



WOONGARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Principal: Leonie Clarkson

Friday 2 March

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

TELL THEM FROM ME SURVEYS YEARS 4-6

This term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. More than 6,300 schools in Australia and around the world have used Tell Them From Me to survey 5.4 million students. Capturing the voices of our students will help improve how we do things at our school.

The survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 12 March and 13 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by next Friday, 9 March. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

NAPLAN ONLINE

Students in Years 3 and 5 will conduct a practice test for NAPLAN Online on Wednesday 21 March (Year 3) and Thursday 22 March (Year 5). This is a 45 minute practice test to check our technology and organisation in readiness for the real tests in May.

A fact sheet for parents is included with this newsletter. Parents wanting to familiarise themselves with the NAPLAN Online platform can visit ACARA's demonstration site which includes sample online mini tests at <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

TERM 1 PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Interviews have commenced in Kindergarten and Years 3-6 classes this week, with Years 1 and 2 to follow later this term. We appreciate high participation rates for these meetings and encourage all parents to make a booking.

This is a two-way process - prior to the meeting, you could consider the following questions:

- What do you see as your child's areas of strength at school?
- Which areas would you like to see as a focus for improvement this year?
- Does your child have any specific hobbies or interests that you believe we may be able to use in tailoring their learning program?
- Is there anything else we should know that may impact on your child's learning?
- Do you have any specific questions that you would like answered during this time?

P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The P&C Annual General Meeting was held yesterday.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the parents, relatives and community members who participated as part of the P&C in 2017 by attending meetings or assisting with events. The strength of this friendly and productive group of parents lies in its shared values and goals of wanting the very best for the students of Woongarra. We appreciate your support.

At the AGM we elected and welcomed the 2018 executive team:

President	Brett Warton
Vice President	Wendy Bacon
Vice President	Karen Christensen
Treasurer	Kristen Warton
Secretary	Michelle Gatt

The P&C accounts were audited and may I also congratulate Treasurer, Kristen Warton, on an outstanding job of maintaining detailed and accurate financial records.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE SCHOOL

It is important that parents are able to access teachers at times that are convenient to both parties. To ensure that parents can have their questions answered or concerns dealt with, we need protocols for open and honest channels of communication.

A summary of our practices and procedures is included below, for your information.

SKOOLBAG APP

For those who do not yet have the App installed it is available for both Apple and Android devices. To install, simply search our school name 'Woongarra Public School' in either the App Store, or Google Play Store.

Once installed you can receive alerts, events, newsletters and news straight to your device. You can also send an Absentee Note under Parent e-forms. Select 'OK' to receive push notifications when prompted and your device will alert you when a new notification is available.

If you are not receiving push notifications, I'm told that you should refresh the app after any phone updates.

A REMINDER TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

We welcome information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child's health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the Principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child's health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter's health needs or as otherwise required by law.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE) and SPECIAL EDUCATION IN ETHICS (SEE)

A special religious education program is available at the school and is run by authorised volunteers of approved religious persuasions.

Special religious education programs at our school for 2018 include Catholic and Combined classes. Classes occur on Thursday for 30 minutes. K-2 classes from 12-12:30 Years 3-6 classes from 12:35 – 1:05. Classes began yesterday.

Details of SRE programs on offer at the school can be obtained from SRE providers. Contact details of SRE program coordinators can be provided by the school if required.

Parents who choose for students not to attend special religious education may wish for their child to be included in special education in ethics classes. This is run by volunteers of Primary Ethics, an approved provider of SEE. SEE Classes are available for students K-6 in 2018.

Students not attending SRE or SEE are supervised in a separate location to work independently on homework, reading or private study.

At any time, you have the right to change your SRE or SEE nomination or withdraw your child from the nominated lessons. A note to the Principal will effect this change.

Thanks to Mrs Buhr who does the tricky job of organising our students and SRE and SEE providers.

COLES SPORT FOR SCHOOLS

Thanks to everyone who is collecting vouchers and sending them to school. This promotion runs until 15 June.

Leonie Clarkson Principal

BIG VEGIE CRUNCH

Yesterday we participated in the Big Vegie Crunch. We were hoping to increase the level of vegetables eaten by students by raising awareness that eating vegetables is healthy and needed in our daily diet.

The Australian statistics of only 5% of school age students eating vegetables was very alarming but at Woongarra Public School I am happy to reveal that well over 50% (285 students) of our students ate vegetables on Thursday 1st March as part of the Big Vegie Crunch.

