



WOONGARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Principal: Leonie Clarkson

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

Tuesday 17 December 2019

NEWSLETTER

Issue 21

As we near the end of the school year, I wish to thank our school community for your continued support of Woongarra Public School. It has been another big year, filled with learning successes and challenges. We celebrated some of the successes last week at our Presentation Day assemblies, including the announcement of our most prestigious awards and the Student Leaders for 2020, as follows:

Dux of School	Isabel Hudson
School Citizenship	Ava Wiechert and Alexis Porter

Student Leaders:

Prime Minister	Keira Lynn
Deputy Prime Minister	Riley Farmer and Abbie Eagleton
Ministers	Connor Ireland, Suzi Peterson, Cooper Bissaker, Chelsea Healey, Wyatt Lambie

Sporting Blue	Kai Hodges
Premiers Sporting Challenge	Amber Stevens

We recognised students in each class for academic achievement, citizenship, excellence in specific areas and effort. We acknowledged excellence in sport, including our sporting champions and representative players.

We did however, miss acknowledging one of our elite sportspersons, **Kelly Leeming**, who represented the school, Wallarah zone and Sydney North Region in Tennis. Our sincere apologies to Kelly. We will recognise and issue him with his certificate at the final assembly for the year.

The end of a year brings some farewells. Year 6 students leave us to move to high school and some students are leaving as families move out of the area. We wish all those students and their families the very best. We are also farewelling some teachers. Mrs Hourigan's, Miss Smith's and Mrs Dyson's temporary contracts have concluded and we thank them for their contributions to our school and wish them well for their future.

We will welcome Mrs Sharp to the office every Wednesday-Friday next year as the successful candidate to share the School Administrative Manager role with Mrs Stanford. We will welcome a new private canteen operator, Jacqui. Mrs Rawson is returning from maternity leave for one day each week in 2020.

Merry Christmas and Best wishes to all for an enjoyable festive season and summer holiday break.

Leonie Clarkson
PRINCIPAL

BOOK PACKS 2020

The school will be organising Book Packs for 2020 and further information will be provided in the new year. Families may purchase a Book Pack for a small contribution that also includes the cost of two school performances. This means that you do not have to worry about Back to School items such as stationery, books, tissues and the like as this will be provided in the pack.

ANNUAL SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR PARENTS

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQPVX6N>

Each year we issue a satisfaction survey to parents to gather your thoughts about our school to look for ways to continually improve what we do.

Please take a few moments to complete this short survey using the QR code or weblink provided.



There are nine questions and the survey should only take 2-3 minutes of your time but will provide us with valuable information.

DAY 1 2020 ORGANISATION

The year will start with years 1-6 students returning on Wednesday 29 January 2020. Kindergarten students will start Monday 3 February after completing Best Start on Wednesday 29, Thursday 30 or Friday 31 January.

Students in Years 1-6 will start the year off in their 2019 class but in most cases in a different room and with a different teacher. We will be able to form our new classes for 2020 as soon as we know of new enrolments and students leaving. We will endeavour to form new classes as soon as possible.

Students will line up in their 2019 classes on Wednesday morning and the following table indicates where the students will be and with what teacher while we finalise classes for 2020.

2019 class	Start in	Start with		2019 class	Start in	Start with
HB5	HB9	Mrs Ruskin		HB1	HB3	Ms Miller
HB6	HB10	Mrs Mileto		HB2	HB4	Miss Baker
HB7	HB13	Ms White		HB3	HB21	Mrs Khan
HB8	HB8	Ms Patterson		HB16	HB19	Mrs Nicolas
HB9	HB11	Ms Ella		HB4	Library	Mrs Dezius
HB10	HB14	Mr Mills		HB19	HB16	Mrs Black
HB12	HB12	Mrs Hindson		HB21	HB15	Mrs Dempsey
HB13	HB1	Mr Vrolyk		HB22	HB22	Mr Demir
HB14	HB2	Mrs Hearne				

K-6 ASSEMBLY ROSTER

Week	Assembly	
10	Farewell to Year 6	Wednesday 2:15

CAUGHT YOU BEING GOOD

Alexis HB4	Roy HB1	Kaiden HB1	Georgia HB4	Jordana HB1	Carl HB19
Georgia HB21	Liam HB21	Isabelle HB19	Cooper HB21	Conor HB8	Ariana HB9
Jacob HB9	Kyza HB8	Matilda HB9	Ethan HB9	Piper HB7	Jett HB8
Becky HB7					

