



WOONGARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

Tuesday 6 February 2024

NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 2

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From the Principal

A warm welcome to 2024. As always, we are excited to begin the school year and to continue working together as a school community to provide high quality education and opportunities for students to be curious and creative, with a lifelong love of learning – Transforming lives through learning as we begin the 20th year of Woongarra PS!!

A special welcome to our new families and we hope your time at Woongarra Public School is a happy and successful one.



Staff 2024 Staff and Classes

We have enjoyed a smooth start to 2024 and all students have been organised into their 2024 classes. We are looking forward to learning lots of new ideas, knowledge, and skills this year.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Principal | Ms Leonie Clarkson |
| Deputy Principal | Mrs Sharon Buhr |
| Assistant Principal – Stage 1 | Mr Lorne Smith |
| Assistant Principal – Stage 2 | Mrs Nichole Wood |
| Assistant Principal – Stage 3 | Mrs Wendy Lee |
| Assistant Principal – Curriculum | Mrs Natasha Stanford |
| Business Manager | Mrs Pat Sharp |
| HB5 – Kindergarten | Mrs Sandy Rawson |
| HB6 – Kindergarten | Mrs Jade Cranstone |
| HB10 – Kindergarten | Mrs Amanda Gillan |
| HB9 – Year 1 | Mrs Karen Ruskin |
| HB11 – Year 1 | Mrs Samantha Guest |
| HB12 – Year 1 / 2 | Mrs Belinda Johnson |
| HB13 – Year 2 | Mrs Katherina Hindson |
| HB14 – Year 2 | Mr Darryn Mills |
| HB1 – Stage 2 | Mr Nick Vrolyk |
| HB2 – Stage 2 | Mrs Rachel Kingsland / Mrs Wood (Th) |
| HB3 – Stage 2 | Mrs Jasmin Khan |
| HB4 – Stage 2 | Mrs Megan Nicolas / Mrs Wood (M) |
| HB22 | Mrs Jillian McLean |
| HB7 – Stage 3 | Mrs Lee (MTW) / Mrs Davies (TH, F) |
| HB8 – Stage 3 | Miss Madeline Foster |
| HB15 – Stage 3 | Mrs Bianca Baker |
| HB16 – Stage 3 | Mr Chayse Freyer |
| Teacher / Librarian | Mrs Sharon Gilbert |
| School counsellor | Mrs Brenda Stannard (Mon, Wed) |
| RFF program | Mrs Kerri Black (Tu-F) Ms Wendy White (Th,F) Mr Dennis Vaughan (W-F) Mrs Cherie Davies (M-W) |
| School Administration Officers | Mrs Sarah Sharpe (MTWF) Mrs Nicholson (TW) Mrs Jen Griffiths (Th) |
| School Learning Support Officers | Mrs Maree Carmody Mrs Kylie Beresford Mrs Nicole McGilvray Mrs Jen Griffiths Mrs Debbie Mortimer Mrs Melinda Burgoyne |
| General Assistant | Mr Ken Hawking |

What's Happening at Woongarra Sentral Calendar

The Parent Portal Calendar is now available in the Sentral Parent Portal. This will keep you up to date on events and activities throughout the year. Check it out in your Sentral App and remember to check in regularly.

Afternoon Departure routines

- Kindergarten students will be brought to the COLA area at 2:50 for parents to collect them.
- Year 1 students will be brought to the COLA area to be collected at 3pm.
- Parents in Kindergarten and Year 1 are asked to notify their child's teacher by a note if they are being picked up by someone else or are attending OOSH.
- Students in Kindergarten and Year 1 must be collected from their class teacher by an adult or an older sibling. Years 2-6 students are dismissed from the classrooms.
- Year 2-6 parents are asked to tell your child where to meet you in the afternoon e.g. under the COLA, side gate or front gate.

Meet the Teacher Event - Wednesday 21 February

We will kick off 2024 with a Meet the Teacher event where you can meet your child's teachers, collect information about the year ahead and get to know each other. Information regarding class routines will be available on a take home newsletter, and you get to say hello in person, ask questions and meet other families.

The P&C have lots of activities planned to make this a special community event.



Tell Us About Your Child

All students have a yellow form for you to complete to let your teacher know more about your child. We have had a great response to this in previous years and the teachers find this really useful.

About My Child 2024
Please complete for each of your children and return to your child's teacher.

Child's name

Child's class or child's teacher

My hopes and expectations for my child

Areas in which I feel my child needs further development

Positive qualities I see in my child

My child's special interests/ abilities

Any special circumstances or comments, e.g. shared custody, school pickups or OSHC

Is there anything else your child's class teacher should know?

Home Reading Workshop for Kindergarten families - Monday 12 February

Next Monday, Kindergarten families are invited to join us for a Home Reading Literacy Workshop. We scheduled this for 2pm, before pick-up time in the hope that many of you will be able to come along

"Come and read with your child at our home reading workshop on Monday"



Woongarra Public School

KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES WELCOME

Come and read with your child at our home reading workshop on Monday

This workshop will start in the hall for a short information session covering three key messages around home reading including:

- why home reading is important,
- home reading in Kindergarten and
- tips for reading with your child.

