Strive for Excellence

School/Life/Home Rules

* Be Safe
* Be Respectful
* Be a Learner

Widemere - Inspiring Excellence - Achieving Success

Term 1, Week 2, 2015

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

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Website: www.widemere-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au Email: widemere-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Facebook: Skoolbag

Month of February, 2015

Tue 10 First P & C Meeting for the year - all welcome - 7.00 pm in the staffroom
Wed 11 Leadership Induction and Class 5/6F Assembly - 2.35 pm - School Assembly Hall
Thu 12 Last day for payment for your child/ren to attend Swimming Carnival - $10 per student
Mon 16 Meet the Teacher - note sent home yesterday
Wed 18 Annual Swimming Carnival for students 8 and older
Rainbow Day for Kindergarten and Water activities for Years 1 and 2
Mon 23 Parramatta Eels - Motivational speakers
Wed 25 Greystanes High Open Day
Thu 26 First Scripture lessons to commence
Fri 27 Clean Up Australia Day - note to follow

Information correct at time of printing, 5 February, 2015

Excursion notes sent home this week
Meet the Teachers RSVP required
Student Info Sheet Due back Monday 9 February, 2015
Expression of Interest - Recorder group Last day for payment Thursday 19 February, 2015
Annual Swimming Carnival - Yr 2 to Yr 6 Last day for payment Thursday 12 February, 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

The beginning of each school year is an exciting time for all students, staff and families. I hope all students and their families enjoyed their holiday and are ready for a productive and stimulating year. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new enrolments especially Kindergarten students and their families and would like to wish them a very successful year. I am sure you will enjoy our wonderful school.

Our new Kindy students have settled in brilliantly and are enjoying their days at ‘big’ school. All students in Years 1-6 are happy to be back and both teachers and students are working hard and enjoying school.

Staffing

I welcome Mr Gawthorne, our new Assistant Principal. Mr Gawthorne was the successful candidate in a merit selection process to fill our Assistant Principal position. I also welcome Miss Yousif, a temporary teacher in 2015 to Widemere. I look forward to working with Mr Gawthorne and Miss Yousif in 2015. I am sure they will enjoy their stay and will both make a great contribution to our outstanding school.

Students were placed in their classes on Monday but things may change and we reserve the right to move students between classes in the next week or so if we think it is in the best educational interest of our students.
Staff for 2015

Principal  Mrs Saunders
Assistant Principal  Mr Gawthorne - Class 1/2G teacher and team leader for Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 classes
Assistant Principal  Mrs Fausset - Class 5/6F, team leader for Stage 2 and 3 classes and Computer Coordinator

Class Teachers

Class  KG  Miss Georgiadis - Kindergarten Coordinator
Class  K/1L  Miss Lloyd
Class  1Y  Miss Yousif
Class  2M  Mrs Moloney
Class  4M  Mrs Moopanar
Class  5/6J  Mrs Fausset
Class  1/2G  Mr Gawthorne
Class  3J  Mrs Jelic
Class  5F  Ms Fauvette

School Teaching and Support Staff

Teacher/Librarian and English as an Additional Language (EAL)  Mrs Regan  (Mon to Thur)
Teacher Learning Assistance & Support Teacher (L&ST) and English as an Additional Language (EAL)  Mrs Terry  (Mon to Wed)
Relief from Face to Face teacher (RFF) and Reading Recovery Teacher (RR)  Miss Sajnovic

School Administrative and Support Staff

School Administrative Manager  Mrs Blattman
School Administrative Officer  Mrs Liepins
General Assistant  Mr Mason  (Tue and Thu)
School Learning Support Office (SLSO)  Mrs Cluff  (Mon to Wed)
School Learning Support Office (SLSO)  Mrs Crossland  (Thu to Fri)

Meet the Teacher Session

In order for parents/carers to be fully informed about their child’s education in 2015 the teachers will meet with parents to present information about their routines, expectations and teaching and learning programs on Monday 16 February. Each class teacher will meet in their own room. A note has been sent home outlining the details of this meeting.

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, to welcome our new Kindergarten parents and carers. We have a wonderful community full of generous parents/carers who continually support our school. It was terrific for our new 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. We had the tissues on hand but I did not witness too many tears. I think both students and parents/carers had a wonderful start to the school year.

