Month of December, 2014

Thu 11 Whole school movie day
Tue 16 Christmas Mufti Day - note to follow
Wed 17 9.15am - Farewell to 2014 Year 6 students
        9.45am - Zoosnooze day for Year Six students
        Last day of Term 4, 2014 for all students
Thu 18 Staff Development Day - Student free day
Fri 19 Staff Development Day - Student free day - Last day of Term 4 2014 for staff

Month of January 2015

Tue 27 Staff Development Day - Student free day - First day of Term 1, 2015 for staff
Wed 28 First day of term, 2015 for students in Years 1 to Years 6.
        Please note that the Uniform Shop will be open from Wednesday morning at 8.45 to 9.15 am
        and each morning until Friday 31 January, 2015
        Best Start assessment day for 2015 kindergarten students
Thu 29 Best Start assessment day for 2015 kindergarten students

Month of February 2015

Mon 2 First day of schooling for students in Kindergarten 2015
Tue 10 First P & C Association meeting for the year - 7.00 pm
Wed 18 Widemere Public School - Annual Swimming Carnival - Confident swimmers from age 8 and above attend.

School dates for 2015

The 2015 school year is due to commence with teachers returning on Tuesday 27 January 2015 and students from Yr 1-6 returning on Wednesday 28 January. Our Kindergarten students will complete their Best Start assessments prior to starting school, and are scheduled to enrol on Monday 2 February.
Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our final newsletter for 2014. Thank you for your attendance at our wonderful fun filled Christmas concert which was enjoyed by all. Well done to the teachers and students who provided us with very entertaining performances.

Yesterday morning at our Presentation Assembly we saw many of our students up on stage receiving awards for their hard work both in the classroom and on the sporting field. My warmest congratulations go to these students who made their teachers and caregivers very proud. Please see list of award winners below.

Captains / Vice Captains

Congratulations to our 2015 School Captains Luse Imo and Luke Graham and Eve Zamora and Kaylan Hafza, Vice Captains. The students from Kindy to Year 5 have chosen wisely. It was a tough choice amongst all of our fine nominees. We look forward to working with our new leadership team next year.

Sports House captains will be elected in the new year in week 2 prior to our School Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 18 February.

Staffing Changes

We will be saying goodbye to some of our teachers this year. Ms Cook is leaving us as her position was temporary one. Ms Cook however will be working on a casual basis next year. Thank you, Ms Cook for all your hard work on 2/3C and 1/2A and your commitment to our school.

Happy Retirement

As you may well know by now Mrs Benson and Mrs Johnston are retiring this year. We thank them for their long term commitment to our school (Mrs Benson 16 years and Mrs Johnston 30 years on and off) and wish them a happy, fun-filled, endless holiday.

Students, staff and the community owe them a great deal for all they have done for our school. They have really earned a wonderful retirement. We will miss them both and wish them the very best for this exciting next phase of their life.

Thank you

Please let me take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during 2014. It has been a very busy, productive and exciting year. I thank our hardworking teachers, administrative staff, school support learning officers, general assistant, cleaners, OOSH director and team leader, students, parents and caregivers for all their efforts. We have all worked hard and achieved a great many things.

As we reach the final bell for 2014, I would like to wish all our graduating Year 6 students every success in high school and beyond. To their families thank you for your support and participation.

School’s last day for students this term is Wednesday 17 December. We finish by marching our Year 6s out of the front gate at 9.30 am as they will be spending their last night with their peers at Taronga Park Zoo snooze.

On behalf of the students and staff of Widemere Public School I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a relaxing break. I look forward to working with you again in 2015.

2015 dates are listed in the calendar section of our newsletter.

Kind regards,

Michele Saunders
Annual Presentation Assembly

On Monday morning at our Presentation Assembly we saw many of our students up on stage receiving awards for their hard work both in the classroom and on the sporting field. My warmest congratulations go to these students who made their teachers and caregivers very proud.

