**Strive for Excellence**

**School/Life/Home Rules**
* Be Safe
* Be Respectful
* Be a Learner

---

**Widemere - Inspiring Excellence - Achieving Success**

Term 2, Week 7, 12 June, 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@det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.widemere-p.schools@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Email: [widemere-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:widemere-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

---

### Month of June, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu 12</td>
<td>Year 6 Fund Raiser - Mufti Sports Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Wed 18 | Our Spectacular Choir Rehearsal  
Citizenship/Principal Award assembly - 2.35pm |
| Fri 20 | Student reports sent home today |
| Mon 21 | Dance Fever Disco - note to follow |
| Tue 24 | Parent/Teacher interviews |
| Wed 25 | Festival of Instrumental Music - Recorder Group Concert 7.30 pm |
| Fri 27 | Last day of Term 2, 2014 |

---

### Month of July, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 14</td>
<td>Staff Development Day - Student Free day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 15</td>
<td>First day of Term 3, 2014 for all students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 16</td>
<td>Students from classes KG, KL, 1B and 1/2A to Wombat Stew excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 28</td>
<td>Beginning of Education Week - Open Day and Art Auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 29</td>
<td>Whole school Athletics carnival - all students to attend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excursion notes sent home**  
Athletics Carnival; - all students  
$5 per students  
Last day for payment 19 June

---

**From the Principal’s Desk**

**Cyber Crime & Schools**

After attending the Holroyd Local Area Command ‘Principals’ Police Forum’ yesterday, police again reminded principals about the prominence of **cyber safety issues** being brought to their attention in and out of primary and high schools. Social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snap Chat can be a great ways of communicating, sharing stories and connecting with others. They enable users to join groups, share images, videos, music and text with family and friends all over the world.

However, police reiterate that parents should be aware that it is advised that children under the age of 13 should not be using Facebook and many other social networking sites as it is felt that children this age do not have the life skills and responsibility to use some social networking sites, particularly Facebook, Instagram and Snap Chat safely.
Research is also showing that young children are becoming anxious and stressed and can find themselves the target of unscrupulous people and social pressure to act inappropriately online when using these sites. As a parent you need to think about whether you want your young child mixing with young and not so young persuasive adults online.

We have already had a few incidents reported at school where children have been on social networking sites and have experienced the problem behaviours of others.

However, I know some parents do make the choice to allow children under this age to use these sites so they can be in contact with family and friends interstate and overseas. If you decide to allow your child to use these sites it is extremely important to make sure your children are well supervised. Make sure the computer is in an area where you can monitor your child and be involved in their communications like the living room or kitchen.

It is also strongly advised to monitor your children’s ‘friends’, set security to the highest level and ensure all conversations are respectful and socially responsible.

Just beware, information shared on these sites does not disappear but can remain on the internet for many years and can affect your child’s life choices and employment opportunities in the future. It is now common place that employers as well as checking a curriculum vitae, now check social networking sites as well.

Police Liaison officers are asking students to google themselves just to let them know what remains permanently online from social media interaction.

As responsible parents it is important to teach your child to:
* use the privacy settings - limiting who can access their profile;
* keep private information private-do not allow them to give out phone numbers, addresses and personal information of themselves and others even to their online friends;
* encourage them to think before they upload any photos, images, videos and text online. This ‘digital’ footprint will follow your child throughout their life. Encourage them to ask before posting any images of themselves or others. Children may find these images or texts embarrassing or upsetting now or in the future. Students who send inappropriate photos can also be charged by police.
* choose online friends wisely. The views and behaviours of others can reflect badly on your child now and in the future.
* limit the number of friends they have. Encourage them to be selective and don’t just add ‘friends’ because others do. Some children think that the more ‘friends’ on their contact list they have the more popular they are!
* communicate with others in a polite, kind and respectful way. Just because they are online doesn’t mean they are not responsible for their actions. If they would not say or do something face to face it is not appropriate for social networks. If they do not get on with or a feeling intimidated by one of their online contacts teach them to block the site to this user.
* tell you if they or someone they know are being bullied online. Let them know this behaviour is not appropriate and being a bystander to these actions is wrong.
* alert you to any inappropriate sites, pop-ups, images or messages.

