

HOW CAN THE COMPASS PROGRAM SUPPORT YOU?

Tell us how the University of Sydney's Compass program can best support you by completing this short Parents' Survey. This survey can also be completed online at sydney.edu.au/compass/parents

Yes =

1. I/we would be interested in having the following activities offered to us as part of the Compass program:

(a) Supporting low-progress readers

eg Compass can provide parents with training in literacy support programs which can be used in the home or to assist other children in your school community who struggle with reading and writing

(b) Speech therapy/occupational therapy workshops

eg the Compass program may be able to arrange for speech or occupational therapy workshops for parents to use in the home

(c) University information evenings

eg local employment trends, university or TAFE, affording university

(d) Supporting your child with homework

eg motivating your child, time management and researching

(e) Career investigator workshops

New careers are constantly emerging. Learn how to support your child to make informed choices about their future

(f) University campus tours

Staff provide a guided tour of University facilities, libraries and museums

(g) Computer-based workshops

Learn how to assist your child to navigate the best information online

(h) University staff and students attend school-based events

eg University of Sydney staff and students can attend school fetes, art shows and career/subject selection evenings to speak to you and your child about university

(i) Other (please specify) _____

2. The best time for me/us to attend any Compass activities is:

morning late afternoon early evening
 weekends

3. I/we have access to the internet at home or work

Yes No

4. I/we would prefer to access any Compass activities

in our local area at our school
 at the University of Sydney

5. My/our child(ren) is/are in Year(s):

K-2 3-4 5-6 7-10 11-12

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please have your child return this completed survey to the School Office.

Compass is working closely with your school to provide your child with a greater awareness of university life and support their academic attainment.

To keep up to date with what is being offered to your child as part of the Compass program, visit our News and Events page: sydney.edu.au/news/compass

Contact us

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



Welcome to the first parent newsletter for 2010



We are really pleased to be continuing our partnership with your school through the Compass – *find your way to higher education* program in 2010. Compass aims to encourage primary and secondary school-aged children to complete their studies and think about higher education as an option after Year 12.

The program focuses on Years 3, 4 and 5 in primary school and Years 8, 9 and 10 in secondary school. Compass includes professional development for teachers and activities and programs for parents and students from our partner schools.

We publish this newsletter every school term to fill you in on some of our previous activities and tell you about upcoming events that your school will be involved in.

For more information (and some fantastic photos) you can visit our website: sydney.edu.au/compass

We have some great things lined up for your school community in 2010, including the 'Introduction to University Day' for Year 3 students in April, the new Word Up program with volunteers from the University who are supporting numeracy and literacy development in your schools, movie editing workshops, more Science in the City and visits to the Nicholson Museum.

For some parents and students, this will be your first contact with the Compass program. We look forward to meeting you and your children this year and hope to see you often at the University and at your school.

Annette Cairnduff

Director, Social Inclusion

Word Up

Compass staff worked with teachers throughout 2009 to develop a volunteer-based program to complement and add value to key learning areas within Compass schools.

Consultations with school representatives resulted in the development of Word Up – a volunteer-based literacy support program to be delivered in your primary school.

The MULTILIT Reading Tutor strategies will provide the foundation for the Compass Word Up program.

Compass secondary schools will develop school-based programs as well as using MULTILIT to provide reading support as part of the Word Up program.

The Word Up program will engage University of Sydney students as volunteer reading tutors. All student volunteers will receive MULTILIT Reading Tutor training, providing them with the skills necessary to ensure reading success for low-progress readers in your school.

Our partner schools

- Kogarah High School
- Athelstone Public School
- Bexley Public School
- Kogarah Public School
- Marrickville High School
- Marrickville Public School
- Marrickville West Public School
- Wilkins Public School
- Condell Park High School
- Condell Park Public School
- Wattawa Heights Public School
- Yagoona Public School
- Picnic Point High School
- Panania Public School
- Picnic Point Public School
- Revesby South Public School



Global Handwashing Day

Global Handwashing Day is an initiative by global aid agencies and industry to promote hygiene practice and to highlight how diseases can be spread. In Term 4, Marrickville West Public School participated in a morning of high-tech germ spotting that showed just how pervasive those pesky germs can be.

Elaine Ryan from the Faculty of Health Sciences facilitated a workshop for 55 students from Years 3 and 4 that had them shrieking, giggling, mystified and – by the end of the session – proficient at handwashing. The real highlight of the workshop was using glow-in-the-dark germ powder and cream that lit up in all its dazzling glory under UV torches. The workshop was a fun way to educate students on the importance of handwashing.