We will then invite your child to join us in the hall for you to read together.



All about stage classes

Year 3-6 classes have been formed as stage classes. The reasoning behind stage-based classes is as follows:

- The syllabus documents (by which we teach) are in stages and have been for many years.
- It acknowledges that there are significant individual differences in each child to be addressed regardless of age. NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) documents refer to "stages" of development and reflect this developmental nature of learning in young children.
- Within the same class, children will always be at different levels. Teachers recognise this and extend the work of those who learn more quickly and give more attention to those who don't.
- This places each learner at the center of the considerations of curriculum and classroom practice. Children are able to progress at their own rate without regard for restrictive 'grade' expectations.
- Remember: any class of more than 1 student is technically a 'composite', so the terminology is no longer appropriate. Legislation allows students to start school anywhere between 4½ and 6 yrs - so children have always been in multi-staged classes right from Kindy!!

If you would like any more information on our classes, class structures, or other aspects of school life at Woongarra Public School, please call the school and make an appointment to see the Assistant Principal for your child's stage.

Stationery

At Woongarra, you DO NOT need to provide any stationery or basic classroom items. The school provides all items and subscriptions required by students.



Voluntary Contributions

Our school will not request voluntary contributions from families again in 2024.

Uniform

I look forward to seeing the students continuing to show pride in themselves and the school by wearing their uniform neatly and correctly. It is important that we work together to maintain a consistently high standard. This includes black shoes for all students - black runners are acceptable. Uniforms are available from Lowes @ Lake Haven. The P&C operates a second-hand uniform stall – dates will be advised after the first meeting. Assistance is available to families who may be struggling to afford uniforms. A confidential application form is available from the office.

Please label everything!

Swimming Carnival - Thursday 15 February

Year 3-6 Swimming carnival will be held **next Thursday** at Wyong Pool. Students have received a permission note on paper, as well as an email home.



Students need to indicate whether they are:

- participating as a competitor and indicate what events they are entering e.g. 100m freestyle, or
- participating as a spectator and in modified races e.g. 25m noodle race, or
- staying at school to complete a water safety program.

Lots more information is on the permission note. Please read and return by Monday 12 February at the very latest.

School photos - Wednesday 21 February

Class photos and individual photos taken from 9.00am.

Photo envelopes have been sent home. Bring them back on the day **ONLY** to hand to the photographer – one for each child. Payment can be online or cash placed and sealed inside the envelope.

Sibling envelopes are available from the office.



Woongarra Way Program

Over the next three weeks students will be learning and revisiting the expectations for how we can Be Safe, Be Fair, Be Kind and Be Great in our school in our 'Woongarra Way' program.

15 lessons over three weeks will help students and teachers understand expected positive behaviours, rights, rules and responsibilities in the classroom, school and playground and encourage behaviour that is supportive and respectful.

| Lesson | Topic |
|--------|--|
| 1 | Be Safe in the classroom |
| 2 | Be Kind and Fair in the classroom |
| 3 | Be a Great Learner in the classroom |
| 4 | Be Safe in the Playground |
| 5 | Be Kind and Fair in the Playground |
| 6 | Be a Great Learner in the Playground |
| 7 | Playground rules – What Can I Play and Where? Page 1 |
| 8 | Playground rules – What Can I Play and Where? Page 2 |
| 9 | Fixed Equipment Powerpoint |
| 10 | Be Safe, Kind, Fair and Great in the toilets |
| 11 | Be Safe, Kind, Fair and Great in the canteen |
| 12 | Be Safe in all settings |
| 13 | Be Kind and Fair in all settings |
| 14 | Be a Great Learner in all settings |
| 15 | If things go wrong....The High Five |

Communicating with our school Guide

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

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.

Things you need to know:

- 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 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.
- 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, it helps to briefly include 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. Try to contact the 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. Remember that teachers can't check email during the school day while teaching. They may also need time to find the answer to your enquiry before replying. We endeavour to respond to emails within 3 working days.

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. There are procedures for making a complaint about staff.
- Gossip is only ever harmful. Please refrain from passing on gossip about staff, students or fellow parents / carers.

- 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, 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 Leadership Team 2024

Principal Mrs Leonie Clarkson
 Deputy Principal & Learning Support Team Coordinator Mrs Sharon Buhr
 Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction Mrs Natasha Stanford

Team Leaders:

Kindergarten Mrs Sharon Buhr
 Year 1, Year 2 Mr Lorne Smith Assistant Principal
 Year 3, Year 4 Mrs Nichole Wood Assistant Principal
 Year 5, Year 6 Mrs Wendy Lee Assistant Principal

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, the Deputy Principal and ultimately the Principal, you can contact the Education Director responsible for this school. The Director is located in the Tuggerah office of the Department of Education, ph: 4357 5300.

P&C News

Welcome Kindergarten and new families to the school

Welcome to all our new families to the new school year at Woongarra! The P&C committee are excited to welcome you to our school. We enjoyed our morning tea together this morning and it was lovely to meet our new families.

