Strive for Excellence

School/Life/Home Rules

* Be Safe
* Be Respectful
* Be a Learner

Inspiring Excellence - Achieving Success

Term 1, Week 3, 11 February, 2013 School Hours - 9.15 am to 3.15 pm - Office Hours - 8.45 am to 3.15 pm

Phone : 9604 9818 Facsimile: 9725 5373 Postal Address: Nemesia Street, Greystanes, 2145 Website: www.widemere-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au Email: widemere-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Month of February, 2013

Tue 12 First P & C Meeting for the year - all welcome - 7.00 pm in the staffroom
Thu 14 Last day for payment for the Anti Bullying Educational Performance - Buddies incursion - $5.00 per students
Thu 18 Last day for payment for you child/ren to attend Swimming Carnival - $10 per student
Mon 25 National Rugby League and Parramatta Eels attending for a school visit
Tue 26 Annual Swimming Carnival for students 8 and older Rainbow Day for Kindergarten and Water activities for Years 1
Wed 20 Leadership Induction Assembly
Thu 21 Meet the Teacher - note to follow
Thu 28 First Scripture lessons to commence

Information correct at time of printing, 11 February, 2013

Staff for 2013

Executive
Principal Mrs Saunders
Assistant Principal Mrs Benson, Class 1B teacher, Reading Recovery Teacher and team leader for Stage Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 classes
Assistant Principal Mrs Fausset - Release from Face to Face teacher and team leader for Stage 2 and 3 classes

Class Teachers
Class KS Miss Sajnovic and Kinder Coordinator
Class KL Miss Lloyd
Class 1B Mrs Benson
Class 2A Mrs Auzou
Class 2/3M Mrs Moopanar
Class 3/4G Miss Georgiadis
Class 4/5F Mrs Fauvette
Class 5/6J Mrs Jelic

School Teaching and Support Staff
Teacher/Librarian and English as a Second Language Mrs Regan (Tue to Wed)
Student Teacher Learning Assist and English as a Second Language Mrs Johnston (Mon to Wed)
Welcome Back

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a great holiday and had the opportunity to relax and spend quality time with your families and friends.

A special welcome to our new families who have joined us this year. We welcome our Kindergarten parents and those who have just moved into the area. I am sure you will enjoy our wonderful school.

This year we welcome 3 new staff members, Miss Georgiadis as a permanent member of staff and Miss Lloyd and Mrs Fauvette in a temporary capacity. They have joined a team of dedicated, talented teachers who provide our students with engaging, quality teaching and learning programs.

It has been a very settled start to the year with teachers working hard to provide great programs for their new classes and students keen to be back at school.

Thank You

A big thank you to the P&C members and other parents at school who provided a delicious ‘Tears and Tissues’ morning tea for new Kindergarten parents which included scones, jam and cream, slices and cakes. It was lovely for our Kindergarten parents to spend time getting to know other parents in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere after dropping off their children on their first day at school.

Another big thank you to our ladies in the uniform shop. Ms Harte, Mrs Blinco and our new uniform coordinator Mrs Barnes have worked hard to open the Uniform Shop mornings in the first couple of weeks to ensure parents are able to outfit their children in our uniform.

It was wonderful to see so many of our students wearing full school uniform. An excellent way of showing respect for our school is to wear the school uniform proudly every day. We hope to see all students in full school uniform (maroon pants or shorts, white polo shirt, white socks, black school shoes and a school hat) every day. Most of these items are available at our school uniform shop on Wednesday mornings from 8:45 am. Head bands and hair ties should be maroon or white.

