



WOONGARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

Tuesday 17 December 2024

NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 10

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From the Principal

Here we are at the end of another school year and that marks number twenty for our school. Can you believe it? As the foundation Principal, I clearly remember Day 1 2005 and marvel at how twenty years can possibly have passed so quickly. Over the past two decades I have had the privilege of watching our school grow and excel. I have seen so many students walk through our gates – I love looking at all of our Year 6 student photos from 2005 that adorn the corridor as I come into the office each day, knowing that every single one is now part of the fabric of our school in their own unique way. I have met many, many families in the Woongarra community and valued the mutual high expectations and satisfaction that we share with the way that our school works in partnership to grow great kids together – kids who are good at learning and good at life. I have worked alongside so many talented teachers and dedicated support staff, who come to Woongarra and stay here because we know this school is a gem.

There are some clues as to why - we find and start with strengths, not deficits, we catch kids being good and support them when they make mistakes, we empathise and treat everyone with respect and we keep students at the centre, knowing that our school exists for children, not adults.

I am really proud of the strengths of our beliefs and values that guide us when we make decisions, and especially when we have to deal with discrimination and social prejudice against people with physical or mental disabilities that occurs from time to time. That is the one thing that I wish that I could change. Equity is at the heart of Public Education and Woongarra PS and if only we could educate all adults to see the strengths in diversity that most of us see, to understand and to empathise, rather than complain and seek to exclude those who might not fit their particular view of the world. Luckily, it is a tiny minority, but it's sad and damaging when it raises its ugly head.

On a happier note, I encourage you all to continue fostering the love of learning and high expectations that defines our school. Keep supporting one another to support our students to embrace challenges, be curious and strive to be their best. I'm excited for what comes next for the school and I look forward to hearing all about it in 2025.

Best wishes everyone, for a wonderful Christmas and holiday break.

Welcome Mrs Bradney

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I am taking long service leave for 2025. We are excited to welcome Mrs Tricia Bradney who will be leading the school from Term 1 next year. I am sure that you will make her feel part of the Woongarra PS family.

Thank you to our Relieving Principal

Mrs Buhr was with me to establish our school and has been my treasured right hand as Assistant Principal, Deputy Principal and Relieving Principal ever since. Mrs Buhr chose not to continue as relieving Principal in 2025, but will continue as a valued and experienced member of the leadership team. I know Mrs Bradney will value her as much as I do. Mrs Buhr is simply remarkable in the way that she puts students at the centre of the way that she leads and manages our school on a daily basis. Her leadership of our Learning and Support Team and advocacy for students with disabilities and additional learning needs is exemplary. Thank you for steering the ship during my unexpected leave this year.

Congratulations Mrs Dezius – 40 years of service

Mrs Dezius was one of our foundation teachers and has been loyal to our school for the past 20 years. She celebrates a significant milestone in January having achieved 40 years of service with the Department of Education. The legacy she leaves for thousands of students in NSW is remarkable. We wish her all the best in retirement and thank her for her dedication and commitment to our school and Public Education.

Mr Smith is Retiring

Mr Smith heads into retirement at the end of this week after fifteen years at Woongarra as an esteemed Assistant Principal. I remember pinching myself when he applied for the job that we had someone who matched our school and was so experienced coming to join our leadership team. We were right to pick him! He will be sorely missed by students, staff and families. We wish him all the best in retirement in sunny Queensland!

Thank you to our temporary teachers

Mr Vaughan, Miss Davies, Ms Fortnum and Mr Nutt have filled temporary vacancies this year and have been a wonderful part of our school staff. Unfortunately, we do not have any temporary vacancies in 2025. We wish them the very best in 2025 and send our thanks for your efforts and hard work for our students.

Day 1 2025

All students start school on Thursday 6 February 2025.

Kindergarten students will go straight to their classrooms at 9am. Families have been advised by letter of their class - either HB5, HB6 or HB10.

Students in Years 1-6 for 2025 will line up in their 2024 classes at 9am under the COLA. Students will go with the following teachers until we finalise our numbers and then we should be able to move into our 2025 classes later in the day.

