

DRUMMOYNE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Tuesday 19th November 2024

Principal's Report: P&C Meeting November 2024

2025 Planning

- **Class Structure:**

Projected student numbers suggest an enrolment of 430 students next year, only slightly down on 2024, with a healthy Kindy enrolment of 65 students. This will mean we will be able to maintain the current class structure next year (3x Kindy classes, 6x 1/2 classes, 5x 3/4 classes, 4x 5/6 classes). A detailed plan for class structures, teachers and programs for 2025 will be shared with parents before the end of the year.

Please note that students will not be advised of their specific class or teacher until the start of 2025. This approach will allow the school to make any necessary adjustments to class placements over the holiday period, ensuring that we can respond to changes such as new enrolments or student movements. We also aim to reduce any potential anxiety some students may feel over the break. Instead, students can enjoy their holidays without focusing on specific changes for next year. We want to ensure a positive and smooth start to the school year, as students meet their new teachers and classmates in a welcoming and supportive environment when they return. The plan is for all students to be in their new classes from Day 1 next year, Thursday 6th February.

- **Enrichment Programs:**

Next year, our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) program will operate K-6 as whole-class sessions, ensuring that every student has access to this valuable learning experience. These sessions will be team-taught by Mr Sutton and classroom teachers, one-hour per week across one semester (two terms), providing all classes with access to engaging, hands-on, innovative and collaborative activities that foster critical and creative thinking.

We are also excited to announce the trial of a new Music Enrichment Program in 2025. This program will follow a similar model to the STEAM program and operate in the alternate Semester for all classes. Whole-class sessions led by Ms Suzanne Sole and classroom teachers. These sessions will give our students the opportunity to explore and develop their musical skills in a structured and engaging environment. Ms Sole will also be introducing a number of new extra-curricular and performance opportunities for our students with a recorder ensemble and ukelele group already in the works.

Both of these programs are closely aligned with the DoE's High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) Policy, which recognises that students can demonstrate high potential and giftedness across a range of areas, not just intellectual, including creative, social-emotional and physical domains. The STEAM and music programs are designed to foster creativity, collaboration and a love of learning, catering to different strengths and interests while promoting equity of access for all students.

The executive team is currently reviewing how our Year 3/4 and 5/6 academic enrichment classes will be structured in 2025. We are carefully considering feedback from staff and families to ensure that the program continues to meet the diverse needs of our learners and aligns with the Department of Education's priorities, including the High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) policy. We are committed to ensuring transparency and will communicate any changes to the community when class structures are announced later this term.

- **Transition**

To support a smoother transition for all students next year, we have begun to plan 2025 classes and students will be placed in draft classes to participate in a transition session during Week 9. This session is designed to help them connect with peers and adjust to their new potential classmates and environment. Additionally, our Year 5/6 Peer Support Leaders will run three peer support sessions focusing on resilience, making friends, and coping with change. For students identified by our Learning and Support Team as requiring extra support, we will provide tailored strategies to students and their families, including social stories, early notification of their 2025 teacher and additional transition sessions in their new classrooms.

- **Staffing**

In addition to farewelling our Deputy Principal, Dianne Colb, next year, we will also be saying goodbye to two long-term and highly-valued members of our staff, Belinda Richmond and Belinda Shine. Belinda Richmond will be retiring after a remarkable career dedicated to teaching and shaping the lives of countless DPS students and Belinda Shine has been successful in securing a transfer to Ngarala PS in Epping, a move that will bring her closer to home. Both Belindas have contributed immensely to the fabric of our school community over many years, inspiring countless students and colleagues alike with their dedication and professionalism. They will be deeply missed by all of us at Drummoyne Public School.

- **New Staff Development Days**

As a result of the new Teachers Award in NSW 2025 - 2027, there has been an important change to the 2025 school calendar. From next year, there will be changes to the structure of school development days across NSW schools, which will impact the start date for all students.

2025 School Development Days

Term 1: Friday 31 January to Wednesday 5 February. **Students start on THURSDAY 6/2/25**

Term 2: Monday 28 April and Tuesday 29 April. **Students start on WEDNESDAY 30/4/25**

Term 3: Monday 21 July. **Students start on TUESDAY 22/7/25**

Term 4: Monday 13 October. **Students start on TUESDAY 14/10/25**

The main change will occur at the beginning of the year. There will be four school development days at the beginning of Term 1 with all students (including Kindergarten) starting on THURSDAY 6th February 2025.

Teaching and Learning

- Semester 2 Reports

Our Semester 2 Reports will be emailed to families on Friday 13th December. We have made substantial changes to these reports in response to the feedback we received from parents following the Semester 1 report survey. These updates aim to provide clearer, more comprehensive insights into student academic progress as well as social growth.

Extra-Curricular

- Presentation Day Assemblies

I was excited to invite families to our upcoming Presentation Days. On these special occasions, teachers will celebrate and recognise the achievements of their students in various areas. Each class will present awards for Academic Achievement, Citizenship and Effort, along with additional stage-based awards chosen by teachers and specialist staff.

