



# WOONGARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Principal: Leonie Clarkson

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### NATIONAL DAY AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE



Today is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This day encourages all students to 'take a stand together' against bullying and violence in schools, the classroom and beyond.

Teachers have used today as a further opportunity to talk about bullying and to remind students that bullying is never okay. This will reinforce the lessons taught in the first few weeks of the year as part of our Friendly Schools program.

This day also provides us with an opportunity to share our anti-bullying plan with our school community. A copy of our plan is included with this week's newsletter.

A visiting performer has been booked for Term 2 around the theme of bullying. The show is entitled STAMP Out Bullying and students will watch and learn more about bullying during the performance. They will learn about the 5 important STAMP out principles to stop bullying.

Students in Years 2-6 received a pocket card as shown below. Visit [Bullynoway.gov.au](http://Bullynoway.gov.au) for further information, fact sheets and information.

**Bullying – what can you do?**

If it happens in person:

- ignore them
- tell them to stop and then walk away
- pretend you don't care
- go somewhere safe
- get support from your friends.

If it happens online:

- avoid responding to the bullying
- block and report anyone who is bullying online
- protect yourself online – use privacy settings and keep records.

If you see someone being bullied:

- leave negative online conversations – don't join in
- support others being bullied.

If it doesn't stop:

- talk to an adult (parent, teacher) who can help stop the bullying
- keep asking for support until the bullying stops.

**BULLYING. NO WAY!**

**TAKE A STAND TOGETHER**

Take a Stand Together is a free app that has tips and advice about bullying.

App Store Google play

**Need help?**

Kids Helpline [www.kidshelp.com.au](http://www.kidshelp.com.au)  
1800 551 800

Headspace [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)  
1800 650 890

Online bullying [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

[www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au)

**If your child talks to you about bullying:**

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story.
2. **Reassure** your child that they are not to blame.
3. **Ask** your child what they want to do about it and how you can help.
4. **Visit** [www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au) to find some strategies.
5. **Contact** the school.
6. **Check in** regularly with your child.

**BULLYING. NO WAY!**

[www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au)

### SCHOOL PLAN 2018-2020

You might recall that at the end of 2017 we asked the school community for input and feedback about our draft Strategic Plan for 2018-2020. Thank you to everyone who responded for your consideration and suggestions. The three strategic directions that will drive improvement for the next three years are **Equity, Excellence and Engagement**. A one page summary of our plan follows.

If you'd like to read about the achievements from 2017, the Annual School report has been published and is available on the school website at [www.woongarra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.woongarra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

# WOONGARRAH PUBIC SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN

2018-2020

## ABOUT US

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.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

These Strategic Directions will drive improvement for the next three years and into the future. They encapsulate the school plan and capture our common goals. Our priorities are Equity, Excellence and Engagement:

**EQUITY** in learning, teaching and leading - to ensure that all students have a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy as a result of personalised learning and high quality teaching practices.

**EXCELLENCE** in learning, teaching and leading - so that every student, every teacher, every leader and the school improves every year.

**ENGAGEMENT** in learning, teaching and leading - to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for as an individual who is prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the future.

## OUR VALUES

Our core values will foster a culture of responsibility, respect and high expectations:

### Excellence

We have high expectations of students and staff to strive to excel  
We use and share evidence and research to inform our practice.

### Equity

We treat people fairly  
We respect diversity and the views and contributions of others

### Accountability

We take responsibility for our actions and decisions  
We review and monitor our performance

### Care

We care for our students, our school and our community  
We demonstrate empathy and act with compassion

### Integrity and Trust

We act professionally with honesty and consistency  
We build relationships on mutual respect

### Cooperation

We work together to support each other to achieve our goals  
We collaborate and learn from each other

## IMPROVEMENTS IN COMMUNICATION

Global research demonstrated that effective schools have high levels of parental and community engagement and each year we seek your opinion about various aspects of school life to make sure we are meeting your needs and to maintain our high levels of engagement and satisfaction.

A common theme from parents is around communication in regards to access to information about activities and reminders about events. We have listened and in response, this year we have created our own 'Communications Officer' role.

Mrs Jacqui Lynn is helping to keep you informed about events and activities happening at school. She is using the Skoolbag app for events, alerts and the calendar. Copies of notes are being sent via Skoolbag, as well as the newsletter each fortnight. Make sure you have this on your phone and you won't miss a thing! She links with Mr Barraclough to change the noticeboard more regularly to remind students about special events and activities. Mrs Lynne also liaises with the P&C, who have a Facebook page that provides information about P&C activities, meetings and events.

