



DATES TO REMEMBER

Year 6 Dongara Activity Park

Thursday, 19 November

Year 6 Bump and Jump & ECE 2 Assembly

Friday, 20 November

ECE 3 and 4 Assembly & Christmas Disco

Friday, 4 December

Captain's Table

10.30am

Year 6 Graduation

1.30pm

Friday, 11 December

Book Awards Assembly

8.50 am

Tuesday, 15 December

Canteen help required

The school canteen is only able to operate five days with the help of volunteers. If you can spare a couple of hours on a weekday morning please see Genevieve or Sue in the canteen or call them on 9938 1481.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had an exciting and eventful start to Term 4, with the rest of the term promising to be just as exciting.

Over the course of the next couple of weeks you will notice some improvements happening around the grounds. A wall and signage at the front of the school, retaining walls in the ECE playground and near the front office and additions to our nature play areas will all be constructed.

The Year 6 students have participated in two of their activity days last week, having a fabulous time on Thursday night at the Camp School, and a day of fun at the beach on Friday. By Friday afternoon the Year 6's all looked ready for bed and a restful weekend. A huge thank you to the teachers and parents who helped out with the sleepover and on Friday at the beach. Without your support these days would not be possible.

As we get closer to the end of the year, reports are on everyone's lips. Teachers are currently finalising assessments and compiling reports. To ensure your child gets the best opportunities to be successful in school, please be vigilant in sending them to school. It is easy during this busy time of the year to miss a day here and there, however these days add up and everyday your child misses is detrimental to your child's schooling. Students whose attendance is critically low (60% or below) will not receive a graded report due to the fact they have

not attended a sufficient amount of school to be taught and assessed on the content covered.

If your child misses 1 day per week this equates to over 2 1/2 years of their entire schooling they have missed. Three days of the week missed equals to nearly 8 years out of their 13 years of schooling they haven't attended school. This is an alarming amount of learning opportunities they have missed. Please see the table below and the information provided inside this newsletter for more details.

If your child misses...	This equals...
1 day per week	Over 2 ½ years
2 days a week	Over 5 years
3 days a week	Nearly 8 years

Everyday your child is not at school is a teaching opportunity missed!

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Britt who finishes up as our Canteen Manager next week. Sue's partnership with the school has lasted over 20 years. It began when her own children were attending Waggrakine, where she was actively involved with the P&C and this support has continued, including managing our school canteen for the last 7 years. So parents and students alike, as you are ordering lunches next Monday/Tuesday just say a quick thank you to our wonderful Mrs Britt for her unwavering contributions to Waggrakine Primary School.

Zoei Nixon, Principal

Keeping kids in school

Message to Parents

As our children's education is vital to their future and the future of our community, in a bid to encourage regular student attendance at school, 'Keeping Kids in School' was implemented in 2008.

Under this program **your child can be refused service** by local businesses displaying a sign, similar in look to this article, in their shop front or entrance. These businesses have the right to refuse to serve school-aged students who are not at school during normal school hours if they do not have a valid leave pass.

Schools will be contacted immediately by shop owners if students who are absent from school without an appropriate leave pass are found in their premises.

Parents are encouraged to talk with their children and ensure they understand what this information means.



Over the first 6 weeks of term 4, **174 out of 501 students (approximately 1 in every 3)** have attended school at a rate of either on or below 90%. This is a concerning amount of students at our school who have an attendance rate which puts them "at risk"! It is critical that students at Waggrakine PS attend well. Absences for reasons such as birthdays, rest days, catching up with family member days, appointments that could be made out of school hours, holidays in term time etc. should be avoided.

Below is a table that explains how 1-3 days a week can accumulate into a significant amount.

1 to 2 days a week absence from school doesn't seem much but....

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	...and over 13 years of schooling that is...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 ½ years</u>
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over <u>2 ½ years</u>
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over <u>5 years</u>
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly <u>8 years</u>

EVERY DAY COUNTS

For children to be successful at school then **Every Day Counts** and **Attendance does matter!**

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just.....	That equals....	Which is.....	...and over 13 years of schooling that's.....
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly <u>1 ½ weeks</u> per year	Nearly <u>½ a year</u>
20 mins per day	<u>1 hr</u> 40 mins per week	Over <u>2 ½ weeks</u> per year	Nearly <u>1 year</u>
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 ½ years</u>
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks a year	Over <u>2 ½ years</u>

Remember 90% attendance is equal to 1 day off per fortnight

Ask us about help with getting your children to school every day!