**Gili Scholarship**

This term Kye Greenhill was nominated by myself and Miss Sajnovic for a Gili Scholarship. The scholarship extend from the key principle of promoting educational achievements of Aboriginal students.

These scholarships recognise excellence and achievement in Aboriginal students in primary public schools. This is the first year Widemere has nominated a student or this award. Kye is a worthy recipient. We congratulate his outstanding effort and achievement at school. Kye receives $250 to be used for school related purchases.
Dance Group

Congratulations to the Dance Group students, Miss Sajnovic and Miss Georgardis for their successful audition to be included in the Our Spectacular Concert to be held later this year at the Opera House. All lot of work and time goes into achieving this level of dance performance for them to be accepted as an individual item at the concert.

Widemere Public School Dance group performance is outstanding and I look forward to seeing our Dance group on stage at the Opera House in September.

Debating Challenge

Well done to our debating team Madelyne Su, Luke Graham, Chanel Buckley, Kobi Karanga, Peter Skapetis, Gabrielle Wallis, Eve Zamora, Owen Maugeri, Stephanie Lang, Isabel Jeffre and Riley Stewart who have all been working very hard on their debating and presentation skills.

Our debating team challenged Newington Public School to a debate on the topic ‘All Cars Should Be Banned from the City’. It was a very close debate with Newington’s debaters narrowly beating students from Widemere Public School. It was a very entertaining and hard fought debate and I would like to thank Mrs Jelic for all her hard work and time she has put into developing our debating team.

With such a terrific first debate I see great things for the future. Next debate is against Berala Public School and we are the affirmative team. The topic of that debate is ‘All Zoos Are Cruel’. Congratulations and good luck to our talented debaters.

Multicultural Perspective Speech Competition

Stage 2 & Stage 3 students participated in our school finals of the Multicultural Speaking Competition last week. All of our students did extremely well in preparing and presenting their speeches in front of an audience. The following students were selected to go through to the next round of the competition which will be held at Guildford Public School.

Congratulations to Phoebe Wilson, Dominic Collins, Luke Graham and Madeline Su. We know these students will represent our school proudly and give their best on the day. Well done!

School Contributions

Thank you to all our debating team Madelyne Su, Luke Graham, Chanel Buckley, Kobi Karanga, Peter Skapetis, Gabrielle Wallis, Eve Zamora, Owen Maugeri, Stephanie Lang, Isabel Jeffre and Riley Stewart who have all been working very hard on their debating and presentation skills.

Our debating team challenged Newington Public School to a debate on the topic ‘All Cars Should Be Banned from the City’. It was a very close debate with Newington’s debaters narrowly beating students from Widemere Public School. It was a very entertaining and hard fought debate and I would like to thank Mrs Jelic for all her hard work and time she has put into developing our debating team.

With such a terrific first debate I see great things for the future. Next debate is against Berala Public School and we are the affirmative team. The topic of that debate is ‘All Zoos Are Cruel’. Congratulations and good luck to our talented debaters.

Multicultural Perspective Speech Competition

Stage 2 & Stage 3 students participated in our school finals of the Multicultural Speaking Competition last week. All of our students did extremely well in preparing and presenting their speeches in front of an audience. The following students were selected to go through to the next round of the competition which will be held at Guildford Public School.

Congratulations to Phoebe Wilson, Dominic Collins, Luke Graham and Madeline Su. We know these students will represent our school proudly and give their best on the day. Well done!

