**School/Life/Home Rules**

* Be Safe
* Be Respectful
* Be a Learner

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**Term 1, Week 7, 12 March 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Last day for Crust for a Cause - Pizza orders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>PSSA - Bye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Merrylands Open Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seven students will be attending the Area Swimming Carnival - Congratulations and Good Luck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Crust for a Cause - P &amp; C Fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Harmony Day and Anti Bullying Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Young Leaders Day - 4 students to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Assembly 2.35 pm - Class 3J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>State Election Day - Year 6 students to have a sausage sizzle - note to follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P &amp; C Election Day Stalls - Books and Cakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Teacher/Parent/Student interviews for students in 1Y, 1/2G and 2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Teacher/Parent/Student interviews for students in KG and K/1L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Month of April, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Teacher/Parent/Student interviews for students in 3J and 4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade - Drawing of Easter Raffle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Teacher/Parent/Student interviews for students in 5F and 5/6F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day for Term 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>School Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>First day of Term 2, 2015 for all students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>ANZAC Day ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>First rehearsal for Our Spectacular - Choir to the Opera House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Excursion notes sent home this week**

Note re NAPLAN testing for students in Years 3 and 5

Year 6 Fund raising note

- **Choir Note**
  - Choir students
  - Cost $35
  - Last day for payment 26 March, 2015

- **Dance Fever - Dance**
  - All students
  - Cost $20
  - Last day for payment 26 March 2015

- **Canberra Deposit**
  - Class 5F and 5/6F
  - Cost $50
  - Last day for payment 26 March 2015

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Information correct at time of printing, 12 March, 2015
From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are more than half way through Term 1 already. It has been an extremely busy term with students, teachers and parents working in partnership to provide a great education for students at our school.

On Tuesday night we held our P&C Annual General Meeting (AGM). It was a very positive meeting and new office holders were voted in. Congratulations to our new President - Mrs Skye Jones - Vice President, Mrs Jenni Kane, Treasurer - Mr Scott Bailey; Secretary- Mrs Diana Greenhill; Fundraising Coordinator - Mrs Sharon Blinco and Uniform Shop Coordinator - Mrs Lisa Johnston. Our school community is very appreciative of the outgoing P&C office holders who did such a terrific job last year. Thank you. I thank our 2015 office bearers.

Thank you to our wonderful P&C members who do great things for our school every year. I would like to encourage and welcome new members to our P&C. The association meets regularly at on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in our staffroom.

Reading

It is very important to help your child at home practise their reading skills. The most effective thing you can do to assist your child is read with them every night. Research shows that reading for 10-15 minutes with you or to your child each night can really assist your child to become a proficient reader and this will impact on their overall learning. Think about how this will advantage your child - 15 minutes times 365 days times 10-12 years is a lot of reading practice at home. Children whose parents read with them every night have a great head start in learning.

When reading to children keep it FUN! Choose books your child will enjoy (you know their interests) and if your child struggles read it with them. Ask children to use the illustrations, letters and story line to help them read. If they don’t know a word, leave it out and read on to the end of the sentence. Often the word will become obvious if the child is listening to their reading.

Use the reading strategy Pause, Prompt and Praise.

Pause  Give your child time to work out the word. Don’t jump in too early to help, let them think, look at the illustrations and the letters to work the word out themselves.

Prompt  Assist them by asking questions such as “Can the illustrations help you?” “What about the beginning sound can that help you to work out the word?” “What would make sense?”

Praise  Congratulate them for good fluent reading and correcting their errors. Draw their attention to what they noticed ie. “You knew that didn’t make sense!” or “You knew that word didn’t match the letters!” “Good thinking!”

Have fun reading

National Day of Action against Bullying & Harmony Day -2015

Our school has registered as part of the National Day Against Bullying and Violence being held nation-wide along with Harmony Day on Friday the 20th March. This is a day where communities across Australia take a stand together against bullying and violence and celebrate and encourage harmony in schools and the community.

Widemere Public School is dedicated to creating supportive school environments, free from bullying, harassment and violence in or outside of school. It is not ok at any time. We have zero tolerance against bullying behaviour at our school works hard to eliminate bullying from our playground and classrooms. We encourage students to accept differences in others because everyone is different and everyone does things differently. We feel this should be celebrated.
Our school will be celebrating both Harmony Day and Anti-Bullying Day on Friday the 20th March. We will celebrate as a school by participating in many activities that teach anti-bullying strategies and celebrate harmony. Students have the opportunity to dress up in orange clothes for Harmony Day. Students will be given anti-bullying wristbands to be worn on Friday the 20th March. All students will be contributing to an Anti-Bullying message which will be located in the playground and will have fun opportunities to improve their knowledge and strategies in dealing with bullying. Even though this is a mufti day no a gold coin donation is required. PSSA competitors will wear their sports uniform in the morning and will have the opportunity to change after their game.

Anti-Bullying and Cyber-safety

As you know student wellbeing and safety is uppermost in our mind as educators. Student wellbeing is one of our 3 strategic directions of our new school plan as there are many more pressures these days to students including the precarious use of cyberspace.