Congratulations to HB7, HB9 and HB22 that had nearly everyone in their class eating vegetables. Well done to HB6 who all ate the beans that Mrs Dezius brought in for them to try. I am sure next year the numbers will be higher. It was great to see the variety of vegetables eaten too, e.g. broccoli, snow peas, mushrooms, beans, carrots, cucumber, corn, capsicum, tomato and celery. Well done.

Mrs Sharon Buhr Big Vegie Crunch Coordinator

COMMONWEALTH GAMES DAY

To celebrate the Commonwealth Games and Harmony Day, we will be holding a Commonwealth Games Day on Wednesday 21 March. Students will be allocated to a Commonwealth Country prior to the event and they will wear that country's flag on the day. They will participate in an opening ceremony, K-2 and 3-6 Sporting events and then a closing ceremony. Students are to wear their sports uniform on the day. The cost of the Commonwealth Games day has been included in the Stationery Book Pack price. If parents have not paid for the stationery book packs a note will be sent home requesting \$5 to cover the cost.

Mrs Kerri Black & Mrs Sharon Buhr
Commonwealth Games Day Coordinators

SWIMMING CARNIVAL RESULTS

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who competed in the Swimming Carnival this year. The weather didn't spoil the fun thankfully as we had some terrific swimmers giving their all.

Our age champions were fantastic swimmers on the day who had consistent results across all events:

Senior Boy champion – Owen Senior Girl champion – Haylee
Junior Boy champion – Brayden Junior Girl champion – Sienna

House Points – 1st Dolphins 58, 2nd Platypus 48, 3rd Kangaroo 45, 4th Goanna 22

Twenty-four boys and girls have qualified for the Wallarah Zone Swimming Carnival at Mingara on Wednesday 7 March, 2018. On behalf of our school we wish them all the best of luck.

Mr Demir Sports Coordinator

SENIOR PSYCHOLOGIST, EDUCATION NEWS

Being a parent involves caring for, protecting and nurturing your child; and this is a day-to-day 24/7 task. In talking with parents over many years, I've learnt that these skills don't always come easily or naturally. It takes time to develop the knowledge and skills needed to promote children's physical and emotional development. Some parents seem to know instinctively how to manage and encourage their children, while others struggle to understand them and to discipline when necessary. One program that aims to help parents understand and manage their children better is the Triple P Program. This is an evidence-based program in which trained professionals provide learning and support to parents directly. The aim is to learn good skills for discipline, rewarding and communicating with your child.

Each parent's approach is influenced by their own parents, their life experiences, the opinions of their relatives and friends and what they read and see in the media. There is no single correct way to be a parent. The best advice is to find the approach you feel comfortable with; but learning some good skills – such as those developed by the Triple P Program – can help.

If you or a friend are interested in learning more about the Triple P Program, information is available online – simply google Triple P Program/Parenting.

Ruth Jenkins Senior Psychologist, Education

K-6 ASSEMBLY ROSTER

Assemblies occur once per fortnight for Years 3-6 and once per fortnight for Years K-2, on alternate Fridays. The Term 1 roster follows. Parents and community are most welcome to attend the assembly that commences at 9:15am in the school hall.

Week	Assembly	Who is running Assembly
6	Years 3-6	HB22
7	K-2	HB9
8	Years 3-6	HB18
9	Good Friday	Good Friday
10	K-2	HB7
11	Years 3-6	Ministers

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

HB1	Zane, Tommy, Ruby, Kiara, Cooper, Amber
HB2	Xavier, Noah, Hamish, Ellie, Kyah
HB3	Oscar, Imogen, Ethan, Josh, Kiera, Connor
HB4	Callum, Porshia, Claire, Devina, John, Mikhail
HB5	Blake, Jackson, Lexi, Zoey, Rishaan, Matthew
HB6	Jake, Morgan, Joel, Leila, Jessie, Zoe
HB7	Ruby, Navayah, Livinia, Wade, Jayden, Skye
HB8	Becky, Jazlyn, Jaxon, Spencer, Emilie, Lucy
HB9	Paige, Eli, Axis, Aliyah, Callan, Cheyenne
HB10	Jaydan, Nate, Sophia, Aleah, Brayden, Layla, Skye, Noah
HB11	Matylda, Charlie, Jack, Ava, Emiley, Troy
HB12	Noah, Tyrell, Luke, Madison, Lataya, Thomas
HB13	Tikira, Jaxon, Matilda, Luccas, Charlotte, Ethan
HB14	Cooper, Kendra, Georgia, Lucas, Jaxson, Mia, Beau
HB15	Ethan, Ava, Sienna, Alexis
HB16	Ben, Kyson, Andre, Ellie, Maya
HB18	Brodie, Ethan, Lanna, Abby, Kate, Mia
HB19	Charli, Max, Conor, Vivie, Chloe, Erika
HB21	Jowan, Cooper, Declan, Erika, April, Toby
HB22	Alexia, Kaylee, Max, Keanu, Isabelle, Kaleb

