

The Grapevine is the regular **WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER** of Manning Gardens Public School



THE GRAPEVINE

TERM 1 WEEK 7 – 10 March 2017

Principal's Message

There is a lot happening at your local public school as we head towards the end of Term 1. Please follow up on Facebook, via the Skoolbag app, our website and also check your child's bag each afternoon for notes. If the information wasn't important, I wouldn't post it!



Skoolbag 
Smartphone school to parent communication

Website 



**GET ALL THE
LATEST SCHOOL
NEWS AND
INFORMATION
VIA OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE
OUR SKOOLBAG
APP OR OUR
WEBSITE.**

We have been experiencing a spike in suspensions with increasing episodes of aggressive behaviour by students. Some parents have said to me, 'you just don't want these kids at school; you're just suspending kids to keep them at home'. This statement couldn't be further from the truth. My job and my role are to provide a safe and caring school environment whereby students want to be at school. I work tirelessly to keep students at school, but it will never be at the cost of providing a safe and happy school environment. When students hurt others, are aggressive, fight or verbally abuse staff and students, I have a responsibility to maintain a standard that we all believe in. I don't think there would be a single parent that would tolerate their own children being hurt, made to feel sad or to put up with unacceptable swearing that aims to hurt others and cause fights. No one likes suspensions, but we must all be responsible for providing a safe and caring school culture for everyone, not just a few. On this theme, the second page of Grapevine provides parents with information about knives at school. Under departmental policy, possessing a knife at school is an automatic suspension. Using weapons will result in a 20 day suspension.

Next week we are participating in the "Bullying No Way" Week where we are promoting buddies not bullies! On Friday 17 March the school will hold a National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Together we stand on this issue, divided we allow the bullies to gain a foothold.

On Tuesday 21 March we will be holding a HUGE community day to celebrate diversity and the key fact that everyone belongs at Manning Gardens PS. Please join with us to celebrate this great day!

Stay Strong!

Paul Sortwell

TOGETHER WE GROW



THE GRAPEVINE



Education & Communities

No knives at school Parent Fact Sheet

SAFETY AND SECURITY DIRECTORATE

There is no good reason to bring a knife to school.

NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia. As a parent, you need to be aware of these laws, as you can also be charged if you allow your child to carry a knife.

No knives allowed at school under any circumstances.

- If a student has a knife at school the principal may call the police.
- The student may be expelled or suspended immediately. Possessing a knife includes your child simply having one in their bag or locker. Having a knife for self-protection is also illegal. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or safety, contact the principal.
- Tough penalties apply for children convicted of knife offences, including gaol sentences of up to 25 years if someone is injured with a knife during an assault.

Every child has the right to feel safe and secure at school. There is no good reason for a child to ever have a knife at school.

If you want to talk about children and knives at school, please contact the principal.

What kind of knives are prohibited?

As school policy is designed to keep all students safe, no type of knife is allowed at school. No type of knife is allowed at school. That means no butter knives or fruit knives in lunchboxes, or knife tools for craft purposes.

- Flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives and star knives are all prohibited.
- Your child cannot bring to school any item that can be used as a weapon (such as a chisel).
- In lessons requiring the use of knives, for example cooking or trades, your child's teacher will supply and supervise the use of the tools.
- There are some senior subjects, such as hospitality, where children may be required to have their own knives.

Your child's school will advise you about these courses and the procedures for carrying knives legally to and from school and TAFE.

The law makes parents responsible

You need to make certain your child is aware of the school's rules and the State laws about knives.

If you allow your child to carry or possess a knife at school or in a public place, you can be charged.

- The police can search any child they suspect of having a knife. They can confiscate any dangerous object they might find during the search.
- Your child must comply with such a police search, or they may be arrested and charged.
- It is also illegal for anyone to sell a knife to anyone who is less than 16 years old.

UNITED
WE STAND



TOGETHER WE
GROW