Congratulations Dux Amir Ajaj

School Captains for 2015
School Vice Captains for 2015

Outstanding Effort and Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Alexander Perrey</td>
<td>KL</td>
<td>Jayden Chand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Emily Timeus</td>
<td>1/2A</td>
<td>Zoe Bradbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3C</td>
<td>Holly Denning</td>
<td>3/4J</td>
<td>Paige Attard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4M</td>
<td>Katie Su</td>
<td>5F</td>
<td>Luke Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6F</td>
<td>Madelyne Su</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PSSA Sport Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys Softball</th>
<th>Ryan Sharpe</th>
<th>Girls Softball</th>
<th>Madelyne Su</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys T Ball</td>
<td>Luke Beattie</td>
<td>Girls T Ball</td>
<td>Luse Imo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Newcome</td>
<td>Charlotte Prazner</td>
<td>Senior Newcombe</td>
<td>Kobi Karanga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Soccer</td>
<td>Hayden Graham</td>
<td>Senior Soccer</td>
<td>Hayley Tester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Swimming Age Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Boys</th>
<th>Luke Beattie</th>
<th>Junior Girls</th>
<th>Paige Attard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 yrs Boys</td>
<td>Luke Graham</td>
<td>11 yrs Girls</td>
<td>Georgia Goutsios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys</td>
<td>Joshua Beattie</td>
<td>Senior Girls</td>
<td>Hayley Starr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Athletics Age Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Boys</th>
<th>Issac Earl</th>
<th>Junior Girls</th>
<th>Paige Attard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 yrs Boys</td>
<td>Elliot Wilson</td>
<td>11 yrs Girls</td>
<td>Mariam Al-Haudriy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys</td>
<td>Joel Stefaniak</td>
<td>Senior Girls</td>
<td>Hayley Tester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P & C Award donated by the Parents & Citizens Association to a Year Five student

| Luse Imo |

Community Award by Member of Smithfield, Andrew Rohan

| Peter Skapetis |

Southwest Connect - Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Work Ethic

| Rebecca Brown |

Sportsperson of the Year Award

| Elliot Wilson |

NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge Medal

| Joshua Beattie |

Pursuit of Excellence Award (Holroyd City Council)

| Chanel Buckley |

Congratulations to all the award winners

Congratulations to these worthy recipients.
NEW Widemere Public School Awards for 2015

**Widemere WOWs**

Beginning Term 1 2015 a new award system will be trialled across the school which will bring together the current merit and sports awards and STARs into a single, manageable award system.

Each student will have a blank, individual PBL ‘WOW” card which is displayed in the classroom. As a reward for displaying appropriate behaviours linked to the school rules, students will be given a ‘WOW’ sticker to add to their card.

**WOWs can be earned a number of different ways.**

1. Merit and Sports awards including Library and RFF awards earn 5 WOWs
2. Citizenship medallions earn 10 WOWs
3. Class of the week in assembly – each student earns 2 WOWs
4. WOWs are also earned in the classroom in the same manner as the 2014 Star awards

**Expected target is at least 20 WOWs per term in recognition for positive behaviours**

* 20 WOWs - Pencil award
* 40 WOWs - Rubber award
* 60 WOWs - Bookmark award
* 80 WOWs - Certificate and wristband
* 100 WOWs - Gold Badge

If a student exceeds the 100, the student will start to work through the award levels again.

As this system will reset at the beginning of each year, there will be no carry over awards from one year to the next. Playground Raffle tickets will still be handed out to students who display appropriate behaviours in the playground.

**Edible Garden - Miss Fauvette**

What a fruitful year it has been in our Widemere edible garden, as we worked hard to grow a wide range of fruit and vegetables. These included rockmelon, strawberries, tomatoes, beetroot, silverbeet, kale, capsicum, lettuce, celery, corn, beans, rosemary and chives, just to name a few.

The garden has been useful in educating and involving our students and teachers in the shared experience of growing, harvesting and preparing a variety of school-grown food. Not only has our garden provided a fun hands on learning environment for a range of lessons from Maths, English, Science and Art, but it has also improved awareness and understanding of the role of fruit and vegetables in a healthy diet.

Some classes “buddied up” and had sandwich/wrap days where the students were given the opportunity to pick, wash and eat the organic produce for lunch. Other students took items home and created delicious meals. 5F’s favourite was enjoying the super sweet rockmelon for fruit break and sharing lunch with their buddies in KL.

We will soon be adding more nutrients from our compost heap and turning the soil beds in preparation for early next year’s harvest. I look forward to continuing our edible garden, so stay tuned for our crazy garden hair and socks day fundraiser in 2015. Merry Christmas from our Garden Gurus.
Reading Recovery - Miss Sajnovic

Ensuring that students know how to read and write is critically important for learning and that is why we place such a focus on strong literacy skill development for our students. We know that providing students with a strong literacy foundation when they are young will help them achieve better and move forward. We also know that strong literacy skills don't always come easily for every child and that is why we have embraced the Reading Recovery program at Widemere Public School. Nine, Year 1, very hard working students were provided with the opportunity to participate in the Reading Recovery program this year. Each one of those students worked extremely hard throughout the lesson series to meet their full potential. They have become increasingly independent and continue to make gains in their classroom. Merry Christmas to our Reading Recovery students and their families.