In addition, the newsletter remains an important source of information. It is published once each fortnight and is sent by email, attached to Skoolbag and published on the website. Also in response to your feedback, the final newsletter of each term will be a special edition to highlight the happenings from each stage for the term.

## ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

Parents are required to provide an explanation if a child is absent from school within 7 days. You can do this by writing a note, via the Skoolbag app or by calling the office. The school is required to follow up after two days if an absence is unexplained.

To meet this requirement, the attendance recording software used by schools has a function that will email reminders to parents if an absence hasn't been explained. We will be trialling this in the coming weeks.

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION 2018

We have 63 Aboriginal students at Woongarra this year. The Aboriginal Education Team have met and there is a lot planned for 2018, including:

### **Personalised Learning Pathways**

Every Aboriginal student has a Personalised Learning plan that is developed collaboratively by teachers, students and parents. Invitations have been issued to all parents to meet to discuss the plans. We hope you have been able to get together to discuss student goals and plans for 2018.

### **Didge Group and Ngara Choir**

The didge group has started for Years 3-6 boys, in partnership with staff and students from Wadalba Community School. The group meets each Thursday at 10:15. Aboriginal students in Years 3-6 will be invited to participate in the Ngara Choir – a combined choir of students from schools across the AECG. Mrs Ella will provide information when this begins.

### **Special Events – dates for the diary:**

We will acknowledge Sorry Day with a Years 3-6 assembly on 23 May. More information will follow. Reconciliation Week activities will occur in class.

NAIDOC Week will be celebrated in the first week of Term 3. Our Stage 3 students will be organising Indigenous games and activities. We hope that parents will be able to part of this day. A member of the Aboriginal education team will send home further details in Term 2.

AECG meetings occur once each term. The next meeting is 28 May at Tuggerah PS.

## WALLARAH ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the 21 students who represented our school at the Wallarah Zone Swimming Carnival at Mingara on Wednesday 7 March 2018. It was fabulous to see so many individuals swimming personal best times against the fastest swimmers in our Zone. A number of students were talented enough to place on the day

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sienna.C – Freestyle  
Jnr Girls Relay – Sienna.C, Sienna.B, Emerson and Erika
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sienna.C – Breastroke  
Owen – Butterfly
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sienna.C – Backstroke

Sienna's outstanding performances throughout the day put her in equal first position for the junior girl's age champion. Well done!

The Sydney North Carnival is the next level for the boys and girls who have excelled at a Zone level. This will be taking place at Homebush Olympic Pool on 29 March 2018. We have five outstanding swimmers who have qualified. Emmerson, Erika, Owen, Sienna.B and Sienna.C, we wish you all the very best at Sydney North.

Mr Demir Sports 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 have been allocated a Commonwealth Country and they will wear that country's flag on the day and participate in sports activities representing that country. The day will start at 9am with an opening ceremony, then K-2 will participate in sporting events while 3-6 have their regular classes. After recess, Years 3-6 will participate in sporting events and K-2 will have regular classes. After lunch, all classes will participate in the closing ceremony and find out which country had the most points.

Students are to wear sports uniform on the day. The cost of the Commonwealth Games day has been included in the Book Pack price. If parents have not paid for the book pack a note has been sent home requesting \$5 to cover the cost.

Mrs Black & Mrs Buhr Commonwealth Games Day Coordinators

## FROM OUR SENIOR PSYCHOLOGIST, EDUCATION

Being a parent to young children and/or growing teenagers, is a difficult and stressful job. Most parents say they are unprepared for what lies in store and just hope that things turn out for the best. But, with a little thinking and planning, you can do a lot towards making parenting a rewarding and happy experience for you; and in turn be doing something really positive for your children.

Parenting "traps" can add to the stress many parents experience and make the job of raising children much harder than it needs to be. One of the traps may be thinking "it's all their fault". This belief places blame for problems and misbehaviour totally on the child, such as "she's so naughty and stubborn" or "he never does as he's told". This may make parents resentful and lead them to overreact to poor behaviour. It may also stop parents from looking at how their own actions contribute to problem child behaviour. How much of what your child does – in his or her behaviour – is learnt from someone they know?