Welcome Back to School Event

We are so excited to hold a fun event to kickstart 2024! The event will be held on **Wednesday 21st February 2024, 3:30-5:30pm** and will incorporate the teacher meet & greet as well as lots of fun entertainment for the kids including face painters, balloon animals, plaster painting and more!

We are looking for a sponsor to run the BBQ for the P&C. The sponsorship would cover the cost of the BBQ and profits to be donated to our P&C with the business cooking the sausages, whilst being able to advertise their business to our school

community. This is a great way to meet and be part of our local school community. If you are interested and want to have a chat to find out more, please reach out to the P&C through our FB page or email woongarrahpandc@gmail.com.

Parents, friends, grandparents, or carers - if you can help in any capacity during the afternoon, please reach out to the P&C ASAP to let us know. This event cannot go ahead if we don't get any volunteers. We appreciate any amount of time given!

Athletes Foot

Don't forget! Athletes Foot at Tuggerah are still supporting our P&C. If you mention our school when you purchase any shoes at the store, they will make a \$5 donation to our P&C. This can be done all year round when buying your new shoes. Thank you to Athletes Foot and thank you to those families who have purchased new shoes with them!

Photo Frame Fundraiser

We have once again opened the photo frame fundraiser with [Blue Fox Designs](#) to provide you with a special offer on a personalised school photo frame, as pictured. More information about these frames can be found on the website. Blue Fox Design are a local business based right here in Woongarra and will be donating a portion from each frame sold back to the P&C, how awesome is this!

You can order as many as you like (even if the kids aren't at Woongarra) and they have a variety of payment options on their website to suit everyone including Afterpay and Pay in 4. Scan the QR code or



In Partnership with



**\$5 DONATED
BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL**

Every time you buy a pair of shoes.

The School Rewards Program is a great fundraising opportunity, with \$5 from every pair of shoes purchased being donated back to your school.

This applies to the whole family across our fantastic range of school, sports, work and casual shoes.

Ask one of our friendly team in store for more details!

*Visit www.theathletesfoot.com.au/school-rewards for more details

School Rewards

Tuggerah
Shop 1021, Westfield Shoppingtown
020 4353 4447

follow the easy steps to order yours today. Collection will be from the school with the date TBA. With school photos just around the corner, no longer do you need to keep those pictures on the fridge, drawer or in a cupboard. Go ahead and order yours today!

Upcoming Meetings 2024

Do you want to have your say in how the P&C plans future events and fundraisers? We'd love to hear from you! Our first meeting for the new year is on **Wednesday 7th February at 7:30pm via Zoom**. New faces and voices are always welcome; you can even wear your PJs and bring a drink of choice! Find the link for the meeting on our Facebook page.

The AGM is also booked for **Monday 18th March at 9.15am** in the school hall with a general meeting following. If you are interested in joining the P&C or nominating yourself for an executive position, please email the secretary via our email by the start of March. Please note that if you want to vote in the AGM you must be a financial member of the P&C by the end of the meeting on Wednesday 7th February.

Grant Writers

The P&C are looking to apply for grants in 2024 in our local area. Do you, or do you know someone that has experience in grant writing? We would love to hear from you. Please reach out via email (woongarrahpandc@gmail.com).

Second Hand Uniform Donations Wanted

Our volunteer run shop is always looking for clean, well looked after, uniform donations - especially those smaller sizes. Please leave any donations you may have with the ladies in the front office. Dates the uniform shop opens varies but will always be advertised on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/woongarrahpandc>). Currently there are some smaller sizes (4 and 6s) available.

Wishing all our WPS families the best start to 2024!
Rebecca (Secretary) and the P&C team

Woongarra Public School P&C & Blue Fox Designs presents **School Years Frame Fundraiser**

\$60 each
* Each frame is personalised with child's name and is available in two finishes - White and Timber.



How to order:

- Scan the QR code to order, or
- Go to www.bluefoxdesigns.com.au
- Select the "Woongarra Public School P&C - School Years Photo Frame" from the shop
- Select the finish and add your child's name
- Add your child's full name and class to the order
- Complete order and payment online
- Collect your order from the school on collection day

Orders Close
Sunday 31st December 2023

Collection Day
Collection will be available from the school when orders are complete. The P&C will be in touch.

Benefits:

- Purchase a beautiful frame to display all your child school photos
- Fundraising for your school
- Support a local business

for more info
www.bluefoxdesigns.com.au



UPCOMING EVENTS

WOONGARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL
Parents & Citizens Association

| | |
|--|---------------|
| P&C General Meeting Our first meeting back for 2024 will be a Zoom Meeting from 7:30pm. All welcome to attend. Meeting link is on our Facebook Page. | FEB 7 |
| Welcome Back to School Our fun Meet and Greet the Teacher event with lots of fun activities for the students including a face painting, balloon animals, a BBQ and more! | FEB 21 |
| P&C AGM The Annual General Meeting where a new executive committee is elected for 2024. Please put forward any nominations by the start of March. | MAR 18 |