

The UPSIDE

ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOL



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PRINCIPAL REPORT

Written by Olivia Parry



Welcome back to school for 2025! I am absolutely delighted to share that this year, we have a wonderful community of 493 students enrolled across 21 vibrant classes. It's heartwarming to see everyone settled in, buzzing with excitement and ready to embark on an incredible journey of learning and growth. Our dedicated staff have poured their hearts into ensuring a smooth and joyful start, and I'm thrilled to say that we've already kicked off the year with fantastic success.

I also want to take a moment to celebrate the success of our swimming carnival yesterday. I am so grateful to the incredible team we have, who ensured that every student attending the carnival, regardless of swimming ability, had the opportunity to participate. Whether it was in the competitive races, non-competitive 25m events, or the fun novelty races, every student was able to make a splash and enjoy the day. It was a joy to see such enthusiasm and camaraderie, and I'm proud of our commitment to inclusivity and fostering a love for sports in our school community!

I am excited to invite you to our **Meet The Teacher and Welcome Event** on Wednesday, 19th February! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your child's teacher, learn more about what the year ahead holds, and get involved in our vibrant school community.

The event will run as follows:

- K-2: 4.45 - 5.15 pm
- Years 3-6: 5.30 - 6.00 pm
- Dragon Performance: 6.15 pm in the COLA

I kindly ask that children remain with their parents or carers at all times during the event. This includes ensuring that children are seated quietly beside you during the Meet The Teacher sessions. As this is a community event, I greatly appreciate your support in maintaining a calm and respectful environment for all.

Please note, there will be no food available at the event this year, so I encourage families to plan accordingly.

Staffing Update

At the end of last year, Ms Tatarynowicz bid farewell as she embarks on a new journey. She has taken leave for the year and relocated to the mid north coast to be closer to her family.

Ms Tatarynowicz has been a valued member of our staff, contributing greatly to our students' learning and growth. Her dedication and passion for teaching have left a lasting impact on our school community. We wish Ms. Tatarynowicz all the best in her new adventure and hope she has a wonderful experience teaching in different schools along the mid north coast. We look forward to hearing about her experiences and hope to welcome her back in the future.

As we say goodbye to one member of our team, we are also excited to welcome new faces to our school community. Ms. Abbott-Atchison joins us as the new Stage 1 Assistant Principal and Year 2 teacher. We are thrilled to have her expertise and leadership as part of our Stage 1 team. Additionally, we welcome Ms. Bennett and Ms. Penfold, who are also joining Stage 1 and Zara Kearns and Eden Carpenter who have joined our SLSO team. Mr Damian Staszak all joins the team as an additional School Counsellor. They have already felt warmly welcomed into our school community, and we look forward to the positive contributions they will make.

Additionally this year, Mr Riordan (S1) and Ms Bauer (S2) have kindly accepted the roles of Stage leaders where they will work in collaboration with their Assistant Principals. This initiative aims at ensuring the continuity of leadership for their respective stages during transitional periods, which will benefit our students and staff alike.

School Behaviour Support and Management Plan

At our school, we are committed to fostering a positive and supportive learning environment for all students. Our School Behaviour Support and Management Plan outlines the expectations for student behaviour, strategies for promoting positive conduct, and procedures for managing any behavioural challenges that may arise. This plan is designed to ensure that all students feel safe, respected, and engaged in their learning.

I encourage parents and guardians to familiarise themselves with the plan, as it plays a crucial role in our school community. You can find the full School Behaviour Support and Management Plan on our [school website](#).

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a positive and productive learning environment for all students!

School Community Charter

I would like to remind everyone about our School Community Charter, which reflects our commitment to building a strong, inclusive, and supportive environment for all members of our school community. This charter outlines our shared values, expectations, and responsibilities, fostering collaboration between students, staff, and families.

The School Community Charter serves as a foundation for positive relationships, encourages open communication, and promotes respect and understanding. I believe that by working together, we can create a nurturing atmosphere that enhances the educational experience for everyone.

Please take a moment to read the full [School Community Charter](#). Your support and involvement are vital in helping us uphold the principles outlined in the charter. Thank you for being an essential part of our school community!