WE CAUGHT YOU BEING GOOD

Jake HB10	Livinia HB7	Lucy HB10	Morgan HB6	Hayley HB10
Annabelle HB10-	Jake HB6	Jake HB10	Aleah HB10	Isabella HB2
Ruby HB2	Riley HB18	Abbie HB3	Cameron HB15	Chloe HB4
Holly HB18	Cooper HB2	Sienna HB19	Amelia HB18	Xavier HB19
Rhianna HB2				

CANTEEN ROSTER

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mar 6 Jenny	Mar 7 Ally	Mar 8 Min	Mar 9 Esther, Help needed
Mar 13 Jenny	Mar 14 Kerry	Mar 15 Min	Mar 16 Esther, Help needed
Mar 20 Jenny	Mar 21 Ally	Mar 22 Min	Mar 23 Jodie

TERM 1

	5	6	7	8	9
6	K, 3-6 Parent / Teacher meetings – all week		Zone swimming		WCS academic test entries due to WCS
7	12	13	14	15 Selective HS test Y6-7 forms due back at school tomorrow	16 School Photos Newsletter
8	19	20 Parliament	21 C'Vealth Games Day @ school	22 NAPLAN Online Practice Year 5	23

			NAPLAN online practice Year 3	Y6 WCS academic class test	
9	26 Stage 1 Parent / Teacher meetings – all week	27	28	29 Easter Parade Sydney North swimming	30 Good Friday
10	2 Easter Monday	3 Stage 1 Parent / Teacher meetings – all week	4	5	6
11	9	10 AFL gala day	11	12	13 Newsletter Cross Country @ school
	School holidays	School holidays	School holidays	School holidays	School holidays
	School holidays	School holidays	School holidays ANZAC Day	School holidays	School holidays



WOONGARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL

PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

COMMUNICATING WITH STAFF

School practices and procedures

- If you have a concern or question about your child or the school's programs, please consult the guide below to determine who you should speak to first.
- Before school, teachers are busy making final preparations for starting the day. Teachers will be in meetings or in their classrooms setting up for the day after 8.30am. This is not a convenient time to approach the teacher for a chat about your child without prior arrangement. If you have a quick message you would like to give the teacher that should be fine. For any more substantial matter please make an appointment for a more suitable time.
- Likewise, after the bell has rung for the start of school, please do not enter your child's classroom or attempt to speak with the teacher. The teacher must give his or her full attention to the students at this important settling in time. We appreciate parents leaving the school when the bell rings at 9am to allow your child to begin to focus on school.
- You can make an appointment with a teacher by contacting the Administration Office and asking for the teacher to contact you. If you ask to make an appointment, please briefly note what you would like to discuss so the teacher can prepare.
- If you need to get a message to your child during the school day, please make sure it is an urgent matter, for example, going home arrangements have changed. Contact the Administration Office before 2:30pm to allow time for messages to be given.
- Staff response to emails - the speed of sending an email may lead one to expect an equally speedy response. However, teachers may not check email during the school day. They may then need time to find the answer to your enquiry before replying. Sometimes a face-to-face meeting will be the best way to deal with an issue.

Respectful communication with staff

- Please speak politely to staff. Respect between people is the basis of a harmonious community.
- Please do not complain to a staff member about another staff member. If you have a complaint, follow the guidelines in the Complaints Resolution Policy.
- Gossip is only ever harmful. Please refrain from passing on gossip about staff, students or fellow parents.
- Please also be respectful when using Facebook or other forms of social media. Negativity can spread rapidly so it is far better to raise any issues with the staff member who can help you.

Who should you speak to?

Should you have any concerns about your child's school experience we ask that you contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Make an appointment and organise a time to talk with the teacher in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere.

If the teacher cannot resolve the issue, or provide you with a satisfactory response, the teacher or you may ask for the issue to be addressed by a member of our school leadership team.

