Strive for Excellence
School/Life/Home Rules
* Be Safe
* Be Respectful
* Be a Learner

Widemere - Inspiring Excellence - Achieving Success

Term 4, Week 4, 29 October, 2014

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.schools.nsw.edu.au Email: widemere-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Facebook: facebook.com/widemerepublicschool

Month of October, 2014

Wed 29 Kindergarten 2015 - Day One activity day for Kinder 2015 students
Thu 30 Last day for payment for excursions - see below
Fri 31 Day for Daniel - Gold coin donation

Month of November, 2014

Wed 5 Principals/Citizenship Awards presentation - 2.35pm
Thu 6 Excursions for Stage 2 and Stage 3 students
Tue 11 P & C Association meeting 7.00 pm - last meeting for the year
Wed 12 Kindergarten 2015 - Day Two activity day for Kinder 2015 students
Thu 13 Crust for a Cause - note to be sent home
Tue 18 Sydney Dance Sport Championships at Penrith Sports Centre
Wed 19 Jolly Bops - Science Incursion
Wed 26 Kindergarten 2015 students - Big School Day
Thu 27 Last Scripture session and Appreciation Morning Tea.

Information correct at time of printing, 29 October, 2014

Excursion notes sent home
Jollybops - Science Show - all students $5 Last day for payment 30 October
Students in 2/3C, 3/4J and 4M $25 Last day for payment 30 October
Students in 5F and 6F $25 Last day for payment 30 October
Sydney Dance Sport Championship $15 Last day for payment 13 November
Day at the Movies - all students $20 Last day for payment 13 November

Due to the end of the school financial year being 30 November please ensure all payments are to be made by 13 November so accounts can be finalised.

From the Principal’s Desk

Last week I attended the Australian Primary Principals Conference along with another 2000 principals discussing the many changes in Australian education.

During the 3 day conference we heard from notable keynote speakers such as Geoffrey Robertson QC (International Human Rights Lawyer) John Maclean OAM, Frank Crawford (educational consultant), Sue Langley (educational consultant), The Hon Anna Bligh (Former Premier of Queensland) and participated in a terrific Q&A session led by Emma Alberici (Journalist and TV personality) which included noted educational experts and Aboriginal and Muslim community educators.
These presenters spoke about the importance of 21st Century Learning, transformational leadership, the importance of the 5Cs—creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, co-operation and communication, school change and the challenge of thinking to shape our future schooling.

They discussed how current schooling practices are more suited to educate students for more traditional jobs in agriculture and manufacturing, but discussed how these jobs are quickly disappearing. Many of these jobs are now outsourced to 3rd world economies with cheaper wages. The presenters all shared the theme and discussed how our educational approach must change to allow students to succeed in the future.

Research shows that our students won’t have 4-7 but 10-17 careers by the time they are 38. Those who will succeed in the future will be people who can adapt swiftly and be lifelong learners—constantly updating their skills.

Short life skills such as memorisation are seen as no longer important (we have google). Long life skills such as creativity, interpersonal skills, critical thinking and problem-solving will be the key to success now and in the future. They also discussed how the new illiterate are those who are technologically illiterate. This they say will be classed as a disability (like those who cannot read) in the future.

Widemere Public School is striving to keep up with these changes. As you know our school is currently undergoing a revolution in technology. We are showcasing our school and communicating through facebook and now Skoolbag (an online school app that provided instant communication to parents). (More details later in the newsletter).

Every student now has their own laptop (XO), we have introduced Wi-Fi to our school and purchased IPads and tablets to be used to help us better teach creativity, team-work, problem-solving and critical thinking. Many teachers are undergoing innovative professional learning in the use of technology across the school and all teachers have undergone the XO training and are collaborating with other teachers at WPS and beyond.

We are thinking more about our classrooms and how they can be arranged to support this new pedagogy (SOLE - Self Organised Learning Environments) and Project Based Learning and how learning can be more student directed. Of course we are still teaching our basic skills of literacy and numeracy as students will always need to be literate and numerate but we are also thinking more outside the square in how we can teach content of Science and Human Society In the Environment and other subjects through collaboration, problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking.

A quote by Erik Hoffer

‘In times of radical change, the learners inherit the earth…..while the learned find themselves perfectly equipped for a whole world that no longer exists.’

School Planning

Next week the school executive will meet to look at staffing and classes for 2015. This is the first in a series of planning sessions that will occur between now and 2015 and will provide a scaffold that can be adjusted and amended as the need arises. The things the school executive considers in the process are teacher experience, matching student need, numbers in each stage/grade, distribution of boys and girls and available resources. Our additional resources include our Learning & support Teacher and School Learning Support Officers, our English/Additional Language/Dialect (EALD), our counsellor, Reading Recovery Teacher, Librarian and Administrative staff. Many of these positions are based on school numbers and we plan on predicted staffing levels.

The executive will also look at roles in 2015 and the areas of curriculum they will lead for the school. As the new syllabuses continue to be implemented over the next few years it is critical that adequate planning and professional learning is provided to all staff to ensure quality delivery to the students.
Planning 2015
There are a number of requests we make of you to assist us with planning for a smooth transition to the next school year:

- If your child is not returning to Widemere in 2015, we would appreciate this advice in writing so we can plan our classes effectively (we have included a ‘Leaving Widemere’ note with this newsletter to assist you in letting us know);
- If you have a child or know of a child starting Kindergarten next year and have not lodged an enrolment form, please do so as soon as possible which will help us in allocating teachers to classes next year;
- If you will be missing the start of the school year, (due to extended holidays, unavoidable commitments) and if you know your child will be returning after day 1 of Term 1, 2015 (28/1/15 for years 1-6 & 2/2/15 for Kindergarten) please send a note to the office letting us know as this unavoidable absence could potentially affect our enrolments.