Above: Ms Tatarynowicz

NAPLAN 2025

Each year the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is sat by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students will participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

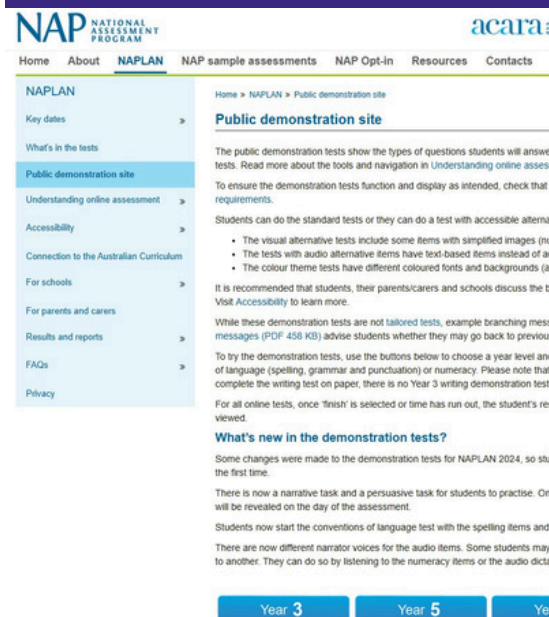
NAPLAN 2025 will take place from **Wednesday 12 March to Monday 24 March**.

NAPLAN is just one part of our school's learning assessment program. The tests assess literacy and numeracy skills your child is already learning at school, so the best preparation is their everyday classroom learning. Our school will also undertake activities to help students become familiar with the types of questions and tools available in the online tests.

The [public demonstration site](#) is available for you to see the format of the online tests.

Further information about NAPLAN is available on the [NESA website](#) and the [NAP website](#).

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact your child's teacher.



Spotlight on Learning



Guitar Lessons

Stage 2 and 3 guitar will commence lessons on Wednesday of Week 4.

Guitars for Year 3 and new students will be distributed by Week 5. Please complete the form in School Bytes relating to guitars so you can nominate if you would like to purchase a new or used guitar, or if you will be supplying your own.

Years 3 to 6 students will need to bring their guitars school for each scheduled lesson.

Kindergarten

It has been a fantastic start to Kindergarten! In writing, we have been exploring the book *Starting School* to spark discussions and reflect on our own experiences. In mathematics, students have been engaging in a variety of number games. We are excited for a year filled with learning, growth, and new adventures!



Best Start

In Week 4, all Kindergarten students will take part in the Best Start Assessment. This one-on-one assessment with their classroom teacher helps us understand each child's early literacy and numeracy skills. The insights gained allow us to support their learning right from the start of their school journey.

From The Library

Ms Barbagallo

Welcome to the Library

What an incredible start to 2025! Welcome to all the Kindergarten families and families who have started at Ultimo Public School this year. I hope you were able to enjoy some quality time over the summer break with your children. I enjoyed a cold holiday this year and ventured to America and Japan. Of course, during my travels, I visited many public libraries. I was fortunate to visit the Morgan Library and Museum in New York which have rare books and manuscripts from as far back as 1890 on their shelves.

The media may have you believe that Libraries have become somewhat redundant in our society, however Libraries serve such an important role in our communities. On February 14th is Library Lover's Day. This is a day that is celebrated internationally each year which honours libraries, librarians, library lovers and the valuable roles that libraries play in our lives. School libraries play a crucial role in the educational landscape of Australia, serving as vital resources for students and educators alike.

Here are a few reminders to make sure they make the most out of every visit:

Library Day and Library Bags

Students visit the Library each week for 1 hour. Bringing a library bag is all important in helping our bookworms bring their literary adventures back home in good order. Please check in with your child or classroom teacher for which day your child is visiting the Library. You can order an Ultimo Library bag by using the Flexischools app. You can also use any cotton tote bag to borrow books. We request no plastic bags to be used.

- Kindergarten: Borrow 2 books weekly
- Years 1-6: Borrow 3 books weekly

Scholastic Book Club Issue 1: Out Now!

Scholastic Book Club Issue 1 Book Club has arrived. Look out for your copy of Book Club coming home in your child's schoolbag. It's packed with hundreds of books from just \$3 to help you on your child's reading journey.

New Families to Book Club: Our school actively participates in Book Club. Book Club will be distributed throughout the year to your child via a brochure and orders can be placed online. The books will then be delivered to your child's teacher for your child to take home. Families can purchase books at a discounted rate through scholastic book club. The best part is 15% of your order value is given back to our school. It is easy to order. Just go to scholastic.com.au/loop or by using the LOOP app which you can download from the App Store or Google Play. Once you select your books, use the drop-down menu to find your class and the books will be delivered to your child's classroom. Please note the school does not take cash for Book Club orders.

