



**Sutherland  
Dianella** *Primary*



*Pre Primary - Year 6  
Information Booklet*

**2023**

*"Only Our Best"*

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## Our School Creed

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We bow to the Sutherland Dianella tradition to live up to our name

We are polite, helpful and courteous to all members of the school community

We treat others as we would like to be treated

We take care and pride in our school and class environment

We always strive for

“ONLY OUR BEST”

## Our Vision

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Sutherland Dianella Primary School students are challenged and supported to become confident and independent learners.

## Our Core Values

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### **Respect**

By respecting ourselves first, we are accepting and considerate, treating others with appreciation and encouragement.

### **Commitment**

We always persevere, taking pride and responsibility to meet challenges.

### **Responsibility**

We seek to be confident, responsible students and members of the greater community, by actively listening and modelling the right behaviours.

### **Citizenship**

We promote equal voice and express any differences without fear, always demonstrating compassion, integrity and kindness within the school and the community.

## Our Core Beliefs

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At Sutherland Dianella Primary School we believe:

1. Education is a shared responsibility between home, school and community
2. Strong community partnerships lead to success for all students
3. Innovative school resourcing
4. In an inclusive school community supporting success for all students
5. In providing an environment where all staff and students feel safe, valued and supported
6. In maintaining high standards and expectations under a model of best practice
7. In respectful relationships and inclusivity
8. In supporting students to become lifelong independent learners

## Early Years Learning at Sutherland Dianella Primary School

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Provides all students with an opportunity to develop, learn and succeed in a holistic capacity.

Nurtures relationships between staff, students and parents to ensure a respectful, inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Supports children to celebrate their individuality and cultural differences to develop a sense of belonging and wellbeing.

Recognises that children learn best through quality meaningful experiences which are hands on, child centred and interest based.

Creates a foundation for each child's learning and development through intentional and purposeful planning, teaching and assessing.



## Contact Details

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Sutherland Dianella Primary School  
5 Sutherland Avenue  
DIANELLA WA 6059

Phone: (08) 9268 8600

Office Hours: 7.30 am – 3.30 pm  
Monday to Friday

Email: [info@sdps.wa.edu.au](mailto:info@sdps.wa.edu.au)

Web: [www.sdps.wa.edu.au](http://www.sdps.wa.edu.au)

## Leadership Team

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|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Principal                    | Mr Blake Ingersole                        |
| Deputy Principal             | Mrs Tricia Mitchell and Mrs Janelle White |
| Learning Support Coordinator | Mrs Tricia Mitchell                       |
| School Psychologist          | Ms Zoe Robson                             |
| Manager Corporate Services   | Mrs Leonie Malkovic                       |
| School Officer               | Ms Deb Mortimer                           |
| Library Officer              | Mrs Georgia Johnson                       |

## School Hours

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|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Classes Commence              | 8:40am  |
| Morning Recess                | 10:55am to 11:15am                            |
| Lunch                         | 12:15pm to 1.00pm                             |
| School Closes                 | 3:00pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) |
| School Closes (Early Closure) | 2:35pm (Wednesday)                            |

Students are asked to be at school fifteen minutes before lessons commence. Prior to that time, supervision of children cannot be reasonably guaranteed, so parents/carers are asked to be aware of this fact and discourage children from arriving at school too early. 8:25am is an ideal time to arrive on site.

## Early Closure

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The school closes at 2:35pm every Wednesday to allow collaborative time for staff to work on improving the curriculum for students.

## Term Dates in 2023

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| Period | Start                | Finish               |
|--------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Term 1 | Wednesday 1 February | Thursday 6 April     |
| Term 2 | Monday 24 April      | Friday 30 June       |
| Term 3 | Monday 17 July       | Friday 22 September  |
| Term 4 | Monday 9 October     | Thursday 14 December |

## 2023 School Development Days

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30 January 2023

31 January 2023

2 June 2023

17 July 2023

9 October 2023

\*\* Students do not attend school on these dates.



## Staff Meetings

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Staff meetings are held outside the hours of instruction on Wednesday early close.

