

# Wyrallah Road

PUBLIC SCHOOL

OPPORTUNITY | CARE | QUALITY | SUCCESS



Junior Dance Ensemble



Science Expo

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2015. What a year it has been! From the introduction of new learning programs and the expansion of others, from creative pursuits and sporting success, this year has seen plenty of exciting activities to keep us busy and find our talents. We have welcomed many new families this year and next week we will farewell some families who have been a part of our school community for many years as their youngest child heads to high school. While this will be a sad time on one hand, we know that we have done the best we can to equip these students to excel in wherever their path will lead. Thank you to the parents who have been such an important part of this education journey and all of us here wish you the very best for the years ahead.

## KINDERGARTEN / HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION

Our Kindergarten Orientation program has been a huge success and a valuable experience for all our new students starting school in 2016. It has been a vital component in making the transition from home to school enjoyable and a positive start to their school journey. The children established relationships with the Kindergarten teachers, made new friends and became familiar with school and classroom routines. The children participated in a variety of activities and experienced all the fun of big school. They loved performing for parents at our graduation assembly and receiving their certificates and learning kits.

A special thankyou to the 2015 Kindergarten Dance Group who performed at the assembly and our Year 5 buddies who dedicated their time to help our new students feel comfortable and build some positive relationships before starting school next year.

We appreciate all the support from the people involved in making these orientation days run as smoothly as possible and we look forward to the beginning of 2016 with all our new and enthusiastic Kindies!

## CALENDAR

### Term 4, Week 10

### Wednesday, 9 December, 2015

Wed, 9 Dec	3 Banner Celebration Day 6.30pm P&C Christmas Party
Thu, 10 Dec	Kindergarten Gold Day Excursion Year 6 Farewell Dinner
Fri, 11 Dec	2.10 Assembly (Violin, Rivers Dance, Choir) P&C Christmas Raffle Draw
Mon, 14 Dec	9.30am K-2 Presentation Day
Tue, 15 Dec	Stage 1 Gold Day Activities 7.00pm Years 3-6 Presentation Night - Lismore High School Hall
Wed, 16 Dec	Stage 2 & 3 Gold Day Pool Party Last School Day for 2015

### 2016

Wed, 27 Jan	Staff Development Day
Thu, 28 Jan	Students Years 1-6 return Kinder Best Start
Fri, 29 Jan	Kinder Best Start
Mon, 1 Feb	Kinder Best Start
Tue, 2 Feb	First Day for Kinder students

## CONGRATULATIONS BANNER ACHIEVERS!!

Tiffany K, Kiah M, Bailey K, Joshua L,  
Amelie P, Laura R

Principal: **Gareth Hockings**

Wyrallah Road Public School proudly stands on Bundjalung land

152 Nielson St Lismore 2480 ▪ 6621 3363 ▪ [wyrallahrd-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:wyrallahrd-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) [www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

The high school orientation also concluded last week with positive reports about the behaviour and ability of our students. We will be wishing our Year 6 students well over a number of events in coming days. I'm sure they will all want to leave WRPS on a high and ensure that we all remember them as the wonderful students that they are.

## **JUNIOR DANCE ENSEMBLE**

Earlier in Term 4, students from WRPS auditioned to be part of The Rivers P-12 Learning Community Junior Dance Ensemble. This group is made up of outstanding dancers from Years 4-7 from local primary and high schools. Five students from our school were accepted into the group: Mackinnon, Charlotte, Lara, Tylah and Gillian. Several other members of the group are also past WRPS students. The students have been travelling to Lismore High School every Wednesday afternoon this term to work with The Rivers dance teacher Miss Dessmann. They have been working on two dance pieces throughout the term and have spent the last two weeks touring the area performing at various presentation days and creative arts showcases. Our school will be treated to a performance by the group this Friday afternoon at our final whole school assembly.

## **THANK YOU AND FAREWELL**

Next Wednesday marks the end of an era as three very highly valued staff members move into retirement. To Ted Williamson, Deb Angelosanto and Keron Savins we cannot say thank you enough. Each, in their own way, has inspired, cared for and taught generations of WRPS students. We would love to have you join us as we recognise these three outstanding staff members at our school assembly this Friday.

Also, we have three other staff members who are taking up career opportunities. Both Cassandra McKay and Brooke Hickey have been successful in gaining permanency at Byron Bay and Casino Distance Education respectively. Cassandra will move as an Assistant Principal and Brooke has been successful in gaining a graduate position. Michael Hughes will also be moving on as he pursues his passion of special education. To all three we say thank you for the work you have put in at WRPS.

As a result of the above staff movements, there will be some new faces to introduce in the new year. The school leadership team and numerous selection panels (comprising representation from the P&C and Aboriginal parent group) have been working hard in recent weeks to ensure the best teachers available will be working with our kids in 2016.