Some helpful resources to Introduce NEW families to Book Club

- [Book Club Parent Guide](#)
- [Other resources for parents available online](#)

Issue 1 will be sent home with your child this week.

Scholastic Book Club: Orders due Monday 24th February at 3pm



Visiting the Morgan Library in New York, which had over 250,000 visitors in 2024. All books are sealed behind iron frames to protect the collection.

A vibrant promotional graphic for Scholastic Book Club Issue 1. It features a large yellow starburst with the text "GET UP TO 3 FREE BOOKS" and "ISSUE 1 IS NOW OPEN". Below the starburst are three book covers: "BUSH TURKEY", "BABY-SITTERS LITTLE SISTER", and "DIARY OF A ROBLOX". A small tag on the right says "See Loop for the full list!". At the bottom, it says "Conditions apply, see full Terms & Conditions on Book Club LOOP." and the Scholastic Book Club logo.



School Leader Update

Written by Bener, Myka, Tom, Kiah

Students, teachers, parents and carers, welcome back to Ultimo Public School! We hope you all had a fantastic holiday, because it was surely a long one! And for all the new Kindy students here, congratulations on your first day of school, last week. Our new exciting theme for our class names this year is science!

Your school leaders and newsletter writers for this year will be Myka, Kiah, Bener and Tom.

On Tuesday was our School Swimming Carnival where all students from years 2-6 took part in many different heats with all the swimming styles, so the three houses; Harris, Wentworth and Macarthur could compete against each other. Everyone did an excellent job and it was also a great chance for people to spend a day with their friends and cheer them on.

We all hope that our students here in 2025 will have an amazing year and have a great mix of learning, friendship, and most importantly, fun!

Grow Your Mind Update

Grow Your Mind

We hope that everyone had a safe and restful holidays and are energised to start the school year, ready to learn.

A new year means lots of positive and exciting changes, when students find out their new class and teacher. Here are some examples of activities that some students completed in their first week back to school.

INTRODUCING THE

GROW YOUR MIND MOOD METER

What colour is your Sensitive Octopus (insular cortex) today?

Daily Check In:

Each day we may feel a certain way and that is ok! All feelings are valid. Have a look at the Grow Your Mind Mood Meter and think about how you're feeling today.

Discussing what respect looks like in the classroom:

Respect is treating each other in a way that shows we value what they have to say and feel. It means we treat people how we wish to be treated. If you are growing respect, you try to speak to people in way that honours their dignity and you give them a chance to be heard.

Grow Your Mind

MICRO MEDITATIONS

FINGER BREATH

Overview:
Time: 02-05 min
Ages: 5-12 years

Instructions:
Hold out a hand and with the index finger of the other hand place it at the base of your thumb. Breathe in and trace up the thumb, then breathe out and trace down the thumb, continue this until you have traced the whole hand. That was 5 mindful breaths!

Learning different strategies to help keep your guard dog calm while activating the other animals. This helps create an environment where students are ready to complete their best learning.

Mindfulness:

It means *focusing on* **what** you are doing and **why** you are doing it.

This breathing exercise is a great way to calm your guard dog and activate all the other animals.

Premier's Reading Challenge

This year's Premiers Reading Challenge will commence on Monday 24th February 2025.

This is for all students from Years 1-6. Kindergarten will complete their challenge with me during Library time. I am pleased to report that many students have excitingly commenced reading in anticipation of the challenge. Please ensure your child logs into their PRC account (with their DoE login) and record their books read. If you have lost your login details, please let your child's teacher know.

We will also be ensuring students have access to new PRC books during the challenge. I will be providing physical reading logs to assist families with recording entries.

More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

Library Monitors 2025

We will be announcing the 2025 Library monitors during assembly, this Friday from 2-3pm. Students will also be presented with their badges. Families will be notified via email this week.



Artwork by Matt Ottley

NSW Department of Education

2025 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge
Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Digital Partner
ePlatform
ePlatform

Supporter
PETAA
PETA Australia

NSW
GOVERNMENT

Key dates for students in K-10:
Challenge opens Monday 24 February
Challenge closes for student entries Friday 22 August

“

Reading is your passport to endless adventures...