As part of our revamped Student Welfare Policy we have included 2 newly developed matrixes dealing with Anti-Bullying and Bystander behaviour and Cyber Safety. Teachers are developing these skills and understandings in a variety of ways using a range of resources including digital media, games, role plays and a wide range of texts and online activities. These skills are taught in a timely fashion e.g. before going on to the playground at lunch and every time Information Technology is used across the school. We want students to have the skills to deflect and report unsuitable behaviour in the playground, online, be critical thinkers and analysts of information they receive on line and be able to identify bullying, bias and persuasion in all media.

We are very fortunate that we do not often have many bullying incidents at school however we still need to teach students useful strategies if they are bullied or witness bullying. We also need to teach students how to be safe on line. We also need your help developing safety skills online.

Some interesting information about cyber use below:

Prevalence

An estimated 72,000 children (or 3% of all children who used the internet at any location between April 2008 and April 2009) had experienced one or more personal safety or security problems online at some time in their life. I am sure this percentage has grown since 2009!

The most common problems were:
- accessing inappropriate material,
- having strangers ask for or gain access to personal information, and
- experiencing online bullying or threatening behaviour.

Danger signs

Your child constantly sits on the computer in chat rooms or instant messaging from straight after school to very late at night.

Your child begins showing unexplained money or items that come from “a friend you don’t know”

Your child starts being secretive about what they are doing online this could include anything from minimising screens as you walk past to not letting you see their blogs/chat/social media sites

Tips for parents:

Educate

Educate yourself about the internet.

Make children aware of risks.

Don’t take everything at face value - people aren’t always honest online.

Teach children cyber-safety rules.
Always keep passwords secret.
Think before posting information - once posted it is difficult to remove.
Never give out identifying information such as home address, school name or telephone number.
Set profile to private.
Use privacy settings when posting photos online.
Never click on links in emails from strangers.
Don’t accept offers that seem too good to be true.
If a threatening message is received they should 'STOP, BLOCK, TELL'.

**Empower**

Encourage and support children in their internet use.
Reassure your children that they can tell you anything without fear of losing internet access.

**Make the Computer Safe**

Set up the computer with an internet filter.
Install security software such as anti-virus, anti-spam, pop-up stoppers and firewalls.

**Supervise**

Supervise children’s activities on all devices- keep computers in public areas.
Set a technology curfew - all devices gathered each evening for recharging.
If you suspect your child has been contacted by a predator, try to save a copy of the chat log (or whatever form the contact takes) for evidence.

Call Crime Stoppers 24-hour line 1800 333 000 to make a formal complaint.
Call 000 if you believe a child to be in immediate danger.
Telephone the Cyber-safety Contact Centre 1800 880 176 for information or advice.

**Useful Websites**

- Cybersmart is a national cyber-safety and cyber security education program managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)
- Bullying No Way website

**Nationally Consistent Collection of Data**

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new annual national data collection on school students with a disability. The aim of this data collection is to have better information about students with a disability in Australia. This data will enable the government to better target support and resources to benefit school students with disability. Our school will be collecting information already available in the school about the support and adjustments being provided for our students with a disability. The data collection will have no direct impact on these students and will they will not be involved in any testing process. All information, including the adjustments made for students with a disability as defined by the Disability Act is protected by privacy laws which regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. Parents have the option of removing their child from the study if they wish and this will not affect the adjustments and support students are receiving at school. A note will be sent home to parents of students with a disability as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

**Zone Swimming Carnival – Tuesday 3 March**

Last Tuesday 27 students represented our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival. All the students had an enjoyable day and despite their nerves did their very best. The effort that was put in was commendable.

Congratulations to Paige Attard, Holly Denning, Isaac Earl, Ryan Falzon, Connor Ford, Hayden Graham, Hannah Jeffree, Sol Zamora and the Boys Relay Team — Isaac Earl, Ryan Falzon, Hayden Graham and Sol Zamora who have made it through to the Area Carnival and will be representing Merrylands Parramatta Zone at Homebush, Monday 16 March.

Thank you also to all those parents who were able to come along on the day to support our school.
Workbook Payment
To enable students to use their new workbooks and qualify for our subsidised rate ($5 off) please ensure you have paid for your child’s workbook well before the due date 19th March. Students will use their book as soon they are paid for. If there is a problem with affording the text please contact the school office for assistance.

Easter Hat Parade & Raffle
On the 1st April WPS will be holding an Easter Hat Parade and Easter Raffle. This raffle is a major fundraising effort by our P&C. We are asking parents to donate a chocolate Easter egg so our school can make up colourful baskets to raffle at the Easter Hat Parade. Last year we had many donations of single eggs of all shapes and sizes and Easter Egg gift boxes. The P&C Association members put together wonderful baskets for the raffle. Please support our school by sending in Easter Eggs and buying our raffle tickets. Please start sending eggs to the classroom for collection.

Ukulele Group
Ms Cook will be running a ukulele group at lunch break on Wednesdays. We asked students who would be interested in being part of this group and 16 students have registered interest. Some students have their own ukuleles others have said their parents will purchase one. A note to parents of those interested students went out yesterday. Ukuleles are a fun easy to learn instrument and we look forward to some great ukulele musical presentations.

