

A small school with BIG aspirations!



# Welcome to MACDONALD VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL



## Prospectus 2021









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## Welcome to our School

### A warm welcome to Macdonald Valley Public School

Welcome to Macdonald Valley Public School, one of the smallest schools in the Western Sydney Region of the NSW Department of Education and Training, our school is in a rural area, seven kilometres from the township of St. Albans.

Macdonald Valley is one of the oldest government schools in New South Wales, established in 1845 and has celebrated more than one hundred and seventy five years of public education. Initially established on the river bank, the school now operates in a higher location, and has extensive grounds with large grassed playing areas, basketball court, cricket nets, long jump pit and play equipment, as well as varied countryside with areas of natural bush, wetlands, rainforests, timber plantations, cultivated fields and rugged mountains, providing ideal opportunities for environmental study.



The local community includes farmers, craftsmen, artists, musicians and a variety of other professions which offer a culturally diverse parents and friends group. There is a supportive interaction between the school and its community which provides a rich source of input for school programs. The school is extremely well resourced with sport, music and craft equipment, technology, books, furniture, and materials, offering a unique blend of the old and the new.

We are proud of our past and enthusiastic about our future, embracing the timeless credo that character builds destiny. Ours is a family-oriented school in which staff, students, and parents work together to maximise opportunities and potential. Our aim is to give students self-belief and values that will lead to high levels of competence in key learning areas and to lives well lived.

### A member of a cohesive learning community

Macdonald Valley Public School is a member of the MWAC Learning Community consisting of Macdonald Valley Public School, Wisemans Ferry Public School, and Cattai Public School, a group of small schools committed to working together to provide the best possible education for all

students.

### Strong links with the community

Macdonald Valley Public School has fostered strong links with the local community through its P&C. Students assist in charity collections and fundraising ventures such as RSPCA Cupcake Day and our Easter Fundraising weekend.

### Keeping parents informed

School communications are varied and easily accessible. We publish a newsletter emailed to parents/caregivers every week. Hard copies of the newsletter are available from the Admin Office upon request and the newsletter is also always available on our school website and through the School App. The Macdonald Valley Public School newsletter provides the latest news/events and community announcements.

Our School App gives our school the capacity to create and send instant push alerts to our school community keeping parents/caregivers well informed of important messages from our school. Parents can download the "Skool Loop" app from the app store or google play and subscribe to receive email alerts. Instructions are available on our school website.

Macdonald Valley Public School also has an official social media presence within the popular social networking site Facebook.

Direct contact from staff, regular Parent-Teacher evenings, the school noticeboard and our regularly updated website provide parents with the most up-to-date information regarding their child or our school.

### P&C meetings

We are supported by a highly active parent community. We value our strong links with parents, local businesses and organisations. P&C meetings are held once a term on a Monday from 6.00pm in our Administration Building.

The P&C work in partnership with our teachers to ensure quality education and welfare outcomes for our students. All parents are invited to attend.

### We would like to hear from you

Thank you for taking an interest in Macdonald Valley Public School. We value your comments and are happy to assist with any enquiries about the school or your child.

**Melissa Date - PRINCIPAL**





## Staff List

**Principal:**

Mrs Melissa Date

**Teachers:**

Mrs Dominique Epthorp (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Mrs Jen Shohani (Tue)

**School Administration Manager**

Mrs Nicole Stafford (Mon-Thurs)

Mrs Jennifer Smart (Fri)

**School Learning Support Officers:**

Mrs Rachel Slater (Mon), Mrs Simone Butler (Fri)

Mrs Susan Walker (Thu) Music Tutor

Mrs Catherine Du Peloux Menage (Mon) French Tutor

**General Assistant:**

M Michael Hughes



## Macdonald Valley Public School



Staff - 2020

Susan Walker, Dominique Epthorp, Nick Garnock, Melissa Date (Principal), Simone Butler, Nicole Stafford



## School Facilities

### Extensive grounds in beautiful rural setting

Macdonald Valley Public School has extensive grounds with large grassed playing areas, basketball court, cricket nets, long jump pit and play equipment as well as varied countryside with areas of natural bush, wetlands, rainforests, timber plantations, cultivated fields and rugged mountains, providing ideal opportunities for environmental study. Unique features are our native and vegetable gardens designed to improve the biodiversity of our school, and even a frog pond.

### Air Conditioning

All learning spaces are air conditioned to maximise learning in extreme weather conditions.

### Library Resources

The Library has a special place at Macdonald Valley Public School. We offer a variety of excellent learning tools such as books, computers, internet, magazines, newspapers and videos. It provides a safe environment where students not only research and study but can also relax by reading and/or playing games.

### Music

We have a large musical instrument collection so all students can be actively involved in Music lessons. We have recently added to our collection with a variety of instruments funded by our P&C.