Concern	Action
The academic progress or welfare of your own child	Contact your child's teacher by note, phone or in person to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues. If possible, state the nature of the concern to allow the teacher time to collect any information that may assist.
Actions of other students	Contact the class teacher for further information, as above. The class teacher may ask for the executive to address the issue in some cases.
School policy or practice	Contact the office and state nature of concern. The office staff will advise you of the appropriate person to meet with and assist you to make an appointment to meet with the appropriate member of staff.
Actions of a staff member	Contact the office and state nature of concern. The office staff will advise you of the appropriate person to meet with and assist you to make an appointment to meet with the appropriate member of staff.
Change of information	Contact the office to convey information about change of address, telephone number, emergency contact, custody details, health issues, medication etc. This can be done in person, on the phone, or via email.

Executive Supervisors 2018

Kindergarten	Mrs Guest
Year 1, Year 2	Ms White
Year 3, Year 4	Mrs Blake
Year 5, Year 6	Mr Smith
Learning Support	Mrs Buhr

If you feel that we cannot resolve any concerns you may have after talking to your child's teacher, a member of the school executive and ultimately the principal, you can contact the Education Director responsible for this school. The Director is located in the Gosford office of the Department of Education, Level 3, 40 Mann Street, Gosford, 2250 or on telephone number 4348 9100.

NAPLAN Online fact sheet for parents and carers

From 2018 NAPLAN tests will begin changing from pencil and paper to online testing. The move to NAPLAN Online will bring new benefits for teachers and students.

Why are schools moving to NAPLAN Online?

Significant planning, research and trialling has been ongoing since 2012 to support the move to NAPLAN Online. Online testing creates new opportunities for teachers and students that are not possible with pencil and paper tests.

What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

- NAPLAN Online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information.
- Most students find online assessment more engaging.
- NAPLAN Online will use tailored testing, which gives students questions better suited to their ability, resulting in more detailed individual assessment.
- By 2020, your child's results will be returned within weeks of the NAPLAN test, as opposed to months.
- Online assessment will reduce the time it takes to mark and provide feedback to schools and teachers.
- The precision and improved timing of the results will help teachers streamline their teaching more specifically to student needs.

Student engagement

In August and September 2017, around 2,800 NSW schools took part in the school readiness test (SRT). SRT was a 'practice run' for schools to assess their technical and administrative readiness for NAPLAN Online, and gave students an opportunity to become familiar with online testing.

Feedback from SRT shows that students are more engaged with NAPLAN Online than the current pencil and paper format:

- Of the 317,876 students who completed the test, 77% said they liked doing the test online.
- Of the 2,463 schools who completed the SRT survey:

- 90% said students were more engaged with the online combined numeracy and literacy test than the pen and paper version
- 79% said students were more engaged with the online writing test than the pen and paper version.

The NAPLAN Online website provides more information about the school readiness test: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online/school-readiness-test>

For more information

More information about the NSW transition approach to NAPLAN Online, including answers to frequently asked questions, can be found on the NSW Department of Education NAPLAN Online website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online>

Parents wanting to familiarise themselves with the NAPLAN Online platform can visit ACARA's demonstration site, which includes sample online mini-tests for each NAPLAN year: <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site>

General questions around the NSW Department of Education's approach to the move to NAPLAN Online can be addressed to the NAPLAN Online transition team: NAPLANOnline@det.nsw.edu.au

Frequently asked questions

When will NSW schools transition to NAPLAN Online?

Education ministers have agreed to full participation in NAPLAN Online by 2020. In 2018, around 500 NSW schools will transition to NAPLAN Online.

Is NAPLAN Online compulsory?

NAPLAN Online will replace the current pencil and paper NAPLAN tests. When schools have transitioned to NAPLAN Online, all eligible students in Years 3, 5, 7 or 9 must participate, unless they are exempt or withdrawn from NAPLAN testing by parents or carers.

Will the Year 3 writing test be online?

No. At this stage, the Year 3 writing test will continue to be paper-based. All other Year 3 NAPLAN tests (numeracy, reading and language conventions) will be online.

Education ministers have requested more research about the benefits or disadvantages for Year 3 students composing text in an online environment before any future decision is made.

What is tailored testing?

NAPLAN Online uses tailored testing, where the test automatically adapts to a student's performance and asks questions that match their achievement level. This allows students to better demonstrate their knowledge and provides teachers and schools with more targeted and detailed information on students' performance. More information about tailored testing can be found on the NAPLAN Online website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online/whats-changing/tailored-tests>

How will NAPLAN Online tests be marked?

Automated marking is currently used in the pencil and paper NAPLAN test to mark numeracy, reading and conventions of language and will remain in use for NAPLAN Online.