Uniform
It is wonderful to see so many of our students wearing full school uniform. An excellent way of showing respect for our school is to wear the school uniform proudly every day. We hope to see all students in full school uniform (maroon pants or shorts, white polo shirt, white socks, black school shoes and a school hat) every day. Most of these items are available at our school uniform shop on the first Thursday of the month. Head bands and hair ties should be maroon or white.

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. Check your child’s bag every morning - does your child have a hat?

Library Days
Students may borrow books from the library on the following days:
Monday Classes 3J and 5/6F
Tuesday Classes K/1L, KG, 4M
Wednesday Classes 1Y and 1/2G
Thursday Classes 2M and 5F

Year 6 Election Day Fundraiser
Year 6 students have started to fundraiser for their end of Year 6 Farewell and gift to the school. Please see the note sent home today as to how you can help.
Out of Bound Areas
There are many parts of the school that students are not allowed to go. We call these areas the ‘out of bound areas’ for example: behind the buildings; on the old equipment; near the bike rack; on the stairs; on walkways behind the hall; in the teachers’ car park; and near the old barbeque area. This is a safety issue as they cannot be seen by the teacher on duty to monitor their behaviour and safety. Please support us and talk to your child about why they are not allowed in some parts of the school.

Money Collection Days
Money collection days for all money collections (School, P & C, Book club etc) are only Wednesdays and Thursday only, please do not send money to school on other days. All money should be sent to the class teacher of your youngest child so that she can mark your child’s name off on the family list.

If you are paying by cheque please do not pay for excursions, sport etc on the same cheque as you are using to pay for the Voluntary Contributions and Classroom resources and workbook invoice. Your support is appreciated. Please do not include payments for school excursions etc with any money due to the P & C such as raffles etc as they are not dealt with by the school office staff but by volunteers of the P & C.

Missing Iphone
Mrs Fausset’s iPhone is missing... The case was found on the counter in the staffroom...but with no phone. It is a black 4S iPhone. It has now been black listed by the phone company so that only Mrs Fausset can reactivate it. If found PLEASE return to school’s letterbox so she doesn’t lose her data and grandchildren’s photos.

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 ap (see below).

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. Whilst the gate will be closed it will not be locked. If you visit the school during school hours please ensure that you close the gate behind you. You should always visit the school office and sign in so that we are aware who is in the school at any given time. This keeps your child safe at school.

No Parking in staff car park
Parents/carers/Woosh parents are reminded that parking in the school car park between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm is not permitted.

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.

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 on 9757 1904 or 0417647310 alternatively you can email woosh@holroyd.nsw.gov.au

Parents & Citizens Association
Widemere P & C Fundraiser - Easter Raffle
To help with this fundraiser the P & C we are asking parents/carers to donate an Easter Egg to be used for the Easter Eggs Raffles. Eggs etc can be left with the teachers.

We are also in need of some baskets and large gift boxes that we can use for our raffle. So if anyone has any that they no longer need and would like to donate them also that would be fantastic.

Your child will be receiving a book of raffle tickets for the Widemere Public School P & C Easter raffle. Please support your P & C in this fundraiser and return all tickets to school when sold or by Monday 30 March, 2015.

Uniform Shop - Change of Day
The Uniform Shop will be open on the first Thursday 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.

Please note - The Uniform shop will be opening on Thursdays for the remainder of this year.
The uniform shop will be open on Thursdays

2 Apr  7 May  4 June  16 July  6 August  3 Sept  8 Oct  5 Nov  3 Dec

Please note the following price increases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Sports Shorts</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleecy Zip Jacket</td>
<td>$27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaberdine long pants</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Bags</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skorts</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Polo</td>
<td>$22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Election Day Fundraiser - Cake and Second Hand Book Stall
The P & C Association fundraising committee will be holding a Second Hand Book stall and Cake Stall during voting for the 2015 NSW State Election.

We are raising money for our Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). We are asking you to donate any books, board games, DVD’s, puzzles etc which can be placed in the area outside the canteen. The canteen gates will be open from next Monday 16 March, 2015.

Cupcakes, cakes, slices, jellies and other yummy sweet or savoury treats would be greatly appreciated on the day.

Thank you for your support

P & C Fundraising Committee.
The Good Guys
If you would like to help our school it can be as easy as purchasing items that you would have purchased anyway from another supplier from The Good Guys at Prospect or Wetherill Park. Both stores are fantastic supporters of our school.

For every purchase at either of these stores we receive dollar points towards purchasing items for our fundraising needs. All you have to do is mention our school and these dollar points will be tallied.

Just keep these stores in mind when purchasing fridges, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioning, TVs, computers, dryers etc. Your purchase can really help our school and prices are very competitive!

Parramatta City Band invites you to Join their Brass band.

Do you play a brass or percussion instrument?

Or

Would you like to learn...

Then contact Jennifer (conductor) by email at howell.jaa@gmail.com for further information.

Email address admin@glassmansydney.com.au

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