### Technology

Students have access to a range of computers, laptops and Ipads and both our classroom and Library is set up with the latest interactive Smart Panels.

### High teacher to student ratio

At Macdonald Valley Public School we offer a high teacher to student ratio in a multi-aged classroom allowing for personalized learning and high levels of support.

Our extension programs allow students to have the support they need to be challenged in ways that are far more flexible in multi-age classrooms.

For those children who need additional learning support, they also benefit from additional teacher time and programs that are tailored to meet their needs.

Our NAPLAN results are consistently high and reflect the benefits of intensive support for our students.

Current research suggests that multi-age classrooms offer many academic and social benefits.





## Bell Times

9:15am-9:30am	Fitness
9:30am-9:45am	Crunch & Sip / Modelled Reading
9:45am-11:15am	Literacy Groups
11:15am-11:45am	Recess
11:45am-1:15pm	Numeracy Groups
1:15pm-2:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm-3:15pm	Class
3:15pm-3:30pm	Afternoon Bus

## Transport to and from School

A private bus is available each morning and afternoon to transport students to and from Macdonald Valley Public School from the local area. A Bus Timetable is available from the Administration Office

To organise transport on this private bus for your child/ren please phone:

**Kaye Szwaneveld:** 4568 2005/0418 975 298



## Publications of photos

Macdonald Valley Public School publishes photographs of students via its school Newsletter, on its web-site, school brochure, through its prospectus and from time to time in advertisements, newspaper articles and its social media sites. Parents/caregivers are requested to advise the school in writing if they **do not consent** to have a photographic image of their child published. Names of students may appear with an accompanying photographic image. Should the names of individual students be published on the Web-site or social media sites only first names will be used, with the exception of outstanding individual achievements. If we do not receive any notification from parents via the Admin Office, the school will assume that you agree to these conditions.





## Term Dates 2021

**Term 1:** Wednesday 27 January 2021 to Thurs 1 April 2021

**Term 2:** Monday 19 April 2021 to Friday 25 June 2021

**Term 3:** Monday 12 July 2021 to Friday 17 September 2021

**Term 4:** Tuesday 5 October 2021 to Friday 17 December 2021

**\*\*\* School Staff Development days occur — 2 days at the beginning of Terms 1, 1 day at the beginning of terms 2 and 3 and the last day of the school year. \*\*\***







## Parent & Community participation

### P&C Association

The education of your child and the ongoing improvement of conditions within the school are assisted greatly by the efforts of the P&C. Your support will guarantee continued improvement.

Meetings are held once a school term on a Monday in the Administration building commencing at 6.00pm. All parents are warmly invited to attend.

Parents are actively involved in fundraising and consulted on matters of school policy.

Parents are represented on the school's uniform committee, staff selection committees, enrolment placement committee, finance committee and other committees established to review policies such as welfare and discipline, as required.

## MACDONALD VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C COMMITTEE

<b>President:</b>	Simone Butler
<b>Vice President:</b>	Susan Walker
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dominique Epthorp
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Troy Ireland
<b>Uniform Coordinator:</b>	Ieva Aboltins





## Uniform

Our school uniform is strongly supported by parents, students and staff.

shows a sense of commitment to our school community.

We believe the uniform fosters a sense of belonging and pride in our school amongst the students and

The school can assist families in need with uniform requirements.

### Macdonald Valley Public School

#### Uniform ordering

<b>Name:</b>	
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Quantity	Item	Price	Subtotal
	Rimmed Hat	\$16	
	Peak Hat	\$8	
	Short sleeve T-Shirt	\$17	
	Girls - Skort	\$18	
	Girls - Skirt	\$18.50	
	Girls - Pants	\$21	
	Boys - Shorts	\$18	
	Boys – Cargo Pants	\$21	
	Jumper	\$31	
	Tracksuit Pants	\$21	
	Jacket	\$30	

Please deposit required amount into the P&C account, prior to collecting uniforms and email completed form and proof of payment to [macdonaldv-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:macdonaldv-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Reference: Your Name/uniforms

Account Name: Macdonald Valley Parents and Citizens

BSB: 062622

Account Number: 00904716



## School Uniform

- Orange short sleeve Polo shirt with MVPS emblem (all students)
- Blue Shorts/Trousers/Tracksuit pants (Boys)
- Blue Pants/Skirt/Skorts/Tracksuit pants (Girls)
- Blue Jumper with MVPS emblem
- Blue Jacket
- Blue Rimmed or Peak Hat with MVPS emblem
- Black leather/leather like fully enclosed shoes
- White socks



Jackets are a special order item and are not kept in stock. Delivery times are usually relatively quick.