P&C Association

Our P & C Association does great things for our school. I would like to encourage and welcome new members to our P & C. The association meets regularly at on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in our staffroom. Our first meeting for the year is Tuesday the 12th February at 7 pm. Please join us in making our school a wonderful place to learn.
Students with Life Threatening Allergies

One of our main aims at Widemere Public School (as well as providing great learning programs) is to provide a safe environment for students. We have 3 students at our school who are severely allergic to some everyday allergens including nuts, dairy and eggs. We are asking the school community to help us keep these students safe by **labelling all lunch boxes and drink bottles with their child’s name and trying not to send nut products or peanut butter sandwiches to school.** Schools have been advised not to have a ‘blanket’ ban on all nut products (because as you would be aware many products ‘contain traces of nuts’) but we ask parents to be mindful and try not to include nut products for recess and lunch. We also ask that you **reinforce our school policy of children not sharing food** with others and **washing their hands before and after eating.** The school has developed a risk management plan and strategies for these students and every child diagnosed has an action plan drawn up by a doctor outlining steps the school is to take to prevent and deal with allergic reactions. We hope you support us in this endeavour.

Widemere Out of School Hours Care (WOOSH)

Please take advantage of the new Out of Hours School Care on site at our school. Children can be regulars or sometime visitors to the OOSH in the morning or afternoon. Lauren & Sean are great child care workers with lots of experience working at many Holroyd City Council centres. Even if you do not need our OOSH services at the moment please attend their official opening on the 13th February and view our OOSH facilities. The mayor Ross Grove an ex- Widemere student will be there as well as a Magic Show, Poppy the Possum and yummy refreshments. Please ring Lauren to RSVP on 9757 1904 or 0417 647 310.

Values

At Widemere Public School we stand strongly for the values of **safety, respect, responsibility and learning.** We ask that you support and promote these values with your children. The best way to teach these values is to model these values yourself. Children learn their behaviours from the members of their family.

Some ways to model safe behaviours are:

* not allowing children to come to school before 8:45 am each morning. If you have early work commitments please arrange to have children attend our OOSH (Out of School Hours care now available at our school). Teachers are not on duty until 8:45 am.
* making sure if younger students are travelling to school with their older siblings that they know what is required in taking care of younger children like holding their hand when crossing the road etc.
* crossing at the pedestrian crossing,
* using designated pathways and not walking through the school car park,
* driving carefully and within the speed limit when dropping children at the OOSH or school,
* ensuring children wear seatbelts,
* monitoring your child’s time on technology,
* and not bringing dogs to school.

Please be respectful of others by:

* treating and speaking kindly about other parents and students,
* including and welcoming others to our school,
* speaking positively about the school – if you have a problem tell us not others!
* ensuring your children are in the correct uniform,
* ensuring you sign in at the front office if volunteering in classrooms and sport,
* modelling good sportsmanship to your children,
* and reinforcing our school rules of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner at home.
Please be responsible by:
* ensuring your children attend regularly and on time,
* ensuring your children are prepared for the day with the correct equipment (pencils, rulers, books etc), recess and lunch,
* labelling your child’s belongings with their name and class,
* sending money to school on our designated money days of Wednesday and Thursday,
* picking up children promptly after school,
* ensuring your child goes to bed at a regular time on school nights,
* keeping ill children at home,
* trying to schedule doctor or dentist appointments after school or in the school holidays,
* and following up with recommendations to have hearing, speech and eyes tested and if required specialist intervention.

Please encourage learning by:
* having fun reading for 15 minutes with or to your child every night,
* showing children the value of reading by reading yourself,
* helping and encouraging your child with their homework and projects,
* talking to your child about everything to show them how the world works and developing their language skills,
* expecting good listening by encouraging your child to stop what they are doing, make eye contact and respond to your comments or requests,
* ensuring your child goes to bed at a regular time on school nights,
* enjoying new technology by helping your child (or letting them help you) with new technology,
* and enriching your child’s life and language skills by providing new experiences like visits to the museum, aquarium, wildlife parks, etc.

Thank you for your support.

![Image](https://example.com/no_hat_no_play.png)

**Remember - No Hat No Play**

If your child is not earing a hat they must sit under the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) out of the sun. Please check your child’s bag every morning - does your child have a hat?
Important Changes to our Routines

Assembly Time

Reminder that whole school assemblies are held on Wednesday afternoons at 2:35pm to continue placing a great deal of focus on the basic skills of Literacy and Numeracy. Our first assembly is induction of the student leadership team of the School Captains and Student Representative Council presidents on the 20 February.