Another common trap is for parents to see their child's bad behaviour as simply a 'passing phase' and expect that he/she will grow out of it. Problem behaviour needs to be dealt with early so it does not turn into a more serious problem later on. Thinking that your child will grow out of a problem behaviour may prevent you from finding out why the problem is occurring, looking for solutions to the problem; and then making changes or seeking help. And it's good to remember that help is available!

Ruth Jenkins Senior Psychologist, Education

## HEALTHY LUNCH BOX WEBSITE

### Cancer Council NSW launches interactive Healthy Lunch Box website for families

The task of packing healthy school lunch your kids will love is now easier with Cancer Council NSW's new Healthy Lunch Box website ([healthylunchbox.com.au](http://healthylunchbox.com.au)).

We know that 93% of children don't eat enough vegetables and 22% are overweight.

The website includes recipes and tips on how to include more fruit and veg in the family's diet and is complete with an interactive lunch box builder to involve the kids, at home, or on the move with a smartphone or tablet.

The website has been launched as part of Cancer Council NSW's *Eat It To Beat It* program which runs free sessions and workshops for parents of primary aged school children, helping them to understand why fruit and vegetables are so important.

Visit [healthylunchbox.com.au](http://healthylunchbox.com.au) to pack a quick and healthy lunch box today!

## 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
8	Years 3-6	HB18
9	Good Friday	Good Friday
10	K-2	HB7
11	Years 3-6	Ministers

## ASSEMBLY AWARDS

HB1	Ruby R, Ruby V, Alissa, Ashton, Rhys, Brayden
HB2	Hayden, Lewis, Jermaine, Brooke, Rhianna, Kaleb
HB3	Rhiannon, Harry, Hayley, Will, Aiden, Jayden
HB4	Beau, Alicia, Ben, Amari, Carl, Caleb
HB5	Arielle, Ebony, Aaron, Harrison, Portia, Ariana
HB6	Lilly, Chelsea, Byron, Aria, Elijah, Rana
HB7	Isabelle, Matilda, Jaxen, Ella-May, Indy, Jaxson
HB8	Jasper, Darcy, Ethan, Dawson, Bella, Tahlia
HB9	Maddy, Ella-Jaye, Isabelle, Briant, Brody, Lilly, Jacob, Marley
HB10	Jesse, Hayley, Blake, Aeisha, Zachary, Noor, Annabella
HB11	Layla, Ruby, Jack, Eden, Ruby, Bella
HB12	Kiarah, Lilly, Ryan, Bonnie, Cynthia, Leilani
HB13	Jack, Sienna, KJ, Eden, Caleb, Taylah
HB14	Alexandra, Katarni, Claudia, Oliver, Maika, Chelsea, Cadence
HB15	Cameron, Jack, Hannah, Haylee
HB16	Cooper, Callum, Taliah, Bayley, Abbie, Amy
HB18	Charlie, Mikayla, Riley, Allee, Bradley, Hope
HB19	Kiarah, Amber, Michael, Hanne, Emerson, Shontai-Lee
HB21	Emery, April, Jye, Cooper, Emily, Isabella
HB22	Jayden, Love, Ashton, Isabelle, Lachlan, Eliza

## WE CAUGHT YOU BEING GOOD

Cadence HB14	Lucas HB14	Aydin HB11	Ava HB11	Callan HB9
Blake HB10	Claudia HB14	Zoe HB6	Alicia HB4	Jeremy HB3
Liam HB4	William HB19	Erica HB19	Emerson HB19	Sienna HB19
Kelly HB19	Shontai HB19	Emily HB4	Kaleb HB2	Brayden HB1
Jaimelee HB12	Keeley HB2	Ava HB11	Tiana HB14	Claudia HB14
Isabelle HB9	Brody HB9	Sinead HB14	Mya HB9	Jack HB11

## CANTEEN ROSTER

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mar 20 Jenny	Mar 21 Kerry	Mar 22 Min	Mar 23 Jodie
Mar 27 Jenny	Mar 28 Esther	Mar 29 Min	Mar 30 Good Friday
Apr 3 Jenny	Apr 4 Ally	Apr 5 Min	Apr 6 Jodie <b>Help Needed</b>
Apr 10 Jenny	Apr 11 Kerry	Apr 12 Min	Apr 13 Jodie <b>Help Needed</b>

## TERM 1

	19	20	21	22	23
8		Parliament	C'wealth Games Day @ school  NAPLAN online practice	NAPLAN Online Practice  Y6 WCS academic class test	
9	26  Stage 1 Parent / Teacher meetings – all week	27	28	29 Easter Parade  Sydney North swimming  Newsletter	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