



WOONGARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Preparing our students for the opportunities and challenges arising in an ever changing world as successful learners, confident, connected and creative global citizens.

Friday 7 December 2018

NEWSLETTER

Issue 20

COOLING OUR CLASSROOMS PROGRAM

We were delighted to be informed that our application to be included in the first round of 1000 schools for the NSW Government Cooling our Classrooms Program was successful. While we don't yet have any specific detail regarding timelines, we will keep you informed.

A NEW MOBILE KITCHEN

It was so exciting to take delivery of our brand new Kitchen Kart this week.

The Kitchen Kart is an innovative, compact, mobile teaching kitchen that comes complete with oven, stovetop and even a kitchen sink! Equipped with all the cooking tools and equipment to run lessons, The Kitchen Kart makes it easy for teachers to deliver cooking classes in a hall, covered area, class or staff room – even wheeled out to cook near the school garden.

The P&C have kindly subsidised the first round of Cook In A Box lessons that can be used with the Kitchen Kart. Our Kindergarten teachers couldn't wait to get started and all three Kindy classes used the Kitchen Kart on Day 1 of ownership! We look forward to sharing more stories.



IMPORTANT CANTEEN NEWS FOR 2019

There are three options for the operation of canteens in schools and most schools operate under option 1 or 2:

1. A P&C operated canteen
2. A Leased canteen
3. A school-operated canteen.

As you would be aware from the last newsletter, a decision was made that the operation of the school canteen for 2019 – 2021 be offered for lease via a tender process (option 2). Unfortunately, there were no tenders received. The operation of the canteen was then offered to the P&C Association and declined at the December meeting.

The viability of continuing to offer a school-operated canteen service remains under review given the profit and loss considerations (school operated canteens cannot operate at a loss), the lack of volunteers evident on most days of operation and immediate recruitment requirements for a Canteen Supervisor under the new GSE Act guidelines. The school Finance Committee will re-consider these factors in Term 1 next year to ensure evidence-informed decisions regarding the provision of any canteen service into the future and we will keep you informed of the decisions that are made.

In the interim, please be advised that the school will not offer a canteen service in 2019 until further notice.

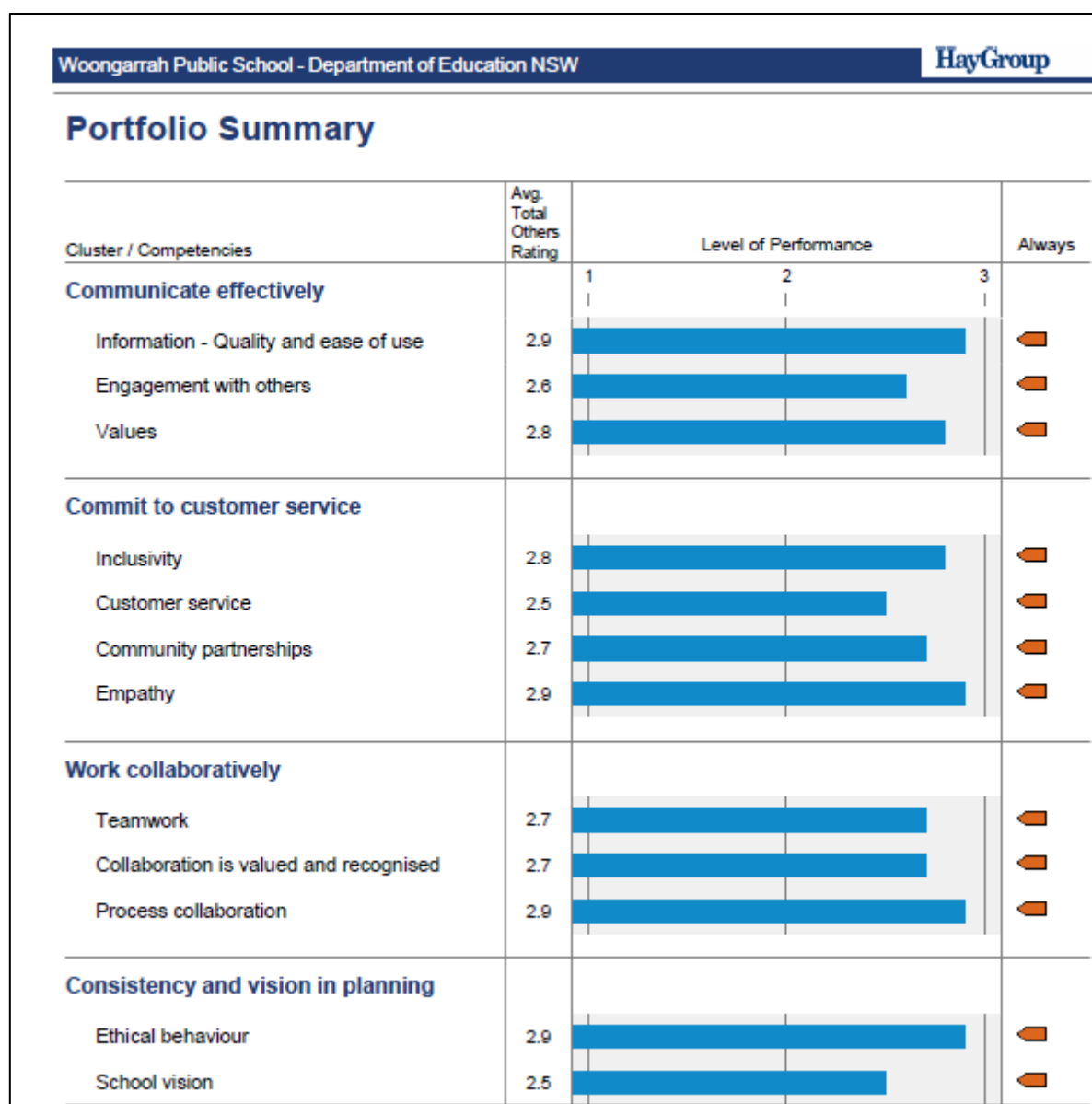
360 EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT HAS ARRIVED