Skoolbag
Our school now has our own Skoolbag IPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our community. We are asking parents/carers install our Skoolbag school App. To install it, just search for our school name “Widemere Public School” in either Apple App Store or Google Play store. This app is free and will provide school updates, our newsletter, links to our website and face book page.

Positive Behaviour Learning (PBL)
Last week PBL staff met to discuss and formulate a new merit system and action plan for our school in 2015. Our current merit system is a little out dated and unfair as it is dependent on students starting to collect awards from Kindergarten to achieve our highest awards. Our new Merit System will allow students to achieve the highest awards every year so every year is a new beginning.

PBL is an important aspect of our school culture with positive interventions and systems implemented to improve the engagement and behaviour of students. Each term we develop an action plan which outlines the actions we need to take to promote harmony, anti-bullying and cybersafety across our school. At the beginning of each term our classes are taught social skills allowing students to be caring ‘bucket fillers’ (if you don’t know what that is ask your child). We also look at our signage and appropriate behaviour posters placed and taught across the school.

PBL - Rule of the Week

**PBL**  
We are safe when we walk on the asphalt, play in the shade on hot summer days, and keep to the left when walking on the stairs.

Happenings in Term 4
Another busy term has started with lots of exciting things happening this term including: Kindergarten Orientation Program; Gymnastics every Monday; Excursions to The Sydney Observatory and The Powerhouse Museum; Sydney Dance Championships; The Day for Daniel Mufti Fundraiser; Principal/Citizenship Assembly; Semester 2 Student Reports; Parent Helper/Scripture Appreciation Morning Tea; Christmas Concert; Presentation Day Assembly; K-6 Movie Day; Year 6 Farewell-ZooSnooz; Christmas Mufti Day; Widemere’s Got Talent as well as many other stage based activities. What a great term!

Mini-Fete
A big thank you to Miss Lloyd (Mini-Fete organiser), and our wonderful teachers and administrative staff who all contributed to the sensational, well run Mini-Fete last week. It was a triumph raising more than $1200 on the day. $600 was donated to Stewart House and $600 going to our school’s Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) fund. Thank you also to our generous community who helped teachers with funding or producing their products.

This activity was not only fun but it was the culmination of the Stage 2 units ‘Products and Services’ where student in Stage 2 classes as part of their unit designed and produced items for sale as well as their usual mini-fete fair.
Supervision of Students
A reminder for all families at Widemere, supervision of all students is provided by teachers from 8:45 am each morning. No supervision is provided before this time. Students are advised to arrive at school between 8:45am and 9:12am - before bell time. When students arrive at school they are to go to the covered area in the playground and remain seated till a teacher comes on duty at 8:45 am.

A Day for Daniel
On the 31st October WPS will be fundraising for the worthy cause ‘A Day for Daniel’. Students are asked to wear red to raise awareness of child safety, protection and harm prevention. Students who participate are asked to make a gold coin donation which will be donated to the charity on behalf of the school. This day is about educating students and adults about keeping safe and helping students to ‘Recognise, React and Report’ if they feel something is not right. For more information please visit http://www.dayfordaniel.com.au/

Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2015
Orientation program for students to starting Kindergarten in 2015 has commenced but is not too late to enrol. Please let your neighbours and friends know that we are now enrolling for Kindergarten 2015. If you feel your child may be too young please watch the Kindergarten video link written below. We are happy to enrol your child then assess whether they are ready for ‘big’ school during our orientation sessions.

The next and final meeting for 2014 will be held on Tuesday 11 November commencing at 7.00 pm. All are invited to attend.

From the community
Taekwondo Class - Anti bullying. - Expression of Interest.
Ying Yang Taekwondo Academy program is a detailed curriculum for all ages that focuses on improving a group of very important skills. These skills will help the young enter society with a more confident and enthusiastic outlook. **A Ying Yang Taekwondo class** will be commencing at Widemere School hall if there is enough interest. The class will be held on Thursdays from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm. Monthly fee of $45 is involved but uniform is issued free on enrolment. If you are interested in being part of these classes please contact Nelly on 0405 728 558 for more information.

Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club
Committee members of the Parramatta-Holroyd Lapidary Club invite you to the 54th Annual exhibition to be held from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 November, 10 am to 4.00 pm at their club room at 78 Fullagar Road, Wentworthville. Sales, displays and demonstrations. Fossils, gemstones, minerals, jewellery and more. Come and enjoy Devonshire tea or sausage sizzle whilst you browse around.

Linnwood House
The Friends of Linnwood invite you to OPEN House at Historic Linnwood, 25 Byron Road, Guildford on Sunday 9 November from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm There will be cars from the Rover Owners Club/NSW/ACT, military photos and memorabilia to commemorate Remembrance Day, Carnival Glass Collectors Association, Art & Craft stalls, sausage sizzle and many other stalls. For further information please contact Dorothy on 9632 9203 or Helen on 9807 3224.

Girl Guides
You are invited to come and try some adventurous and fun Girl Guides activities, meet some Guides and find out just what Guiding is all about.

For : Girls aged 7-12 years and their families
Date : Sunday, 23 November 2014
Time : 11.00 am to 2.00 pm
Place : Parramatta Park

for more information visit www.girlguides-nswact.org.au or call 1300 447 548.

Friends of WPS staffroom new kitchen. Thank you.