## Programs

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### Specialist Programs

- Visual Arts
- Languages – Italian
- Physical Education/Fundamental Movement Skills
- Music
- Junior Science

### Other School Programs include:

- BYOD (Bring your own Device) (Year 3 to 6)
- InitialLit
- MiniLit
- PLD Spelling
- Talk 4 Writing
- Origo Maths
- Numero
- Mathletics (Kindy to Year 6)
- Robotics
- Coding
- Student Engagement Programs
- Be You
- Bounce Back
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Choir
- After school sports programs
- EduDance
- Year 6 Leadership and Team Building Day
- Year 6 School Camp





## Parents & Citizens Association (P&C)

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This very valuable group of people meet at the school on a regular basis. At present the Parents and Citizens' Association meetings are held on Monday evenings (see Connect for schedule of dates) at 7:00pm in the library. You will be reminded of the meetings in the P&C section of the school newsletter.

All parents/carers and other citizens of our community are most welcome.

Parents and Citizens' Associations are directed under the Education Act toward two major aims.

1. To promote the interests of the school by endeavouring to bring about close cooperation between parents/carers, other citizens and teachers.
2. The provision of facilities and amenities and other education needs, not provided directly by the Government.

This is your association and deserves your support. It is the major way of being aware of your school's activities and what is planned to improve conditions for your child. There are many ways of supporting this organisation, but personal involvement is the most appreciated. We all live a busy life but if we 'all do our bit' your child will benefit from the fundraising and also from the supportive relationship you have with the school.



## School Board

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With the Independent Public School status being obtained in 2015 the Sutherland Dianella Primary School Board has been formed. The School Board functions to increase communication between home, school and community and to provide advice. This body is made up of a number of parents/carers and teachers with parents/carers being the majority. It has functions related to the School Business Plan. The exact functions may vary from year to year.

The School Board has no control over teaching methods, the curriculum, or the day to day functioning of the school, nor is it a fundraising body.

School Board members seek to represent the broad interest of all students and their parents/carers. All parents/carers are welcome to observe a nominated School Board Meeting.

## Community Charter

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### **SDPS Community Charter**

When schools and families work together, children have a far better chance of being successful in school and in life. Our Community Charter underpins the partnership between SDPS and our families. We acknowledge the school vision, core values and core beliefs. Our Community Charter is based on three qualities: Respect, Responsibility and Relationships. It acknowledges and promotes the various roles of parents and carers as integral members of our school community and partners in the education of their children.

#### **Respect**

Respect is one of the school's core values. In building mutual respect, the student, the family and the school are valued and appreciated. The needs of our students come first and this forms the basis of all interactions. Members of the SDPS community demonstrate respect by:

- Acknowledging that our children's education is a shared responsibility between family and the school
- Working to instill a positive attitude towards school and motivating students to achieve their best
- Attending school information sessions and meeting with teachers as the need arises or when requested
- Contacting the school immediately if there is a concern or problem and resolving grievances appropriately
- Respecting and supporting school policies
- Respecting the skills, knowledge and experience of school leaders and teachers

#### **Responsibility**

We take responsibility for creating a parent-friendly school and school-friendly homes; we do not lay blame for what is not working but share responsibility for success. We are all responsible for staying connected and modelling the right behaviours and we do this by:

- Ensuring students come to school, unless unwell, and arrive in class on time
- Supporting learning at school by helping to provide a time for homework that is free from distractions
- Attending school functions, showing the students we are interested in school activities and celebrate the success of all students
- Contributing to the life of the school in ways that reflect our experience, skills, interests and capacity to do so
- Keeping up to date with school communications and events
- Acting as role models by reflecting the core beliefs and values of the school and always maintaining high standards and expectations.

## Relationships

Relationships nurture the collaboration that is so necessary for strong community partnerships to survive and to help students succeed in school. The SDPS community develops respectful relationships and inclusivity by:

- Working together with school teachers and staff, collaborating to ensure every student gets the best education that suits their needs
- Becoming involved in parent groups, class forums, the P&C and school events
- Communicating frequently and respectfully with others
- Building and nurturing a sense of community, ensuring SDPS is welcoming and inclusive for all.

