



4/5A Class Newsletter Term 1 2024

Hello everyone and welcome back. We are excited to get started on another busy and exciting school year.

My name is Tye Ashcroft, and I'm a classroom teacher at Wyrallah Road Public School. I completed my education degree at the University of Notre Dame and have worked in schools across metropolitan and rural settings from Sydney, the Northern Rivers and out to the Northern Tablelands.

I believe in public education and that every child has the right to access quality learning. I encourage students to bring their interests into the classroom so that we can co-create a supportive and engaging learning space. This year we will participate in the 'Classroom Economy', a financial literacy reward system that teaches students about saving, spending and opportunity cost.

About me: outside of school, I enjoy adventures of hiking and camping along the coast. When at home, my partner and I can be found geeking out to a board game and drinking tea.

I look forward to the exciting year ahead and the experiences we will share.

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

We will be holding a 'Meet and Greet' afternoon on Tuesday, 20 February from 4:30pm to 5:15pm in the Stage 2 shelter area where you will have the opportunity to pop in and meet your child's teacher 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 2&3 Teams:

- 3/4T - Drucilla Templeton
- 3/4N - Michael Nind
- 3/4R - Demelza Roberts
- 4/5A - Tye Ashcroft
- 4/5/6S- Scott Shaw
- 5M- Christine Melkie
- 6E- Karen Eakin
- 6M- Glenn Maxwell

Stage teachers- Fiona Gregory, Emma Kelly and Brianna Munroe

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| Important Dates | <p>Term 1 will be an 11-week term, concluding on Friday, 12 April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, 14 February - Swimming Carnival • Tuesday, 20 February - Meet and Greet afternoon 4:30-5:15pm • Tuesday 20 February- 3-6 Parent Workshop- Curriculum reform presentation • Wednesday, 13 March - NAPLAN Window Opens – Year 5 • Thursday, 21 March – School Photos TBC • Friday, 29 March – Good Friday • Monday, 1 April – Easter Monday • Wednesday, 10 April - WRPS Cross Country TBC |
| Equipment Requirements | <p>This is a list of the items needed by your child to begin the new school year. The list has been carefully prepared by teachers with specific items listed to best support the</p> |

Positive Behaviour for Learning PBL

educational needs of your child. Specific brands have been suggested; however an alternative brand is fine. You can find the list on our school website: https://wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doe/sws/schools/w/wyrallahrd-p/permission-notes/2024/school-information-and-other-events/Stationery_Requirements_2024.pdf

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.

At Wyrallah Road we are:

- **Respectful**
- **Responsible**
- **Safe**

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.

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. These awards are presented at Friday assemblies.

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

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting the wellbeing of all students focusing on social skills, team building and making connections across class, stage, whole school. |
| <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>Weekly Organisation</p> | <p>Sport: Friday morning Scripture: Wednesday afternoon Music: Tuesday Technology: Tuesday Library: Tuesday Whole school assembly: Friday afternoons on even weeks in school hall from 2:10pm - 2:50pm. Beginning Week 4. All are welcome to attend.</p> |
| <p>Curriculum Overview Term 1</p> | <p><u>English-</u> Students will engage in a sequence of units throughout the year, which have been developed by the Department of Education, integrating, and covering all outcomes and content for: oral language and communication, vocabulary, reading (fluency and comprehension), writing, spelling, handwriting and digital transcription and understanding and responding to literature. The units support cumulative, explicit, and systematic teaching of foundational literacy skills as well as conceptual understanding of English.</p> <p>Below is a list of the Term 1 units and a brief overview of their focus topic.</p> <p><u>Narrative</u> Students will explore how narratives set up expectations for the reader using predictable structure and familiar characters and situations. They will analyse excerpts of the mentor text and use as the basis for their own innovation. Students will also plan, draft and revise a narrative sequel using an orientation, complication, resolution structure.</p> <p><u>Genre</u> Students will gain a deeper understanding of the textual concepts of genre, and perspective and context. They will apply their understanding of genre to group texts according to their purpose, subject matter, form, structure and language choices. Students will experiment with genre to create a variety of texts using their understanding of structure and language choices to suit a text's purpose.</p> <p><u>Mathematics-</u> Students will engage in a sequence of units throughout the year, which have been developed by the Department of Education, integrating, and covering all outcomes and content for number and algebra, measurement and space and statistics and probability. The units connect the learning of a range of mathematical concepts and skills under 'big ideas'. They</p> |

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| | <p>provide opportunities for students to use mathematical reasoning skills through rich tasks and cater for student needs with activities for varying skill levels.</p> <p>Below is a list of the ‘big ideas’ for Term 1 units and the mathematical concepts they cover.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number system extends infinitely to very large and very small numbers: representing numbers using place value, multiplicative relations. • Addition and subtraction problems can be solved using a variety of strategies: representing numbers using place value, additive relations. • What needs to be measured determines the unit of measurement: geometric measure, two-dimensional spatial structure, non-spatial measure. • Fractions represent multiple ideas and can be represented in different ways: partitioned fractions, multiplicative relations, geometric measure. • Questions can be asked and answered by collecting and interpreting data: represents numbers using place value, data. <p><u>Integrated Unit- Sustainability</u></p> <p>This term, students will explore the theme of sustainability by exploring a range of environments within Australia. Students will identify a range of threats to these environments and how we can manage or protect them using steps at a local level. Students will learn how to identify different environments on a map and will also explore technological tools such as Google Earth to enhance their understanding. During the term, students will learn more about the significance of different environments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and how their care for places has been ongoing. Students will also design a product or system to promote a sustainable future.</p> |
| <p>Crunch and Sip</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each day, students are encouraged to eat a serve 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, if necessary, but 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 Audiri Mobile App (search Wyrallah Road Public School in the App Store). |
| <p>Homework and Home Reading</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework will be sent home once throughout the term as a homework project linked to the Integrated Unit being studied. Students will work on this project throughout the term. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks. • Reading at home is very important as it allows children to practise their reading skills and improve their general reading ability and comprehension. All students are encouraged to read at least 15 minutes each day. Students may use their own books from home or borrow from the library. |
| <p>Excursions</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excursions to enhance classroom learning will be planned throughout the year along with one overnight excursion for Year 4. Further information and costing will be provided as soon as possible. • The major Year 5 overnight excursion is planned for the latter part of this year. Information regarding the camp and payment details will be sent home shortly. Other excursions and /or incursions may be planned to support learning in specific curriculum areas. More information will be coming home closer to the excursion dates regarding equipment and itinerary once numbers have been confirmed. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excursions are a wonderful opportunity for students to experience educational activities that we cannot provide in the classroom. All students are strongly encouraged to attend.• If finances are a concern, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. <p>We will notify families later in the term regarding upcoming excursions and special events</p> |
| Scripture and Ethics | <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 a classroom teacher.• Students' participation in the Scripture and Ethics programs will be based on their preference from 2023. If you would like to change the program your child attends, please contact your class teacher in writing.• Students who do not participate in religious education will be engaged in independent revision activities supervised by a classroom teacher. |

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 us if you have any concerns or information you need to share.

*Kind regards,
Tye Ashcroft*

Email: tye.ashcroft1@det.nsw.edu.au

School office hours: 8:30 – 3:30pm

Phone: 02 6621 3363