



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Assembly TA 17 & 18

Friday, 2 March 8.45am  
House Captains and School  
Reps announced

### P&C AGM

Monday 12 March  
3.30pm in Staff Room  
Everyone welcome

### Parent Night

During Term 1 - date TBA

### Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 5 March

### In Term Swimming

Group A: 6-9 March  
Group B: 13-16 March

### Easter

Fri, 30 March - Tue, 3 April

**Last Day of Term** for  
students is Thursday, 12 April

### 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 Anne-Marie in the canteen.

The canteen has recently been awarded a 5 Star Food Safety rating from the CGG.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a smooth start to the year and swimming is almost upon us. I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome to all our new families, joining our Waggrakine community. We are looking forward to a positive year and welcome a number of new staff again this year.

We welcome the following new staff:

#### Teachers:

Mrs Alison Hopkins, TA6 (Yr 5)  
Miss Brodie Drage, TA1 (Yr 2)  
Mrs Diana Dixon, TA17/Art

#### Special Needs Education

#### Assistants:

Mrs Kym Coulthard, ECE2  
Ms Rhonda Howell, TA4  
Ms Fiona Hopkins, TA7 and ECE1

This year is the first time in ten years we have not added a new class, although our numbers in the upper year levels are quite high.

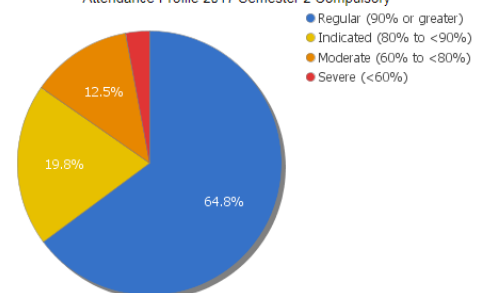
As Easter falls within the term this year, 30 March to 3 April is the Easter break. Students do not return to school until **Wednesday, 4 April**. Please inform the school of any absences via email, phone or Seesaw.

The following pages are reminders of school procedures. Please take the time to read through the expectations with your children.

## Attendance

Helping your children to achieve academic milestones is a priority and as attendance data correlates to academic data we once again remind families of the importance of regular attendance for students achievement. Our Semester 2, 2017 attendance, remained low with only 64.8% of students attending over 90%.

Attendance Profile 2017 Semester 2 Compulsory



It is a requirement of the Education Act that students attend school at least 90% of the year. We thank those parents who ensure their children attend all days possible.

## Rebranding the school

Over the following weeks we are very happy to share the results of our school rebranding, starting with a new logo and then many updated documents and signage. We wanted to share in colour so will share on our online platforms for you to see.

Lis Turner | Principal :)

## Ambulance Cover

Each year there is a need to call an ambulance for emergencies and we do not hesitate in doing so for the safety of your child. This may, at times, be done before parents are, or can be contacted. The family is billed for the ambulance and this can be around \$800. We strongly urge all families to pay the small annual fee for ambulance cover or check your current private health insurance to ensure that you have ambulance benefits for all family members.

## School Board

If any parents or members of the community are interested in becoming a member of our School Board, please let Ms Turner know. The next board meeting will be held in the staff room at 3.30pm on Monday, 19 March.

## Scooters and Bikes

While we encourage students to ride and walk to school, we remind students with scooters and bikes that these must be walked inside the school grounds to prevent accidents. A lockable scooter rack donated by the P&C is available. Please ensure children wear helmets.

## Composite/Split Classes vs Straight Classes

Like all schools, the funding allocation is determined based on the number of students enrolled on census day (16 February) and the year group students are enrolled in. We had 541 students enrolled at Waggrakine on Census day. Class structures are based on student needs and the funding available based on our numbers. Composite or split grade classes are inevitable when funding and student numbers dictate the number of classes a school is able to have. It is not financially possible for Waggrakine Primary to have straight year levels throughout the school as this would leave us in the red.

Some or all of the following criteria may be used to place students in classes:-

- ◆ Academic performance
- ◆ Behaviour
- ◆ Social Development
- ◆ Gender balance
- ◆ Previous class placements (if applicable)
- ◆ School psychologist recommendations (if applicable)
- ◆ Written parent submissions regarding a student's educational needs

The quality of teaching, combined with student interest and engagement, are considered more important than class structure, whatever form it may take. At Waggrakine Primary School we aim to support and foster highly effective teachers in each class, who can best meet the needs of your child. Below are two links to articles regarding composite classes.

### **Article 1: Many parents dislike composite classes but the evidence does not support their anxiety**

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/many-parents-dislike-composite-classes-but-the-evidence-does-not-support-their-anxiety-20150413-1mk4g9.html>

### **Article 2: Are mixed-grade classes any better or worse for learning?**

<http://theconversation.com/are-mixed-grade-classes-any-better-or-worse-for-learning-38856>

## Sounds-Write Parent Workshops

Dear Parents,

Once again we are offering Sounds~Write parent information workshops. **This workshop will cover:**

- ⇒ What is the Sounds~Write program?
- ⇒ The importance of articulating the sounds correctly.
- ⇒ The skills and understanding parents need to understand to help support their child with the reading and writing.
- ⇒ Some tips and resource to support your child with their reading and writing.

