Strive for Excellence

School/Life/Home Rules

* Be Safe
* Be Respectful
* Be a Learner

Widemere - Inspiring Excellence - Achieving Success

Term 3, Week 2, 23 July, 2014

School Hours - 9.15 am to 3.15 pm - Office Hours - 8.45 am to 3.15 pm

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Month of July, 2014

Mon 28  Beginning of Education Week - Open Day and Art Auction
        P & C cake/coffee/tea fundraiser
Tue 29  Whole school Athletics carnival - all students to attend
        P & C Sausage sizzle fundraiser at Athletics Carnival
Wed 30  UNINSW Assessment

Month of August, 2014

Mon 11  Beginning of Book Fair - 8:45 am to 9:15 am in the school assembly hall
Tue 12  Book Fair - 8:45 am to 9:15 am in the school assembly hall
        P & C Association meeting 7:00 pm in the school staffroom
Wed 13  Book Fair - 8:45 am to 9:15 am in the school assembly hall
Thu 14  Book Character Parade commencing at 10:30am
        Science Expo - School Library
Mon 18  Launch of the Paper Chain Challenge
Wed 27  Our Spectacular Choir to rehearsal at Granville South High School
Thu 28  P & C Fundraiser - Crust for a Cause Pizza

Information correct at time of printing, 23 July, 2014

Excursion notes sent home
Dance Group T Shirt & Costume Hire $30 per students Last day for payment 7 August
Special Swimming School $70 per student Last day for payment 7 August

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to school. I hope you all enjoyed your break from school. It is wonderful to be back and be a part of this wonderful learning community.

As I walk around the school observing both teachers and students it is so wonderful to see the explicit teaching and challenging learning programs that are happening in our innovative classrooms every day.

English/Literacy Guidelines

Along with the introduction of the new English syllabus early this year we have designed and implemented the English/Literacy Guidelines for all teachers at Widemere Public School. These guidelines outline what is expected in the classrooms including information on what is acceptable in:
• **English timetabling** (every morning till recess) and **programming in English** (directly from the new English syllabus & literacy continuum);

• **appropriate text selection** (a wide variety of multimodal and digital texts including quality literature, websites, fiction and non-fiction, poetry, drama, media & multi-media, Australian literature etc.);

• **the use of explicit teaching** (clear & unambiguous teaching where teachers explain, model and scaffold thinking and learning);

• **the classroom environment** which includes the elements of **intellectual quality** (challenging and higher order thinking and learning tasks), **quality learning environment** (a productive learning environment focussed on learning) and **significance** (meaningful learning); and

• **the use of the literacy continuum and new syllabus to differentiate student learning** in English and to **assess and track** student learning.

Using these guidelines and the new syllabus teachers have been working hard to develop students as confident communicators who love literature and learning.

Our school has also started the new professional learning program—**Focus on Reading** where teachers are learning to improve student comprehension by helping students make connections and develop deep understanding of all texts (picture books, novels, magazines, websites, brochures, documentaries, videos etc).

This is a comprehensive and exciting program for all teachers across our school and all students will reap the benefits from this program which will continue into next year.

It is an exciting time for both teachers and students at Widemere Public School and we are starting to see improved outcomes already!

**The Correct School Uniform**

We continue to be a proud public school and work hard to provide great teaching and learning programs, improve our resources and maintain our school. We want our school to be known as the **preferred school** in the local area. We are achieving this aim in many areas however our uniform is letting us down. Most students look impressive in their full school uniform - correct uniform, correct hat and shoes but some students are not in full school uniform.

As part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) staff have been working hard to ensure our students are in the correct school uniform at the start of the day, as being different (not in uniform) can effect learning and pride in our school. All parents and carers know what the uniform expectations are as we often put this information in our newsletter and it is always given as part of our enrolment procedures.

We have noticed that many students do not have a hat ($12 from the office) and some others are not wearing the correct shoes. We know that fluro colours are fashionable at the moment but black leather school shoes are our preferred option. But if parents want their children to wear joggers as part of the uniform please make sure they are black with black laces.

School shoes are available from Big W and Kmart from approximately $15 per pair. If families are having financial difficulties in meeting our school’s expectation for our uniform please come to the front office where we can assist parents to purchase the correct uniform.

Please help us to be proud of our school!
Festival of Instrumental Music

Speaking of being proud of our school, I take pleasure in congratulating Mrs Moopanar and her talented recorder students for their terrific performance at the Opera House last term. It was a tremendous evening with students showing their expertise and love of music. Our recorder group is a real asset to our school and I wish to acknowledge the talented Mrs Moopanar’s hard work and dedication to our artistic musical group. For a recount of the night please read the following recount written by Mrs Moopanar and her gifted performers.

Festival of Instrumental Music 2014 - written by Mrs Moopanar’s Recorder Group

On the 25 June, the recorder group together with Mrs Moopanar went to the Sydney Opera House to perform at the Festival of Instrumental Music. This was the finale of a whole semester’s practice and hours of giving up lunch breaks but it was all worth our while.

