



WYONG CREEK PS NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 3



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Written by David Ireland

What a great feeling there is at our school at the moment. The students have made a great start to the term with lots of enthusiasm for learning and to see one another after their Autumn break. It's always great to see a sense of community and support for one other in our wonderful students. As I often say, we have delightful students and families here at WCPS.

On Monday April 25, we had a number of students and staff members march at Wyong for ANZAC day. It was great having the students so proud to represent our school and participate in one of our national significant days. Thank you to all involved and for the family support on the day. You may have noticed some of the photos shared on Facebook.

On Friday in week 1, we were able to run our school cross country competition. It was a very wet track but our students participated with much enthusiasm and many achieved goals they had set for themselves. The support of one another was again evident. Thank you to the families that were able to attend and add to the atmosphere of the event. The zone cross country will be on June 8.

There are lots of things happening this term, with a busy start for many of us, including the students involved in sport, official presentations and music.

Our parents have been involved in Interrelate and a Mother's day afternoon tea.

We have a K-2 reading information session, an athletics carnival, zone cross country, NAPLAN, NAIDOC week at the end of term, peer support and more.

Of course, I encourage everyone to check FaceBook regularly, our newsletter and class Dojo to keep up to date with happenings at the school.



K-2 Reading Information Session for parents

This coming Monday we are holding a home reading information session in our Kindergarten room. This session is designed to assist parents in helping their child with home reading. It will explain a major change in how we teach reading, moving from a whole language to a phonics based approach and provide tips to parents on how to assist their child in the daily task of reading at home.

The session will be run by Mrs Phillips, Mrs Herbert and Mrs Thompson and will run from 3pm till 4pm. Mr Ireland will provide supervision on the playground for any children who are unable to have alternative arrangements made for them.

Thank You

Thank you to Renee and Barbara for all of the arrangements they made to help make Mother's Day extra special this year. These two wonderful ladies arranged our Friday stall as well as hosted afternoon tea for around 25 of our wonderful school mothers.

NAPLAN

This week years 3 and 5 are participating in the NAPLAN tests.

There are four tests overall that are run over Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week.



Easing of COVID-19 Close Contact guidelines in NSW from April 22

The NSW government updated guidelines means that from the beginning of Term 2, Students and staff who are identified as close contacts will be able to attend school following certain guidelines.

This will enable staff and students who are close contacts and have no symptoms to continue to attend school if they follow guidelines agreed with NSW Health.

Note that staff and students who have had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 12 weeks, do not have to comply with these guidelines if they become a household or close contact and are not required to self-isolate or test unless they develop new COVID-19 symptoms.

Close contacts attending school (including residential settings such as boarding schools) will need to adhere to the following in addition to the NSW Health guidelines

(<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid19/management/household-contacts>):

They must notify the school if they are intending to return under this provision. Schools will need to maintain this record on their local management systems.

They should conduct a daily rapid antigen test (RAT) and return a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 school days.

No student or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps.

Any visitor to a school site who is a close contact is required to advise the school that they are a close contact before they come on site. These visitors should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result before attending. They must also wear a mask indoors at all times. Schools should consider if the visit can be conducted virtually.

As always, you can access the guidelines at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families> for relevant, up to date information.



Additional RAT supply to support testing for close contacts

Additional RATs will be dispatched to schools from Tuesday 26 April to support staff and families to comply with daily testing requirements for close contacts coming returning to school. The delivery is expected to be completed within 3 weeks. This supply will contain 1 multi-pack of at least 5 RAT kits for every student. WCPS has yet to receive our allocation but these will be sent home when they are received. If you need additional tests, please make contact and we should be able to support until supplies are expended.

Attendance

Everyone has a role supporting positive school attendance. Regular attendance helps students to:

- develop a sense of belonging
- develop and maintain friendships
- be more engaged at school
- progress with their learning
- be more aware of career and life options.



Our school measure for attendance is to have student's attend 90% or more of the time. Of course, over 70% of students already do this but our school measure is to have this closer to 80% of our student population (namely for 2022: A minimum of 78.9% of students attend 90% of the time or greater).

Interestingly, even 90% attendance is still one day off per fortnight. Every day counts. Missing just one day a fortnight can amount to 4 weeks of lost learning over a year. Over their school life, this can equal one year of missed learning. I do encourage all families to value attendance and unless your child is sick, to aim for them to attend every day.

Reports

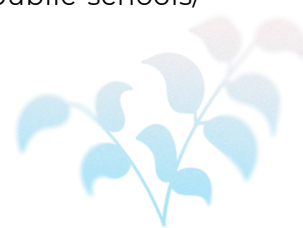
Term two is always a busy time for teachers as they begin the term assessing and preparing the Semester 1 reports. This process has reverted back to our normal procedure. Families will receive student academic reports in the final week of this term.

Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2022

Online applications for Year 5 placement in an opportunity class in 2023 open on Tuesday 26 April 2022 and close on Friday 13 May 2022. Parents and carers will be able to apply from this website at that time. Opportunity classes cater for academically gifted students with high potential who may otherwise be without sufficient classmates of their own academic standard. These classes help these students to learn by grouping them with students of similar ability, using specialised teaching methods and materials. Parents apply when their children are in Year 4. Successful students are offered placement, and if the parents accept the offer, the students attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6 at the relevant public school. This is a two-year placement program and there is no provision to apply for Year 6 entry only. In the case of Chittaway Bay and most public schools, students who accept a place in an opportunity class will leave their current school to attend the school with the opportunity class. Local OC classes are at Wyong Public School and Gosford Public School.

Parents and carers should read Applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2022 (<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/49795d1c-b339-43e9-aa48-02e496d165f1/1/oc-applicpack.pdf>) for information about the process and important dates. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Thursday 14 July 2022. Late applications cannot be accepted.

We encourage parents to monitor this website (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>) regularly for further updates on the opportunity class process for placement in 2022.



Assisting your child with effective communication.

At Wyong Creek Public School students have a variety of ways in which they can practise their talking and listening skills from every day class or small group discussions to debating, public speaking and class presentations.

The following are some tips on how you can help your child at home.

- Avoid interrupting your child when they're talking and listen carefully to what they have to say.
- Use everyday opportunities to talk with and listen to your child as they share things that are of interest or importance to them.
- Show your child you are interested in what they are saying when they are speaking by giving nods, smiles, sounds, supportive words and gestures. The positive feedback helps reinforce to them that what they say is important and worthwhile.
- If your child has trouble remembering things said to them, it's a good idea to encourage them to repeat in their mind what has been said, then retell it in their own words. Making notes can help if they have to do a task.
- If you are planning something such as a party or an outing, try having a brainstorming session with your child. You can do this just by listening and sharing ideas or by writing them down together.
- Discuss common dates on a family calendar, such as public holidays, and have your child mark in important events.
- From the calendar, talk about days, months and years in relation to events such as birthdays and other special occasions.
- When walking or travelling together, talk about street names and the meaning of signs, etc. You could discuss anything known about names and signs encountered (e.g. give an explanation about how street names may have come about).
- Information taken from: Eight Ways to help your child with talking and listening skills.
(<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/learning/english/english-tips/eight-ways-to-help-your-child-with-talking-and-listening-skills#More2>)

Kind regards,
David Ireland
Principal

Kindergarten 2023

We are currently taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2023. If you are thinking of enrolling your child or know of anyone looking at enrolling, we encourage you to make contact with the school as soon as possible. We have a long list of out of zone enquires and we cannot move further with these until we have ensured priority is given to local enrolments.





Lunch time Clubs

Our Year 6 leaders have been doing an awesome job running different lunch time clubs for the students to enjoy. Well don Year 6!



PSSA Softball Round 1

WCPS versed Wyong PS last Friday. Unfortunately we lost but it was a brilliant, close scoring game! The boys absolutely rocked the fielding, with special mention to Kobi and Hunter who worked in synch as catcher and pitcher to strike out so many of the opposing batters. Well done to all the players for their sportsmanship, resilience and team spirit!



SESSION 1 PEER SUPPORT

Written by Maja Nova

Our whole school will be starting Peer Support sessions in the later part of this week.

Peer Support is run by the Stage 3 students who are trained as Peer Support Leaders and will facilitate the learning in small cohorts of 8-10 students each week.

The children will be participating in a new module, Moving Forward which focuses on resilience. The experiences in the module help children to identify their qualities and strengths, develop skills, respond with a range of strategies and seek support when faced with challenges. In this session, the children will establish connections with the other members of their group and develop their group agreement to enable them to work well together. The children will discuss an example of a challenging situation and some resilient and non resilient responses.

You might like to discuss with your child what they can do to help them take an active role in Peer Support.

Thanks, Ms Nova

Excursions

K-2 Reptile Park - 26th May Cost \$30 - payment due by 20/5

Stage 3 Canberra excursion -18-20 June 22 - Cost - \$370 payment in full due 10th June

Advance notice - Stage 2 overnight camp is currently being organised - probably in Week 1 Term 3 approx cost \$200 - confirmation of details, dates and cost to come



Reminders

- Bookclub orders close Friday 13th May
- K-2 Parent Reading information session - Monday 16th May 3pm



P&C News

Canteen - Recess only this week
\$1 for food items; \$2.50 for drinks

P&C Meeting - Monday 16th May 7pm in the
library - all welcome

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea - thank you to everyone that attended on Monday. It was lovely to see so many people, especially some of our new mums. We hope you all enjoyed meeting and chatting with everyone whilst have a cuppa and a scone or cake.