HSC Revision Lectures

Thanks to the generosity of UniServe and Matrix Education, 16 Year 12 students from Marrickville and Kogarah high schools received free places in chemistry and physics HSC revision lectures at the University of Sydney in October. Students received exam preparation support from leading academics and professionals in their field.

“[The workshops] summed up every important point we have to learn in the course in just 12 hours. The program has given me the confidence and the knowledge to do well in my HSC exam.”

Year 12 student, Kogarah High School

About Compass

Compass is a partnership between the University of Sydney and the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET), and is funded by the University and the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Giant Science

Early in November 2009, over 150 students from Years 4 and 5 at Marrickville, Kogarah, Bexley and Yagoona Public Schools attended Giant Science at the University of Sydney.

Students were treated to a science show by chemistry, physics and biology lecturers – complete with loud bangs, explosions and snakes. Students made putty, froze flowers and learned about glowing worms, forensics, bones and mummies. Dr Karl Kruszelnicki even popped in to tell students all about Antarctica and the animals that are found there.

“We learnt about animals, chemicals and crime. The University of Sydney teachers had a show that taught us lots of things about science. We all had a great time and we discovered many new things.”

Year 5 student, Kogarah Public School

Year 10 School Certificate Workshop

In October last year, Year 10 Marrickville High School students attended the Compass School Certificate Preparation Workshop. Facilitated by Jonathan Saurine, head of programs and education at the University's Centre for Continuing Education, the workshop covered:

- methods and strategies to prepare for the School Certificate examinations
- the role of the memory in organising information and linking ideas
- practising past papers and observing sample responses.

“The students appreciated the efforts of the presenters. The content was relevant and our students felt further supported in their endeavours to succeed in their pending examinations.”

Sophie Schwiebert, Head of English, Marrickville High School

Professional Development Activities

The professional development of teachers in our partner schools is one of the most important elements of the Compass program. As the classroom becomes increasingly digitalised and the student body more diverse, so too do the responsibilities of the teacher.

The Compass program provides free, accredited professional learning opportunities for teachers covering a range of teaching areas; including assessment, reporting and accreditation, personal and social education and information and communication technology.



Parents' Experience Day

The Compass program not only offers opportunities for students and teachers, it is a program for the whole school community. Yes, that means you!

In September last year, parents from Compass schools were invited to attend an ‘experience day’ at the University of Sydney. Some parents participated in their first science lesson since *The Curiosity Show* stopped screening in Australia. For parents who had not attended university themselves, tours of the University of Sydney grounds, state-of-the-art Sci Tech Library and Nicholson Museum proved inspirational.

Parents often find the information about educational pathways, particularly higher education, extremely difficult to navigate. There are often misconceptions about how to access university, and how much it costs to study there. The Parents' Experience Day aimed to provide parents with a relaxed and inspiring day as well as address some of the misconceptions that surround the topic of university study.

“As a mother, I am going to start talking to my kids about uni.”

“Definitely think about and prepare for uni, and come down in our own time for a family outing.”

Parent of Marrickville West Public School student



Introducing...

Kanina Mackay

Kanina works with the Kogarah and Picnic Point hub of schools. As well as coordinating the professional development of Compass school teachers, Kanina coordinates the parent engagement aspect of the Compass program.



Kanina brings nearly a decade of experience from the education sector to her role as a senior project officer. Having worked with secondary and university students for a number of years, Kanina is excited about working with primary school children for the first time. As the first in her family to have attended university, Kanina is particularly committed to the success of this project.



Miriam Pellicano

Miriam works with the Marrickville and Condell Park hub of schools. She has a background in community development and has most recently been involved in a social inclusion program in the Jerash refugee camp in Jordan, focusing on education opportunities for youth. Miriam also coordinates the Word

Up program, which uses volunteers from the University to support literacy and numeracy development in schools, and is excited about the potential that Word Up has to foster a partnership between the University of Sydney and Compass school communities.

Condell Park High School Introduction Day

Also in November, 90 Year 9 students from Condell Park High School visited the University of Sydney for the first time as part of the Compass program. During the course of the day they experienced science and veterinary workshops, toured the Nicholson Museum and the University's historical grounds and took a bus tour across the Darlington and Camperdown campuses. Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness provided some insight into the life of an elite athlete and showed that there's more to university than just study.

“Bye, see you when I get to uni...”

A departing comment from one student