Australia - The Story of Us

Australia - The Story of Us is a series starting on Sunday 8 February on Chanel 7. There is an online competition for Years 4 to 6 (9 to 13 years old) students and their parents/carers. Students win points for their school and one school in each state has the chance to win $10,000. Families can win weekly prizes, more info go to Yahoo7.com.au/StoryOfUs-Quiz.
A Parent’s Role in Education

At Widemere we feel that it is important that the school works in partnership with families. We must be on the same ‘page’. It is extremely important that your child sees getting an education as a great opportunity. It is also important that they think you think getting an education is very important too.

To help your child at school we ask you to:

* **talk** to your child about EVERYTHING and show genuine interest in what they have to say. Did you know that just speaking to your child frequently builds their learning capacity? The more words a child hears through conversation and reading the better they will be at reading, writing, listening, speaking and understanding;

* encourage **positive talk** about school like, “Tell me something good that happened today!” Don’t let your child dwell on little issues and make ‘mountains out of molehills’. However if they do have a real concern please address it and keep us informed too. We like you want your child to be HAPPY and enjoy school;

* **set routines** For example: home-snack after school- homework- play-dinner- story- bedtime;

* organize an area (desk & bookshelf) where your child will complete his/her homework daily;

* read for 15 minutes every night with your child;

* reward and praise your child for hard work, perseverance and a job well done;

* **set high expectations** for your child (don’t settle for second best);

* encourage **independence** in all activities;

* discuss the need to share and cooperate with others;

* discuss with your child how to be a good friend;

* encourage your child to talk to their classroom teacher or the teacher on duty in the playground if they have a problem;

* make sure your child arrives on time before morning assembly and comes to school every day unless they are ill;

* pick your child up at 3:15. Children often fret if parents are late;

* **label** everything and make sure your child has their essential equipment every day, including a hat. If your child does not have a hat they have to stay in the shade and cannot play with others;

* give all medical information about your child to the school office, return medical forms and update this information and home details if they change;

* let us know if there are changes to your child’s life that could affect their learning or wellbeing;

* be positive about our school in front of your child. If you have a problem speak to your child’s class teacher, assistant principal or principal and allow us to sort it out.

Attendance

Parents are reminded to provide medical certificates or written and signed notes justifying absence when their child is away from school. Please provide the notes upon return to school. It is very important that students regularly attend school.

Remember children learn their values from you. If you give your child the day off to go shopping or visit grandma or go to the movies, they will not see school as important and value their learning and will not achieve as well as students who attend regularly and whose parents value school more highly. Please be aware that exemptions will no longer be given for family holidays. Absentee notes can be sent through to school using our Skoolbag app (see below).

Skoolbag and Facebook

To keep up to date with school news please access our Face Book page and our Skoolbag app. This newsletter is available on Skoolbag and our website. If you upload our Skoolbag app with your phone you will be updated automatically with school alerts and school news. Join our facebook page for great photos and information about our school and your child’s learning.
How to upload Skoolbag IPhone and Android App:

Search for our school name ‘Widemere Public School’ in either Apple App store or Google Play store and follow the prompts. This App is free and will provide school updates, our newsletter, absence notifications, links to our website and our facebook page.

Uniform

We are very proud of our school. Could you please show respect for our school by ensuring your child wears the correct school uniform at all times.

* Full school uniform to be worn at all times.
* Black school shoes must be worn
* Students must be clean and well presented at all times.
* A note must be submitted when students are unable to wear part of their school uniform.
* Sports uniforms must only be worn on sport days.
* NO hat, NO play!
* White sport shoes are to be worn on sports days, no full fluoro coloured shoes

Allergy Friendly School

Widemere Public School has a duty of care to ensure the safety of all students. Many of our students have complex health care needs including allergies and asthma. We ask all members of our community to provide up to date information on their child’s health needs, plans and equipment if needed.

We also request you assist us in providing a safe relatively ‘nut free environment’ for our students who have a severe life threatening allergy to nuts. It is recommended by the Anaphylaxis Association that we do not impose a blanket ban on all nuts as this does not reflect real life, however we request all parents to try to eliminate nuts or nut products from their child’s lunch box.

As a school we have developed a wide range of strategies to protect students with complex health needs and severe allergies including:

* developing health action plans with medical personnel and parents and communicating these details to all staff;
* providing intensive health care training including anaphylaxis (use of epipen), asthma training, CPR and Emergency training for all staff;
* placing Epipens in a variety of locations across the school including the First Aid room;
* developing risk assessments outlining strategies to reduce the chance of a severe allergic reaction across the school;
* students are directed not to trade or share food, food utensils or food containers;
* teachers are directed not to use any nut products in any classroom cooking;
* our canteen does not sell food with nuts on the lunch times it is open;

We ask that you refrain from providing the following foods in your child’s lunch box if possible:

- Nuts
- Peanut butter
- Nutella
- Nut filled bars

Occasionally parents wish to share a birthday treat with their child’s class. Most store bought cakes and treats have traces of nuts. However our students with severe allergies have their own treat box in the classroom for use at these times and teachers are aware of students with severe allergies.

