



1M Class Newsletter Term 1 2019



For those of you that don't know me, my name is Virginia McKenna. I have been at Wyrallah Road Public School since 2012 where I have had the privilege of teaching across every Stage. This year I will be on Year 1 again, which is very exciting. Prior to teaching I worked for 25 years with NSW Ambulance as a Paramedic. I am married and I have 3 children, 2 are in high school and one has started university. I enjoy sport, cooking, 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'm planning to have an incredible year with the students and their families. It will be a year for building on the wonderful learning they started in Kindergarten and an opportunity to open their world to new and amazing things.

	Class Teachers:	Support Staff:
<i>Stage One Team</i>	2B Mrs Katelyn Bignell (Assistant Principal) 2E Mr Jason Earley 2W Mrs Joelle Walker 1/2T Mrs Maegen Toms (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Emily Stevens (Thurs-Fri) 1B Miss Kim Ballard 1G Mrs Renee Golding 1M Mrs Virginia McKenna	Tech Time – Mr Mark Platt R.F.F – Mrs Fay Browning Music – Mrs Suzanne Roberts Year 1 School Learning Support Officers: Mr Jamie Cottee Mrs Silvana Barlow Kath Molloy Mr Steve Livingstone
<i>Weekly Organisation</i>	<p>Library borrowing: Thursday (even weeks) Computers: Thursday with Mr Platt Sport: Friday This term, sport comprises a variety of cooperative and team games that build teamwork and further develop fundamental movement skills. Please ensure that your child has their hat, water bottle and appropriate shoes on this day. Year 2 may wear sports uniform on this day. PE: Daily- Please ensure your child has a school hat every day. Music: Thursday with Mrs. Roberts. Homework: Homework occurs weekly and will begin in Week 3. Whole school assembly: Every second Friday afternoon (even weeks) 2:10-2:50pm in the school hall. All are welcome to attend this assembly. Begins in Week 4, 22 February. Super Speakers: In Stage 1, rather than just 'News', students receive topics on which they will make a short presentation each fortnight. These will include a variety of specific topics and some 'free choice'. Preparation for this forms part of our weekly homework. An outline of this term's topics and your child's Super Speakers day is attached. Scripture: Wednesday afternoons.</p>	
<i>Scripture</i>	<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. 	



<p><i>General School Information</i> – Routines</p>	<p>Bell times- Supervision for students begins at 8:30.</p> <p>Parents requiring earlier drop off may wish to contact ‘Helping Hands’ after school care. Contact number: 0448125995 Email: wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au</p> <p>8:55 - First bell for morning assembly then class begins 11:00 - 11:25 - Recess 12:55 - 1:45 - Lunch 2:55 – School departure procedure 3:00 – Final bell</p> <p>Late to School A parent will need to accompany student to the office for a late note to be taken to their teacher.</p> <p>Early Pick Up Parent will need to obtain a sign out note from the front office before collecting your child.</p> <p>Change in Pick Up Please notify your child’s teacher if there is a change in routine.</p> <p>Afternoon Procedure All students assemble under the shelter at 2:55 to be supervised by staff for their departure from the school. There are designated lines for carpark, parent pick up, buses, walkers and ‘Helping Hands’ after school care. Parents are asked to collect their child from the designated areas and not from the shelter area.</p>
<p><i>Communication</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your child is away from school for any reason (being family commitments or illness) could you please send a note with your child the day they return explaining their absences or use our Skoolbag app. It is a legal requirement to report absences. • 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, please ring or email to make an appointment. • 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><i>Curriculum Overview Term 1</i></p>	<p>English: Reading groups occur daily and operate on a rotating basis. Students are organised into small groups and work directly with the teacher on specific reading skills and strategies specific to that group. Groups not working directly with the teacher, engage independently in literacy tasks that support their spelling, phonics, handwriting, reading, comprehension and writing development until it is their turn to read. Students are also engaged in modelled reading sessions where specifically chosen texts are read by the teacher and discussed as a class over several sessions. Many of our writing tasks stem from these books. Our writing focus this term centres on recount.</p> <p>Spelling – In Week 5 this term the Stage 1 teachers will be undergoing training for a new spelling program. This program will be rolling out across Years 1-6. Each week students will be working on a phoneme (basic unit of sound) focus. You may notice this in your child’s weekly homework.</p> <p>Maths: We will be covering syllabus strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability, underpinned by the processes and skills of Working Mathematically. A typical maths lesson will begin with a warm up activity or game to engage</p>