## School Organisation, Services and Routines

### Accidents on school premises, excursions, school activities or sport

The school has a number of staff qualified in First Aid. They will treat minor cuts, abrasions and assess the needs of each child prior to calling parents. Parents are requested to ensure that an emergency contact number and the name of their child's General Practitioner is provided on enrolment and updated during the course of a student's time at the school. A mobile number for instant contact is appreciated. Parents are requested to ensure any vital medical information is updated with the school, e.g. allergies, diabetes, prescription drugs to be regularly taken.

### Ambulance

The school pays a subscription to the NSW Ambulance Service. This allows free ambulance travel for students who meet with an accident at school, on a school excursion, or participating in a school sport event. If you inadvertently receive an account for such an ambulance service, please forward it to the school. Office Staff will notify parents when their child is taken to hospital or a casualty department as soon as practicable.

### Attendance and monitoring

Parents are reminded of the following:

- ◇ School attendance is **compulsory** until a student reaches the age of 17 years.
- ◇ Parents must provide documentation to the school for all their child's absences.
- ◇ Parents who are **aware** that their children are going to be **absent from school** are asked to phone Macdonald Valley Public School Office staff on 4578 1177 **prior** to the start of the school day to inform the office of their child's absence.
- ◇ Parents who do not inform the school of their child's absence on a particular day will receive a phone call from the School Admin manager.
- ◇ Students who are absent from school for three days or more will need a doctors certificate provided.

### Community use of school facilities

The schools facilities are available to be used for community events by prior arrangement. Enquiries regarding the use of Macdonald Valley Public School facilities should be directed to our Administration office during school hours.

### Early Leavers/Late Arrivals

All students must be signed in and out off school by their Parents/Carers through the Administration office.

### Evacuation Procedure

The school has its own evacuation procedures in the event of fire, flood or other critical incident. A long evacuation siren will be heard, students with their teacher will evacuate the building as quickly and calmly as possible and assemble on the silver seats.

### Lost Property

Items of lost property can be claimed from the office. To minimise loss, all items of clothing should be labelled. Do not bring valuable items to school.

### Medication

Students who need medication administered either by mouth or injection at school **must** notify the office via parental contact and delivered to school by a parent. A medication form will be issued and must be signed by the parent/guardian. All medications are securely stored in the Administration building.

### School Counsellor

The School Counsellor is here once a fortnight to help anyone who may be having difficulties either at home, at school, or with other students. Parents may wish to make individual contact with the counsellors.



## School Organisation, Services and Routines (Continued)

### Home & School Communication

#### Appointments

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to call and make appointments for meetings with staff to ensure staff availability and relevant information is readily at hand.

**School hours: 9:15am to 3:15pm every day.**

#### Assembly

Weekly assemblies are held at Macdonald Valley Public School each Friday.

#### Communicating with our Parents

Direct contact from staff, regular Parent-Teacher evenings, and the school noticeboard are all utilised to provide parents with the most up-to-date information regarding their child or our school.

#### Newsletter

Macdonald Valley Public School distributes a newsletter each week via email to all parents who have provided an email address to the Front Office or via their enrolment form. Paper copies are available from the Front Office upon request and the newsletter is also always available on our school website and school app. The Macdonald Valley Public School newsletter provides the latest news and events and community announcements.

#### Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C)

Our Parents and Citizens' Association meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each Term, commencing at 6.00pm in the staffroom. All parents are warmly invited to attend.

#### Social Media Sites

Macdonald Valley Public School has an official social media presence across the popular social networking site Facebook. The purpose of this space is to inform parents and the school community about events and student achievements. This online space is maintained by the staff of Macdonald Valley Public School. Check us out on:

<http://www.facebook.com/macdonaldvalleypublicschool>

Students and parents should be aware of the DET policy "Online Communication Services: Acceptable Usage for School Students" when interacting on these official school social media sites.

#### School App

Parents/Caregivers are able to download our school app. This app has given the school the capacity to create and send instant push alerts to our school community keeping them well informed of important messages from our school. This custom designed app also provides parents with immediate access to newsletters, permission notes and calendar events. Instructions on how to download the free School Loop App is available on the School Communication Tab on our School website.

#### Up-to-date contact details

In the school Office we maintain contact details for each student so that we have names and phone numbers of people to contact if the student is sick or has an accident. It is important that the school be advised immediately of change of address, phone numbers etc so that we can get in touch in case of sickness or any emergency.

#### Visitors

All visitors to the school are asked to report to the Office where they will be asked to sign-in. When you depart the school, please return to the office and sign-out.

#### Website

We have a wonderful website to which our newsletter, calendar and latest news is updated on a regular basis. Additionally much more information regarding our school organisation and achievements can be found here. Look us up at:

<https://macdonaldv-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>



A small school with BIG aspirations!



For more information about our wonderful school please contact:

## **Macdonald Valley Public School**

1331 St Albans Road

Central Macdonald NSW 2775

**Tel: 45 68 2120**

Email: [macdonaldv-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:macdonaldv-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Website: <https://macdonaldv-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