School Contributions

Thank you to all our families who have already paid their school contributions. Our school relies heavily on these payments to run all the programs we offer students. Invoices were issued earlier this term to families. Can you please finalise these contributions by the end of the term. Payments are accepted on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Citizenship Assembly and Principal’s Awards

This will be our last assembly for Term 2. This assembly run by our school leadership team identifies and rewards great students who have earned Principal Awards and Citizenship medallions. These students have worked hard and been great citizens of our school learning community. Congratulations from every one at our school in advance for these students. Our citizenship assembly will be held on the 18th June at 2:35 pm.

This term’s Principal Awards have now closed. If you have not sent in your child’s 8 awards they can be sent to the school in to be included in the Assembly at the end of term 4.

Student Reports

Reports will be sent home on Friday 20 June with students. If your child does not bring home their report please see their teacher. If you wish to make an appointment with your child’s teachers please use the form provided this week. Parent teacher interviews are being held in your child’s classroom on the Tuesday 24 June. KL parent interviews will be held Thursday 17 July. Please read Michael Grose’s insights on reading your child’s report.
Reading your child’s report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . .

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?
   Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?
   There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?
   Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning.
   If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.
Payment for all excursions, fundraisers etc

It would be appreciated if payment for excursions, sausages sizzles, pizzas etc be paid not later than the morning of the final day for payment. This is because we have to order buses and/or tickets, purchase sausages and order pizzas for the events.

Year 6 Fundraiser

Thank you to all our wonderful parents/carers for helping with our Year 6 fundraiser.

A big thank you to Ms Hili who donated both the rolls and sausages for the day. This means 100% profit for Year 6. Funds will be used to fund Year 6 farewell activities and their farewell gift to our school. This generous donation means a lot to our school community. Thank you again Ms Hili.

Area Cross Country

A special congratulations to Connor Ford, Liam Ford, Elliot Wilson, Kobi Karanga, Paige Attard, Johanna Blinco, Issac Earl and Sol Zamora who participated in the Area Cross Country yesterday. All our students performed extremely well. A special mention for Elliot Wilson who came 9th out of 96 in the race. Unfortunately Elliot just missed out on State selection as the top 6 positions go on to State Championships. A wonderful effort by very talented students in our school.

Art Auction

Week 3 of next term is Education Week. On Monday 28 July we will have Open classrooms and an Art Auction. Parents/carers are encouraged to start saving their pennies for our great art works designed and painted by students in our 9 classes. This year our WOOSH will also be painting a piece for our auction.

Our last auction was quite an exciting event which made nearly $3000 for our school.

From the Library

We will be celebrating Book Week in Term 3 and I just wanted to let parents know that as part of our celebrations, we will be holding a Book Character Parade. The students will be encouraged to come to the parade dressed as a character from a book. It is good fun and I am always amazed at how clever and imaginative the parents and students are at Widemere.

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2015

Kindergarten enrolments for 2015 are now being accepted. If you have a child born between 1 August 2009 and 31 July 2010 they are eligible to commence school next year. An application to enrol in a NSW Government school form can be obtained from the school office. If you know of friends or neighbours who have school aged children please let them know.

You will need to provide the following forms: Proof of student’s residential address, copy of birth certificate and immunisation history statement.

Road Safety Issues

Please keep our students safe by obeying our road rules around our school. Please do not park in front of driveways or double park when picking up children.

At the “Principal’s Police Forum” police suggested we put this information in our newsletter
# Road Safety Issues Around Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Minimum Fine</th>
<th>Minimum loss of demerit Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you stop or park on or near:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A Pedestrian Crossing</td>
<td>$405</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A Children’s Crossing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Any marked Foot Crossing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you double park</td>
<td>$304</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you park illegally in a:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NO STOPPING zone (School)</td>
<td>$304</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NO PARKING zone (School)</td>
<td>$169</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• BUS ZONE (School)</td>
<td>$304</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you make an illegal U Turn</td>
<td>$304</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you exceed 40km/h in a school zone</td>
<td>$177</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you exceed 40km/h when passing a school bus with flashing “wig-wag” lights</td>
<td>$106</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NO STOPPING**

You must not stop on a length of road to which a No Parking sign applies unless you are dropping off, or picking up, passengers or goods.