The 360 Excellence in Customer Service report arrived in my inbox yesterday. There were 94 questionnaires returned in time to be included in the feedback which will provide the school with invaluable information.

There were 12 competencies measured in the survey. When the total score matches or exceeds 80% on the scale, the competency is considered a strength – this is indicated with a red arrow. We are pleased that all 12 competencies have been rated as strengths as shown in the table below.

However, there are many things that we can learn by drilling down into the detail of the survey and we will be reviewing the ratings and comments in detail with an eye for continual improvement. My goal is to keep you informed as this work occurs over time.

Thank you to all who embraced the opportunity to be part of this method of whole school consultation and responded to the survey. We appreciate the time and effort involved to be part of this consultation process.



GETTING READY FOR 2019 – HOW WE PREPARE OUR CLASSES

As the school year draws to a close for students, the activity speeds up the teachers, staff and leadership team. You might be surprised by what happens behind the scenes as we prepare classes for next year to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for at Woongarrah.

To begin with, teachers are finalising the end of year Semester 2 reports to provide information about Achievement and Effort in all six Key Learning Areas, Social Development, Commitment to Learning, Attendance and Behaviour. To ensure that we meet high standards, teachers buddy with another teacher for the first 'critical friend' read, before submitting reports to the Assistant Principals for quality assurance and proofreading, prior to submission to the Principal for a final read and sign-off. This is serious work as teachers synthesise all of the information they have about each student to make evidence-informed decisions that are recorded in one concise document. Thank you to our teachers and leadership team for the time and commitment required to provide informative reports to parents.

Information is recorded on a school database that helps us to keep track of student progress over time. This includes, for example, current reading levels, final behaviour award achieved, spelling age and maths grade. Some recent work samples are retained to be passed on to the next teacher to show the level of work. The database also includes up to date information about individual needs such as if a student has a Learning and Support (LST) file, if there are court orders, or a Health Care Plan, or if the student is included on the National Disability database.

The database information provides the first indicator to teachers about the individual needs of students and the information they need to access to get to know the students in their class. Release time is allocated at the beginning of each new school year for class teachers to read and engage with this centrally maintained information.

Teachers also record achievement in all aspects of literacy and numeracy development on a K-10 progression using the whole of Department online PLAN software for every student K-6. The final update for 2018 is occurring this week. PLAN data is considered in our decision-making when forming classes to ensure students are placed appropriately.

The individual plans for groups of students are also considered:

All 62 Aboriginal students at Woongarrah have a Personalised Learning Plan. Teachers have been using internal and external school assessment data to measure progress in 2018 and provide directions for teaching and learning moving into 2019. Teachers complete a data sheet in Term 1 that is updated in Term 2 and Term 4 and passed onto the next teacher. Students also set learning, social and cultural goals that are reviewed and updated twice a year and kept on file for reference by the next teacher.

There are 42 students with English as An Additional Language and Dialect (EALD). Teachers record the progress of these students against the EALD Progressions twice a year and have been completing semester 2 reviews in the past weeks. An overall summary of this information is collated online to determine Department funding formulas and the Progression checklists are retained on file and information is provided to next years' teachers.