2024 class	Goes to....	2024 class	Goes to
HB5	HB9 with Mrs Ruskin	HB1	HB22 with Mrs McLean
HB6	HB11 with Mrs Guest	HB2	HB4 with Mrs Nicolas
HB10	HB14 with Mrs Morrison	HB3	HB3 with Mrs Khan
HB9	HB13 with Ms White	HB4	HB16 with Mr Vrolyk
HB11	Library with Mrs Gilbert	HB22	HB15 with Mrs Baker
HB12	HB12 with Mrs Johnson	HB7 & HB8	HB7 with Mrs Black
HB13	HB2 with Mrs Hindson	HB15 & HB16	HB8 with Miss Foster
HB14	HB1 with Mr Mills		

Presentation day Assemblies

We had two terrific Presentation Day assemblies on Wednesday 11 December. All students were acknowledged for their wonderful work this year and four students from each class received a special award. The school awards and ministers and house captains' badges were also presented.

Congratulations to the following students for receiving the School Awards:

Dux of the School – Jake

Citizenship Awards – Leila and Zoey

Sporting Blue – Tyler

Premier's Sporting Award – Chloe

Swimming – Junior girl – Payton, Junior Boy – Owen, Senior girl – Alyssa, Senior boy – Lukas

Athletics - Junior girl – Ivy, Junior Boy – Kai, Senior girl – Aurey, Senior boys – Tyler & Taj

Attendance awards – Kathleen, Sloane, Abigail, Indi, Kooper and Arielle

Ngara awards – Kooper, Ella, Elijah, Keyarn, Zoe and Laila

K-2 Athletics Carnival

On Wednesday 4 December, K-2 had their Athletics carnival. We had great weather, and the students were cheered on by the many parents and carers who attended on the day. Students participated in age races and received stickers. We then had fruit break and students participated in modified athletic events, e.g. egg and spoon races, javelin with foam javelins, shot put with bean bags.

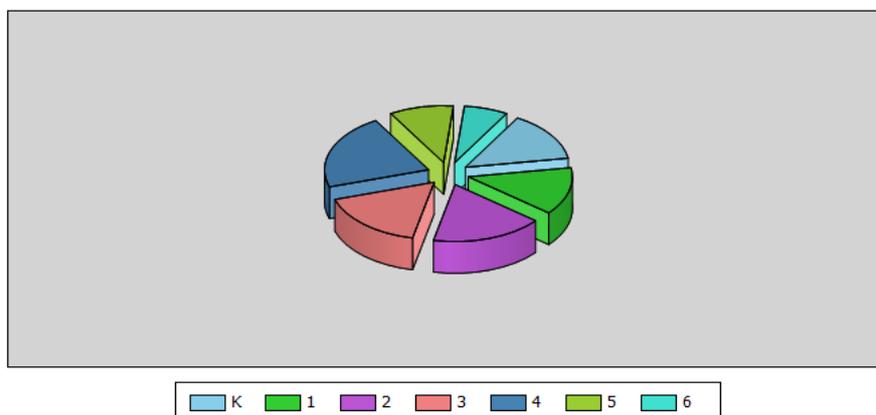
It was another wonderful event, enjoyed by all at Woongarra Public School.



Library News

This year has been very busy in the library. 14 136 books have been borrowed by our students. I have included a graph of our borrowing statistics K – 6. Special mention to Year 4 who borrowed 3 317 books! Hopefully everyone enjoyed reading one of our popular books or maybe read one of the 618 new books added to our collection. Library borrowing has now finished for 2024 and it is time to return any books still on loan. Please return all outstanding loans ASAP. Don't forget to keep reading over the summer break.

Loan Statistics (Grouped by Year)



Mrs Gilbert
Teacher Librarian

Kindergarten Year in Review

Amazing progress has been made in English with the students learning to read and write. They have been taught using the Heggerty Phonological Awareness Program, Little Learners Love Literacy program and the new English K-2 syllabus.



In Mathematics this year, the boys and girls have learnt to count, add, subtract, make groups and share. They have also learnt about shapes, length, graphs, position and many other mathematical concepts. They have learnt to think mathematically, problem solve and have become clever mathematicians.

Students were engaged in History, Science and Geography units. They learnt about themselves, their family and their heritage and what photos and artefacts tell us about our past. They learnt about their environment, their needs and wants, what we get from the farm, and how things move.



This year students got fit and healthy and participated in our weekly sport and fitness lessons. We also participated in the Colour Run, K-2 Athletics Carnival and the Commonwealth Games Day.

Students made friends, shared, took turns, played safely and learnt to follow the school rules and play happily in the playground and classroom. They enjoyed playing on our fixed equipment.