”



Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday, our students in Years 2 to 6 had an exciting day at the Drummoyne Swimming Centre for our annual swimming carnival. The event was a resounding success, filled with enthusiasm and spirited participation in the various races. It was truly wonderful to witness so many students demonstrating their dedication by practicing their swimming skills and bravely challenging themselves to compete.

The atmosphere was vibrant and supportive, with students encouraging one another throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and commitment to giving their best in each event.

We would also like to remind everyone that the ribbons assembly will take place this Friday in the hall at 2 PM. During this assembly, we will celebrate the achievements of our swimmers in the 50 and 100-meter races, so be sure to join us in recognising their hard work and success! The zone team will be announced soon.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the staff members who were present and provided their invaluable support to ensure that the day ran smoothly. We would like to extend a special mention to Mr. Lavender and Miss Pentney for their exceptional efforts in organising the event. Your hard work and dedication made a significant difference, and we truly appreciate all that you did!

PBL Update

Weekly Focus: Classroom and General Expectations

Respect

Responsible

Learner

General Expectations

Respect	Responsible	Learner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care for yourself and others Treat others fairly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Take care of belongings and equipment Wear a hat outdoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen and follow all staff instructions Right place, right time

Classroom Expectations

Respect	Responsible	Learner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value other opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the classroom tidy Ask the teacher for permission to leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5L's Allow others to learn



Respect

Responsible

Learner

BE BUS AWARE

**Stay alert and
cross with care**



BeBusAware.com.au



BE BUS AWARE

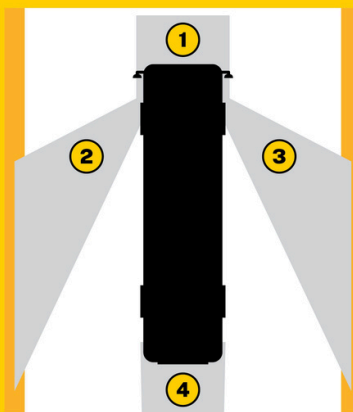
**Wait until the bus
has gone then use a
safe place to cross**



BeBusAware.com.au



**Buses have four
main blind spots**



BeBusAware.com.au



Community Noticeboard

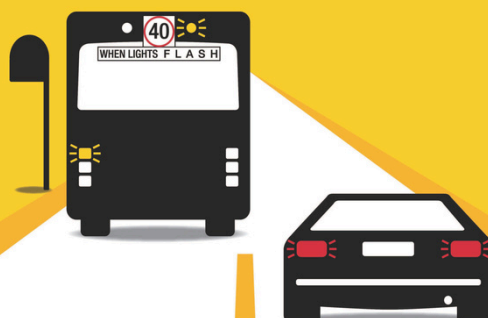
Next Week is Bus Safety Week (17-23 February)

Key messages for parents and carers

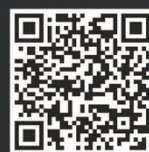
- You are responsible for getting your child to and from the bus stop safely.
- Always supervise your child and hold their hand when walking to and from the bus stop and when crossing the road, until they are at least 10 years old.
- Meet your child at the designated stop time on the same side of the road as the bus stop – never call your child across the road.
- Talk to your children about Stop! Look! Listen! Think! every time they cross the road:
 1. Stop one step back from the kerb
 2. Look continuously both ways
 3. Listen for the sounds of approaching traffic
 4. Think whether it is safe to cross and keep checking until safely across.
- Encourage your child to take a seat quickly when they get on the bus and to buckle up if the bus has seatbelts.
- Safety Town - the road safety website for primary school students, teachers and families - contains information for families around driving safely around buses and also around getting children to and from the bus stop safely.
- If you have recently moved, or your child is starting or changing schools, make sure you plan your trip in advance. These fact sheets provide information on getting your child to and from school safely
- More information is available in this brochure: Bus safety for school students: How families can help.

Bus Safety Week

Monday 17 – Sunday 23 February 2025



Scan the QR code to
test your bus safety
knowledge



BeBusAware.com.au



Community Noticeboard

2025

School Zone Road Safety Newsletter



TERM
1

Welcome to the first School Zone road safety newsletter for 2025.

This term, we're sharing information from Transport for NSW about e-bikes and e-scooters.



What is an e-bike?

A bicycle powered by rechargeable batteries, providing electric assistance while pedalling.