All students with disabilities or additional learning or support needs have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We have 128 of these plans in 2018. Plans are developed in consultation with parents and are reviewed at least twice each year in Term 2 and Term 4. In term 4, teachers include review notes, recommendations and advice for the following year's teachers.

Review Meetings are held in Term 2 and Term 4 with parents and carers of all students who receive Integration Funding Support or are living in Out of Home Care arrangements. These meetings include the Principal, LST coordinator, School Counsellor, 2018 teacher, 2019 teacher, SLSO and other relevant personnel, including High School staff for students in Year 6.

Completed IEPs are uploaded into a Wellbeing database and are the first point of reference for the 2019 teacher as they begin the IEP consultation process for a new school year.

Collaboration with students, families and community for all transition points strengthens student wellbeing and learning outcomes. The Learning and Support Team considers students who require extra support to transition between settings, e.g. Pre-Kindy, Year 6-7, or to a new class and teacher.

14 students have already received extra transition visits in partnership with our local Wadalba Community School. 53 students have completed the Kindergarten Orientation program. An in-school transition program will occur in the next two weeks of school for 60 students K-5 who have been identified by their teachers, parents or LST. These students will visit their new class and (anticipated) teacher to reduce anxiety, assist students and parents to make connections with teachers and ensure a smooth transition into 2019.

Finally, teachers complete information slips that include strengths, learning needs, social development considerations (e.g. recommendations for friends or separations), whether the student has been in a composite class and any other relevant factors. These slips are cumulative over years to provide an ongoing record. Teachers are working in teams right now to form classes for 2019 based on all of this information and known enrolments.

All of these actions are designed to ensure that we know who each of our students are, including what they bring with them to school that influences their learning; who they are, as people and as learners; where they are at in their learning trajectory; what their aspirations are; and where they need to go to next. We value each student and hold high expectations for their learning success and we care for each of our students, including providing the support necessary to succeed as learners and experience wellbeing at school.

It might be a hectic end to the year as we bring all of this together, but it is worth every second.

STAFF ORGANISATION AND NEWS

At this time, we have 489 known enrolments. This entitles us to form 19 classes, a reduction of one class. The anticipated class teachers are as follows:

Early Stage 1

Mrs Guest, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Hourigan

Years 1 and 2

Ms White, Mrs Hindson, Mrs Mileto, Mrs Ruskin, Mrs Ella, Mr Mills

Years 3 - 6

Mrs Hearne, Mr Vrolyk, Mrs Preece / Ms Millett (job share), Mrs Stanford / Mrs Sadler (job share), Mr Demir, Mrs Khan / Mrs Le Loux (job share), Mrs Nicolas, Ms Miller, Mrs Black and Mrs Dempsey (our new Assistant Principal).

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Mrs Kelly will be leaving us at the end of this year, having received a Permanent teacher position via Merit Selection at Muswellbrook PS. Mrs Kelly has been at Woongarra since completing her internship at University – even then we knew she was terrific! Permanent teaching positions are highly competitive and I am not surprised that MPS recognised her talent as we have. We wish her all the best in the future and she will be missed.

Mrs Dinham's engagement as a school-based Canteen Supervisor has come to an end after 14 years at Woongarra. Mrs Dinham was a foundation member of our team and I can only imagine the number of lunches she has prepared over the years for so many students. May I sincerely thank Mrs Dinham for her years of service on behalf of the school community. We wish you all the best in the future and you too, will be missed.

Ms Wigney has been on extended leave this year leading into retirement and has decided to retire after 30 years of service with the Department of Education. A remarkable career as a class teacher culminated with promotion to Assistant Principal at our school in 2006 where she was able to lead and influence teachers just as she has influenced so many students over the years. We wish her all the best for her retirement.

As a result, we are thrilled to welcome our new Assistant Principal, **Mrs Dempsey**. Mrs Dempsey comes with a wealth of experience and expertise and we look forward to having here on the Woongarra team.

Leonie Clarkson
PRINCIPAL

HOUR OF CODE



We live in a world surrounded by technology and we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works. That's why our school this week, joined in with the largest learning event in history, *Hour of Code*. The Hour of Code began as a one-hour coding challenge to give students a fun first introduction to computer coding. It has now become a global learning event with more than 100 million students worldwide participating.

Our Hour of Code is making a statement that Woongarra Public School is ready to teach foundational 21st-century skills. This week the following classes took part in this event with students engaged in the following coding activities:

HB7, HB9 and HB10 students created their own *Dance Party* using blocks of code to choose different dancers, change their dance moves, make them respond to the music and make them interactive. They also investigated *Loops*, which is an unplugged activity that looks at using loops to shorten algorithms when creating codes.