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

HB1	Charlise, Brooke, Chelsea
HB2	Troy, Summah, Maya, Rebecca
HB3	Noah, Eoin, Aidan, Lucinda
HB4	Georgia, Ruby, Eden
HB5	Laylah, Mabel
HB6	Leila, Indy, Ellie
HB7	Abby, Tahlia, Jaxon
HB8	Jasmyn-Rose, Tiffany, Logan
HB10	Nicholas, Georgia
HB12	Cooper, Marley
HB13	Brody, Max, Isabelle, Archawin
HB14	Lilah, Navayah, Cooper, Audrey, Tico
HB15	McKenzie, Marcus, Ellie
HB16	Chloe, Jake, Ben
HB18	Cooper, Jack, Vivie
HB19	Jacob, Soraya, Claire
HB21	Molly, Sharlise, Ebonee
HB22	Makai, Cruz, Hudson

SPORTS NEWS FOR 2020

In 2020 Woongarra Public School plan to enter a number sporting gala days and competitions for Stage 2 and 3 children depending on dates, location and teacher availability.

Children in Stage 3 will also have the opportunity to trial for zone (Wallerah) and regional (Sydney North) sports teams that they may excel in outside of school. Sports include – Rugby League, Rugby Union, AFL, Cricket, Hockey, Softball, Soccer, Basketball, Touch Football, Golf and Tennis.

If you would like to nominate your son or daughter to attend a trial for any of the zone/regional sports listed above please notify Mr Demir or the office.

Please be aware that –

- only students who play at a very high standard at club level or representative level should nominate
- each team will be an Under 12s age group unless stated otherwise(Rugby League have U11s)
- parents are required to provide the transport to and from these trials
- trials will be held during school hours
- trials may be anywhere from Newcastle to Sydney
- if selected for a Sydney North team your son or daughter will be required to travel weekly to train for a period of 3-6 weeks
- if selected for a Sydney North team your son or daughter will be required to play in a carnival anywhere in the State
- if selected for a Sydney North team expenses can exceed \$1000 at times
- some sports have limited numbers that are available to attend the trial due to popularity. In the case of having more entries we would have a school trial before hand to decide who attends
- in the case of no nominations for a sport we may invite students to take part in the trial

Any further questions regarding these trials please contact Mr Demir.

EARLY STAGE 1 IN REVIEW

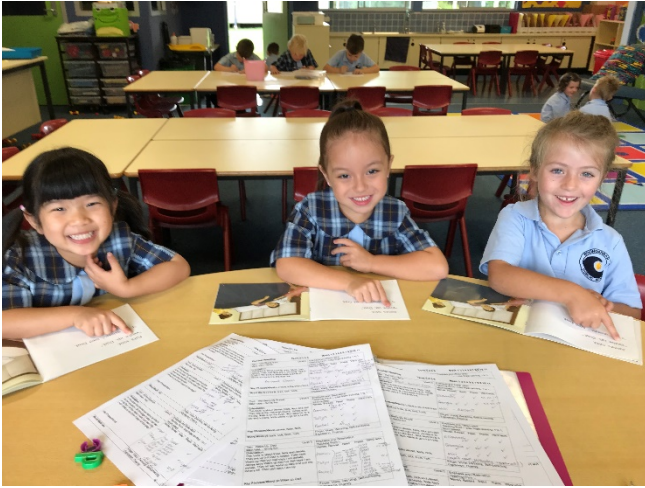
Mrs Johnson, Mrs Hourigan, Mrs Kelly and I would like to congratulate all the Kindergarten students on completing their first year of school at Woongarra.

The Kindergarten students have been with us for a year now and yet every day, their back packs have gone home pretty much empty!

If our parents didn't know us well, they might think that their child hasn't been learning anything. The reason it is hard to send home anything in the back pack is because nothing fits.

We can't send home how the kindy students learnt to find their own name at the start of the year at Kindy Orientation and how they found a beautiful new friend to play with and learn with.

We can't send home in their back packs the amazing progress that has been made in English, learning to read, write and comprehend texts.



And how our students learnt to count, forwards and backwards and how they sorted 2D shapes and measured the COLA area in paddle pop sticks.

We can't send home how our students are getting more comfortable and confident in their daily routines every single day.

The Kindy teachers can't send home the beautiful Lego building a group of children built together. And how they all wrote a sentence together in an interactive writing lesson. And the smile on the students' faces after running in a running race next to a year 5 student leader. Also, how their peer readers came and helped with reading and sight words.



No, the things they have been learning are WAY TOO BIG for their back packs.

