



Wallaby Whisper

The newsletter for Wallabadah Public School and its community.

“Excellence in Learning”

Term 1, Week 5 ~ 28th February, 2014

I am aware Mrs York wrote in a Principals message about the increasing number of students left unsupervised in the playground before and after school. It has been a concern for a number of years and the staff endeavours to supervise children within the DEC guidelines. I must point out that while all staff arrive early and stay back late to do preparation or attend meetings there is no playground supervision before 8:45am and after 3:45pm.

To overcome the supervision of children who arrive early on the High School bus, children are asked to sit on the Library veranda and quietly read. The same requirement is expected while they are waiting for the “late” and High School buses. There is no formal supervision.

I understand that many parents have commitments at work which require them to leave early in the morning. However, the Department of Education and Communities clearly states, *“It is **not** the responsibility of schools to provide free child minding services for students for extended periods before and after school. Schools are not expected to provide supervision for students any earlier than the half hour before normal school classes commence in the morning. When normal classes finish in the afternoon, it is expected that students will safely depart the school as soon as possible.”*

These regulations are put in place to ensure the safety of students and eliminate potential dangerous situations. In future, it may be necessary for you to make arrangements with friends or neighbours for the supervision of your children. Many employers will be sympathetic to parents with responsibilities for caring for children and will allow some flexibility in parents' working hours. By law, employers are restricted from treating an employee detrimentally on the grounds of their status as a carer.

Whatever arrangements you make, you need to understand that **you remain legally responsible for your child prior to 8.45am when supervision begins.** Similarly, all students should leave the school grounds as soon as practicable after 3.15pm. The only exceptions to this are those students who catch the Howards bus arriving from Quirindi at 4.00pm.

Christopher Jackson
Principal

Small school “BIG” opportunities!

How does your child leave school?

There have been a number of incidents when staff has not been made aware of changes to routine when children are going home. It is essential that parents and carers notify the school to let us know of these changes. We are currently updating our records and refining the departure procedures so would appreciate all parents to check the information on the letter sent out today and see if this is the normal way your child comes home from school.

Coming Events

TERM 1

March

Blandford Horse Sports
LPSC Recycling Presentations
Area Swimming
AGM

3rd
4th
10th
24th

Lunch Orders

Thank you to Vicki Hawthorne for making lunches on Monday. Delores Nankivell is rostered on for Monday, 3rd March.



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Brodie Nankivell and Ashton Sweeney who celebrated their Birthdays this week. We hope you both had a very Happy Birthday.

STOP, THINK DO

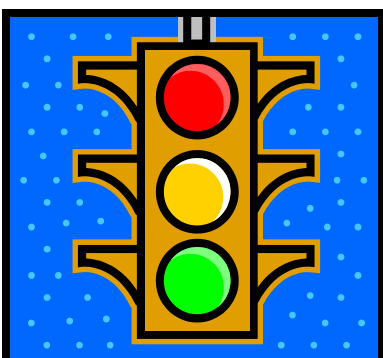
STOP, THINK, DO is a peer support programme endorsed by N.S.W Department of Education for use in schools. It has operated very successfully at Wallabadah for 16 years.

The aim of the programme is to develop and improve children's social skills especially through learning conflict resolution strategies. It encourages children to accept responsibility for their actions while learning mediation skills.

Our Mediators, at present 3 Year 6 students, are rostered on duty in the playground each day.

When minor conflicts arise they assist to "Not React" but to

"STOP, THINK" about what caused the problem-then consider possible solutions. Staff are always close by should mediation be difficult. Mediators also ensure playground safety rules are being followed.



Rule of the Week

No running on any hard surfaces at anytime.

Awards

Kyiah Holland for listening to the mediators
Jayde Smith for always following school rules.

Playground safety

On Monday the school was approached by a concerned parent about the condition of the trees in our playground after the recent tragic accident in a Sydney school. Our children have been told to keep clear of the large gum and peppercorn trees in the back playground where they play. On Wednesday a tree doctor who was delivering wood chip looked at the two trees of concern and said that both were healthy and well balanced. Since then a DEC directive has been issued (see below) and the school has already engaged an arborist to assess all our trees under the DEC Policy.

If you still have any concerns feel free to contact the Principal.

Dear Principal

The Department has commenced a review of existing practices in the management of trees on school properties, based on the advice of tree management and safety experts. This will lead to updated advice and systems for all schools.