What are the requirements for e-bikes?

There are 2 types permitted in NSW: electrically power-assisted cycles and power-assisted pedal cycles. There are specific requirements associated with the use of each kind. Always check the manufacturer's details.

For more information about the use of e-bikes visit city.sydney.gov.au/ebikes

Can a child ride an e-bike?

Yes, if it meets the requirements. Shared (hired) e-bikes usually have a minimum age allowed. Always check before allowing a child to ride a shared e-bike.



CITY OF SYDNEY

What is an e-scooter?

A scooter powered by a rechargeable battery

Families have an important part to play in keeping children safe around roads.

Is a child allowed to ride an e-scooter?

In NSW it is illegal to ride a privately owned e-scooter on roads, footpaths, shared paths, cycleways and cycle paths.

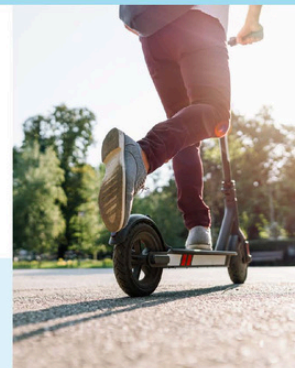
A child can only ride a privately owned e-scooter on private property.



Shared e-scooters are being trialled across NSW. A child must be 16 years or older to hire and ride a shared e-scooter within a trial area.

For more information about the use of e-scooters visit city.sydney.gov.au/escooters

For further online information about road safety visit [Safety Town](https://city.sydney.gov.au/safetytown). There are also great [Safety Town](https://city.sydney.gov.au/safetytown) activities for you and your child to explore and talk about.



Baking and Table Tennis for ages 13 to 18



Cliff Noble Community Centre
Corner Renwick and Sutor Streets,
Alexandria
Mondays, 3pm to 5:30pm
10 Feb to 31 March
To book email
youthservices@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au



Join us after school to make cakes for afternoon tea. We also have board games, PlayStation and table tennis to play or you can use our computers. Bring your friends and meet new people. Free wifi is also available in the centre.

Bookings are essential.

This free program is for high-school students only.

CITY OF SYDNEY

Alexandria Park Community barbecue

Get to know your neighbours and local services at this free event.
Drop by anytime from 3pm to 5.30pm.

Friday 14 February – Alexandria Park, Alexandria
Friday 7 March – Alexandria Park, Alexandria
Friday 11 April – Alexandria Park, Alexandria

For more information
email youthservices@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au



CITY OF SYDNEY





Creative Arts & Technology

PROGRAMS



Mondays: 3:15 – 4:15pm

Drama Club (Yrs K-2 & 3-6)

Our drama classes have been developed from years of experience teaching thousands of children. They build confidence and ensure your child shines in a team environment. We provide a dynamic and practical program, delivered in an atmosphere of support and positivity by experienced, professional performers passionate about teaching children and inspiring them to be their best.

Term 1 starts Monday 17th February

Cost: \$192.50/child per term (7 weeks)



Wednesdays: 3:15 – 4:45pm

Visual FX Filmmaking Club (Yrs 3-6)

Unleash your creativity in 1.5-hour afterschool sessions where you'll tackle filmmaking challenges, explore visual effects using iPads, and learn to craft your own action-packed FX sequences.

Big Finish: Showcase your masterpiece on the big screen and enter StarTime's online film festival!

Term 1 starts Wednesday 19th February

Focus: Mastering special effects to create thrilling action scenes!

Don't miss out—join the fun and become a filmmaker today!

Cost: \$232/child per term (7 weeks)

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
OR TO REGISTER
SCAN HERE**



"StarTime drama classes have transformed our 9-year-old son's confidence. He now dreams of being a stand-up comedian! Lindsay's teaching is inspiring and fun, and the skills learned helped the kids deliver an impressive, improvised play."

Susana Danoy (parent)



Talent Club
AUSTRALIA



SPEAKS CRAFT



AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE 4-IN-1 SPEAKING PROGRAM



Public Speaking



Creative Writing



Debating



Drama

*Mock Debates, Impromptu
Speeches, Dramatic
Monologues and more!*

**SPEAK UP!
STAND OUT!**

ENQUIRE NOW



"My kids have thoroughly enjoyed workshops with Talent Club Australia. The classes are student age-tailored and very role-involving. I can see the progress of my kids."



0451 507 606



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