However, we have been sending home a few things like wet sleeves from the water table, sandy rocks in pockets, sand from the sand tray, paint speckles on faces and beautiful cards written in our writing corners.

Yes, if you looked inside their backpacks, it would seem like we haven't been learning but if you look outside of the backpack, you will see cooperation, friendship, independence, collaboration, discovery, testing, questioning, trial and error, confidence, exploration, and play.

Congratulations, Kindergarten, Mrs Guest

STAGE 1 IN REVIEW

Mrs Ruskin, Mrs Guest, Mrs Mileto, Mrs Hindson, Mr Mills, Mrs Ella, Ms Patterson, Ms White, Mr Smith and Mrs Buhr would like to congratulate all of the Stage 1 students on another successful year at school.

Fantastic progress has been made in English with the students further developing their skills in reading and writing. Year 1 students explored fairy tales and studied the work of Julia Donaldson and Nick Bland. Year 2 have also completed author studies looking at work by Mem Fox, Margaret Wild, Anthony Browne and Roald Dahl.



In Mathematics this year, the boys and girls have learnt about numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, divisions, fractions, 2D & 3D shapes, graphs, position, volume, mass, length and area. There were lots of hands-on activities and games.

Students were engaged in History, Science and Geography inquiry units. As part of their Science studies they visited the Australian Reptile Park.

Students were introduced to Coding through the Bee-Bots and other Coding programs.



This year we got fit and healthy and participated in our weekly sport and Fitness lessons. They also participated in Personal Development and Health units.

Students demonstrated their creative flair during music, drama and visual art activities.



They participated in special events and programs at school such as Clean up Australia, Easter Parade, Walk Safely To School, Responsible Pet, NAIDOC, Education Week, Book Parade, Wellbeing Show, K-2 Athletics Carnival, Gymnastics and using the Kitchen Kart to name a few.



What a busy year we have had. We are proud of your achievement in Year 1 and 2 at Woongarra. Have a safe holiday and Merry Christmas and we will see you all next year.

STAGE 2 IN REVIEW

Mr Smith introduced STEM lessons that included deconstructing computers, Scratch coding, Maki Maki, Ozobots and the much loved – Minecraft.

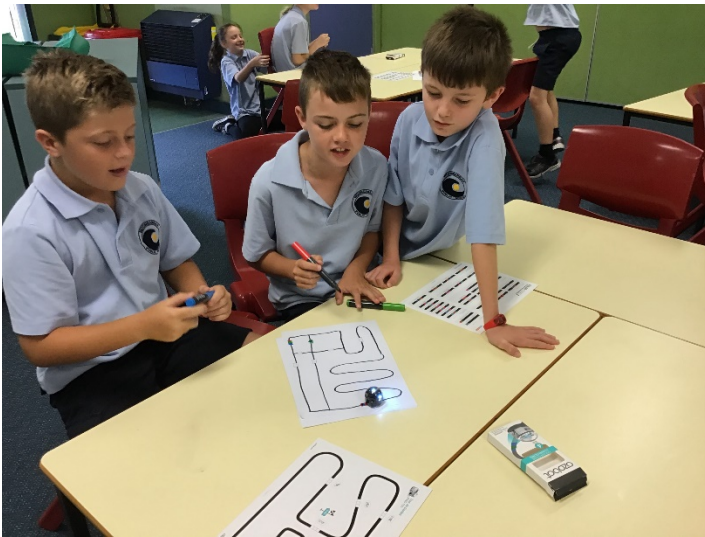
In English, our four main themes for this year were:

Term 1 - Belonging - looking at respectful relationships and connectedness.

Term 2 - Unity focused on ANZAC Day, Multiculturalism, Harmony Day, Anti Bullying and diversity.

Term 3 - Heroes looked at sharing, courage, bravery, respecting differences and friendships

and in Term 4 – Magic focused on imagination, enchantment, stereotypes and good versus evil.



In Mathematics, we have challenged ourselves learning our times tables, understanding the difference between perimeter and area, comparing and ordering numbers, capacity and volume, square centimetres and cubic metres, place value and decimal place, smaller than and greater than and many other concepts.

In Geography in Term 1, the students were introduced to Australian Geography and The Earth's Environment and in Term 2, Our History unit focused on 'First Contacts'. Our key focus questions were:

- What was life like for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples before the arrival of the Europeans?
- Why did the great journeys of exploration occur and what was their impact?
- Why did Europeans settle in Australia?
- What was the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers?

