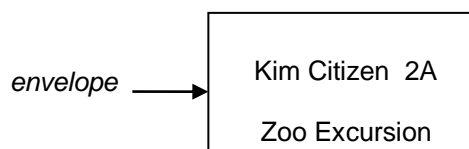
Parents/carers are asked **not** to drive into the school grounds to pick up or drop off their children, as the access road is for staff, canteen deliveries, waste and recycling pick up only. Parents/carers should be aware of and observe the restricted parking zones and speed limits around the school in the interests of student safety and to allow access for buses.

- **Parents/carers are NOT permitted to park in the School Staff Car Park** (with the exception of after school hours when picking up children from the YMCA. In this case the Lawler Street car park is available for use **after 4.00pm**).
- **Please do NOT park in the Pedestrian Crossing areas, across driveways, in the designated disabled parking area in Lawler Street or the bus zone on Picnic Point Road.**

PAYMENTS

We endeavour to let parents/carers know well in advance the costs associated with excursions, special programs, visiting performers and sport.

- Payments to the school may be made by Cash, EFTPOS or the Parent Online Portal (POP) methods. The POP method of payment is hosted by Westpac and can be accessed via the school website at **panania-p.schools.nsw.gov.au** and selecting the **\$Make a Payment** tab. A secure payment Drop Box is also located at the School Office for your convenience.
- Where cash is sent to school, please place it in an envelope secured with tape, as coins fall out. Your child's name, class and the reason for sending the money should be clearly marked on the envelope, eg



- At the beginning of the year each child needs a 'School Resource Package' which is purchased at school. In 2019 the cost of these packages ranged between \$55 - \$95 depending upon the grade.
- There is an annual General School Contribution which may be paid in full, or by instalments, during the year. The contribution for 2019 was \$45.00 per child. This contribution offsets the costs incurred for additional school resources and equipment.

PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

At Panania Public School we endeavour to promote to a wider audience the positive and interactive learning environment of our school and its community.

To be able to do this, we publish a variety of student work samples and other promotional materials, including photographs of students on the school website and social media. Parental permission is requested and signed for on the enrolment form.

For publishing in any other media outlets, such as the local newspapers etc, separate permission is sought from individual parents.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

We do not encourage students to bring toys to school (unless for news) because loss or damage can cause much distress. Electronic items such as iPods etc, should **not** be brought to school. Mobile phones are also discouraged from being brought to school, however, students who do bring phones to school must leave them at the School Office for safe keeping throughout the day and collect them after the bell rings at the end of the day. Trading cards are also banned.

PHOTOS

Class groups, individual photographs and special groups are taken annually in Term 1 by professional photographers.



Class Photos



Group Photo

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Early in Term 1, all parents/carers are invited to a Parent/Carer Information Night. At these meetings the teacher speaks to all parents/carers as a group, outlining the Key Learning Area activity to be covered in class, information relating to school and class routines and organisation, the expectations of students and how parents/carers may help. This is a valuable forum that paves the way for parents/carers and teachers to work together in partnership for the benefit of their child. Your attendance is strongly encouraged.

Ongoing assessment forms the basis of our teaching and learning and the compilation of Student Reports, which are sent home twice a year. Parent/Teacher interviews follow the Semester 1 Reports.

If you would like information regarding your child's progress at any time, contact the class teacher by telephoning or emailing the School Office, or by note/email to the teacher to arrange an appointment.

SAFETY IN AND AROUND THE SCHOOL

This is an area of utmost importance and concern to us. The following needs to be observed:

- All visitors and volunteers must come to the School Office to sign in and obtain a visitors pass before proceeding on approved business;
- Access and speed signs which have been placed at both entrances to the school;
- Use of driveways between 8.15am and 4.00pm is for staff and deliveries only;
- 40 kmph speed zones and parking restrictions are in force around the school;
- Schools are Non-Smoking areas;
- Schools are Alcohol Free zones during school hours and when students are present;
- Any issue between students needs to be dealt with by the classroom teacher in the first instance. Parents/carers must not approach another student on the school grounds or while they are travelling to and from school.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT STAFF (SASS)

The friendly and obliging SAS Staff in the School Office are available to help with any enquiries you may have concerning enrolments, transfers, payments and other administration or general concerns.

SCHOOL HOURS

School begins at 9.15am and finishes at 3.10pm. Students should not be in the playground before 8.50am, as teachers are not on duty each day until then. In the interests of student safety, please ensure that students start arriving after 8.50am.

