

# WALLAROO PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Every child matters every day.

All children can be high achievers.

*2017 Term Dates.*

**Term 2** 1 May – 7 July

**Term 3** 24 July – 29 Sept

**Term 4** 16 Oct – 15 Dec

## Newsletter

Week 3 Term 2 2017

May: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> – School Photos

June: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Pupil Free Day

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - Assembly & Casual Clothes Day

Dear Families

I'd like to formally welcome Miss Tori Smallwood (Room 1) and Miss Rachael Clarke (Room 8), Pre-Service Teachers to our school. I have no doubt that they will grow immensely from the expertise that they'll be exposed to over their practicum period.

### Enrolment Update

It is exciting that our enrolments continue to increase. At the start of 2017 our expected enrolments were 122.

We now have 142 children. Class numbers are as follows:

Room 1 (Year 1/ 2): 20

Room 2 (Year 1 / 2): 18

Room 3 (Reception/Year 1): 21

Room 6 (Year 3 / 4): 29

Room 8 (Year 5/6/7): 26

Room 9 (Year 4/5/6): 28

Ms Cathie Millard (Aboriginal Education Teacher) has increased to full time to team teach with Ms Jess Martin as a result of the large influx of children into Room 6. This has enabled the cohort to remain together as a class and has created opportunities to group children to maximise learning outcomes.

### Open Morning for new families to our school and prospective 2018 Families.

Our first open morning was held today from 9.30am-11.00. I'd like to invite families with pre-school children and families new to our community to attend our next open morning in Term 3 (Week 3, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August). A tour outside of this time can be arranged for families who are not able to attend the scheduled session.

In 2017, Kindy transition begins in Week 2 of Term 4, with the last visit in Week 6. Information will go out to families about this closer to the date.

### **John Fleming-Education Consultant visits to provide professional development for teachers.**

John has been instrumental in working with our teachers since 2014 to develop our signature teaching approach at Wallaroo PS. John visited once again on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Week 2 and provided a training session for teachers from 7.30am to 8.30 am before observing each teacher at work in their classroom. Teachers were provided with release to enable John to give individualised coaching and feedback to support them to continue to 'tweak' and perfect their skills on delivering 'warm ups' and in 'explicit teaching'. I commend our teachers on their commitment to self-development, being open to de-privatising their practice and for being so receptive to the feedback provided. In addition to John's observation, teachers were also able to observe their colleagues and be involved in the feedback provided to them. This was a most powerful learning opportunity for both teachers and leaders and very affirming for our teachers. This intense professional learning promotes consistency across the school through 'being in it together', sharing practice and 'being on the same page'. It was inspirational to witness teachers implementing their learning the following day. John will visit again in Term 3 and Term 4 to provide additional learning for our teachers. To complement this learning, on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> May, teachers participated in an after school training session, to increase their expertise in developing rich learning tasks to 'stretch' children's thinking, creativity and problem solving skills. This was delivered by Ms Zoe Farquhar from the DECD Learning Improvement Team, Adelaide.

### **NAPLAN**

NAPLAN took place during Week 2 for Years 3, 5 and 7. Years 4 & 6 undertook a practice test, simultaneously. I commend the majority of children on their positive attitude to the test. It is important to remember that NAPLAN only provides one set of data, however this is important data for the school and for families. There is no doubt that each family wishes for their child to be achieving the National and State Literacy, and Numeracy Benchmarks and they have every right to question if this is not the case. This test is one set of data that enables the measuring of this. While there is much media hype about the negative aspect of this test, it is important that we take a positive view and together encourage children of the importance about completing this test with effort. For example:

1. The data enables us to evaluate children's literacy and numeracy skills, to identify strengths and to target intervention.
2. The data allows us to determine whether school programs and practices are making a difference.
3. The school data enables us to compare our results with other schools, the state, and the nation.
4. Testing is a part of life: doing well at tests is a skill, like any other skill, practice makes perfect. Children need to develop the skill to undertake tests and to develop the resilience to persevere and maintain focus for the duration of the test.

### **Kernewek Lowender**

Ms Lois Paterson has been working closely with a group of enthusiastic children to prepare them for the Maypole Dance. I thank Lois for her commitment to this and in particular for giving up personal time to prepare the children. I look forward to watching the children perform over the weekend.

We are fortunate to have a fantastic team of committed staff that go above and beyond to meet the learning and wellbeing needs of our children. The daily Breakfast Club, introduction of Sporting Schools Program and the Electronics Club are examples of extracurricular activities that have been initiated to add value to the already great things that occur at Wallaroo PS.

I welcome any feedback on how we can better meet the learning and wellbeing needs of your children.

Warmest regards, Julie

## Dressing of the Graves



On Tuesday 16th May, selected students from Wallaroo Primary School attended the Dressing of the Graves as part of the Kernewek Lowender celebrations.

**Past ancestors honoured were:**

**Henry LETHEBY, Humphrey JONES, John MADDERN,**

**Ernest Ford NEWBERY, Mary Ann SANDFORD,**

**Peter M SULLIVAN, Ruby Margaret CUNNINGHAM and**

**William VIVIAN.**

Staff received comments from Key organiser Mr Ross Argent on the respectful behaviour of our students.



**Once upon a time.....**Luke Wharton (pictured far left) started his schooling at Wallaroo Primary School. He completed Year 7 at Wallaroo Primary School and went on to Kadina Memorial School and NOW he is a trainee Information Technology Technician. Luke is working alongside the very talented Jeff Williams from Kadina Memorial School. We are privileged to have both of these guys on our team here and thank them so much for all that they are doing to get our IT systems up to scratch. It is kind of strange having Luke sitting in the staffroom these days (makes some of us feel old). Luke is showing such wonderful professionalism in such a short period of time and what great role models he has in Jeff Williams and Samuel Wittwer from Kadina Memorial School. Great job fella's!!!



**The following students have recently completed the Premier's Reading challenge.**

**Room 1:** Saxon & Hunter.

**Room 2:** Zariah, James, Dion, Tyson, Lincoln, Jhett, Ajay, Olivia, Riley, Edward, Dakota and Koby.

**Room 3:** Imogen.

**Room 6:** Lucy, Conno and Rhianna.

**Room 9:** Jack

### **Copper Coast Table Tennis**

Copper Coast Table Tennis club is seeking players aged between 11-17 to play in their junior competition.

The junior competition is run in a relaxed, casual & non-competitive basis on Wednesday nights between 6.30 & 7.30 pm. There is no weekly commitment as players can play regularly or when they want to.

All enquiries to Sonny [0402 316 204](tel:0402316204) or Owen [0408 213 746](tel:0408213746)