Trained markers will mark student writing as is currently the case with pencil and paper tests. Automated essay scoring will not be used to mark NAPLAN Online writing tests.

Will students' personal information be safe?

Yes. Information about your child is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained. The NAPLAN Online platform has been built with state-of-the-art security features that comply with national data security policies and data encryption standards.

How will parents receive their child's NAPLAN Online results?

Printed individual student reports will be sent to parents and carers by the NSW Education Standards Authority, as they currently are with pencil and paper NAPLAN tests. Once all NSW schools have transitioned to NAPLAN Online, all individual student reports will be returned to parents within weeks of the completion of the NAPLAN test window.

What if my child's school is not participating in NAPLAN Online in 2018?

Pencil and paper tests will be undertaken by schools that are not moving to NAPLAN Online in 2018. These will take place at the same time as NAPLAN Online, but within the current paper-based test window period of three days, as opposed to nine days for NAPLAN Online.

NAPLAN paper-based and online tests assess the same skills in literacy and numeracy taught through Australian curriculum content. Whether they complete the pencil and paper or online test, students will answer the same number of test questions and their results will be measured and reported against the one NAPLAN assessment scale.

Will NAPLAN Online be accessible to students with disability?

Yes, for most students. The accessibility adjustments provided in NAPLAN Online for students with disability will be equivalent to what is currently provided in pencil and paper NAPLAN tests in most instances.

ACARA will provide new adjustments for NAPLAN Online, such as alternative items for students with visual, hearing or motor disabilities. Students requiring braille, or print larger than what the NAPLAN Online platform or assistive technology can provide, will sit pencil and paper tests.

Do students need headphones or earphones to complete NAPLAN Online?

Yes. Headphones or earphones are required for each student to complete NAPLAN Online, as some questions include audio. For example, the spelling test includes audio delivery of words that students are required to type in.

Schools will be responsible for ensuring that all students have the appropriate headphones or earphones to complete NAPLAN Online.

Can students use their own devices to complete NAPLAN Online?

Yes, however it will be at the discretion of the individual school. Each device will require the installation of a locked down browser application, which prevents students from accessing unauthorised websites, applications and spellcheck features.

The ACARA website has more information on technical requirements for NAPLAN Online: <http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/technical-requirements>

What happens if a computer experiences issues during a test session?

No student is disadvantaged if their device stops working during the NAPLAN Online test. In the case of interruptions, tests can be paused and resumed as required with no time lost. If a device stops working, all responses will be saved and the student can complete their test in a rescheduled test session.

Who is responsible for administering the NAPLAN tests?

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) is the test administration authority responsible for the administration and delivery of NAPLAN tests in NSW, including pencil and paper test and NAPLAN Online.

Who is ACARA?

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is an independent statutory authority responsible for the development of national curriculum, and the administration of national assessments and associated reporting on schooling in Australia.



Parking Restrictions Outside Schools

KIDS LOOK TO US TO KEEP THEM SAFE - PARK LEGALLY IN SCHOOL ZONES

Central Coast Council would like to remind parents of parking restrictions outside your school. Please pay close attention to the signs outside your child's primary school and watch your speed when travelling through all school zones.

NO STOPPING zone

Stopping is NOT permitted at any time.

BUS ZONE

Stopping is not permitted during the times shown on the sign.



DOUBLE PARKING

You are not permitted to stop OR park alongside another vehicle already parked parallel to the kerb. This means do not form a queue in the middle of the lane if you are waiting.

Move on, do a loop and come back.

NO PARKING zone

Drivers may drop off and pick up children during the times shown on the sign BUT note:

- Maximum stopping time is 2 MINUTES – your child must exit and enter the car within this time.
- Driver must remain within 3 METRES of the vehicle – you may get out to help with bags etc.
- Stop as close as possible to the top of the zone to allow access for vehicles following behind.



Stopping ON or ACROSS a driveway or other access point to and from a property is not permitted under any circumstance.

You must always consider the school's neighbours by leaving space at their driveways to allow safe exit and entry to the roadway.

Travelling more than 40 km/hour through school zones may inhibit a car from stopping in time to avoid hitting a pedestrian. Parking illegally also creates serious risks as it limits the vision of other drivers.

It only takes a split second for an accident to occur and only one car to present a danger to an unknowing child.

Please be aware of the restrictions and park safely outside your child's school.

For more information regarding parking restriction around your school please contact Council's Road Safety Officers via email at: roadsafety@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au