- Starting Time: 9.15am
- Recess - Monday - Thursday 11.10am – 11.30am
- Friday 11.00am – 11.20am
- Lunch - Monday - Thursday: 1.00pm – 1.45pm
- Friday - PSSA groups: 12.15pm
- Friday - All other classes: 1.00pm – 1.45pm
- Finishing Time: 3.10pm



SCHOOL UNIFORM

The Panania Public School community supports the wearing of full school uniform, including a school hat, as a matter of pride and to develop a sense of belonging. All students are encouraged to wear school uniform. We have received many compliments about how smart the students from Panania PS look in their uniform, particularly when we go on excursions.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

The school operates a Uniform Shop, which is run on a voluntary basis by parents/carers. This is located in 'A' Block Hall and is open each Friday morning from 8.45am until 9.15am.

Ready-made uniforms, at very reasonable prices, are available from the Uniform Shop, along with quality second-hand uniforms for both boys and girls.

If you are unable to visit the Uniform Shop, an order form and price list is available from the School Office. Orders can also be placed online at pananiapublicuniformshop@gmail.com.

SCHOOL UNIFORM – An overview

Girls Summer Uniform

Dress:	Small gold and white check 'Roycord' with royal blue thread, A-line style
Skort:	Royal blue worn with a white short sleeve shirt with 'Peter Pan' collar
Socks:	White anklet style
Shoes:	Black leather lace up, buckle or velcro

Girls Winter Uniform

Tunic:	Royal blue serge, A-line style
Slacks:	Optional for winter, navy blue
Blouse:	White long/short sleeve
Fleecy Pullover:	V-Neck royal blue with school emblem
Fleecy Jacket:	Fleece zip up jacket with school emblem
Socks:	White anklet style
Shoes:	Black leather lace up, buckle or velcro

Boys Summer / Winter Uniform

Shirt:	'School Blue' short or long sleeve
Shorts/Trousers:	College Grey
Fleecy Pullover:	V-Neck royal blue with school emblem
Fleecy Jacket:	Fleece zip up jacket with school emblem
Socks:	Grey anklet style
Shoes:	Black leather lace up or velcro

Boys & Girls Summer Sports Uniform

Polo Shirt:	Gold with school emblem
Shorts:	Royal blue unisex sports shorts
Socks:	White sports socks
Shoes:	White sports shoes

Boys & Girls Winter Sport Uniform

Polo Shirt:	Gold, long or short sleeve with school emblem
Fleecy Jacket:	Royal blue and gold with school emblem
Fleecy Pants:	Royal blue

The fleecy jackets may be worn as part of the normal school uniform. Fleecy pants are only to be worn on Fridays.

BAGS, HATS & ACCESSORIES

School Back Pack
Library / Excursion Bag
School Hat
School scrunchies for summer or winter

All the above items are available from the Uniform Shop.



SECURITY

Unauthorised people are not permitted in the school grounds. All parents/carers and community members are asked to protect our school by reporting suspicious, unauthorised activities to Revesby Police or School Security (1300 880 021). All visitors are asked to report to the School Office to sign in and obtain a special visitor's pass.

SKOOLBAG

Skoolbag is a free app for mobile devices which enhances the way the school communicates with families. It enables parents/carers to be updated on the school newsletters, school notices, sporting activities and alerts. Once downloaded, parents/carers subscribe to their child's Year/Activity Group to receive alerts and information for their specific group.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The school highlights special events each year and encourages all students to be involved. These include: ANZAC Day, Book Week, Education Week, Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals, Year 6 Graduation, K-6 Discos, Performing Arts Festivals, end of year Celebration Assemblies, Harmony Day.

These activities are celebrated by involving students, parents/carers and the community. Advanced notice is given in newsletters.



ANZAC Service



Choir

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE) - SCRIPTURE CLASSES

Visiting scripture teachers come to the school each Wednesday morning to conduct classes. Your child will attend a half hour scripture lesson according to your request on the enrolment form. Classes that are available are Combined Protestant (Anglican, Uniting, Presbyterian, Baptist and Assemblies of God), Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Islamic. The school is grateful for the time our SRE teachers give to the students.

Ethics and Non-Scripture classes are also available for students whose parents choose for them not to attend an SRE class.

SPORT & PE

The PDHPE syllabus stipulates that each child should participate in 150 minutes of organised physical activity each week (including Friday sport).

