

WELCOME TO KW Class Newsletter Term 1, 2024



My name is Kara Wilson and I'm looking forward to sharing the year ahead with your child in their first year at school. I am thrilled to be teaching at Wyrallah Road Public School alongside such a talented and dedicated staff. I grew up in Lismore and began my teaching career here, including five years teaching Stage 1 at WRPS. I then spent three years in Sydney and taught a Stage 3 Opportunity Class before returning to WRPS to teach Kindergarten for the past 3 years. This year I will also be leading Aboriginal Education and the Early Stage 1 team as part of my Assistant Principal role. As an educator, I strive to get children passionate about learning and ignite a desire to want to know more. I believe in creating a happy classroom environment, with appropriate support and challenges and high expectations of success.

I enjoy spending my spare time with friends and family by the beach, travelling when we can and lots of hikes and walks.

Chelsea Elliott will be teaching KW on Thursdays. Chelsea is thrilled to be joining our Kinder team in 2024. For the past few years, she has developed new skills, and engaged in valuable experiences as a School Learning Support Officer in a small local school. Chelsea is eager to use these experiences and new knowledge to support Kinder students. As an educator, she is passionate about nurturing social, emotional and intellectual growth in all aspects of the school journey and will strive to make a positive difference in each student's life.

Outside the classroom, Chelsea enjoys listening to music, travelling, going to the beach and the motorbike track, playing futsal, and spending quality time with her partner, friends and family.

<p>2024 Kindergarten Team</p>	<p>Assistant Principal – Kara Wilson Kara.wilson7@det.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>K/1M Megan Ward KB Madeline Beaumont KW Kara Wilson Stage Teacher Chelsea Elliott</p>	<p>Specialist Staff</p> <p>Technology – Natasha Cane Music – Emma Hart</p> <p>Early Stage 1 School Learning Support Officers:</p> <p>K/1M Kath Molloy KB Jamie Cottee KW Silvana Barlow</p>
<p>General School Information – Routines</p>	<p>Bell times Supervision for students begins at 8:30. Parents requiring earlier drop off may wish to contact 'Helping Hands' after school care. Contact number: 0448 125 995 Email address: 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. Whole school move to designated afternoon home line areas. All departures from school are supervised by teaching staff. 3:00 - Final bell</p>	

	<p>Kindergarten Daily Routine Generally, our daily routine will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English– morning session with a fruit break • Mathematics – middle session • Other key learning areas – afternoon session <p>Late to School 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. We encourage parents and carers to make all student appointments outside school times to ensure minimal impact and interruption to their daily learning.</p> <p>Afternoon Procedure All Kinder students will be supported and supervised by staff for their departure from the school. It is imperative that you notify your child’s teacher if there is a change in their afternoon routine.</p>
<p><i>Attendance</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Explanations can be submitted via a written note, email to the teacher or through the Audiri Mobile App (search Wyrallah Road Public School in the App Store).</p>
<p><i>Communication</i></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 us during the day, please ring the office. Our day can become very busy and we don’t always check our emails until after the school day. If you have a non-urgent message, we can be contacted via the office or email. We will only be corresponding during business hours, which are 8:00am to 5:00pm 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.
<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. 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</p>

unique monster emoji and are rewarded for displaying the skills and values expected within their classroom setting.

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. Draws are made from accumulated Win Bins four times per term at our morning assembly, beginning Week 3 each term. If your child is successful in having their name drawn, they receive a canteen voucher to the sum of \$2. There are 5 draws made for each stage.

Merit Certificates are given by classroom teachers to recognise special and positive behaviour/effort/achievement. Two awards are given for each class at our even week whole school assembly.

Owlie Points contribute toward an individual award and a class reward. At the end of each week, all students are given the opportunity to self-reflect on their behaviours over the past week and record individually if they believe they have earned their Owlie points for that week. Students have been made aware of the behaviour expectations to earn their classroom and playground behaviour points. They need to indicate if they have earned one point for consistently following expectations to be respectful, responsible and safe in the classroom and another point for following the expectations to be respectful, responsible and safe in the playground. Students may earn a total of 2 points weekly.

Teachers will give individual feedback to students whose self-assessment is not a true reflection of their behaviour choices over the week. Feedback to students follows the restorative conversation process and refers to the WRPS whole school expectations overview.

When students earn 20 points, they become an eligible candidate for the PBL badge. Each teacher will ascertain the number of PBL badges awarded each week from the eligible candidates and relative to their class size. Teachers will contact parents if their child is receiving a PBL badge at the next whole school assembly. The student is not aware if they are to receive a PBL badge prior to the whole school assembly.

If a class receives 90% or more of their total class points for the week, they may choose a class reward for that week.

PBL Owl Badge is a PBL award, presented during Friday assemblies. This award is presented to students who *consistently* demonstrate positive behaviour and follow school expectations. It is received in the form of a Wyrallah Road Owl Badge.

Wellbeing days occur once a term. The purpose of Wellbeing days is toward:

- whole school, inclusive practice which is attended by all students
- building positive and respectful relationships between student-student and student-class teacher
- supporting the wellbeing of all students focusing on social skills, team building and making connections across class, stage, whole school.