Creative and Performing Arts

Creating and Performing Groups (CAPA) groups across our school will still continue to be held on Thursday and Friday afternoons. Students in K-6 will participate in recorder, dance, choir, visual arts and drama sessions. K-2 students will run their groups on Fridays from 2:35pm and Years 3-6 on Thursdays from 2:35 pm. I am sure this will provide lots of enjoyment and creativity for our talented students.

Meet the Teacher Session

In order for parents/carers to be fully informed about their child’s education this year the teachers will meet with parents to present information about their routines, expectations and teaching and learning programs on Thursday 21 February. Each class teacher will meet in their own rooms. A note will be sent home soon outlining the details of this meeting.

Swimming Carnival

Our swimming Carnival will be held on the 26 February for students in Years 3-6 and students who are in Year 2 who turn 8 this year. Students in K-2 will have fun back at school with Kindergarten students participating in a ‘Rainbow Day’ and Years 1 and 2 participating in water based activities.

Students going to the swimming carnival are expected to bring a packed lunch but will be able to buy snacks at times during the day as directed by the teachers.

Book Club

Book club brochures have been handed out to students. Please note that a percentage of the money from books purchased is returned to our school. Please support us by buying good quality books and products from the Book Club. Educational research shows that the most important thing you can do academically for your child/children is read with them for 10 minutes every night. With older students, it is by providing interesting reading material and encouraging them to read every night.

We would like to thank Jenny Colley who organises our Book Club purchases for the school. This task is very time consuming to organise and we appreciate her efforts.

Money for Book Club will be accepted on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Mobile Phones

We do not encourage students to bring mobile phones to school. However, if a student requires a phone on the way to or from school, these must be dropped off at the office in the morning and then collected at the end of the day. No student is permitted to have a mobile phone in their school bag or in their possession throughout the day. This is the school policy. Any messages that need to be given to students can be phoned through to the school office.

Up to Date Student Info

It is important that we keep our school records accurate at all times. Accompanying this newsletter is a Student Information sheet. Could you please complete these and send them back to school by this Friday 15 February, 2013. Thank you.

School Gates

The front and back gates will be closed from 9.20 am. Only the main gate at the front of the school will be open for visitors.

Payment for Excursions etc

Payment days for all money collections are Wednesday and Thursday only.

The collection and banking of money for excursions and visiting performances takes up a great deal of time. Days for payment are Wednesday and Thursday only. If you send money in on these days it saves teacher time and administration time. Permission notes and money for excursions and performances on the morning of the event will not be accepted. There will be no refund for the cost of the bus fare if your child is unable to attend as the bus cost has to be paid regardless.

Payment will not be accepted after the closing date.

1. Payments should be made in envelopes supplied by the school with the information notes.
2. All money and permission notes must be sent to the teacher not to the office.
3. Please do not include money for the parent organisations in a payment for excursion etc

Emailed Newsletter 2013

The distribution of the school newsletter can be sent to you via email. I am asking for parents to indicate by returning the slip below if they would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by email as opposed to sent home. As a school conscious of our responsibility to be environmentally aware, we encourage many parents to take up this option. This will also eliminate issues of newsletters being left at school or lost. Please return the slip below to school as soon as possible so that your family can be included in the next newsletter distribution.

Widemere Public School - Emailed newsletter - The newsletter is sent out fortnightly on Mondays.

Yes, I would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by email.
Name __________________________________________________________
Child’s Name (Youngest) ___________________________ Class __________
Email address ______________________________________________________

(Please print clearly)
**St George Banking Day**

Wednesday is banking day. Staff from St George bank visit Widemere on Wednesdays to process banking from students. For this service to continue we ask that parents support this initiative.

**Parents & Citizens Association - Uniform Shop**

The Uniform Shop will be open on Wednesdays between 8.45 am and 9.15 am. Orders can be made via the order form available from the office or the Uniform Shop.

The Parents and Citizens Association committee members would like to invite all new parents/carers to our first P & C Meeting for 2013. It is held on the second Tuesday of the month and our first one is on Tuesday 12 February commencing at 7.00 pm in the School Staff room.