K-2 students participate in a variety of fitness programs including gross motor activities, fun runs, games skills, gymnastics and Friday morning sport. Parents/carers are encouraged to help with this program. Each grade also has certain times during the week for games, dancing and skill mastery activities.

In Years 3–6, students are involved in fitness programs, dance, gymnastics and school and inter-school sport (PSSA).

Annual carnivals are held for swimming (for students 8 years and older), cross-country and athletics.

Every student and teacher belongs to one of four sport houses, each led by a Sport Captain. Siblings are placed in the same house.

Our sport houses are: **Jupiter** (Blue), **Mars** (Red), **Saturn** (Green) and **Venus** (Yellow).

STUDENT WELFARE

The welfare of students is everyone's concern. We believe that:

- schools create the environment for success to occur;
- student welfare is achieved through the total school curriculum and the way it is delivered;
- the social and emotional development of students is integral to their academic success;
- every student should be known, valued and cared for.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our policy stresses the development of students who are learning to take responsibility for their own behaviour and the choices they make. This is achieved through rules, consistency, rewards and consequences.

Our major considerations are:

- Students have the right to be treated with respect and the responsibility to respect others;
- Students need to be cared for at all times and they need to feel safe and secure;
- Students react well to a positive and consistent approach;
- There are definite recognised stages in their emotional, social and moral development;
- Socialisation of students is the strong foundation for learning to be built on.

Our Reward System

- Panania Tickets are awarded to students demonstrating positive behaviour.
- A Bronze Award is received when 10 Panania Tickets are achieved.
- A Silver Award is received at a school assembly when a student achieves 5 Bronze Awards.
- A Gold Award is received at a K–6 assembly when a student achieves 5 Silver Awards.
- A Principal's Award is received at our Presentation Day Assembly when a student achieves 3 Gold Awards.

These awards can be accumulated from year to year. Merit Certificates and a Student of the Week award are given by individual teachers at Friday assemblies.



TECHNOLOGY

Our school has a fully functioning Computer Laboratory in A Block and a mini Laboratory in N Block, making whole class, skills based lessons possible.

There are networked computers in each classroom and the whole school is WiFi connected. All classes have access to the internet and school intranet.

While there is an emphasis on the development and mastery of sequential skills, the over-riding aim is for the computer and related technologies to be used as an integral learning, communication and information tool. Interactive Whiteboards (IWB's), which contribute to increased student engagement, have been installed in each classroom. There are two "connected classroom" areas which are suitable for video conferencing and interactive links to the wider world. iPads have been purchased for class use and a 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) strategy is in place.

WET WEATHER

On wet mornings before school, students assemble under the K-6 shelter. If the rain is heavy, an orange flag is displayed on the outside of A Block on the Lawler Street entrance, on the outside of D Block facing the Lambeth Street entrance and outside C Block facing the playground. If these flags are displayed, the K-2 students will go directly to the D Block shelter and Year 3-6 students remain under the A Block shelter.

If rain is very heavy, students will be directed to their classrooms from 8.50am onwards. Wet weather apparel (a raincoat and hat with child's name on both) is to be kept in the school bag. (No umbrellas please).



STARTING KINDERGARTEN

Before school starts you can begin to build in your child the confidence needed, so that school will be a rich and rewarding experience and the first few days happy ones. Going to school is a special occasion for the whole family. If you are positive and relaxed about school, your child will be too.

Many thoughts and emotions will be going through your minds and everyone will have different feelings about this special time of life.

It is most important that your child feels at home in our school and that is why orientation days are planned.

The most important ingredient for each child is to come to school feeling curious, interested and willing to try new activities.

All Kindergarten children will take part in the **Best Start Assessment Program**. This allows teachers to find out what knowledge each child brings to school in literacy and numeracy and allows for effective teaching and learning programs to be developed. Each child will be given a special date and time to come for this assessment prior to the 'full day' starting date.

YOUR CHILD'S FIRST DAY

Your child will be given a 'full day' starting date (which will be after all children have completed the **Best Start Assessment**). Please come to the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) nearest the Canteen where the Kindergarten teachers will take the children into the classrooms.

Discuss with your child before coming to school that, on the first day, you will come to school with them and then leave. If this is the 'expected' thing, then you probably won't have any tears at all. But, as everyone realises, every child is different, and it could happen that your child is upset. (You could be too!) If this happens, just give your child an extra cuddle for reassurance, stay for a few moments, then leave. If you are concerned, you may telephone the school during the day. It is more likely that on this first day your child will be happy to stay and perhaps on subsequent days is not quite so happy and will need you to stay for a few moments. Your child's teacher will let you know what they feel about the situation and your child's needs.

