



5/6M Newsletter Term 1 2020



For those of you that don't know me, my name is Virginia McKenna and I have been teaching at Wyrallah Road Public School since 2012, where I have had the privilege of teaching across every Stage. This year I am returning to Stage 3, which is very exciting. Prior to teaching, I worked for 25 years with NSW Ambulance as a Paramedic. I am married and I have three children, who are now all out of school. I enjoy sport, cooking, maths, reading, technology and craft and hope that I can help engender a love of some of these in your children.

I adore teaching and watching children learn and become independent. I am planning to have an incredible year with the students and their families and it is my hope that I can extend their learning and get them thinking outside the box.

Please find attached a comprehensive list of information to provide you with all you will need to know about the routines and organisation of Stage 3.

We will be holding a parent 'Meet and Greet' afternoon on Tuesday, 4 February where you will have the opportunity to pop in to your child's classroom and ask any questions you may have. If this time doesn't suit you please don't hesitate to make an appointment. I look forward to meeting you over the next few weeks!

Our Stage 3 Team

6W - Mr Malcolm Wheeler (Assistant Principal)

6P - Mr John Wilton and Mr Akash Pett

5/6M - Mrs Virginia McKenna

5N - Mr Michael Nind

5L - Mrs Sabrina Ludlow

4/5E - Ms Karen Eakin

<p>Important Dates</p>	<p><i>Term 1 will be an 11 week term, concluding on Thursday, 9 April</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, 13 February (Week 3) – Swimming Carnival • Wednesday, 18 March (Week 8) 2020 Rivers Roadshow (Year 5 only) • Friday, 20 March (Week 8) – Harmony Day • Thursday, 26 March (Week 9) – School Photos • Wednesday, 1 April (Week 10) – Parent Teacher Interviews 3:15-7:15pm
<p>Positive Behaviour for Learning PBL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyrallah Road Public School is a 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' (PBL) school, taking a school wide, systematic and proactive approach to explicitly teaching expected behaviours. • As a PBL school, teachers at WRPS explicitly teach expected behaviours covering the many different school settings. This is reinforced by both our formal and informal recognition systems.
<p>Weekly Organisation</p>	<p>Music: Thursday Technology: Thursday Sport: Tuesday Enrichment groups: Wednesday Scripture: Wednesday PE: Daily Whole school assembly (even weeks): Friday afternoons in school hall from 2:10pm - 2:50pm. All parents are welcome to attend.</p>




<p>Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At WRPS we understand and value the importance of effective communication and building relationships with our parents. Communication is one of the most important parts of the relationship between school and home as it helps us to better understand your child. We recognise that every child is a unique individual and begins school with varying social, emotional and learning needs. • If you need to get a message to me during the day, please ring the office. My day can become very busy and I don't always check my emails until after the school day. If you have a non-urgent message, I can be contacted via the office or email. I will only be corresponding during business hours which are 8:30 to 4:30 weekdays. • If you would like to organise a time to have a chat with any of the teachers, please ring or email to make an appointment. • There will be times that we may contact you via phone or email. We like to contact parents to share wonderful learning moments, if we have any concerns or need to clarify any confusions regarding your child. We also may contact parents to discuss areas that may need some extra attention and a collaborative approach. • Our school has an excellent website and Facebook page, which highlights many exciting things that happen at our school. Our website contains information about individual classes and notes for upcoming events and excursions.
<p>Library Borrowing Day</p>	<p>Thursday – Even Weeks</p> <p>The library is also open 2nd half lunch every day and all students are encouraged to utilise this time for borrowing outside of their class borrowing time.</p>
<p>Curriculum Overview Term 1</p>	<p><u>Integrated Unit</u></p> <p>The Great Barrier Reef: Students will explore how human involvement can have a positive and negative effect on the marine environment in Australia. They will study the living things found within the Great Barrier Reef and explore the structural features that allow them to survive in their natural environment. Students will use their creative design skills to plan for the protection of an Australian native animal and their young.</p> <p><u>Mathematics-</u> Term 1 focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place value of numbers of any size • Collection of data and data displays • Addition and Subtraction • Multiplication and division (order of operations, factors, integers, prime numbers) • Identifying and naming properties of 3D objects • Measuring and constructing angles • Fractions and decimals • Measuring length, calculating perimeters and converting between units of length • Locating and describing position on maps using grid references • Constructing and completing number patterns • Manipulates, draws and calculates the area of 2D shapes • 24 hour time and am and pm notation in real life situations



