



School Newsletter

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Welcome to 2022 School Year

We welcome our new and existing students back to school in 2022!

In the COVID world that we live in, we have learnt to be flexible and nimble as a school. We started the School Term with a week of online learning – which was a new experience for most of our teachers and students.

It was a joy to see happy faces returning to school for face-to-face learning. The students also learnt that some things have changed –

1. temperatures need to be taken before going on the school bus;
2. hands are sanitized before boarding the school bus;
3. masks are worn throughout the day;
4. students bring their own food, and everyone eats outside;
5. students need to wipe down their table/mat before and after every meal;
6. students who display flu like symptoms will be sent home.

We are grateful to all parents/(carers) for your understanding, patience, and cooperation as we brace through this difficult time together.



Welcome to the 2022 school year.

We particularly welcome our new families to the school and new teachers Miss Cathy Yan and Miss Deb Tully and administrative officer Miss Krisna Li.

Thank you to all parent/carer(s) for your support throughout week one's online communication and learning from home.

English Language Development

Since returning to face-to-face teaching, Miss Sue has been assessing the reading/English language skills of all students. The results of this assessment will be used as a guide to develop future learning strategies to meet the needs of our students.

Staff have also translated the daily greetings into English, and we will begin teaching all students the English version and start using this every day.

I will keep all parent/carer(s) updated in future newsletters.

Homework Update

Ming-De International School believes homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, develop behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning.

Each Night, students will be expected to:

1. prepare/review Ancient Chinese Reading (no more than 20 minutes);
2. revise key skills learned in the classroom through the completion of literacy and numeracy homework activities provided by the teachers (teachers will give some guidance on when the task needs to be completed and the length of time required to complete the activity);
3. reading (once language/reading assessment has been completed), a home reader will be given to your child(ren) to encourage nightly reading that matches their ability level;
4. praying (Moral/Religious Course).

Weekly:

1. Chinese language preparation and activities (the teacher will give guidance on what is required each week);
2. during the term students may have some preparation (for Year 4 research), for future work that is being covered in a subject area (again the teacher will provide guidance on what needs to be completed and the time required to complete the work).

Chinese translation of homework information?

If any parent/carer(s) wants the information teachers provide to students on homework translated into Chinese, please send an email to admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au requesting this.

Classroom Rules

Over the past few months, the teaching team has been working on a Classroom Rules Matrix to promote/remind/guide good behaviour for a safe, happy and productive classroom environment.

Year 4 has also been involved in this process through work they completed last year with me in their Assembly period.

To provide whole school expectations that can help students understand what is appropriate and what is not accepted, we have chosen 3 areas to focus on:

- ❖ **Safety**
- ❖ **Learning and**
- ❖ **Respect**

Over the next few weeks, the focus will be on “safety” with teachers using age appropriate activities to provide an understanding of the behaviour that is expected of students.

As much as possible, school values will also be highlighted to add to this work.

More information provided in coming weeks.

Swimming Lessons

As parent/carer(s) have already been informed, we have delayed the start of the planned swimming lessons due to COVID safety measures for the beginning of the new school year.

Using the Glennie Aquatic Centre for our swimming lessons ensures that all COVID safe measures are in place and practiced by the staff and swimming instructors who will be working with your child/ren.

The classes will take place on the following Tuesday and Thursday afternoons:

- ❖ March 1 & 3
- ❖ March 8 & 10 and
- ❖ March 22 & 24

An email will be received by parent/carer(s) this week outlining all you need know for your child/ren to participate in the swimming program.

NAPLAN

Attached to the newsletter is a pamphlet outlining information for parent/carer(s). Although we only have one student participating in NAPLAN testing in 2022 (Year 3), next year Year 3 and Year 5 students (the present Year 2 and Year 4), will be taking the NAPLAN tests.

As an NSSAB accredited school, it is expected that all Ming-De students participate in NAPLAN testing, but it needs to be emphasised that NAPLAN is not a pass/fail process.

Your child/ren’s NAPLAN results will provide their teachers with further information on their strengths and highlight the areas for further development to make sure they are progressing in literacy and numeracy.

Update

Dear Parents and Care Givers, Thank you to everyone for your support during Friday's unprecedented rain event. I hope that you and your families all kept safe over the weekend and that your homes were safe as well.

COVID Update: Following the Premier's announcement regarding the COVID-19 school relaxations from 6pm on 4 March, the following additional information will help clarify our upcoming school operations. From 6pm on 4 March, the Back to School Plan will no longer be in place, and schools will return to COVID-normal operations with some additional considerations outlined below.

Face masks From 6pm on 4 March, face masks will no longer be required to be worn by staff or students in schools, on dedicated school transport or at other education workplaces. Staff and students who wish to wear a face mask at school may continue to do so.

Rapid antigen tests Despite the Back to School Plan ceasing on 4 March, schools will continue to supply RATs to staff and students who become symptomatic at school throughout Term 1. The current arrangements for symptomatic staff and students who record a positive RAT result remain in place, based on current health advice.