TA 12 & 13 Assembly - Green Thumbs



Parents:

Please **DO NOT** park, pickup or drop off from the Staff car park. There are 3 other clearly marked areas for you to use. 1) the back car park on the South-West end near the oval 2) the large car park near ECE area and 3) the Kiss and Drive can be used for quick drop off and pickup.

Parents using the Staff car park are often blocking entry or exits for suppliers, trades people and staff. Please be courteous and use your designated areas.

Just a friendly reminder...

Rotary Club Microscope donations

The Microscopes in Schools Project is the concept of WA Chief Scientist Prof. Lyn Beazley and the initiative of the Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay.

Thank you very much to the Rotary Club of Geraldton who presented Miss Wann with a donation of 30 microscopes to be used by the students of Waggrakine Primary School.

We would like to thank the Rotary Club of Geraldton for their generous donation which will be widely used through the school.



P&C News



HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came and supported the Waggrakine P&C Halloween Quiz Night. It was a huge success and there have been a lot of positive comments.

The costumes were fantastic; we had zombies, witches and skeletons just to name a few. Salome Ehlers & Paul Tomkins were voted as best dressed on the night.

Nights like this wouldn't be possible without the amazing helpers and sponsors. My Super Ladies of the P&C Amy Blyth, Paula Steenson and Naomi Bosich who worked tirelessly over the past 4 months to ensure this night was possible, setting up, finding sponsors, ensuring there was food and drinks for everyone. I couldn't have done this without your help and support. Jason Steenson for his help setting up and heavy lifting, cooking the meat, which tasted delicious; your help is much appreciated. To our amazing MC, Brenda Wann; you did a fantastic job. Our awesome markers Helen Price and Kobie Coetzee, who were kept very busy throughout the night. Michelle Tazewell and Gemma O'Connor for all their help in the morning setting up. To Zoei Nixon for everything she did prior, during and after the event; we appreciate everything you did for us. Paula Moses, for her kind donations and help assisting with the music round questions. Craig Delacy for his wisdom and support throughout the last few weeks.

Huge thank you to our sponsors:

SCH Contracting (Catherine O'Brien), Abrolhos Jewellers (Steve Dicken), Latitude Gallery, Leon Baker Jewellers, Alison McCaskie and the rest of our amazing sponsors for their generosity in providing raffle prizes to ensure the night was an enormous success.

Our major raffle winners on the night were:

Jandell Faraone	Jacqui Steer
Tricia Boyd	Tanya Copley
Katrina O'Keeffe	

Vanessa Gould, Quiz Night Co-ordinator

TERM 4 - DISCO

Friday, 4 December is Term 4 disco time. In preparation for our Christmas festivities we would like to make it a Christmas theme.

K-Yr 3 from 5.15 - 6.30pm and
Yr 4 - 6 from 6.45 - 8.15pm.

Please join us in celebrating the end of a sensational year.



Transition Week will begin on Monday, 23 November for all Year 6 students coming to John Willcock College in 2016. The week will run from Monday, 23 November to Friday, 27 November.

All Year 6 students intending to attend JWC in 2016 will need to submit a completed enrolment pack to the JWC Front Office as soon as possible

If you need a replacement pack – please call JWC Front Office on 9965 8300.

Will you be at Waggy in 2016?

To assist with planning for 2016, we request you advise us if you are planning on leaving Waggrakine Primary School at the end of this year. If you know you are moving on (with the exception of Year 6's) can you please complete the slip below and return to the office.

Student name: _____ **will not** be attending Waggrakine Primary School in 2016

Signed: _____

Foodbank Christmas Appeal

With Christmas fast approaching, Foodbank are in desperate need of food donations to help needy families in Geraldton. Food items such as biscuits, bags of chips and any Christmas related items can be dropped off at collections points at Rigters and Queens IGA stores, Woolworths, Geraldton Library and Aquarena.