Sydney Dance Sport Championship - Miss Georgiadis

The Sydney Dance Sport Championship took place on Tuesday, 18 November at Penrith Basketball Centre in Cambridge Park. Two teams represented our school consisting of students from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Both teams competed in a variety of events, such as the Samba, Waltz and Cha Cha. This was the second time that our school had entered the championship, achieving fantastic results once again. Widemere placed 5th overall against 20 other schools! Our students made the semi-finals for all dance styles, with some couples advancing to the final.

Congratulations to
* Ethan Hallak and Phoebe Wilson for placing 3rd in the Slow Rhythm;
* Adam Perrey and Eve Zamora for placing 4th in the Gypsy Tap, and
* Ms Heiler and Eve for placing 3rd in the parent-teacher event.

All participating students received a medal on the day, along with a free kids class voucher to be used at DanceXS Dance Studio at Wetherill Park, owned by Stefano Olivieri who sponsored the championship for a second time this year.

Thank you to all the parents who made their own way to the venue to watch and support our school in this competition, and for getting up on the dance floor as well. We know where our students get their talent! I would also like to thank Mrs Cluff for her support and assistance on the day.

I am very proud of both Dance Sport teams for their brilliant effort, team spirit and sportsmanship. It was a very enjoyable day, and we are already looking forward to the 2015 championship.

Marked as absent from school.

Changes from 2015
The Minister for Education has approved changes to the use of the Attendance Register codes for 2015. The changes implement the ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting. ACARA developed the National Standards to establish nationally consistent parameters for the collection and reporting of student attendance data.

Family Holidays taken during term.
As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences.

A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.
Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations.
To the staff, students, parents and friends of Widemere

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the best wishes I have received from the whole school community since my intention to retire was announced.

Although 17 years sounds like a long time, that time has flown because Widemere is a fabulous place to work and I have enjoyed every minute. Each day it is like coming to meet friends and the students are like family. While the faces may be different, there is something that is intrinsically the same with all Widemere students. They are kind, caring, hardworking, fun-loving, spirited, and they are a joy to teach because they are keen to learn.

I would like to thank the staff, past and present, for their friendship, understanding and support. Widemere is truly blessed to have such dedicated, hard-working teachers that consistently give for the benefit of the students. I would like to particularly acknowledge Mrs Saunders for her leadership and commitment, Mrs Fausset for being a wonderful colleague and friend who keeps on giving until she has nothing left to give, and Mrs Blattman and Mrs Liepins whose support and assistance ensured that things behind the scenes were organised, often before I had even mentioned about needed them, thus making that part of my job so much easier. I would like to thank all my colleagues for their understanding when my mind has been elsewhere over the last few months…..or longer! It has been a pleasure working with you and my life is richer as a result. I will miss you all so very much.

I would like to thank the P&C for their beautiful gift and surprise morning tea last week. Widemere is so lucky to have such an eager band of workers who willingly give their time and effort to help the school in countless ways as they work with and support the staff for the benefit of the students.

I would like to say a big thank you to the students of Widemere who continue to amaze me with their enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. The gift of the plant, the farewell book and the song from the students on Presentation Day, was overwhelming and is something I will treasure for many years to come. It was truly a surprise and I am still at a loss to work out how the teachers managed to get the students to make the book and learn the song without me finding out, and how the students all managed to keep it a secret for so long! It brought tears to my eyes. A big thank you to the staff that made it happen, as I know many hours of work went into it. It was so special and I truly appreciate it.

I will miss coming to work each day to see friends, to hear the laughter and share the successes of the students, but I know there are many things that I still want to do and personal goals I want to achieve. I am looking forward to spending more time with my family, especially my children and grandchildren. I am hoping to travel to places I’ve always wanted to go to and haven't been. I am going to read the books that have been waiting on my ‘must read’ list for years. I will spend time in my garden, learn some new skills (perhaps golf?), spend quality time with my grandchildren, go for long walks, visit art galleries, attend shows and enjoy visiting other friends.

Widemere has been a large part of my life and I know there will be a hole in my life, and my heart, when I drive out the gate for the last time. Hopefully I can continue to be a part of the Widemere community in the future.

Thank you so much,

Karyn Benson
Equipment Lists for students 2015

Students who start the year with all the right equipment are ready to learn. To help you we are supplying a list of the basic equipment now before the holiday break.