### **Ted Williamson**



The time has come to thank the school community for some marvellous times and memories and for me to move on to the next part of my stumble through life. I have had the privilege of teaching some fabulous students, characters and personalities in my eighteen year at WRPS. I've made great friendships and shared so many awesome highlights over that time and Wyrallah Road will always be something I hold dear to me.

One of those highlights was having my four daughters attend the school. It meant I was there for all of their triumphs, a cuddle when it was needed and the chance to really share in their education.

Of course I've seen lots of change over the years, particularly with the staff. I've worked with some visionary people, some marvellous practitioners and excellent executives. The thing I learnt early on is that no matter what new courses were set, the wellbeing of the students was always the number one priority.

We are fortunate to have people like the office girls, ground staff and canteen workers that work tirelessly in the background but never receive the recognition they truly deserve and to them I say thanks heaps – it's been a hoot!

The parent body have been supportive in so many ways. Kid's educations should be a shared and rewarding experience and that is certainly the case at our school. I've been thrilled to work with so many of you in my time.

To the students I can only say, enjoy the facilities, opportunities and friendships that this great school offers to you. Don't be afraid to take on new challenges and always do the best you can. The best measure of what you have achieved is not the certificates or awards you receive, but the self-satisfaction you get from growing as a person.

So if you see me on the golf course or pulling in a huge fish don't be backward in saying g'day. We come from WRPS so we'll always have something to talk about !

## Debbie Angelosanto



Who would have thought 24 years ago that I would be appointed to WRPS - the primary school that was my very own primary school in the 1960s. I count my lucky stars that I was appointed here because I have had a wonderful, memorable association with the school as a student, parent and teacher at what I consider to be the best primary school in Lismore.

When I was a student here, WRPS consisted of a few wooden buildings, a radio loud speaker in each room, ink wells on desks (I am guilty of poking long hair into the ink for fun) and free chocolate milk at recess which we devoured. It was not so special when it was delivered early and warmed by the sun. If we were in trouble we would have to sit underneath the blackboard

or worst scenario, get sent to the principal and suffer a wack with a cane. Things have certainly changed!

My children Bianca and Nicolas spent their primary school years at WRPS benefiting from the large variety of sporting and cultural activities offered. During this time, one of the most personal, moving experiences for me was when the school became a part of the very first Shave for a Cure due to Bianca being diagnosed at the age of 7 with Leukaemia. I will always be grateful for the support my family received from the staff, students and community. Every male teacher that I worked with shaved their hair in support, raising thousands of dollars. Bianca is now healthy and a teacher in the UK and Nicolas an actor. Nicolas had his first taste of acting in our very first whole school performance.

I have had the pleasure of working with four extraordinary principals each bringing change for the better, countless dedicated teachers, support staff, office staff all of whom I consider friends and hundreds of great students and their families. Thankyou to everyone I have ever taught or worked with for giving me lots of memories that I will treasure forever. I am not going to say goodbye as I hope to see many of you in the future.

## Keron Savins



It is with mixed feelings that I type my last newsletter. I have loved working at WRPS for the past 23 years. The staff has been my second family and I have always felt valued, appreciated and supported. I would especially like to thank Leanne, Susan and Angie in the office and Mary (our retired Admin Manager) who will always be my friends.

I have met so many wonderful children, parents and community members during my time here and I look forward to seeing many of you outside school in the future. WRPS is a fantastic school where every child is valued and encouraged to do their very best at all times.

My husband and I are looking forward to many holidays in our new camper van, spending more time with our three beautiful grandchildren, sewing for third world country girls, gardening, learning to play golf and lots of catching up with friends and family.

I will be back doing some casual days in the office next year so I look forward to catching up with many of you then.

## SCIENCE EXPO

On Monday and Tuesday a number of students performed experiments for the rest of the school. There was a great variety on offer and the students really enjoyed watching the proceedings, even if they didn't always succeed. I was impressed with the way our scientists presented and the way they explained what happened or what should have happened. Science is fun and with our new curriculum now in place we look forward to lots more opportunities to explore scientific phenomenon in the future.

## K-2 PRESENTATION DAY - Monday, 14 December 9.30am – 10.30am at WRPS

Next Monday, 14 December will be our K-2 Presentation Assembly. All students in Kindergarten will receive an award for their hard work throughout the year. Students in Years 1 and 2 will have the opportunity to receive one of five awards that will be handed to each class. There will also be a couple of songs and parents are invited to join in.



## YEARS 3-6 PRESENTATION NIGHT – Tuesday, 16 December 7.00pm – 8.30pm at Lismore High School Hall

The Presentation Night will again be held at Lismore High School hall. All students (Years 3-6) are encouraged to attend and need to be in full school uniform. This is a great chance to recognise many of the outstanding efforts of our students as well as the announcement of the 2016 School Captains and Vice Captains, graduation of Year 6 and a performance from our school choir. We would love to have many parents, family and friends join us to help celebrate the student successes. At the conclusion of the presentations, parents will be asked to congregate outside the hall to collect students.