Students enjoyed special events such as visiting the Hunter Valley Zoo, the Easter Parade, Book Parade, NAIDOC, Saving Little Archie show, and they presented and performed at assemblies.

Mrs Buhr, Mrs Rawson, Mrs Cranstone and Mrs Morrison are proud of the achievements of all of the students in their first year at Woongarah.

Stage 1 Year in Review

Mrs Ruskin, Mrs Guest, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Hindson, Mr Mills, and I would like to congratulate all of the Stage 1 students on an interesting and rewarding year.

It has always been a pleasure for us teachers to see the students grow in all parts of their schooling. Sometimes the growth may seem small, however, for the students it can be a giant leap forward. In Stage 1 the teachers get to see big AAHAA moments with reading and writing as the students learn the letter sounds and blends. It is so good to see the moments when the students start to realise that they don't have to sound out a word, they just know it.

The same can be said for mathematics when students start to see how a number can be broken into smaller numbers to make adding and subtracting easier.

The students had quite a lot of activities throughout the year, with a few standing out in their report questioning. The students enjoyed the Schoolhouse Museum, learning about what school was like in the olden day and using pen and ink and slate boards. Though for a few their favourite memory was when the grumpy teacher got stuck into Mrs Johnson and myself for talking. Other activities that stood out for the students were the Colour Run, the inflatables and one that stood out a lot for the Stage 1 students was performing the dances for Grandparents Day. Over the years of interviewing the students for reports they seem to love having the extra time with their grandparents.

Personally, Mr Smith would like to thank all the students, teachers and families for 15 years at this wonderful school. I take away a lot of fantastic memories. I will miss you all in my retirement next year.

The teachers are proud of all the boys and girls and their achievements this year.

Stage 2 Year in Review

In English, we read stories, oh what a delight,
With **Fantastic Mr. Fox**, who was sly and quite bright.
We journeyed with **Rowan of Rin**, brave and bold,
And learned from **Sadako**, whose story never gets old.
Piano Fingers danced, making music so sweet,
While **Kicking Goals with Goodsey** taught us not to cheat!
Our favourite tale was **Wandi**, the dingo pup,
He brought smiles and laughter, and we just couldn't stop!
In Maths, we played with numbers, oh what a craze,
Serial splitters we were, but now we amaze!
We measured and told time, fractions everywhere,
"Wait, what's half of half?" – we pondered with flair!
Why did the fraction go to the party?
Because it knew it would be "whole-y" hearty!
History revealed how things change with a twist,
What's lost and what's kept? You won't want to miss!
We learned about our community, and all of its quirks,
Like that one guy who always wears the silliest shirts!
Why did the shirt go to school?
Because it wanted to be a little "smarter" and cool!
In Geography, we travelled to places so wide,
Learning about climates, with an Aussie guide.
Imagining life where the kangaroos hop,
"Do they bounce on trampolines?" – oh, please don't stop!
What do you call a kangaroo that loves to dance?
A "jumping jack!" – ready for a prance!
In PDHPE, we learned how to stay safe,
With the **NO GO TELL** rule – what a brave space!
In Science, we discovered the Earth and the Moon,
Exploring forces, materials, and food – what a tune!
Why did the Earth break up with the Moon?
Because it needed "space" – that's the best excuse!
In Art, we used iPads to snap pictures and flair,
Creating cool portfolios – our masterpieces rare!
"Is this a cat or a dog?" – who knows what we caught?

With art like ours, we could sell it for a lot!

Why was the artist so bad at tennis?

Because they kept drawing the line and missing their chances!

In Sports, we had fun, we tumbled and played,

Learning to catch, throw, and strike – what a parade!

In gymnastics, we flipped and jumped so high,

“Watch out for the ceiling!” – our laughter could fly!

Why did the gymnast bring a ladder?

Because they wanted to reach new heights, not be a “faller!”

Outside the classroom, we had adventures galore,

At Maitland Bay, we walked and explored.

With **Motiv8 Sports**, we learned AFL skills,

Dancing for grandparents gave us all the thrills!

The **Colour Splash Run** was a rainbow of cheer,

With paint flying everywhere – what a colourful smear!

Book parades and assemblies lit up our days,

“Is that a book or a hat?” – we had our own ways!

Stage 2’s dance group performed with pride,

While the league tag teams played, with friend by our side.

Fruit breaks were filled with laughter and fun,

“Who threw that banana?” – oh no, we’re on the run!

Why did the banana go to the door?

Because it wasn’t peeling well – now that’s a shocker!