<p>Curriculum Overview Term 1 (cont)</p>	<p>English:</p> <p>Reading – This term students will focus on learning explicit comprehension skills which will be introduced one at a time this term. These skills are: predicting, monitoring, visualising, questioning, making connections and summarising. The students will engage in whole class, small group and independent activities focused on these skills and strategies.</p> <p>Writing – Students will be learning about the ‘Seven Steps to Writing Success’ and learning how to embed these strategies into different writing genres. They will learn about the writing process including brainstorming, planning, drafting, editing and publishing across the school year.</p> <p>Spelling – Students will continue to learn through the Soundwaves spelling program in 2020. Each week, students will learn a new phoneme (basic unit of sound) and the associated grapheme (letter selections to represent the sounds) choices. Students engage in whole class interactive lessons, small group work and online games as part of this program.</p>
<p>Crunch and Sip</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each day students are encouraged to eat a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables and drink water during the morning session. This gives students an extra boost to get through the long morning session while they are working in class. • Fruit is available at the canteen and needs to be purchased before school.
<p>Attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision for students begins at 8:30am. Please do not drop your child off before this time. • Parents requiring earlier drop off may wish to contact ‘Helping Hands’ before and after school care. Contact number: 0448125995 Email address: wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au • Parents are reminded that children must come to school every day unless they are ill, have medical appointments or there are exceptional family circumstances. • If children are absent from school, parents are required to provide the school with an acceptable explanation within seven days of the absence. • Explanations can be submitted via a written note, email to the teacher or through the SkoolBag Mobile App (search Wyrallah Road Public School in the App Store)
<p>Assemblies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every fortnight on a Friday (even weeks of the term) there will be a whole school assembly in the hall. All parents are warmly invited to attend. • All classes will have a turn throughout the year at performing in a class item. Additional opportunities for performances may arise through enrichment groups and extra-curricular activities. Parents will be advised about when these are scheduled through the school newsletter. • 5/6M Assembly performance will be Friday 6th March - Week 6
<p>Enrichment Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once again enrichment groups will be on offer for students in Years 3-6. Students will be able to participate in one 45 minute activity each week from Week 5 Term 1 to Week 3 Term 2 and then will be given the opportunity to choose another activity that will carry into Term 3. Their effort and achievement will be reported upon in Semester 1 and 2 reports. • Enrichment Groups will occur on Wednesdays between 11.25pm and 12:10pm.



<p>Homework and Home Reading</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework will be handed out each Monday morning and needs to be returned each Friday. • Home reading is very important as it allows children to practise their reading skills and improve their reading ability. • Please remember to sign your child’s home reading log and send it to school to be marked off. If your child has misplaced their log please let me know and I will organise a replacement. 												
<p>Equipment Requirements</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6 Lead Pencils HB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Erasers Pack 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Compact 2 hole sharpener</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clear Plastic Ruler 30cm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glue Stick 35g</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highlighters Pack 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whiteboard Marker Blue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A4 Button Document Wallet (any colour)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A4 20 Pocket Display book</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pens black, blue and red</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Your choice of coloured pencils</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Item Description	6 Lead Pencils HB	Erasers Pack 3	Compact 2 hole sharpener	Clear Plastic Ruler 30cm	Glue Stick 35g	Highlighters Pack 4	Whiteboard Marker Blue	A4 Button Document Wallet (any colour)	A4 20 Pocket Display book	Pens black, blue and red	<i>Your choice of coloured pencils</i>
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<p>Excursions</p>	<p>Year 6 will again be travelling to Canberra and Sydney for their excursion. Information regarding payment details was sent home at the end of 2019 and should now have been returned to school together with the deposit of \$85. If you have not paid the deposit please do so by Friday, 14 February as numbers will be confirmed with the bus company on this date. This will allow for venues to be confirmed and the total excursion cost to be finalised. More information will be coming home closer to the excursion regarding equipment and itinerary once numbers have been confirmed with the bus company.</p> <p>Year 5 will be attending Camp Koinonia at Evans Head. Information regarding payment details was sent home at the end of 2019 and should now have been returned to school together with the deposit of \$80. Students will have the opportunity to participate in many outdoor activities including surfing, stand up paddle boarding, laser tag and much, much more.</p> <p>All information about these two excursions can be found under the ‘permission note’ tab on the school website.</p>												
<p>Scripture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture lessons are on Wednesday afternoons for half an hour. These lessons are conducted by volunteers and are supervised by your child’s classroom teacher. • Students who do not participate in religious education will be engaged in independent revision activities supervised by a classroom teacher. 												



School Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is easier than ever to pay school fees with parent online payment (POP). This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Log onto our school site at:- www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au• If paying online does not suit, you can also pay in person at the front office (EFTPOS or cash) or write a cheque made out to Wyrallah Road Public School. \$55 per student, \$100 for two children or \$130 for a family of 3 or more children.• Although voluntary, school fees are a vital part of our budget each year and pay for essential items in classrooms such as pencils, books and art supplies. Thank you in advance for your prompt payment.
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So please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or information you need to share.

Contact details:

Virginia McKenna

Email: virginia.mckenna1@det.nsw.edu.au

School office hours: 8:30 – 3:30pm

Phone: 02 6621 3363