	<p>students and revise skills. The body of the session will include explicit teaching of skills and opportunities for students to consolidate their understanding, practise those skills and discuss their findings. This may happen in a whole class setting, small group or individual basis, depending on the topic. Tasks are matched to the ability and specific learning needs of the student. Supporting our daily Mathematics lessons is the TEN program (Targeted Early Numeracy) which consists of short, focussed, ten minute sessions that build students' number sense and early arithmetic strategies through games and simple activities. Students are tracked as they move through developmental stages of their mathematical learning and activities tailored to suit.</p> <p>Integrated Unit: In our Term 1 unit, 'Footprints from the Past', students will explore significant people, events, places and sites in the local community and discuss what aspects of the past can be seen today. Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills drawn from the History, Geography, Science and Technology, Creative Arts and English syllabuses.</p>
<p><i>Crunch and Sip</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each day, students are encouraged to eat a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable and drink water during the morning session. This gives students an extra boost to get through the long morning session. If required, fruit is available at the canteen and needs to be purchased before school. • Only unpackaged/ unprocessed fruit, vegetables and water is consumed at this time and lessons continue as students eat.
<p><i>Equipment Requirements</i></p>	<p>In Stage One, all necessary stationary and equipment is provided. Items such as pencil cases etc. become an unnecessary distraction and we would prefer that they be left at home. Your child will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plastic folder with a snap lock clip (please label with your child's name). These will be used daily for home reading and communication • Art shirt / old t-shirt (please label with your child's name) • Pump soap • A box of tissues <p>This just ensures that we have plenty of tissues and soap on hand, particularly over the winter months.</p> 
<p><i>Important Dates</i></p>	<p>Swimming Carnival: Tuesday, 12th February (only for those students turning 8 and over this year who <u>can confidently swim 50 metres unassisted</u>)</p> <p>Harmony Day: Thursday, 21 March</p> <p>School Photos: Thursday, 28 March</p> <p>Parent-Teacher interviews: Tuesday, 26th March 3:15pm-7:15pm</p>
<p><i>Homework and Home Reading</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written homework will be handed out each week. Homework is a revision of the work covered in class during the previous weeks, Home Reading and preparing for their 'Super Speaker' task. Homework gives students the opportunity to practise what they have learned and gives parents an insight into the content being taught in class. • Homework will be handed out each Monday and needs to be returned each Friday. • Students are encouraged to read for at least 15 minutes each evening and log this time in their Home Reading Journal. • Students will receive an award at the Stage 1 assembly for every 20 nights of home reading they complete. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Reading is vitally important to your child's reading development. Reading aloud to an adult each night allows them to practise the reading skills learnt at school and improve their confidence and reading ability. Students are provided with a reading log to record each session of home reading they undertake. Please remember to sign your child's home reading log each time they read to you and send it to school to be marked



	<p>off. If your child misplaces their log please let me know and I will organise a replacement. A plastic file/ folder with a snap clip is a great way to keep both the book and your child's reading log protected when coming to and from school.</p>
<p><i>Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>At Wyrallah Road we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful • Responsible • Safe <p>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 system.</p> <p>Class Dojo is our in-class rewards system. While each teacher implements class dojo in their own unique way, the main purpose of this tool is to reinforce positive student behaviour within the classroom context. Class dojo is based upon a classroom culture where students have their own unique monster emoji and are rewarded for displaying the skills and values expected within their classroom setting.</p> <p>Win Bins are used in both the classroom and across the wider school context. Win Bin tickets are issued by all staff. They are issued to students who have demonstrated positive behaviour/effort/achievement. The purpose of a Win Bin is to reinforce positive behaviour immediately. Four times per term (Friday non-assembly weeks beginning Week 3 each term) draws are made from accumulated Win Bins for canteen vouchers (4 x \$1 per stage).</p> <p>Merit Certificates are given by classroom teachers to recognise special and positive behaviour/effort/achievement. Two awards are given for each class at each whole school assembly.</p> <p>PBL Owl Badge is a PBL award. This award is presented to students who <i>consistently</i> demonstrate positive behaviour and follow school rules. It is received in the form of a Wyrallah Road Owl Badge ('Wyrowllah') and accompanied by a photo display in the school foyer for the fortnight following the presentation assembly. One PBL badge <i>may</i> be awarded for each class at whole school assemblies.</p> <p>Gold Day is our way of recognising students that consistently follow all school expectations both in the classroom and on the playground. All students begin each term as a Gold level student and will stay on Gold level if they maintain their good behaviour. Gold level indicates that the student is a cooperative, tolerant student who works with others and participates in the opportunities provided by the school. Students who have remained on Gold for a whole term will be entitled to attend Gold Day activities at the end of each term to celebrate their positive behaviour.</p>
<p><i>Opportunities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the year, Stage 1 students have a number of extra-curricular opportunities, some of these include: Chess Club, Choir, Dance Group and Public Speaking. Students 8 years and older also have the opportunity to go on to representative level in sporting events such as swimming, cross country and athletics. • We also undertake excursions and incursions where possible that supports learning relevant to our integrated units. Details of these will come to you as they arise.



School Fees

- 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.

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 with varying social, emotional and learning needs.

So please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or information you need to share.

*Warm regards,
Virginia McKenna*

Email address: Virginia.mckenna1@det.nsw.edu.au
School office hours: 8:30 – 3:30
Phone: 02 6621 3363