In Science we studied 'Melting Moments' where students generate inquiry questions about changing solids to liquids and vice versa by adding or removing heat. In Term 4, The Biological Science unit 'Feather, fur or leaves' allowed students to question the world around them - What is that? Is it alive? How is it like other things I know? Scientists develop classification systems to try to understand the diversity of life and how species are related throughout history. As more and more species disappear from the face of the Earth, we are caught up in a race to discover what we never knew we had.

In Personal Development, Health and Physical Education we looked at The Woongarrah Way, Power in relationships, road safety, the benefits of physical activity and nutrition. In sport we focused on good sportsmanship, developing game skills, teamwork and healthy competition.



Our students were part of many activities including – swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals, tennis and OZ Tag gala days, the Beyond the Classroom STEM day, Surf Education, the Kitchen Kart and The Gosford Art Gallery.

We have watched you all learn and grow, and change from day to day
We know the things we have done have helped you in many significant ways
So... it's with happy memories we send you out the door
With great hope and expectations for what next year holds in store.

Mrs Lee, Mrs Preece, Mrs Hearne, Miss Smith, Mr Vrolyk, Mrs Stanford, Mrs Dyson, Mr Demir

STAGE 3 IN REVIEW

Thank you to the amazing students and staff of Woongarra PS for the warm welcome in my first year here. I'd particularly like to thank the Stage 3 students and teachers Mrs Black, Ms Miller, Mrs Topping, Mrs Khan, Mrs Le Loux, Mr Demir, Mr Cavanagh, Mrs Nicolas and Miss Baker, for a fantastic year of learning in Stage 3. I would also like to congratulate the students of Years 5 and 6 for their effort, persistence, growth mindset and resilience.

In Stage 3 we have been very fortunate to have many learning opportunities that have allowed the students to grow academically, socially and emotionally over the year. In English we read and responded to texts about being global citizens. Our students gained a deep understanding of the plight of many people throughout the world particularly those who are refugees. We focused on Australian identities where students delved into the lives of Prime Ministers, sporting heroes, folk tales and those individuals who made a difference in the social and political arena. In Terms 3 and 4, Stage 3 completed novel studies based on Fantasy and Belonging. It was great to see the engagement and the proof that reading books can be fun.



In maths, students learned about the strands of number, algebra, measurement, geometry, statistics and data, making the most of hands-on and engaging group work activities. Building up the basics, especially the rapid recall of times tables, was important as well as relating maths to every day real life situations as much as possible. We are very proud of our Stage 3 students who completed the Newcastle Permanent Mathematics Competition with many Credits and Distinctions being awarded.

In Semester 1, Stage 3 studied A Diverse and Connected World in Geography and Australia as a Nation in History. Both units of study provided opportunities for students to explore their past, present and consider the future while developing their research skills. Mrs Gilbert taught Stage 3 valuable research skills during their Library lessons.

During Semester 2, students in Stage 3 honed their inquiry skills by studying the Material World and Living World in Science and Technology. Students designed a product and considered the end life of the product. It was pleasing to see that many groups responded with an environmentally sustainable product. They also learned about adaptations and survival in our world and were able to create a Minecraft World and

have their animals survive everything the block world could throw at them. This year, Mr Smith has been teaching Stage 3 Digital Technologies which involved writing and directing movies using software, block coding and designing objects printed with the 3D printer.



Students have been creative and active throughout the year, making stunning artworks and learning and consolidating skills in sports, games, gymnastics and even holding hands during dancing.

In Stage 3 we were very fortunate to have one of the last overnight excursions to Myuna Bay before it was closed. It was a fantastic time for

our Year 5 and 6 students to work together and try new activities such as rock climbing, canoeing out into Lake Macquarie, being rescued by Mr Smith from the mud and sailing. We've also had the CARES excursion to learn about real life road safety, riding our bikes and some of the very expensive fines that

can be handed out. Some students also attended the Surf Safety day at Toowoomb Bay, braving the cold and windy conditions.



The leadership team have proudly represented the school throughout the year. Our Ministers have had many roles such as today, ANZAC day, the Easter Hat Parade and the many assemblies and talent quests they have led. The House Captains led the house cheers and carnivals. Our SRC reps have done a great job of communicating their class needs back to Parliament. Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have had many opportunities this year to lead our school in activities such as the Sorry Day Assembly, NAIDOC Week activities and represented our school in a dance performance at the Ngara Assembly.



I congratulate all of Year 5 and 6 and their teachers for a successful 2019 and wish them all the very best for 2020.

Mrs Dempsey

