



WOONGARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL

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The inclusive school where expert staff support students to achieve excellence.

Wednesday 17 February

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's great to see how well we have settled in the school year and I can see so much great learning happening in our rooms already. Kindergarten students, in particular, have settled in and are getting to know our routines. The Year 6 buddies are also to be congratulated on the care, kindness and consideration they have shown to our newest students. We are very proud of you.

We are also very proud of our new student leaders for 2021. We held a leader's induction on Wednesday where the students received their badges and made their pledges to their peers and teachers. The 2021 Leaders conducted the assembly for the first time and did a great job.

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as Ministers, House Captains or Student Representative Council members.

Prime Minister – Isabella
Deputy Prime Minister – Lucy
Ministers – Sarah, Brayden, Cooper, Ellie, London and Ella

House Captains

Dolphin – Charbell and Izac
Kangaroo – Brooke and Makai
Platypus - Kyah and Leroy
Goanna - Chelsea and Hudson

Student Representative Council members

HB1 - Leila and Chloe
HB2 – Jake and Emilie
HB3 – Tahnee and Jacob
HB4 – Jesse and Ella-Jaye
HB13 – Lachlan and Matilda
HB15 - Eoin and Zane
HB16 – Jermaine and Isabella
HB21- Charlise and Bonnie
HB22 – Sienna and Ari

Our first Parliament meeting will be held soon.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL SUCCESS

It was fantastic to hold a swimming carnival this week. Miss Miller did a terrific job organising us and the carnival ran perfectly. Even the weather behaved! It was so nice to have parents and grandparents with us, albeit from the other side of the pool.

Students will receive their ribbons at our next "in person assembly" in Week 7. We will also announce the champions and include this in the newsletter. Miss Miller is finalising the zone team and notes will be sent home soon with information.

VALUES CLARIFICATION SURVEY

Our values affect all of our behaviour. They influence how we communicate, work together and make decisions. They are reflected in our systems, practices and procedures and they influence the way we teach and learn together.

As we enter a new school planning cycle, our staff have been considering the values that we hold dearest at Woongarra, which have been collated in the survey below.

Now it's your turn. We'd like you to tell us which are most important to you by ranking your top 5 from the list included in the [one question survey](#) below. Click the link or open using the QR code.



https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=muagBYpBwUecJZOHJhv5ke65kB78S8ZDt_iHfZMeGNZUMDdPRDQ5UkpGtNaVVgxTkJXUkNHUVoxVv4u

Thanks in advance for your time to contribute to this important work.

COVID INTENSIVE LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM

There was some general information included in the (draft) newsletter yesterday about the COVID Intensive Learning Support Program that was provided for schools. However, it was not edited to reflect what is happening at our school, hence this separate advice, with apologies for any confusion.

The NSW Government has invested \$337 million in schools for this program, this year. Our school has received enough funding for us to employ three teachers for three days each week to work with small groups of students, targeted at the point of need, in Years 1-6.

Our work has begun. Our 'COVID ILSP' staff commenced on Day 1 and have spent the first few weeks looking at our assessment data, diagnosing needs, identifying the first priorities for support and further upskilling our expert staff. Small group tuition, with 2-5 students per group will commence next week. This will be delivered as intensive, regular, short, and sustained delivery three times each week, in class, during school hours, with ongoing teacher monitoring and regular check-ins.

An important component will be communication between home and school about this program and we will keep you informed as this program progresses throughout the year. The [department's website](#) also has more information on this program.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS – UPDATES

We continue to grapple with COVID-19 restrictions by following the guidelines that are issued to schools. We received feedback that parents were disappointed in not being able to attend the student leader's induction. I thought it might be timely to share the current guidelines as we had hoped to invite families to the student leaders induction assembly, but we are simply not permitted to do so. The current guidelines that are available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families> state:

Parents and carers are not allowed on school sites or at off-site school events held during school hours except for the following purposes only:

- Essential parent and carer meetings with teachers and/or school executives, with a scheduled appointment. This includes scheduled meetings with parents and carers of prospective students.
- Parents and carers who attend a school administration building or another defined location for the purpose of picking up their child if they are unwell or where they have been asked to arrange for a COVID-19 test after their child has displayed flu-like symptoms while at school.
- Parents and carers who need to be on-site for canteen and uniform shop duties or to collect or purchase uniforms.
- Parent or carer volunteers required as educational support roles for activities essential to the delivery of the curriculum such as reading groups, music, dance and kitchen garden areas. Schools are required to

have scheduled programs in place and remind parents and carers that they must not attend school unless it has been previously arranged.