Presentation Day Schedule:

Kindergarten to Year 2: Monday 9th December @ 9:30am

Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4): Friday 13th December @ 9:30am

Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6): Friday 13th December @ 12:30pm

The Stage 3 assembly will also feature the presentation of a few major awards for our Year 6 students. These include:

- Citizenship Award: This award, sponsored by Five Dock RSL under the 'ANZAC' spirit ethos, celebrates qualities of friendship, honesty, loyalty, fairness, and courage. The recipient will receive a \$150 JB HIFI card and a framed award.
- Academic Award: This award honours a student for outstanding academic performance across all subjects, with special recognition in literacy and numeracy.
- Leadership Award (Prefect): Awarded to a school prefect for exceptional leadership, community involvement, initiative in school activities and participation in extracurricular programs. This award is generously sponsored by our local MP, Sally Sitou.
- Principal's "Excellence in Education" Award: This award recognizes a student with a strong work ethic and exemplary school spirit who serves as an outstanding role model through their involvement in academics, school life, and extracurricular activities.

Each recipient of these major awards will receive a personal trophy and have their names engraved on the Honour Boards displayed in the school office foyer.

Additional Awards:

- Sydney Secondary College (Balmain) Award: Presented to a Year 6 student enrolled to attend SSC Balmain, this award acknowledges qualities aligned with the SSC Balmain values of high expectations, student voice, and responsibility. The recipient will receive a voucher for school supplies and uniforms.
- Frank Marjason Award (Year 5): This special award, named in honour of Frank Marjason, is given each year to a Year 5 student who demonstrates ongoing effort, achievement and passion in the creative arts.

- Funding proposal: Thank You Morning Tea

I am requesting a \$300 donation from the P&C to assist with providing food for our Parent Helper Morning Tea, scheduled for Friday, 6th December, at 11:30 am. This event is an opportunity for us to thank our wonderful parent volunteers for their contributions throughout the year. While teachers and staff will also be contributing food to share, your support will help ensure we can offer a varied and generous spread. Last year, the P&C kindly approved \$400 for this purpose and we are seeking a slightly reduced amount this year.

- Yr6 2025 Leadership Positions

I was pleased to share the results of our prefect and house captain speeches and elections a few weeks ago. It was inspiring to see so many of our students step up and put themselves forward for these roles, delivering mature and thoughtful speeches. In speaking to all our Year 5 candidates, I encouraged them to continue leading in their own unique ways, regardless of whether they wear a badge or hold a formal title. Leadership is about making a positive impact and there will be numerous other opportunities next year for them to demonstrate these qualities. I look forward to seeing each of them continue to grow, contribute, and make a difference as they step into Year 6.

2025 Prefects	
Maeve O'Brien	Jake Luciano
Elizabeth Windmiller	Isaac Navendra
Ella Cleave	Hamilton Brierty
Delilah Fletcher	Oliver Bernia

2025 House Captains			
Guwing	Warada	Badu	Daramu
Sophia Luck	Ava Mitchell-Cook	Charles & Ashton Holtsbaum	David Gryllis
Will Howard	Max Quach	Indie Pitura	Lola Westlake

- Kindergarten 2025 Transition Mornings

It has been a pleasure to welcome our 2025 Kindergarten students and their families to our Kindergarten orientation mornings on the last two Thursdays. The excitement and warmth shared by everyone highlighted the importance of belonging and community here at Drummoyne Public School. These early days are about more than just introductions - they're the beginning of building a strong, supportive environment where each child and family feels a true sense of belonging. I look forward to continuing to foster these connections in the final session on Thursday where the P&C will be providing a generous morning tea to help ensure that our new families feel at home and embraced by our school community as they prepare for an exciting year in Kindergarten.

- **School Uniform Guidelines**

The Uniform Committee recently met to review and update the School Uniform Guidelines document, ensuring it reflects the needs and expectations of our school community. These updates were finalised and included in the document below which will be communicated to parents for implementation in 2025.

 [School Uniform Guidelines DPS 2024 \(UPDATED 18_11_24\).docx.pdf](#)

Changes have been made to clarify expectations around hair ties, jewellery, socks and shoes, as well as to how uniform standards will be consistently enforced by the school. These adjustments aim to promote a sense of belonging, equity and pride in our school while ensuring clear communication of expectations to families and students. Thank you to Emilie, Sahar and Tania for their time and valuable insights as part of the Uniform Committee.

- **K-6 Picnic @ Parsley Bay**

I am excited to announce that this year's end-of-year celebration will be a whole-school excursion to Parsley Bay. The park is open to the public and we warmly invite parents to join us for this special day. There will be an opportunity for supervised water play and we are all hoping for great weather to make the most of this fun, outdoor experience as we celebrate another year of learning and laughter together.

Thank yous

- **Disco**

A special shout out goes to Susan Murray for her tireless efforts in organising the disco and to all the dedicated parent volunteers and teachers who helped with everything from setup and supervision, to the much-loved glow sticks, prizes and snacks. Events like these are more than just fun - they play a crucial role in building our school community and fostering a sense of belonging among our students and families. We are very grateful to all of our volunteers who give their time and energy to make these activities possible. Thank you!

- **P&C**

Thank you to the P&C for your support throughout my first year as Principal at Drummoyne Public School. From my perspective, it has been a truly productive and rewarding year and your support, dedication and active involvement have been invaluable in making this year a great success. I feel fortunate to work alongside you all. Drummoyne PS is a special place and its welcoming, community-oriented nature is a testament to your efforts as the P&C.

Thank you again for all that you do. I look forward to working together in the years ahead to continue building on the strong foundations we've established.

Regards,

John Nguyen

Principal