HB11 applied their knowledge of coding on *Tynker* to create various paths for a character to follow to reach its goal.

HB12, HB13 and HB14 used their knowledge of algorithms to make a paper plane, used drag-and-drop blocks to write their own program and created fun monster characters using *Monster Maker*.

HB15 and HB16 students created a server, used code commands and completed coding challenges in order to program and develop a *Minecraft* world.

Stage 2, students completed the *Dance Party* activities where they made a variety of characters move in specific sequences to music.

Want to learn more, go to <http://hourofcode.com/au> for further details.

Ms White Organiser

LOST PROPERTY

Please check the lost property bin if you have lost any items. Next Friday 14 December, clothing with the school emblem on will be given to the clothing pool and other items will be given to charity.

WE CAUGHT YOU BEING GOOD

Tico HB10	Jesse HB10	Noah HB10	Charlise HB11	Becky HB8
Lilah HB7	Shenay HB8	Emilie HB8	Emiley HB11	Tayla HB1
Amber HB1	Max HB1	Kye HB1	Maddi HB15	Marcus HB15
Xavier HB2	Conor HB19	Holly HB15	Tim HB19	Samuel HB2

END OF YEAR LIBRARY NEWS

Borrowing from the school library has now finished for the year. Hopefully everyone enjoyed a number of wonderful books from our collection. Here are some interesting borrowing statistics for 2018:

Kindergarten borrowed 1459 books
 Year One borrowed 2022 books
 Year Two borrowed 1828 books
 Year Three borrowed 1522 books
 Year Four borrowed 1453 books
 Year Five borrowed 1048 books
 Year Six borrowed 527 books

and the Teachers borrowed an amazing 16 468 books!! throughout the year. As you can see reading is an important part of the school day here at Woongarra Public.

If anyone has any library books or home readers at home please return them to the school ASAP.

Happy reading over the holidays,
 Mrs Gilbert Teacher Librarian

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

HB1	Cooper, Alissa, Sarah
HB2	Bailey, Hayden, Kyah, Madeline
HB3	William, Riley, Abbie, Mali, Jayden, Ryan, Khloe, John, Rhiannon, Kane, Keira, Josh
HB4	Matilda, Claire, Porshia, Zac, Claire, Charlie, Daniel, Tori
HB5	Arielle, Lachlan, Harrison
HB6	Nicholas, Aswathi
HB7	Mackenzi, Matilda, Lilah
HB8	Laila, Kiara
HB9	Lilly, Tahnee
HB10	Sophia, Jake
HB11	Layla, Imogen
HB12	Luke, Lataya, Jaimelee, Izac
HB13	Lacey, Abigail
HB14	Cadence, Anna
HB15	Xander, Kaiah, Maddison
HB16	Amy, Ben, Maya
HB18	Mikayla, Jacob, Taj, Cooper, Noah, Brodie
HB19	Finn, Bailey, William
HB21	Erika, Cooper, Luke, Keira, Jye, Matilda, Ebonee, Tylar, Jowan, Riley, Isabella, Christopher
HB22	Caitlyn, Cooper, Lily, Ebani

CANTEEN ROSTER

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11 Dec Jenny, Grace	12 Dec Help needed	13 Dec Help needed	14 Dec Help needed
18 Dec Jenny, Grace	19 Dec Help needed		

The canteen will be closed for Lunch on the last day of school (19 December) but will remain open for **Recess only**. Please ensure that your child/ren have a packed lunch with them on that day.

There will be limited stock available in the last week of school. If we are unable to fill your child's ordered lunch, an alternative lunch to the same value will be supplied.



\$100 VOUCHER FOR CHILDREN'S SPORT AND FITNESS FEES

Parents in NSW can claim \$100 towards extra-curricular sport and other physical activity fees thanks to the NSW Government's Active Kids program. This program will provide a \$100 voucher for parents to put towards sporting fees and registration costs for each school-aged child in NSW.

Families can use the voucher for registration and membership costs, as well as fees for activities such as swimming and dance. The annual voucher will not be means tested because the NSW Government wants every child from every family to get active and involved in community sport and fitness.

The health of our children is a priority for the NSW Government, and it is hoped that this makes a difference in enabling you to enrol your child in the sport or physical activity of your choice.

More details about the program and how to download your voucher is available at sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids or by phoning Service NSW on 13 77 88.





Woongarra Public School exists to support student learning. Our students are at the centre of all decision-making.

Our vision is to work together as a school community to prepare our students for the opportunities and challenges arising in an ever changing world.

We will equip students with the tools to achieve their personal best as successful learners, confident, connected and creative individuals and global citizens.