You must not leave the vehicle unattended and you must complete the dropping off, or picking up of passengers or goods within 2 minutes after stopping.

Where there is a school crossing supervisor at a school crossing:

Drivers must not proceed:
- Until the crossing supervisor’s hand held sign is no longer displayed; or
- The crossing supervisor indicates that the motorist may proceed through the crossing.

**DOUBLE PARKING**

A driver must not stop on a road:
If the road is a two-way road - between the centre of the road and another vehicle that is parked at the side of the road.

Where there is an unsupervised crossing:

Drivers:
- Must stop at the white line if pedestrians are waiting to cross or are crossing when the “CHILDREN CROSSING” flags are displayed. Drivers must remain stationary until the crossing is completely clear of pedestrians.
- Need to know that a children’s crossing is a part-time crossing which operates before and after school hours and at times when children are using the crossing, such as for excursions or during lunchtimes.
Remember - No Hat No Play
If your child is not wearing 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 school hat? - Beanies are not sunsafe so students will still have to sit under the COLA if wearing a beanies and beanies are not school uniform.

Athletics Carnival
Widemere Primary School's Annual Athletics Carnival will be held this year at Holroyd Sports Ground, Peel Street Merrylands on Tuesday 29 July, 2014 commencing at approx 9.30 am. All Widemere students are required to participate and must travel by bus from school to the oval in the morning with the teachers. Students will be permitted to go home from the park with parents at the end of the carnival day. The cost is $5 which is due next Thursday.

P & C News

P & C - Uniform Shop Hours - Opening hours - 8:45 am to 9:15 am - First Wednesday of the month
16 July (Special Day)  6 August  3 September  8 October  5 November  3 December

P & C Popcorn Thursdays
Popcorn will be sold from the old school canteen on Thursdays from 1.15 pm to 1.30 pm. The cost will be $1 a bag

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, after school care from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm and school holiday program daily from 7:00 am 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 with 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

Support your Local Business

If you would be thinking of selling or wanting to buy a property please contact Francesca Luccitti on 9756 3040 or mobile 0430 393 396. Ray White Greystanes is located at 3/81 Hibiscus Street, Greystanes,

Ultimate Health

Ultimate Health Greystanes has a team of qualified therapists in the areas of Speech Pathology, Physiotherapy and Dietetics. We cater to clients of all ages who have a range of support needs. Our team of professionals will work together closely to ensure that your services are catered just for you.

We provide services at our clinic or can come to you (off site) when necessary, based on your needs.

Our therapists are all registered for Private Heath Fund rebates. We offer HICAPS so that claiming rebates from your health fund is done for you. We are also registered under medicare for the Enhanced Primary Care Plan initiative.

For further information please ring 9756 5633 or visit us at 30 Carnation Street, Greystanes 2145. Website www.ulthealth.com.au
Imagine is a spectacular musical variety performance that shows what your people can achieve if they imagine they can!

**Ethan Griffiths** a student at Widemere will be performing at the Riverside Theatre on

Saturday 5 July at 3.00 pm and 7.30 pm

Wednesday 9 July at 7.30 pm and

Saturday 12 July at 11.00 am and 7.30 pm

For tickets and further information visit [www.gangshow.asn.au](http://www.gangshow.asn.au) or to obtain tickets phone 8839 3399 or in person by visiting the Riverside Box Office.

**Boronia Multicultural Services Inc.**

Are you caring for a child with a disability or illness? You are warmly invited for Morning tea on Wednesday 25 June from 10.00 am to 12.00pm at the Toongabbie Community Centre, 244 Targo Road, Toongabbie.

There is no charge, tea, coffee and snacks ill be provided. Free childcare is also available.

Please call 9631 177 to confirm participation.