REGULAR SCHOOL DAY



Welcome Miss Cathy Yan

My name is Cathy Yan (Ms Yan). It is my great honour to have joined our school. When I was a teenager, I went to Di Zi Gui class in the Pure Land College where I found my passion - teaching. So, I went to UQ and finished with a double degree of Science and Education. I worked in a high school setting for 4 years as a Science and Maths teacher. I also volunteered as a Di Zi Gui teacher for 7 years in Brisbane, where I worked with children aged from 3 to 12. I was very excited when I heard of the opening of Ming-De and wanted to come back to repay the kindness I received from Pure Land College when I was younger. I love to learn and improve with students every day, and most importantly to put what we have learned into practice.



Welcome Miss Deb Tully

My name is Deb Tully, and this year I will be teaching Arts, Health Theory, Music (Yr2 and Yr4), HASS (Prep/Yr 1) and assisting in Learning Support.

I have been teaching Primary students since 1990, in the Queensland State Education System, and the Catholic Education System. I work as a Supply (Relief) Teacher in many Toowoomba Catholic Primary Schools. I have particular interest and experience in Early Childhood education, and Learning Support/ESL.

I am a mum to 3 children – a 20 year old, an 18 year old and a 16 year old – so, they are not little children anymore. They are all now taller than me!

I am so happy to be working here at Ming-De International School with your children, and alongside the amazing dedicated staff here.

Thank you, and warm regards.



Presentation Assembly 2021

Ming-De International school held its first Presentation Assembly last December.

It was wonderful to see the joy on the faces of all the parent/carer(s), family and friends as they celebrated the achievements of their children at the Presentation Assembly.

We congratulate the award and prize winners for their application to their learning and fine effort. But this was also an opportunity to applaud all students on their growth as learners and personal achievements.

We also thank our accomplished emcees, Year 3 students Lotus Sun and Sissi Wang who did a wonderful job introducing speakers, making announcements and keeping the program flowing as smoothly as possible.

The assembly ended with those present enjoying the beautiful singing of our students and a group photo with all staff and families.



Reminders

It is important that we have up-to-date contact information for parents and guardians so that we can keep you informed. To advise of any change to student or parent personal details (including email, mailing address, home phone, mobile or emergency contact details), please email admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au.

In the email, please include your child's name and Year level.



Ming-De International
School Toowoomba

48 Althaus Rd

WESTBROOK QLD
4350 Australia
Mon. – Fri. 8:30-16:30

PHONE

07 4630 6813

E-MAIL

admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au

WEBSITE

www.ming-de.qld.edu.au

✓ Parent Handbook

The Parent Handbook is now fully translated. If you need a copy of it, please email admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au for it to be emailed to you.

✓ Food Allergy

Please be reminded that nuts or food containing nuts is not recommended to be brought to school as it may be a source of allergen for some children.

✓ Late Arrival

If your child arrives in school after 8.30am, please go to the Reception Office and one of our friendly staff members will take your child to his/her classroom.

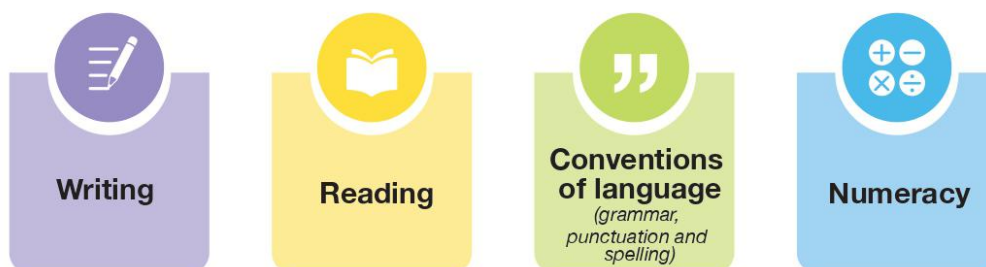
✓ Prepare for Art class

As we are preparing for more hands on in art activities in a new art room, can we ask parents to provide their children with an art smock/ apron/ old long-sleeved shirt to protect the uniform from paint. It would be appreciated if they could bring it to school every Friday.

NAPLAN – information for parents and carers

- NAPLAN is the name of some literacy and numeracy tests completed by students in Australia.
- All students do NAPLAN tests when they are in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9.
- Students are tested in English about their knowledge in reading, writing and maths.
- The test questions are presented in Standard Australian English dialect.
- Some of the questions are written and some of the questions are spoken.
- The tests will get easier or harder, depending on how students are going.
- Students do four different tests during two weeks in May each year.

The names of the four tests are:



- Students in Year 3 will do the Writing test using pencil and paper. Year 3 students will answer the other test questions on the computer.
- Students in Years 5, 7 and 9 will answer all their test questions on computers.
- Teachers will help students get ready for NAPLAN tests.
- After getting the results back in Term 3, schools will give parents and carers a report showing how their child did.
- Parents and carers can talk to the teacher about these results.
- The information from the NAPLAN tests is used by people working in the Australian Government, your state or territory education authority and the school to find out how students are going all over Australia. It lets them see which schools are doing well and which schools might need help.

Talk to the teacher if you are worried about your child being able to do the tests.

For more information on NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au