### STUDENT REPORTS

Reports will be sent home with students this Friday in sealed envelopes addressed to parents. They are a good guide of progress made throughout the year, with students who have achieved the necessary gains being given a grade of "Sound". As always, should the reports raise any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

### KEEP ON READING!

The summer holidays are always such a busy time of year. Over this period, there is much to do and kids learn a lot from the many different experiences they have. We ask that families try to find time to continue reading with children to ensure that momentum is not lost over the break. This can be in the form of reading street signs, going to the library or even reading Christmas cards. Any reading that can be done will help the kids get back into the full swing of school at the start of 2016.

**Reminder:** Could all students please return their home readers to school ASAP.

### MATHS ENRICHMENT



For more years than he would admit to, Mr Don Whitelaw from SCU has been coming to WRPS to inspire future generations of talented mathematicians. This year is possibly his final year as Don retires from his work with the university and we can't thank him enough. Some of Mr Whitelaw's favourite topics that have enthused students over the years are:



an investigation of the origins of pi, cribbage, number patterns, Harry Potter maths - magic squares, measuring tree heights by shadows (proportion), calculating the height of one million \$1 coins, Pythagoras and much much more.

### BANNER CELEBRATION

Today was a day to celebrate for 29 hard-working students who have earned three banners throughout their years at WRPS. This special group enjoyed some fun at the bowling alley, followed by a party with the Principal back at school. It was a highly enjoyable day for all involved and a nice pat on the back for these very deserving students. Congratulations to all involved.

### STUDENT EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2016

#### Kinder and Stage 1 (Years K, 1, 2)

All necessary stationery and equipment is provided. There is no need for students to bring anything extra. Items such as pencil cases, etc. become an unnecessary distraction and we would prefer that they be left at home. We do, however, encourage each student to donate a box of tissues to the class. This ensures that we have plenty of tissues on hand, particularly over the winter months.

#### Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

2 HB pencils, 1 eraser, 1 calculator, 1 ruler (showing cm & mm), 1 glue stick, 1 set coloured pencils, 1 enclosed pencil sharpener, 2 each black, red & blue pens, 1 plastic-sleeved folder, 1 box of tissues

Optional: 1 set textas, 1 set highlighters

Not permitted: connector pens or liquid paper/white-out

## STUDENT EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2016 (Continued)

### Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6)

2 each black, red & blue pens, 2 HB pencils, 1 eraser, 1 calculator, 1 set coloured pencils, 1 sharpener, 1 pair scissors, 1 glue stick, 1 ruler, 1 box of tissues, 1 homework book or folder.

Optional: 1 set textas

Not permitted: connector pens or liquid paper / white-out

Our school provides many items to ensure that all students can access learning. This is not possible without families contributing through our voluntary school fees. It is never too early to make your payment for 2016.

Log onto our school site at:- [www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Click on "Make a Payment" and follow the prompts to make a payment via Visa or MasterCard. 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**.

## HELPING HANDS BOOKINGS

As the year is coming to a close, Helping Hands asks that parents please notify staff, in writing, if there are any changes to their current bookings. This is because all bookings will roll over into the New Year. Parents can contact Emily on 0448 125995 or email [wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au](mailto:wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au)

## VACATION CARE

Thank you to the families who have completed and returned the Vacation Care booking forms. It is extremely important to book in early for Vacation Care days that involve excursions. This is because we have limited seats on the bus. If you have not yet seen the Vacation Care program, we have flyers located in the school office and on the noticeboard outside the Canteen.

## CANTEEN

Thankyou to **Keys Honey** for supplying the canteen all year.

Thankyou to all the wonderful people who have helped out this year in the canteen. Have an awesome holiday – see you all next year.

### Roster

Thu, 10 Dec	Steph Gregory
Fri, 11 Dec	Kylie Burnett, Asher Smith
Mon, 14 Dec	Cheryl Smoother
Tue, 15 Dec	Freda Yee

## A NATIONAL CHAMPION AT WRPS!



After qualifying in third place at the Queensland State Finals of NAS (National All Styles Martial Arts), in the Pee Wee Division (under 7's) of Point Sparring, Kalon was able to represent Queensland at the National Finals held at Carrara stadium on the Gold Coast last weekend. This is a discipline that is non-contact and scores competitors on technique, skill and proximity to the opponent's body. He was undefeated in 5 rounds, making him National Australian Champion in his Division. What an awesome effort – congratulations Kalon!

## A STAR IN THE MAKING

One of our talented students, Charlie Young, recently performed in The Nutcracker with the Byron Ballet. This was Charlie's first ballet production and she played the part of one of Clara's girlfriends.

Congratulations Charlie. We look forward to hearing more about her ballet career.