We left school at 10:30 am in Mrs Blattman’s, Mrs Saunders’ and Mrs Benson’s cars. We arrived at Merrylands train station and the train took us straight to Circular Quay. We had our final rehearsal at the Opera House with other schools. The sound and lighting systems was phenomenal. During the rehearsal we practiced the ‘Can Can,’ ‘Gulaga Dreaming’ and ‘Prince Ivan and the Grey Wolf.’ The pieces sounded superb and we were sure that our parents would be impressed.

We then had a three hour break during which we visited the Museum of Contemporary Art. We saw some amazing artwork and the staff were really friendly and helpful. We remained there until it was almost closing time. We then had a little time to run around and work up an appetite before the long awaited dinner at McDonalds. When we finished, we headed back to the Opera House to for the grand performance.

The performance started precisely at 7 0’clock and we opened the evening with a wonderful performance of the ‘Can, Can’. We felt very nervous but when we heard the huge applause we were more relaxed and decided to enjoy the rest of the evening. The other pieces were from various primary and senior schools. There were concert bands, percussion groups, strings, and a few choral items. After interval we played ‘Gulaga Dreaming’ and it was a very soothing song. ‘Gulaga’ is a name of a river. To close the concert we performed ‘Prince Ivan and the Grey Wolf,’ together with three hundred strings. So the item involved over a thousand musicians.

It was a spectacular night and everybody was exhausted as it was a long day. Students who performed from Widemere were Luke Beattie, Owen Maugeri, Eve Zamora, Shirona Khaire, Riley Haines, Ruby Wainwright, Johanna Blinco, Rukan Gurbuz, Gabrielle Wallis and Luse Imo. Unfortunately Madelyn Su and Adam Perrey were absent and we missed them.

Art Auction & Open Classrooms

Next week is Education Week. On Monday 28 July we will have Open classrooms 9:30am to 10:15 am and an Art Auction at 10:30 am. 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.

After the Art Auction there will be morning tea provided by generous parents and our P & C. Please help our school by donating a cake or slice etc. Please take the donations to the staffroom on Monday morning. We thank parents/carers in anticipation of your donation.

Win for Air Conditioning

All classrooms across Widemere Public School are now air-conditioned. HURRAH!! Those who have been at the school for a few years would remember the massive and convoluted job this has been.

First we looked at getting a quote from a reputable air conditioning business regarding the air-conditioning of the school (there were no air conditioners at that time) and were told that the school did not have the electrical capacity to install air-conditioners. We contacted Public Works and they assessed our electrics (for a cost of $5000) and told us we needed a $150,000 electrical upgrade to air condition all classrooms but did tell us we could get 3 and 1/2 classrooms air conditioned (upstairs classrooms and Principal’s office) in the meantime.
Consequently we wrote an application for the Federal Government Grant to upgrade our electrics. After a lengthy submission and a wait of 10 months we were one of the few schools to be allocated $150,000 for the upgrade. Again after a lengthy wait (12 months) the upgrade was completed. So we had the upgrade completed which was terrific - but no money for air conditioning units!

In the meantime we applied through the P&C for a Community Building Funding from the State Government for our Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). We applied for $60,000 and were successful in receiving $30,000 grant ($30,000 short for our COLA).

So we did a little bit of manoeuvring and applied to change the project and finally - after a long wait we were finally given permission to change the project focus from the COLA to air conditioning. SUCCESS!

After a long and arduous journey air-conditioners were installed during the school holidays. Finally a cool school in summer!

I will keep you posted on our continued, challenging journey to our new COLA!

**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.

**From the Library**

**Book Week “CONNECT TO READING”**

We will be celebrating Book Week this term. Our celebrations include looking at the short listed books in library lessons, a Book Fair and most excitedly, a Book Character Parade being held on Thursday, 14th August (more details coming). I know the children are really excited about the parade and we will be seeing some great book characters.

**Book Fair**

Books will be on sale for the students to purchase. The school receives a commission from the total sales.

Monday 11 August to Wednesday 13 August - before school in the assembly hall.

**Chicken Pox**

Our school continues to be in the throes of Chicken Pox with a few students succumbing to the malady prior to the holidays and then more students during the holidays. We have had another 2 calls from parents saying their children have erupted in spots today. Please keep an eye out for those raised red spots and keep your child home until they are completely free of the pustules.
Positive Parent Involvement - you make a difference

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school.

Parental withdrawal from children's education is a big problem these days as increasingly parents are worn out from working too hard or being involved in a variety of activities. By the time you get home from work or doing other activities you are spent.

But the message for parents is clear - become involved in as many aspects as practical in your child's education. The involvement of parents helps break down the mystique about school that can exist for some children. Their chances of success are better when they see school as an extension of home rather than merely an institution for learning.

Positive parent participation demonstrates to children that you value learning as well as their school. Children copy many of their parents' views so your positive attitude to school and learning is catching.

Many primary schools offer parents classroom jobs such as hearing kids read, taking small groups in elective activities and assisting children when writing stories.