The following need to be produced before your child commences school:

- Birth Certificate
- Immunisation History Statement (from the Department of Human Services)
- Proof of Address.

YOUR FIRST DAY

Parents/carers react differently about their children beginning school and, for this reason, you should accept whatever emotions you feel as being part of you and not be critical of yourself on that day. Most parents/carers need to be re-assured that their child is being well cared for, supervised properly, and made to feel secure at school.

If you think that you will be concerned during the day, plan to do something really special, which will totally occupy your mind. Remember, while you are worrying, your child will be at school active and participating in all that is planned.

THE FIRST WEEKS OF SCHOOL

Let your child see that you have faith in their teacher. Try to get up early enough to give your child a calm and ordered start to the day. A good breakfast is essential to their staying power and concentration. Don't worry if your child eats little at school, as children take some time getting used to eating in a larger group situation.

Most children settle into school very quickly; but don't worry if there is some initial difficulty in the first few weeks of school. Sometimes they expect to learn instantaneously - and are quite disappointed when they go home on the first day and can't read straight away!! Sometimes too, enthusiasm dwindles after the first few days because suddenly school has become just 'ordinary' in the child's view. After a while too, it may be difficult for your child to come to school every day and you may find that tiredness becomes a problem. A few extra early nights usually helps them cope.

You will be anxious to know what is happening at school, but will probably find that your child may not want to discuss it. It is wise not to continuously question your child about school - as this can be very tiring for both of you. You will find out many of the things you want to know by listening when they chat with their friends or other members of the family. Try asking them, ***"What was the best thing you did at school today?"*** You could tell them that you are looking forward to hearing about their day when you pick them up. This will help them feel positive about their day and secure in the knowledge that you will be meeting them.

It is most important in the first few weeks of school that you communicate with the teacher and let your child see that you have confidence and trust in the teacher - this will help your child gain confidence too. Remember the teacher is always ready to chat with you - it helps them to understand your child far more quickly.



YOUR CHILD NEEDS

Our aim as parents/carers and teachers is to encourage independence. The first few days and weeks of school are very exciting and demanding. We should do all that is possible for children to feel confident, secure and happy in their new environment. Your child will have a senior 'buddy' in the first few weeks of school to help them settle and learn to play in their new environment.

Following is a list of requirements your child needs to start school.

- A school bag - light, durable with their name on the outside; name, address and telephone number on the inside. (Good quality bags are available from the Uniform Shop).
- Wet weather apparel - a raincoat and hat with your child's name on both to be **kept in school bag**. (No umbrellas please).
- Lunch box and drink bottle with your child's name on each part - lid, box, and cap.
- A school hat - The school has a policy of **NO HAT – PLAY IN THE SHADE**, i.e. students without hats remain in the shade. **Please note: The school hat is compulsory for all students.**

All possessions must be clearly marked with your child's name, especially hats, jackets, shoes and wet weather apparel.

Please assist us in enabling your child to:

- Say and recognise their name on all belongings e.g. clothes, lunch boxes, bag, hats;
- Recognise and write their name in lower case letters e.g. Lisa;
- Manage to visit the toilet by themselves, including washing hands;
- Dress themselves e.g. do up buttons and zippers, put on jackets, raincoats and paint shirts;
- Take off and put on shoes and socks – tie laces if possible;
- Use a handkerchief or tissue properly;
- Unwrap and eat their own recess and lunch;
- Use scissors and pencils properly – correct finger grip;
- Know who is going to pick them up. (The school must be notified of any variation to usual routine);
- Deliver homework or notes from their school bag, (you may need to check);
- Know how to ask for help if feeling sick or worried;
- Memorise their address and phone number. Children who have these skills feel independent and confident in their new environment. (Teachers appreciate it too!)

FOUNDATION HANDWRITING

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg

Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

FINALLY....

Our aim is for all students at Panania Public School to be happy and confident. Happy, confident students thrive on actively participating in challenging learning experiences and all school activities.

We can only achieve this if there is two way communication between the school and home in relation to your child and we share problems and concerns, as well as achievements and successes. There may be occasions when we ask you to come to the school to talk with us, or where you may be aware of problems and worries through talking with your child. Please let us know if there is anything worrying you or your child. With your help and support, your child's education at Panania Public School will be rich and exciting.

We sincerely hope that your association with this school will be positive and that you feel proud of your child's achievements and progress in what will be a very exciting, learning journey.