If you do wish to celebrate your child’s birthday with the class please ensure you purchase cupcakes, as teachers do not have the equipment or time to slice whole cakes. Thank you for your cooperation.
Canteen

Our great Parents and Citizens Association has offered to **continue selling Super Doopers and a few other items on Thursdays** at lunchtime for $1 starting this Thursday. Kindergarten students will be able to purchase on Thursdays from the 12th February.

Widemere Out of School Hours Care (WOOSH)

Widemere Out Of School Hours Care (WOOSH) is operating on the grounds of Widemere Public School in downstairs Block E.

The centre operates **before school care** from 6:30 am to 8:45 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 WOOSH educators are qualified and experienced with the appropriate credentials and Working with Children Checks. For further information please free to contact the centre director, **Rakell on 9757 1904 or 0417647310** alternatively you can email **woosh@holroyd.nsw.gov.au**

Swimming Carnival

Our swimming Carnival will be held on the **Wednesday 18 February** for students in Years 3-6 and for students in Year 2 who turn 8 this year who will be participating in the swimming events. 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 from the canteen as directed by the teachers.

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.

Students should not bring toys, jewellery, valuables, ipods, MP3 players, computer games, mobile phones or large amounts of money to school. On occasions, students may bring special items for news. These should be carefully labelled. Breakable items are not allowed. Students with pierced ears should wear stud earrings for reasons of safety.

Up to Date Student Info

It is important that we keep our **school records** accurate at all times. A Student Information sheet will be sent home today. Could you please complete these and send them back to school by this **Monday 9th February, 2015**. 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.
Visitors/Volunteer Badges

It is important for the safety of all at Widemere Public School the students, the staff and the parents who volunteer to assist in many different ways around the school that all visitors report to the office so that we are aware who is in the school at any given time. The badges that we ask people to wear indicate to staff and other members working in the school that they have reported to the office first. All volunteers at our school have undergone a Working with Children Check. Please continue to support us in this endeavour. This keeps your child safe at school. If you would like to assist in your child’s class please speak to your child’s teacher.

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 2015

The distribution of the school newsletter can be sent to you via email. Please indicate by returning the slip below if you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by email as opposed to sent home. As a school we are 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 Wednesdays.

Yes, I would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by email.

Name ___________________________________________________________
Child’s Name (Youngest) ________________________________________ Class __________

Email address [Please print clearly]
Parents & Citizens Association

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open on the first Wednesday of the month during the school term between 8.45 am and 9.15 am. Orders can be made via the order form available from the office or the Uniform Shop.

First Parents & Citizens’ Meeting for 2015

The Parents and Citizens Association committee members would like to invite all new parents/carers to our first P & C Meeting for 2015. It is held on the second Tuesday of the month and our first one is on Tuesday 10 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 our P&C helping with fundraising and decision making at our school. Please come along and join us, the P&C meetings are very relaxed and friendly and welcome any members. We look forward to seeing some new faces this year.

From the P & C Association

When was the last time you came to a Parents and Citizens Association meeting?

What is the Parents and Citizen Association (P&C)?

It is an organisation that is in most public schools in NSW. They bring the teachers, students, parents and wider community into close cooperation with the aim of making a significant difference to the student’s educational outcomes.

Why should I join the P&C?
Research has shown that the vital ingredient for student learning is parent participation. It’s every parent’s entitlement to join a team of committed parents/carers and to develop new contacts to assist you and your child’s education. At a meeting you will gain knowledge, and participate in the development of plans and policies for the running of the school. The P&C is the gateway to exchange information and to be a part of the continuous improvements and developments being made at Widemere Public School.

We are keen to encourage new parents to come along to our P & C meetings. The meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month and start at 7 pm. The majority of our 2014 meetings have finished at approximately 7:45 pm. Please feel free to contact a P & C member if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting to be held on Tuesday, 10 February. Why not come for a cup of tea and a chat and don't forget to bring a friend.

Sharmaine Falzon
President

Annual General Meeting AGM

There will be an Annual General Meeting held for the Parents and Citizens Association on Tuesday 10 March. We would like to encourage parents/carers to join our P & C. We envisage a friendly and supportive P & C Association.

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