As a collective we are committed to ensuring our children are challenged and supported to become confident and independent learners, who achieve their personal best.

## Voluntary Contributions

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Some amenities are not supplied by the Department e.g. sport facilities, art/craft materials and educational tours; and other school requisites seen as essential by parents/carers and teachers. It also helps to supplement the contributions made to the school during the year by the Parent & Citizens' body.

Voluntary Contributions are \$60 per student for all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Parents/carers in possession of a Health Care Card or equivalent receive a total discount of \$20 per family.

We ask that all contributions are paid by the end of Term 1.

## Student Requirements – Personal Items List

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Parents/carers are asked to provide items such as consumable workbooks, pencils, pens, rulers and so forth. It is essential each child is equipped with these items and that they are replaced during the year as the need arises.

Separate lists of the requirements for each class will be issued. Additional copies of these lists will be available at the front office and are also on our website. All items children bring to school should be clearly named.

To develop habits of neatness and a pride in work, it would be appreciated if parents/carers would cover all books in which written work will be completed by children throughout the year.

## Behaviour Management

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The management of student behaviour is encompassed in the teaching and learning process. At Sutherland Dianella Primary School, we aim to create a safe and positive learning environment which:

- promotes pro-social behaviour and positive social interactions amongst staff and students
- provides opportunities for students to learn and practise appropriate social behaviours and self-discipline
- encourage appropriate and fair sanctions for students who display inappropriate behaviours.

Schools provide a social context which allows students to be supported whilst also being taught how to accept responsibility for their own behaviour. Students need opportunities to develop appropriate behaviours, self-control, and resiliency through interactions with teachers and other staff and through the curriculum; and they need to be reinforced consistently in a manner which enhances their understanding of responsible social behaviour. The Behaviour Management Policy is available online via the school website.

The following principles will guide SDPS in the management of all student behaviour:

- Student wellbeing and the prevention of inappropriate behaviour will be enhanced through a focus on early intervention and prevention.
- The use of appropriate curriculum and learning programs will encourage engagement by students.
- Student behaviour is best managed in ways that promote restorative practices and are educative in nature.
- All decisions relating to the management of student behaviour and the implementation of the policy are made according to the principles of procedural fairness.
- Teacher's behaviour management processes will acknowledge the duty to take reasonable care for the safety of staff and students.
- Student behaviour must not be viewed in isolation but as part of an interaction between the student, staff and the school community.
- School staff will demonstrate accountability for evidence based decision making, reporting and referral to appropriate support, and record keeping.

## Canteen

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The canteen is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Canteen menus are available to view on the school website. You can order food for recess and lunch on QKR. Students can purchase some food at recess and icy poles at lunch with cash.



## Birthdays

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To help celebrate your child's birthday, your child will be given a Birthday Certificate. This will be given in class either on the day, or as close to the day as possible. **No cakes, lolly bags, chocolates or soft drinks** in line with our Healthy Eating Guidelines.

## Hats

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Wearing of school **broad brimmed** or **bucket hats** is **compulsory** for children at recess and lunch times, and also during physical education and sport periods. This hat policy is effective in terms **ONE, TWO, THREE and FOUR**.

## School Uniform

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### Uniform Policy

#### Purpose

- To give the children a sense of belonging and pride in their school, we require students to dress within the guidelines of our dress code, which also reflects the Department of Education Policy.
- Promote safety through easier identification of students.
- Representing the school in our wider community
- Keep cost of clothing within reasonable levels.
- Assist students to learn the importance of appropriate presentation.
- Ensure equity standards in diversity.



#### Policy

The school colours are navy and teal.

The policy applies to all students Kindy to Year 6.

