### NEWSLETTER TERM 1 WEEK 6 2016

**Principal:** Miss Jude Hayman

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*Please note dates from week to week as there are occasionally some changes.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1 WEEK</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>29/2</td>
<td>1/3 <strong>School Photos</strong></td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>4/3 1pm Aboriginal School Community Meeting 2.15pm K-6 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7/3 5/6H visit BUPA Riverina Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>8/3</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>10/3 Choir perform at Scalabrini Village P&amp;C Meeting 5.30pm</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>14/3</td>
<td>15/3</td>
<td>16/3</td>
<td>17/3</td>
<td>18/3 2.15pm K-6 Assembly</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>21/3 5/6C visit BUPA Harmony Day</td>
<td>22/3 12.30pm K-2 Easter Hat Parade</td>
<td>23/3</td>
<td>24/3</td>
<td>25/3 Good Friday-Public Holiday-No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>28/3 Easter Monday-Public Holiday-No School</td>
<td>29/3</td>
<td>30/3</td>
<td>31/3</td>
<td>1/4 Years 3-6 Cross Country 2.15pm K-6 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>4/4 5/6D visit BUPA</td>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>6/4</td>
<td>7/4 12.30pm K-3 Books In Homes Assembly Choir perform at Scalabrini Village</td>
<td>8/4 K-2 Cross Country Last day Term 1</td>
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### TERM 2 WEEK

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 25/4 ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
<td>26/4 Staff Development Day-No Students</td>
<td>27/4 Students return</td>
<td>28/4 School ANZAC Day Service and Year 6 Lunch</td>
<td>29/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 2/5</td>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>5/5 Mum’s and Muffins</td>
<td>6/5 K-6 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 9/5</td>
<td>10/5 Year 3 &amp; 5 NAPLAN</td>
<td>11/5 Year 3 &amp; 5 NAPLAN</td>
<td>12/5 Year 3 &amp; 5 NAPLAN</td>
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Sausage Sizzle

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to the Sausage Sizzle last Wednesday. It was a lovely opportunity for parents and staff to meet in an informal setting. The water play area at City Park was put to good use as it was a very hot afternoon!

Parent Teacher Interviews

Notes will be coming home soon about meeting with your child / children’s class teacher to discuss your child’s academic progress and how you can best support them. Please liaise with the teacher to make a time that suits both yourself and the teacher and let them know if you are unable to attend so alternative arrangements can be made.

Griffith Zone Swimming Carnival

Thursday the 25th of February was the Griffith Zone Swimming Carnival. Emily Power, Laura Dreyer, Charlotte Currie, Yoshabel Ratuverebukui, Zipporah Puleheloto-Nosa, Ethan Nayden, Spencer Henderson-Clark, Jake Rand, Jermaine Penrith, Robert Virobo, Clive O’Hara, Jason Matthews and Joshua Low were representing our school on the day. They proved that they understood our school motto, ‘Do Your Best’, extremely well as they powered through all of their races, and still had big smiles on their faces at the end of each race.

Many of the students swam personal best times, and were also very proud to achieve skills they have been training for, such as diving starts and tumble turns. Some students gained places in their heats, although unfortunately none of the students made it to the next level.

A huge thank you to Vanessa Clark, president of the P & C, who supported teachers, officials and volunteers with her beautiful lunch bags on the day, they were very much appreciated! Also, worthy of a very special mention is our very own Mr Date, who was the convenor of the whole carnival. A huge amount of effort goes into organising events such as these and he did it with excellence.
Thank you to the parents who were able to attend and support their children and also to Miss Wythes for managing the team on the day.

**Kindergarten’s Teddy Bears Picnic**

Kindergarten had a wonderful time at the Teddy Bears’ Picnic. They enjoyed a picnic lunch with their teddies, and ate yummy Tiny Teddies. Kindergarten’s teddies also helped with lots of learning throughout the day, including playing tennis, writing stories and singing teddy rhymes.

**KR Loves to Play Tennis**

KR played some terrific tennis during ‘t’ week. They had lots of fun learning to hold the tennis racquet and swinging to hit the ball. Students then wrote a wonderful story about their tennis match.

On Friday 4th March at 1pm, a meeting will be held in the Wiradjuri Room at school. Parents, carers and community members are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ideas as to how the school community can best support Aboriginal students to achieve their best at school.

**Stage 2 Assembly Awards**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/4P</td>
<td>Elaina Nayden, Tuwunga Tinomana, Nathan Lualua</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4SC</td>
<td>Joanna Ataela, Xavier Anania, Jay Lesoa Koko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4R</td>
<td>Ailaulau Tietie, Ternaya Williams, Haka Barrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Emily Power, Timote Liu, Feleti Fatafehi</td>
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**Canteen News**

Thank you to Agnes Lolohea for her help in the canteen while Brenda has taken time off.

- Cosmic Burgers $4.00
- Pluto Pups $3.00
- Hot Dogs $3.00
- Pies $3.20

Thank you. Elena, Acting Canteen Manager.

**P&C News**

**Change to meeting times**

Following on from our recent survey, our P&C meetings will be held on Thursdays this year, at 5:30pm in the staff room.
This is our first meeting of the year, so we will have lots to talk about and look forward to hearing your ideas or questions.

Uniform shop: The P&C uniform shop is open each Thursday morning from 9:00 to 10:00. Thank you to our volunteers who donated their time for last week’s uniform shop.

Best regards, Vanessa Clark

What to read and do

- Tell and re-tell stories of all kinds including favourite stories, fairy tales, movie plots, local news items and family history.
- Play games such as “I spy... something beginning with d”.
- Ask your child to read out simple recipes while you cook together.
- Read comics, magazines, short stories, poems and rhymes, including nursery rhymes.
- Do crosswords & other word puzzles together.
- Read the TV guide before watching a program.
- Look at letterbox leaflets together.
- Read directions and signs when driving and shopping.
- Read and write notes and letters to family members.
- Play board games together and read the rules.
- Provide plastic letters, crayons, pencils, pens and writing paper.

Win a $5.00 Canteen Voucher Week 6

Give your newsletter to your parent or carer to read. Ask them to sign this slip and put it in the box in the front office. If your slip is drawn out at Friday’s assembly, you will win one $5 canteen voucher! Two slips will be drawn out at each assembly.

Student / Family name: _________________________
Parent/Carer Signature: _________________________

Wade High School – A Great Choice for 2017

Prospective Parent & Student Evening
Tuesday, March 8: 6 – 7pm
Wade High School Hall - Poole St Entrance

Enquiries: Phone 6962 4022

This evening will include a brief presentation, a guided school tour and a Q&A session

Griffith Netball Association

Registration and ‘Come and Try’ Day

Saturday 5th March at 11am, Jubilee Oval, Griffith

Come and play netball this season with the Griffith Netball Association

Registrations will be taken for Net Set Go, Junior and Senior Divisions from 11am – 2pm

Never played netball and want to give it a try?

‘Come and Try’ Netball on the same day from 12 noon – 1:30pm.

For more information please contact Association President, Caitlin Stevenson on 0429 526813 or griffinnetball@gmail.com or our website: www.griffithna.nsw.netball.com.au
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conference

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team
T 131 538

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
T 0244 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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