- Parents and carers can attend parent orientation meetings and 'meet the teacher' meetings with school staff for all year/stage groups. Meetings should be limited to 1 hour where possible. A COVID-19 Safety Plan must be in place.

My fingers and toes are crossed that we can soon see families back in our school. In the meantime, we are working really hard to consider every single event within the ever-changing guidelines in order to make student-centred decisions.

SCHOOL UNIFORM CLARIFICATION – SHORT SKIRTS

It was lovely to see so many students returning in school uniform this year. However, there are many girls wearing short skirts or tights that are not part of the uniform. We do not have a skirt option. Girls can wear shorts (unisex), navy or checked skirts or the school dress.

Student Assistance is available if you require assistance with appropriate uniform. Please contact the office for an application form.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE SERVICE TO BEGIN NEXT TERM

We are thrilled to announce that Camp Australia will be offering a Before and After School service operating from our school, commencing in Term 2. A flyer with information regarding enquiries and enrolment is attached at the end of the newsletter.

There's a lot happening at Woongarrah!

L. Clarkson
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be taken on Monday 22 February 2021. Student Photo envelopes will be sent home with every student this week. If you require a sibling photo, please have your child collect a sibling envelope at the office.

Please remember to send photo envelopes on Monday 22 February and students are to wear full school uniform. Photo envelopes must be brought in on **PHOTO DAY ONLY** and students will hand them straight to the photographer.

Sibling photos - The eldest child will collect their younger siblings for this photo and take their completed envelope to the Hall.

Schedule – beginning from 9am, approximately 10-15 per class:

Photographer 1	Photographer 2
9am HB2	9 am HB21
HB12	HB11
HB9	HB5
HB10	HB6
HB4	HB7
HB14	HB3
HB22	HB1
HB15	HB13
Year 6	HB16

SCRIPTURE AND ETHICS

Scripture will commence on Thursday 25 February. 3-6 Scripture will be straight after Recess at 11:30-12 and K-2 Scripture will be 12:05-12:35.

In 2021 we have classes for Combined or Protestant religions K to Year 6 and Catholic K to Year 6. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer Ethics in 2021 as we don't have a trained Ethics teacher available. Students who have selected Ethics will attend Non-Scripture.

If your child does not want to attend the group that was selected at enrolment please send in a note or email requesting a change.

Sharon Buhr
SRE/SEE Coordinator

NEWSLETTER CHANGE OF DAY

The newsletter will be issued on Wednesday this year, as this is the day when we have four people in the office.

ATTENDANCE DOES MATTER

This is a new feature in our Newsletter for 2021. We will be regularly examining student attendance data as research shows that regular school attendance is important to a students' achievements and wellbeing.

The year breakdown is as follows:

Woongarra Public School
Percentage Attendance Report 29/01/2021 to 12/02/2021 (11 School Days)

School Year	Boys	Girls	Overall
K	99%	99%	99%
1	99%	96%	97%
2	97%	93%	95%
3	95%	95%	95%
4	95%	97%	96%
5	98%	96%	97%
6	97%	97%	97%

Great effort by Kindergarten, Year 1, 5 and 6. 95% attendance ensures that students are on track. Keep coming to school unless you are sick and there may be a term reward for the year group that has the best attendance.

Sharon Buhr
Deputy Principal

AN APOLOGY FROM FLEXI SCHOOLS

Jacqui in the canteen received the following apology from Flexi schools about the last two Fridays that she has asked us to share.

"We are writing to apologise for any inconvenience you and your parent community may have experienced as a result of the technical issues during peak ordering time on Friday 5 February 2021 and Friday 12 February 2021.