All items of clothing are to be marked with the child's full name (by parents/carers)

#### Uniforms Online - Uniforms Concepts

Price lists are available from the front office and via our website. No uniforms are sold from the school but can be purchased from the physical store on Beaufort St All uniforms can also be purchased [online https://sdps.wa.edu.au/uniforms](https://sdps.wa.edu.au/uniforms)

### **The school dress code is as follows:**

SDPS navy and teal polo shirt navy trousers/pants or shorts checked dress, skirt or skirt – no jeans or denim

Navy and teal jacket or plain navy blue jumper (no brand logos)

Sneakers or black shoes, SDPS wide-brimmed hat (or plain navy blue hat with no brand logos)

Coloured faction t-shirts are for school sports days and for Friday sports or PE lesson days

**Hair** - Long hair must be tied back at all times for health and safety reasons.

**Jewellery** - Wearing of jewellery is strongly discouraged. No responsibility is taken by the school for lost or damaged jewellery. Jewellery can very often be a safety issue in daily student activities and students may be asked to remove items if it is considered a safety matter.

**Students must wear the school uniform on all excursions for easy identification.**

### **Leavers**

Year 6 students will be offered the opportunity to purchase graduating class shirts and jackets at the end of Year 5, in readiness for Year 6. Year 6 students can wear either graduation uniforms or navy and teal uniforms for their final year.



## Faction and Physical Education Lessons

Our four factions are all named after WA Olympians.



Kirby

Hawkes

Elliott

Strickland

Competition sports may involve faction sports carnivals, inter-school sports, winter sport competition for Years 4 – 6, Aussie sports days and lightning winter carnivals.

Children are expected to wear their faction polo shirt every week on Fridays or for Juniors, on their allocated sport day. Sport Leaders will take responsibility for the organisation and use of the equipment.

Other sporting activities include:

Cricket, Tee-ball, Netball, Football, Basketball, Soccer, Hockey, Gymnastics, Rugby League and Tennis

Sutherland Dianella has a Physical Education specialist teacher. Two hours of sport/fitness each week, is a National requirement.

## Library

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The school has a library that operates under the supervision of a Library Officer. Children are educated to use the library for recreation and research.

The library is automated to increase the children's access to information.

Children are permitted to borrow from the library on a weekly basis.



As books are a valuable resource, all students **must have a library bag** (at least 30cm x 50cm) to protect books from food and drinks before they may take a book out of the library.

The library is open to students at lunchtimes as outlined on the Library roster.

If a book is lost or damaged parents/carers are expected to replace or pay the replacement cost of a new book before they can borrow another book. If they forget their book they must wait until their book is returned to borrow another book.

## Formal Reporting

A formal report is issued at the conclusion of Semester One and Semester Two, with the date of distribution being announced in the newsletter. Class meetings and three way interviews are other ways that may be used by staff to report on your child's progress, as well as Interim Reports in Terms 1 and 3 for PP – Year 6.

## Bicycles / Skateboards / Scooters

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Parents/carers are able to assess whether their children are responsible enough to ride their bikes to school.

Children who ride bicycles to school should:

- For security reasons a padlock should be used whilst at school
- Not ride a bike on school grounds as it is PROHIBITED
- Wear a helmet; as it is law

## Crosswalk Attendant

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An attendant officiates at the corner of Sutherland Avenue and Grand Promenade. Please use this crossing or we will be in danger of losing this service.

## Specialist Music Program

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A specialist Music program will continue in 2023. SDPS also has a School Choir and students from Year 1 - 6 may join.

## PEAC (Primary Extension and Challenge Program)

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PEAC provides enrichment and extension activities for exceptionally able children in Years 5 and 6. A testing program is undertaken in Year 4 to assist in the identification of students that may be eligible. This program is provided through the North Metropolitan Education Region and parents/carers are responsible for taking their children to off-site venues.

## Instrumental Music

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Some children will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (Brass and Clarinet) in Year 5 and 6 at the school. Testing in Year 4 will identify these students.



## School Photos

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An independent photo company is booked each year for student photos.

## School Foyer

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Displayed for parents/carers and children to view are: Samples of children's work, our Visions and Values, end of year award recipient plaques and a Resource Trolley with a range of information for parents and carers.