Parent participation is much broader than helping out in the classroom. There is a range of simple ways to assist teachers to maximise the learning of your child. These include: hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go off to school happy, healthy and with plenty of sleep.

Here are some more ideas to help you participate in your child's education in positive ways:

✓ Find out what your school is trying to achieve for your child and show your support for its aims. Discover what sets your child's school apart from others.

✓ Support a broad, balanced curriculum that offers children a variety of educational experiences rather than a program that focuses narrowly on the traditional 3 R's.

✓ Direct constructive criticism through the correct channels such as your child’s teacher, the principal or the school’s governing body. Gossip or thoughtless criticism within the general community can easily tarnish a school’s reputation.

✓ Become an advocate for your child’s school and promote its positive features throughout the wider community. Encourage your child to take pride in their school through your example.

✓ Attend school activities such as open days, concerts, sports events and celebrations. Invite other members of the community along as well.

✓ Consult with your child’s teacher about practical ways that you can assist both at home and at school.

Positive parent participation in school and learning is a proven criterion for student success. One practical way to assist your child as a learner is to become actively involved in his or her school-life.

Published by Michael Grose
Parenting ideas
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For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges
visit: www.parentingideas.com.au
Flu season is here!

Influenza is spread from person-to-person through the coughing or sneezing of infected people. Remind your child about these good hygiene practices to minimise the spread of infection:

- Anyone who is sick with influenza symptoms should stay home until their symptoms are gone.
- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the garbage bin after use.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

If you or your child develops influenza-like illness, seek the advice of your family doctor as you would with any other illness.

The seasonal influenza vaccine, which protects against the pandemic influenza strain as well as two other influenza strains, is now available free to eligible people. More information about the vaccine is available from the NSW Health Immunisation Unit’s vaccination page.

Previous vaccination with the pandemic influenza vaccine, Panvax® is not a barrier to also receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine.

NAIDOC Week 2014 – Colouring in Competition – Winners have been announced.

Thank you to all the students that participated. There were over 300 entries in total.

The winners from Widemere were **Eve Zamora** and the following students received a highly commended **Isaac Earl and San Choi**.

The winners were invited to attend a short Art Exhibition Launch/Morning Tea to receive their certificates as part of the celebrations of NAIDOC Week.

**Debating Challenge**

Our next debate will be held at Granville East Public School on Wednesday 30th July at 12 noon. The following students will be attending and representing Widemere: **Chanel Buckley, Madelyne Su, Luke Graham and Pete Skapetis**. We wish them well.

**Fresh For Kids: Crunch and Sip**

Widemere Public School and Fresh for Kids are running a healthy eating campaign during term 3. It is a perfect way to encourage your children to continue to eat fresh fruit and vegetables during the cooler months.

Students are rewarded with a sticker for bringing fresh fruit and/or vegetables to be eaten during their classroom crunch and sip time. Once students have collected 2 stickers they can hand their completed entry to their teacher and they will instantly receive a Fresh for Kids ring – there are six to collect.

Once the campaign has concluded, all completed entry forms will go in a draw to win some fantastic major prizes. Prizes this year include:

- **First Prize** Home Entertainment pack including a 32” LED LCD TV and a 3D Blu-ray Player
- **Second Prize** 1 of 3 iPad mini 16GB
- **Third Prize** 1 of 10 Fresh for Kids gift pack including a backpack, lunch box cooler and drink bottle
- **Fourth Prize** 1 or 20 Event Cinemas gift card

The campaign to encourage children to eat fresh fruit and/or vegetables commences on Monday 11 August and will run for six weeks concluding on Friday 19 September 2014.
Payment for all excursions, fundraisers etc

It would be appreciated if payment for excursions, sausages sizzles, pizzas etc be paid no 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.

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.

P & C News

P & C - Uniform Shop Hours - Opening hours - 8:45 am to 9:15 am - First Wednesday of the month

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

Monday 28th July 2014 - Art Auction Morning Tea

The P&C will be holding a Morning Tea on the day of the Art Auction. We are raising money for our COLA. Any donations of cupcakes, cakes, slices, jellies and other yummy sweet or savoury treats would be greatly appreciated.

Please drop off your donation to the staff room on the Monday morning.

Tuesday 29th July 2014 - Sausage Sizzle

The P&C will be holding a Sausage Sizzle and Cake stall on the day of the Athlectic Carnival. We are raising money for our COLA. Any donations of cupcakes, cakes, slices, jellies and other yummy sweet or savoury treats would be greatly appreciated. The pre-order lunch pack consists of a Sausage Sizzle and Bottle of water. Please return the completed form sent home yesterday and money on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. There will be sausages available on the day for Parents/Grandparents and visitors.

Thank you for your support. S Jones and R Teelin. P&C Fundraising Committee

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

Marconi Tennis and Squash

Fit and Healthy Tennis lessons available at Club Marconi Tennis Centre.

Bookings and enquiries please ring 9822 3336

Like us on www.facebook.com/marconitennisandsquash

Location - Club Marconi, Prairievale Road, Bossley Park.