We would love to welcome any new parents or any parents that would like to be involved in what is happening in their child/ren’s school and their education. Please come along and join us, we would love to welcome any new members. We look forward to seeing some new faces this year.

Ms Issac, President

**Parents and Citizens Association**

There will be an Annual General Meeting held for the Parents and Citizens Association on Tuesday 12 March. We would like to encourage parents/carers to join our P & C. We envisage a friendly and supportive P & C.

For the benefit of the new parents to Widemere and those current parents who may visit to become office bearers of the above committee a brief description of what is expected follows. A copy of the actual constitution that governs these committee can be obtained for the current Secretaries of these committee. Previous committee members and school staff are available to help you in your role.

**DUTIES OFFICE BEARERS**

**What are the duties of the President/ Chair / Coordinator**

The President has a responsibility to ensure the successful functioning of the Association, the attainment of its objectives, the responsibility to foster the fair participation of all members and consistent adherence to Its constitution. The President should ensure that new members are made to feel welcome. The President, as the name implies, presides at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee. The duties of the President include preserving order, ruling on contentious matters of procedure and assisting the progress of discussion by preventing irrelevant or repetitious discussion or offensive remarks.

The President also has important responsibilities outside of meetings. The President may represent the Association at official functions and act as the Association's spokesperson when public statements or actions are appropriate. The President, as well as being the convenor of the Executive Committee, is ex officio a member of all sub-committees.
What are the duties of the Vice-Presidents?
The Vice-Presidents are required to take on any of the Presidential duties defined above when invited to do so by the President or when the President is, for reasons of illness or alternative commitments, unable to undertake those duties. If, for any reason, the President's office fails vacant, one of the Vice-president should act as interim President until a new one is elected.

What are the duties of the Secretary?
The Secretary is the principal administrative officer of the Association and is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the meeting - unless otherwise stipulated. The Secretary prepares, in consultation with the President, all meeting agendas. The Secretary maintains a list of financial (voting) members. The Secretary is also required to attend every Association meeting and take notes of the discussions in order to produce a set of minutes for subsequent distribution to members. Minutes should indicate the time, date and location of the meeting, the members in attendance, the apologies accepted, the identity of the Chairperson and record every decision which was supported by majority vote.

The Secretary is also asked to receive and table all incoming correspondence and write and send all outgoing correspondence. The constitution for P&C Associations stresses that the Secretary is responsible for the handing over of all records and minutes to the incoming Secretary on vacating the position.

What are the duties of the Treasurer?
The Treasurer is responsible for the sound financial management of the Association. The Treasurer receives and deposits monies, maintains records, draws cheques and presents accounts, in the form of a written report, at each general meeting. The Treasurer presents all records for auditing each year and ensures that the audited accounts are tabled for adoption at the Annual General Meeting.

Should the Treasurer be uncertain about correct financial management protocols he/she should refer to the advice in the Department of School Education's School Manual on Financial Management or telephone P&C Federation for advice.

Should, for any reason, the Treasurer not be in a position to acquit any of the above mentioned tasks another officer of the Association may take on these roles in the Treasurer's absence, preferably with the Treasurer's agreement.

The Treasurer is responsible for the handing over of all financial records, to the incoming Treasurer should the Annual General Meeting decide to elect a new Treasurer.

From the community

**OOSH Official Opening – Poppy the Possum and Mayor Ross Groves**

Come and meet Poppy the Possum and Mayor Ross Groves at 3:30 to 5.30 pm on the Wednesday 13 February at the Out of School Hours Care (OOSH) room. After the official opening there will be afternoon tea, a magic show, children’s activities and a visit from Poppy the Possum. For more information and to RSVP please call Salam Barakat on 9840 9678 or email woosh@holroyd.nsw.gov.au as soon as possible.

**Parramatta Eels Community Festival**

On Sunday 17 February 2013 you are invited at be at Parramatta Stadium Top oval for a day fun. Come and meet the players, and join in with Sparky and Sparkles, Jumping Castles, lots of kids activities such as face painting etc.

Widemere Public School includes this page on behalf of advertisers but does not endorse nor accept any responsibility for advertised information or services.