## School Website

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Our school website is [www.sdps.wa.edu.au](http://www.sdps.wa.edu.au) and has the latest school news, photos and excursion/incursion notes. Please check regularly to keep up to date.

## Facebook

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SDPS has a Facebook which shares information about school events and activities. Student images will not be shared on Facebook without parent permission. Permission will be sought from parents/carers when your child starts at SDPS. Permission can be given or withdrawn at anytime by contact the school administration.

[Sutherland Dianella Primary School | Perth WA | Facebook](#)

## School App – Connect Now

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The Department of Education's online environment called Connect, provides teachers, students and parents with secure access to a collaborative online learning environment via the internet. This is our main method of communication with parents. You can download the Connect Now app from the iTunes or Android store. Please ensure that you have 'NOTIFICATIONS' enabled. For more information, see the school website.

## Payments and Permission Slips

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SDPS uses the payment system Qkr! for all extra-curricular activities, voluntary contributions and charges associated with the school.

Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') is an easy-to-use application that can be used on smartphones, ipads, tablets, laptops and desktop computers. Qkr! is a Mastercard product and comes with all of their security features.

You will still receive the normal information note regarding excursions and payments through Connect. Medical information and permission details will be submitted by Qkr!



## Medication Policy / Action Plans

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**Please advise the school of your child's medical conditions.  
Should your child need special assistance with a medical condition  
please complete a Medical Action Plan.**

If parents/carers require prescribed medication to be provided at school, it is best for them to visit the school to personally administer it. If this is not possible, written instructions on specific forms signed by the doctor (please collect from the front office) should be provided for the office. These should be attached to the medicine bottle, and a measurer provided to ensure the correct dosage to be administered.

During the day, admin staff will ensure that medicines are kept out of students reach and at the end of the day; any left-over medicine should be collected from the office. Children will not be given this responsibility. Children may manage their own asthma puffer.

## Assemblies

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Student orientated and conducted assemblies will be held in Weeks 3, 6 and 9 of each term. Parents/carers will be notified of which class is running the assembly on the Term Planner.



## Parent / Carer Interviews

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Interviews with teachers regarding a student's progress may be arranged at any time, but preferably with a minimum of 24 hours notice, so that teachers can be prepared to discuss specific areas of work and at a time which does not interfere with the hours of instruction.

## Newsletter

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A link to the newsletter (SDPS Times) is sent out in Week 5 and 10 on Thursdays. It is designed to keep parents/carers aware of all current and future happenings. Current and past newsletters are available on the SDPS Website.



## School Agreements

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When first entering the school, parents/carers will be asked to complete agreements. We ask parents/carers to advise the school of any changes to these documents.

## Student Mobile Phones/Smart Watches

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If students require a mobile phone to get to and from school it will be locked away by staff during the day. See our website for our mobile device policy.

## Access to the Internet

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Each student must sign a Technology Agreement. Year 3 to 6 must sign an iPromise agreement as part of the Bring Your Own Device program.

## Photos

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Photos of school activities are taken regularly. Parents/Carers when first entering the school will be asked to complete an agreement to have their child's photos placed in the school newsletter, community newspaper, on the school website etc. The approval can be withdrawn at any time in writing to the front office.

## Absences / Attendance at School

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Whenever a child is absent from school you need to phone the school or SMS: 0437 484 342 advising us of this. Alternatively, you can fill out an Absentee Form via the school website (Home > Absentee Form). Two or more consecutive days absence will require medical evidence.

A student must have a reasonable explanation for their absence. Children are NOT PERMITTED to leave the school grounds without permission. Children must be signed in and out of the front office if they arrive and/or leave at alternate times.

Holidays in school time are not supported. If your child is having holidays during the school term, you will need to write a letter stating this, addressed to the Principal.

## Illness at School

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Minor injuries or illnesses during the day are normally attended to at school. In more serious emergencies, every endeavour is made to contact a parent/carer to arrange for the child to be collected from school. In extreme emergencies the child may be taken to hospital before parents/carers can be notified.

## Insurance

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The school does not carry specific insurance for students or student property other than the Department of Education and Training public liability insurance. If parents/carers wish to take student insurance, arrangements need to be made outside of the school domain and will be at parental/carers expense.