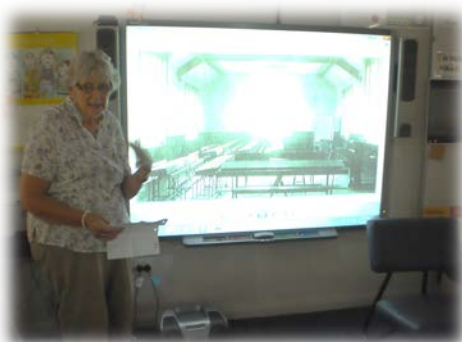
*While this work is underway, all **schools are directed to engage qualified arborists as soon as practicable to review the safety condition of trees on school grounds.** Schools are to engage an arborist to review trees that are overhanging school buildings and playgrounds, or any other areas used by students and staff. Based on the arborist reports, the Department will work with local councils so that necessary work required for safety reasons may be undertaken.*

Priority is to be given to tall trees and gum trees.

Schools are asked to take all reasonable measures to complete the reviews by the end of the second term of school.

The cost of any work required for safety reasons will be met by the Department without affecting school operating budgets.

Your local Asset Management Unit will be able to assist you with further advice in relation to engaging an arborist, if required.



General Assembly

Thank you Mrs Clark for a very informative talk on Old School Days. The students enjoyed hearing stories about your experiences at school. We learnt about inkwells, slate pads and what it was like without computers, smart boards and the internet.

Woolworths Earn & Learn Program

Thankyou to everyone who brought in Woolworths Earn & Learn tokens last year. Because of your generosity we were able to order some art supplies for the students.

Thank you!



P & C News

Reminder: Save the Date- AGM 24th March, 7pm @ Marshal McMahon. Everyone is welcome. Please come along to the meeting. Executive member position will be available. For any one that wishes to be a committee member, it is a cost of \$2.00.

For the upcoming Horse Sports on September 1st 2014. We are giving the opportunity for families to obtain to sponsorship for the Championship rugs or any other form of sponsorship. Please contact Mandy 0408 669 011 or Vicki 0487 266 436 for further information. This is a P& C major fundraising event for the year.

No assembly was held this week.



Awards

K-1-2 Class

Natalie Payne for effort in spelling dictation.

Sophie Tacon for showing improvement in reading groups.

Dempsey Smith for excellent recall of facts-addition to 20.

Mrs Roseby

Brian Stocks for enjoying time in the Library.

Sienna Cronin for showing keen interest in Library.

Mrs Kemble

Logan Hall for enthusiasm towards reading.

3-5-6 Class

Joshua Hall for showing initiative on the computer. Well done.

Brock Abrahams for writing a great innovation on Storm Boy.



Wallaby Week Ahead Term 1, 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 6 Blandford Horse Sports	LPSC Recycling Presentations			3-6 Assembly

EVENTS IN THE LIVERPOOL PLAINS

March		
1&2	Art and All that Jazz	The Wallaby Art Group's Art Festival continues throughout the weekend with stalls, workshops and entertainment. At Wallabadah Hall.
1&2	Royal Theatre Movie Weekend	1.30pm: The Railway Man (M) 4.00pm: the Wolf of Wall Street (R18+)
1	Ovarian Cancer Fundraiser	Movie at the Royal Theatre: the Book Thief (PG) tickets: \$30.00
8	QUOTA Markets	Fresh produce, arts and crafts at Rose Lee Park, Loder Street, Quirindi Contact: Jan 6747 1490
8	Westpac Helicopter Fundraising Ball	Semi-formal dinner dance with entertainment and auction with all Proceeds going to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Lindsay 6746 1394
12	International Women's Day Dinner	Impact Café, 6.30pm. Cost: \$15 for a two course dinner. RSVP by 10th March to Belinda Eykamp on 6746 1755.
15	Royal Theatre Movie Weekend	1.30pm: Robocop (M) 4.00pm: 12 Years a Slave (M15+)
15 - 21	Seniors Week	Seniors Week is celebrated at various venues throughout the Shire. For more information contact Belinda Eykamp on 6746 1755.
15-16	Quirindi Pony Club Jumping Equit.	For more information contact Simon Smith on 0428 485 355.
22	Quirindi Campdraft	Horsemanship at its best as top local and interstate competitors have it out!
23	Quirindi Village Miniature Railway	For more information contact Karen McGarry on 6746 3446. Scenic rides for young and old from 10.00am to 3pm. Other days and birthday party bookings by arrangement with Roger on 6747 1264
29-30	Royal Theatre Movie Weekend	1.30pm: Las Vegas (M) 4.00pm: Dallas Buyers Club (M15+)