A year full of memories, so bright and so grand,

With Teachers and Friends, hand in hand!

As we say goodbye, with big smiles and cheer,

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rest up, dear students, and have lots of play,

For 2025, we’ll have more fun every day!

Thank you, dear Stage 2, for the joy that you shared,

With laughter and learning, we’ve truly declared:

This year was amazing, a treasure to keep,

In our hearts and our minds, the memories run deep!

Stage 3 Year in Review

As the school gathers at presentation day at the end of what has been an incredible year, Mrs Lee wants to take a moment to reflect on the journey we’ve shared together in Stage 3. It has truly been a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences that the Stage 3 staff will carry with us as we move forward.

This year, we kicked off our journey with our sporting events. From the excitement of the swimming carnival to the friendly competition of the cross country and athletics carnivals, each of you demonstrated not just your athletic talents but also your sportsmanship and teamwork. A huge thank you to our house captains for your dedication and hard work in making these events enjoyable and exciting for the entire school community.

Beyond the sports field, we embarked on some fantastic excursions that enriched our learning experiences. Our visit to Rumbalara was nothing short of inspiring, with a huge mountain to climb at the end, and at The Great Aussie Bush Camp in Morisset, many of you faced your fears and took on challenges like the flying fox, giant swing, and rock climbing for the very first time. What an achievement. You showed us all the importance of stepping outside our comfort zones and embracing new opportunities.

Our Geography unit on 'The factors that shape a place' opened our eyes to the world around us. We explored the Australian Colonies in History, gaining a deeper understanding of our nation's past.

In English, we dove into fascinating texts like *The Wild Robot*, *Bright New World*, and *August & Jones*, alongside engaging with stories that connect us to Aboriginal culture. Solli Raphael's 'Spotlight', allowed us to explore our creativity with rap.

Our Science lessons took us on a journey through the sustainable production of food and fibre, the changes in states of matter, and the wonders of our solar system. We learned about forces in the world around us, igniting a sense of curiosity and wonder among all of you.

In Music, you have all made remarkable progress learning the xylophone and percussion. We were also fortunate to have 'Dance Curriculum' come and teach us new dances that displayed our skills on Grandparents Day. We have also had buddy reading and kinder orientation.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of our ministers this year. You represented our school with pride at the ANZAC assembly, in Parliament, during the Rumbalara waste audit and you always followed the school rules. Your commitment to service to our school has made us very proud.

As we conclude this year, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the incredible teachers who have supported, taught, nurtured, and inspired the Stage 3 students throughout 2024. Mrs Lee, Mrs Fortnum, Mrs Baker, Miss Foster, Mrs Davies, Mrs Black, Mrs Stanford, Mrs Gilbert, and Mr Vaughan—thank you for your unwavering dedication and passion. You are truly amazing, and your impact on our students is immeasurable.

The Music Bus

The Music Bus has opened Term 1 enrolments and are inviting new students to apply. Classes offered are Keyboard (K-6), Ukulele (K-6), Drums (Y1-6), Guitar (Y2-6). Lessons are: 30 minute in duration - once per week and held in the music classroom on wheels on site. Cost \$22 per week (\$24 drums) payable by the term on commencement. If you wish to take part please complete this expression of interest form. <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee4627a5204c46158e1ab17e7c8069c6>

P&C News

2025

Welcome Morning Tea

Our P&C would like to invite new families and 2025 Kindy parents and carers to a Morning Tea on the first day of school. It will be held in the School Hall between 9-10am Thursday 6th February.

Volunteers To Run A BBQ

We are seeking volunteers to run a BBQ at a school event after school the date that is pencilled in is Wednesday 26th February 2.30-4.30pm. Please contact the P&C via our Facebook page or email at woongarrahpandc@gmail.com.

WOONGARRAH PS P&C INVITES
KINDY & NEW
FAMILIES OF 2025
PARENTS & CARERS
FOR A WELCOME
MORNING TEA

BRING A KEEP CUP

THURSDAY 6TH FEB
9-10AM - HALL

WOONGARRAH
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Meeting

Our next P&C meeting will be held at the school on Tuesday 18th February at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome to attend, we would love to see you there.

Athletes Foot

Athletes Foot Tuggerah are supporting our P&C if you purchase your child's school shoes from this store please mention our school as \$5 will be donated for every pair of school shoes purchased.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and safe holidays.

Kind regards
Michelle
President