## School Psychologist

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The school employs a School Psychologist three days per fortnight, for the purpose of supporting students in our community.

## Curtin University Partnership - Social Work

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The school has an ongoing partnership with Curtin University to provide Social Work services to support students at Sutherland Dianella Primary School. Curtin University students undertake their practicums at Sutherland Dianella Primary School under supervision.



## Infectious Diseases

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The following common ailments require a period of exclusion from school unless a doctor is prepared to issue a Medical Certificate to say that the child is free from infection and well enough to return to normal school activities.

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| CHICKEN POX:              | Exclude from 2 days before rash appears to 5 days after, when vesicles have formed crusts.  |
| DIPHTHERIA (notifiable):  | Refer to Doctor   |
| HEPATITIS A (notifiable): | Exclude for at least one week after onset of jaundice or two weeks after onset of symptoms (if not jaundiced).  |
| IMPETIGO – school sores:  | Exclude for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment commenced. Lesions on exposed skin surfaces should be covered with a waterproof dressing. Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded until the sores are dry. |
| INFLUENZA:                | Exclude until symptoms resolved.  |
| MEASLES:                  | Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash, in consultation with public health unit staff.  |
| PEDICULOSIS (head lice):  | Must be treated see below.  |
| RINGWORM:                 | Exclude until person has received anti-fungal treatment for 24 hours. Medical certificate   |
| CONJUNCTIVITIS:           | Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased.   |

### **HEAD LICE (NITS) and what to do about them**

Head lice have no respect for people. They can be found in all types of families. They are not a medical emergency, but are highly infectious. If not treated properly, head lice can become a serious nuisance in the community as they are passed from one person to another. Any place where people live and play closely together is a good place for catching head lice. They like to live on human scalps where they feed, breed and lay their eggs.

They feed on human blood and cause their owners to scratch their head. Head lice move quickly and are hard to find. Nits (eggs) appear as shiny, grey oval-shaped specks which unlike dandruff, are firmly attached to the scalp. If nits are found, we must presume live lice are present, even if they cannot be seen. Treatment should then start.

There are several lotions and shampoos readily available from a chemist. These are highly effective against lice and also treat nits. Directions on the bottle should be carefully followed. Dead nits must be removed from the hair. Children with nits will be asked to be treated before returning to school. The Education Act does allow the Principal or delegated staff to discreetly inspect children's hair. If this should become necessary, please advise your class teacher if you do not want your child to be included in the inspection. Web address - [www.nitwits.com.au](http://www.nitwits.com.au).

## Family Law Court Orders

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It is the responsibility of parents/carers to keep the school informed of these orders and provide a copy for the school.

## Emergency Contact Numbers

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It is the parent's/carer's responsibility to keep the office informed of any changes to the emergency contact details.

## Dental Therapy Centre

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The Dental Therapy Centre is situated at Mirrabooka Primary School and provides dental treatment for children attending Sutherland Dianella Primary School. The Dental Therapy Centre sends home appointment cards through the school. Parents/carers need to contact the Dental Clinic direct, to change appointment times if not suitable, on 9345 0330.

## Before and After School Care

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Helping Hands run a Before and After School Care Program on our school grounds. If you are interested in using this service please visit their website [www.helpinghandsnetwork.com.au](http://www.helpinghandsnetwork.com.au) or phone 0428 320 640. Information packs are also available from the front office.

## Out of Hours Activities

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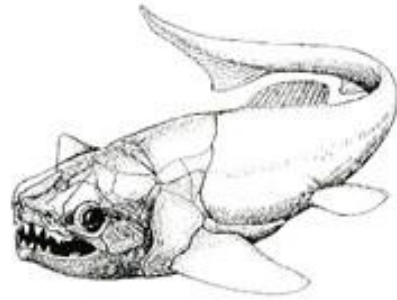
### **(PROVIDED BY EXTERNAL PROVIDERS)**

Tennis lessons – information available on school website [www.sdps.wa.edu.au](http://www.sdps.wa.edu.au) > Programs > Physical Education.