On Friday 5 February, due to an issue at our cloud computing provider which affected multiple customers, users who were not currently logged into Flexischools were unable to log in. On Friday 12 February 2021, an intensive database operation was allowed to run which is ordinarily run in off-peak periods, resulting in the ordering experience for users slowing and, at some points, becoming unresponsive.

The two issues are unrelated and unlikely to reoccur.

In each case, our most senior technical staff were on hand to investigate and resolve these issues and, in addition to alerting you about the issue by email, we also placed a notice for any parents experiencing issues on the "System Availability" section of our Help page. Unfortunately, due to the inherent uncertainty surrounding these issues, they take some time to resolve.

Flexischools currently handles hundreds of thousands of orders every week and, during the peak ordering period on Friday morning, over 1,000 orders per minute.

Notwithstanding that it is inevitable that issues arise from time to time, the availability and reliability of our system is our highest priority and we take the investigation and remediation of these issues very seriously. We are disappointed that these issues occurred and we continue to work hard to prevent and mitigate issues such as these in the future. Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience."

FREE LOWER LIMB ASSESSMENTS

The University of Newcastle Podiatry Clinic at Wyong hospital is offering children age 0-17 free lower limb assessments. Appointment times: Mondays from 2.30pm to 4.45pm until 31st May 2021.

Children will be assessed by final year students, supervised by a podiatrist. Assessment can include foot, ankle, leg and knee problems. Common reasons for consultation include warts, heel pain, night-time leg pains, rehab after ankle sprain and advice about flat feet. Advice can also be offered on footwear and normal development. For more information, or to make a booking, please call 43947280

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all patients and parents/guardians will be given face masks to wear for the appointment.

Your new OSHC provider, Camp Australia!

We are truly excited to be partnering with **Woongarrah Public School** to provide your Outside School Hours Care service from **Tuesday 20th April, Day 1 of Term 2!**

**Before School Care 6.30am – 8.30am
\$14.00
After School Care 3.00pm – 6.00pm
\$19.**

Registration is free

To attend any Camp Australia program, you first need to register your child and book. We recommend families to register so that if you ever need us, we have all the information and documentation we need to best care for your child.

Make your bookings with ease. Download the Parent Portal app today.

Search for **Camp Australia Parent Portal** on the App Store or Google Play, download the app and register free with us now.



All of our programs are eligible for you to claim the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) on. If you're eligible, you could be saving money on your OSHC with Camp Australia. To find out if you are eligible, simply log into MyGov and complete your Child Care Subsidy Assessment.

If you have any further questions, you can call our friendly Customer Care on 1300 105 343. The team are available 5am - 9pm, 7 days a week (except National Public Holidays).

Your OSHC.

Tailored Out of School Hours experiences your children will love



ROCKETEERS

Extraordinary Holiday Adventures with Rocketeers



To register, visit campastralia.com.au

Virtual Information Sessions

Find out everything you need to know about Outside School Hours Care.

We've organised informative and interactive sessions that ensure you get the most relevant information for your family. These sessions will be run by our leaders in the OSHC community and will answer questions on programs that are offered, registration and booking process, billing, Child Care Subsidy and more.

If you would like more information regarding Camp Australia's services but cannot attend any of the above sessions, please feel free to visit your service and speak with your friendly Coordinator.

Alternatively, you can send us an email at oshc@campaustralia.com.au and one of our friendly Customer Care representatives can answer your questions.



Session 1
Tuesday, 16 February
12:30pm (AEDT)

Session 3
Tuesday, 23 February
8:00pm (AEDT)

Session 2
Thursday, 18 February
8:00pm (AEDT)

Session 4
Thursday, 25 February
12:30pm (AEDT)



To register free for a Virtual Info Session, visit
www.campastralia.com.au/virtual-info-sessions



Register for OSHC

Once registered, you'll be able to easily make and manage your bookings online via our Parent Portal.

Register now free



Visit our blog

New articles are added each week for parents and cover various topics to help families.

Visit our blog