The following is a general list of class requirements that will be needed by students in 2015. Individual class teachers in 2015 may add to this list and have a more specialised list of requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2</th>
<th>Years 3 and 4</th>
<th>Years 5 and 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL EQUIPMENT MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALL EQUIPMENT MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALL EQUIPMENT MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Library bag</td>
<td>☐ Library bag</td>
<td>☐ Library bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Art Shirt (or extra-large T-shirt/shirt)</td>
<td>☐ Art Shirt (or extra-large T-shirt/shirt)</td>
<td>☐ Art Shirt (or extra-large T-shirt/shirt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 2 Large glue sticks</td>
<td>☐ 2 Large glue sticks</td>
<td>☐ 2 Large glue sticks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Earphones (plain bud-style if they need replacing from 2014)</td>
<td>☐ Earphones (plain bud-style if they need replacing from 2014)</td>
<td>☐ Earphones (plain bud-style if they need replacing from 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Lead pencils</td>
<td>☐ Lead pencils</td>
<td>☐ Lead pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Colouring pencils</td>
<td>☐ Colouring pencils</td>
<td>☐ Colouring pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Pencil sharpener</td>
<td>☐ Pencil sharpener</td>
<td>☐ Pencil sharpener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Eraser</td>
<td>☐ Eraser</td>
<td>☐ Eraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ SMALL pencil case (desk space is limited)</td>
<td>☐ SMALL pencil case (desk space is limited)</td>
<td>☐ SMALL pencil case (desk space is limited)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 30cm ruler (not metal)</td>
<td>☐ 30cm ruler (not metal)</td>
<td>☐ 30cm ruler (not metal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Textas in a separate pencil case. Students are permitted to use textas on some stencils and artwork.</td>
<td>☐ Textas in a separate pencil case. Students are permitted to use textas on some stencils and artwork.</td>
<td>☐ Textas in a separate pencil case. Students are permitted to use textas on some stencils and artwork.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ USB stick (plastic key tag with name attached)</td>
<td>☐ USB stick (plastic key tag with name attached)</td>
<td>☐ USB stick (plastic key tag with name attached)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Pocket size dictionary</td>
<td>☐ Pocket size dictionary</td>
<td>☐ Pocket size dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Small calculator</td>
<td>☐ Small calculator</td>
<td>☐ Small calculator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Maths set (protractor/compasses)</td>
<td>☐ Maths set (protractor/compasses)</td>
<td>☐ Maths set (protractor/compasses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 2 blue pens</td>
<td>☐ 2 blue pens</td>
<td>☐ 2 blue pens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 2 red pens</td>
<td>☐ 2 red pens</td>
<td>☐ 2 red pens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donations of a box of tissues and hand sanitiser are appreciated by teachers and students for the classrooms.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Liquid paper is not permitted at school in any grade.

**Choosing school shoes**

A reminder that black school shoes must be worn by all students.

Are expensive school shoes the best option for happy feet? Let’s face it. School shoes have never been at the cutting edge of fashion. In fact if you look at what your parents were wearing, the humble school shoe really hasn’t evolved much at all.


**Parents & Citizens Association - Uniform Shop Opening Hours for 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>28 January 2015</td>
<td>8.45 am - 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>29 January 2015</td>
<td>8.45 am - 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>30 February 2015</td>
<td>8.45 am - 9.15 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Wednesday 4 February 2015 the uniform shop will be open on the first Wednesday of the month from 8.45 am - 9.15 am. Alternatively you can leave your order and payment with the school office. Payment must be enclosed with the order form.
Widemere Out of School Hours Care (WOOSH)

WOOSH is operating on the grounds of Widemere Public School from Block F. The centre operates before school care from 6:30 am to 9:00 am and after school care from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Parents/carers can book their child in for casual care or have a regular booking. All OOSH educators are qualified and experienced in the OOSH sector. For further information please free to contact the centre director on 9757 1904 or by mobile on 0417 647 310 or alternatively you can email woosh@holroyd.nsw.gov.au

On behalf of the students and staff at Widemere Public School we wish you
Whatever is beautiful.
Whatever is meaningful.
Whatever brings you happiness.
May it be yours this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Community News

School Holiday Gymnastics Clinics for school aged boys and girls
Come and experience the fun and excitement of gymnastics.
Full day sessions 9 am to 3 pm $45 per day.
On days during December and January.
For further information please phone 9620 8323 or sydacgym@hotmail.com

Bounce Gym offers gym lessons for all school aged children from beginners through to advanced.
For further information phone Michelle on 0401 454 092 or email bouncegym@yahoo.com.au

Become a Timehelp volunteer

Timehelp is a community program that links retirees with local schools through volunteering. Our Timehelpers are invaluable members of our school, and we can always use more helping hands. You don't need to be an expert, just have an open mind and a good attitude. Volunteer opportunities range from numeracy to gardening, literacy to maintenance and everything else in-between.

For more information contact your friendly volunteer coordinator - Britney:
0401733626
www.timehelp.com.au
britneyv.inrig@gmail.com

The greatest resource is people