## The Story of the State Fossil Emblem

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Three hundred and seventy million years ago – give or take ten million years – a small tenacious fish with a skin of tank-like armour plate, and the table manners of a bad-tempered great white shark died from causes unknown. As luck would have it, the fish became a fossil entombed within a yellowish, pizza-shaped lump of limestone and in 1986 a palaeontologist employed by the Western Australian Museum found the limestone lump and cracked it open. Over the next three years the palaeontologist, Dr John Long, pieced together the remains to reveal a new piece of the evolutionary jigsaw puzzle of life on earth. The fish, christened *Mcnamaraspis kaprios* by Dr Long, became famous – least amongst palaeontologists – and there the story would have ended but for a group of Perth school children.



The fossil campaign was born one evening in March 1994 when a Sutherland parent, Carol Simmonds happened to read about some Year 4 elementary school children in America who successfully campaigned to have the Stegosaurus declared Colorado's state fossil emblem. Carol suggested to Sutherland's principal, Mr John Shortill, that Sutherland launch a similar campaign. He liked the idea and appointed Debra Parry as the teacher coordinator. Next the school approached the Museum for help and it volunteered Dr Long's services. With the help of Dr Long's article "Window On An Ancient World" Mrs Parry prepared a range of educational activities to enable the whole school to be part of the campaign, from the four and five year olds in the Pre Primary to the 11 and 12 year olds in year 7.

Little wonder the Sutherland children were fascinated by the Gogo fish fossils and an election had to be held to determine which of them would be nominated for the state fossil emblem. In the event MAC won by a landslide and the campaign entered a new phase. A student committee was set up to draft a formal submission to the State Government with the two-fold aim of convincing it of the merits of fossil emblems in general and MAC in particular. It was to prove a mammoth task. Every student wrote a personal letter of support and the older students enlisted help from outside: from the general public and students at other schools as well as various influential people in the community.

The campaign was conducted not just locally, but nationally and even internationally, and the final list of endorsees included children's authors Paul Jennings and Morris Gleitzman, the Washington-based National Geographic Society and scientists from Japan, Germany, Canada, America, England and France.

In late 1994 a delegation of students presented a draft submission to the premier, Richard Court, at State Parliament. The final document – all 218 pages of it – was ready a short time later and formally handed over to the Education Minister, Mr Norman Moore and the Arts Minister, Mr Peter Foss.

A few months later the Premier visited the school to formally announce that Western Australia would become the first state in the country to have a fossil emblem. However, a committee of experts would be set up to accept nominations from the general public and make a final recommendation to Mr Foss. The school decided to renominate MAC and, under Mrs Parry's guidance another submission even longer than the first was put together, this time focusing

just on MAC. Once again the whole school community was enlisted to help and the final product was handed over to the committee in June, 1995.

On December 6, 1995 the announcement everyone had been waiting almost two years to hear was finally made: MAC was to be Western Australia's official fossil emblem, the first such emblem in Australia and one of only a handful in the world!

The benefits, for the school, however, went far beyond making history. The campaign was incorporated into every aspect of the curricula from science to social studies, from art to music. Students not only read about fossils they touched them. They not only discussed democracy they lobbied members of parliament. They even produced a video on MAC that won a commendation in a national video competition.



There were sequels. In 1996 Sutherland Dianella published a book containing the various original curriculum materials written by Mrs Parry. Called "The Gogo Files", this teacher's resource book will enable future generations of students not just at Sutherland Dianella but also at every school in the state to discover for themselves the wonder of Western Australia's fossil heritage.

In 1997 Australia Post launched a series of stamps called "Wildlife of Ancient Australia" from Sutherland Dianella Primary School which celebrated Australia's fossil heritage. The stamp issue featured prehistoric creatures that roamed ancient Australia and included Australia's first state fossil emblem, *Mcnamaraspis kaprios*. In 1999 a group of Year 6 and 7 students were State finalists in the Australian Schools Web Challenge "Celebrating Australia's Fossil Heritage".