Student of the Week, each student will be selected as the student of the week. It is presented in the form of a poster which is displayed in their classroom for the week, then given to the recipient to take home.

*Curriculum
Overview Term
1*

English: The English syllabus promotes the importance of strong foundations in the early years across oral language, reading and writing. We will begin the term ensuring students can hear, identify and say the separate parts of words (phonological awareness) before we begin explicitly teaching the letter-sound knowledge (phonics) and how to blend these sounds together. This approach helps children understand very early how the reading and writing process works; that it requires blending and segmenting the sounds of the language. Students engage in learning

through whole class, small group and individual, explicit guided instruction in reading and writing throughout the literacy session by the classroom teacher. Students will also engage in learning about and enjoying quality literature.

Maths: The Mathematics syllabus aims to develop confident users of mathematics, learning the language of mathematics to communicate clearly and solve mathematical problems, making connections within mathematics and with the world around them. They learn to understand and appreciate how mathematics is a relevant part of their lives.

This term we will be:

- exploring and representing whole numbers 0-10
- sorting, describing and naming common 2D shapes e.g. circle, square, rectangle and triangle
- developing their knowledge, understanding and skills of patterns
- sorting and categorising by attributes
- exploring length, area, volume and mass as measurable attributes.

Integrated Unit: (includes History, Geography, Visual Art, and Dance): During Term 1, Kindergarten will be focusing on an integrated unit of work, 'Me in My World'. This involves students developing an understanding of who they are by exploring what they have in common with others, and what is unique about themselves. Students will develop an understanding of personal and family histories.

PDHPE (Personal Development, Health and Physical Education)

The PDH focus in Term 1 is, "Me and My Mates". This includes what makes me special and how I can develop good relationships with my family, friends and others.

Each week all Kindergarten students will participate in two PE lessons. One will be a circuit focusing on developing different fundamental movement skills. The second lesson will be involvement in different games that allow for the implementation and practise of these specific fundamental skills.

Music and Drama: with Ms Hart

Students are learning to:

- explore different ways of using the voice and to make a distinction between their singing and speaking voices
- perform simple rhymes and songs by themselves and together with others
- listen to and recall features of a songtale (sung story)
- tap a beat using their body and untuned percussion instruments
- take on roles in imaginative and dramatic play exploring the drama forms of improvisation, movement, mime and storytelling
- explore the use of movement, objects and costume to portray roles and situations.

Technology: with Mrs Cane

The overall aim of this term is to develop their aptitude for identifying and using the keyboard and mouse and their knowledge of basic computer functions (such as opening and using programs).

Special Organisation as we begin in Kinder

During the first two weeks in Kindergarten, all the children will come to their classroom on arrival every morning. They will learn the routine of hanging up their bags next to their name and bringing in their fruit/vegetable for easy access during the morning session.

Students will be slowly introduced to other play areas within the school during the first 5 weeks e.g. shelter area, library, fixed equipment, nature-based playground and the grassed playground below the hall. We will not be attending the morning assembly until Week 5 or the whole school

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	assembly until Week 6. This allows the children time to learn the school routines and become familiar, confident and secure within the school environment.
Weekly Organisation	Music and Drama: Monday with Ms Hart Technology: Wednesday with Mrs Cane Library borrowing: Tuesday PE: Wednesday and Friday
Scripture	Scripture lessons are on Wednesday afternoons for half an hour. These lessons are conducted by volunteers and are supervised by a Kinder teacher. Students who do not participate in religious education will engage in independent revision activities.
Assembly	Every fortnight (even weeks) on a Friday afternoon 2:10-2:50pm, there will be a whole school assembly in the school hall. All parents are warmly invited to attend. All classes will have a turn throughout the year at performing a class item. Parents will be advised when these are scheduled for each Kinder class.
Equipment Requirements	All Kindergarten students need to have all personal belongings clearly labelled . Each day, Kindergarten students will need fruit/vegetable for crunch and sip in a separate container , their recess and lunch, a drink bottle and hat. Please remember that toileting accidents can occur, and it is advisable to have a spare change of uniform, including socks, to help minimise the distress to your child.
Incursions and Excursions	There will be no excursions during Term 1 as we settle into our classes, make new friends and learn the school routines. We will have incursions and/or excursions in Terms 2-4. These have proven to be wonderfully rich learning experiences for the children and supplement the learning experiences planned within the integrated units.
Hook Activities	At the beginning of each integrated unit, students will participate in a hook activity which engages them and makes them excited for the content they will be learning throughout the term. This term our hook activity is Kinder team building, where they will be working together with their Year 5 buddy, to complete team building challenges.
Important Dates	'Canteen Day': Tuesday, 13 February in Week 3. The children are asked to bring 50c to buy a Fruit Tube ice block. This allows each class the opportunity to practice the required routines when using the school canteen and to meet Sue, our amazing canteen convenor. School Photo Day: Thursday, 21 March in Week 8 TBC Last day of Term 1: Friday, 12 April in Week 11

Warm regards,

Kara Wilson

Email address:

kara.wilson7@det.nsw.edu.au

School office hours: 8:30 – 3:30

Phone: 02 6621 3363