Two identical 45 min sessions will be run on **Monday, 12 March 2018.**

**First session:** 2:10 pm - 2.55 pm (Staff Room)

**Second session:** 6:30pm - 7.15 pm (Staff Room)



If you would like to attend could you please email or phone Zoi Nixon on [zoi.nixon@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:zoi.nixon@education.wa.edu.au) or phone the school on 9968 1800 to put your name down for either the afternoon or the evening session.

## Communicating to the School Community

### Website

Waggrakine PS web site has an events and calendar page, and on parent information pages has policies, book lists and calendars that can be downloaded. <http://www.waggrakineps.wa.edu.au/Home.aspx>

### Facebook

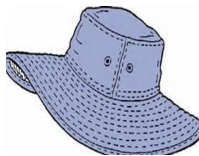
Continuing on from last year we strive to reduce the amount of printing we are doing. As such we will aim to print only one newsletter per term. Regular small communications will be done through the school Facebook page 'Waggrakine Primary School'. Please join the site if you have not already. There is also a P&C site that I encourage parents to join for the latest info from the P&C 'Waggrakine Primary School P&C'. If your Facebook name is different to your name on our system, please let us know so we can add you. There are two questions we ask you to answer to help us identify potential members.

### School Blog

The school blog, 'What's up at Waggrakine?' regularly features photos of events in the school as they happen, so please visit or follow the site so you are informed of the latest news and images. <http://waggrakineps.wordpress.com/> This is a focus on whole school events.

## Sun Smart Policy

In order to play outside at recess and lunch breaks, children must wear a broad brimmed or legionnaire hat. Caps and bucket hats do not comply with our Sun Smart policy. Hats are available to purchase from the Canteen.



## From your P&C

Welcome back to school for another exciting year for parents, staff and students alike! A special welcome to new families. We know you will enjoy your time here at Waggrakine Primary School.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 12 March 2018 at 3.30pm in the Staff Room**. All positions will be declared vacant and we will be seeking nominations. We would love to see new and familiar faces. Please check our Facebook page Waggrakine Primary P&C and ask to join. If you have any queries, please contact Paula Steenson on 0409 076 476.

## Seesaw

Waggrakine Primary School is using Seesaw this year! Seesaw gives your child creative tools to capture and reflect on their learning - in real time. Then this work is shared with you. Seesaw will give you a window into each of our classrooms and into your student's learning process. Our students are excited to use this new tool in partnership with the great things our teachers do in their classrooms.

If you haven't already downloaded the Seesaw family App, please do so. It is available on iOS, Android, or through the web. When your child adds new work, you will receive a notification to see, hear and respond to your child's post. **You only have access to your own child's work and all of the content is stored securely.** Please also understand that teachers will respond to messages inside the school hours.

Please contact Zoei Nixon (Deputy) with any questions about Seesaw. With your help, we can continue building our school community of lifelong learners. You will have received a handout with directions to download and sign up for your child's Seesaw journal from your child's teacher. If you didn't receive this handout or require a second one,

## Parent Volunteers

Each year the school program is greatly enriched by volunteers, parents and family members helping out with reading groups, excursions, library work or other school functions. At the beginning of each year it is a mandatory requirement for the safety of children that all parents of children at Waggrakine sign a confidential declaration and all non-parent volunteers require a Working with Children Check. Teachers will seek your co-operation in meeting our requirements to ensure children's safety.

### READING HELPERS WANTED

We are seeking adult helpers for our RADICAL READERS Program. If you are willing to give an hour of your time each week to listen to our students read, we would love to hear from you. You would work 1-on-1 with a Year 1, 2 or 3 student to listen to them read. You would be required to come in and attend a 1 hour training session before we commence in Week 7. Please contact the school and speak to Mrs Zoei Nixon or email your interest to:



[Waggrakine.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Waggrakine.ps@education.wa.edu.au)



# Positive Behaviour Support School

Waggrakine is in its second year being a Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) school. Last year the team, along with staff and students, developed our core behavioural expectations of **Achieve By Caring** by being **respectful, being responsible** and **being active learners**. The team has now developed a matrix which lists specific behaviours for our school settings in relation to the expectations. This creates the curriculum which will guide the teaching of expected behaviours. Below are specific behaviours for two of our settings.



## We 'Achieve by Caring' by being...

	Respectful	Responsible	Active Learners
<b>Whole School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider others learning.</li> <li>• Move around the school in a sensible manner.</li> <li>• Follow all staff instructions.</li> <li>• Always use manners (please, thank you, excuse me).</li> <li>• Respect your personal and school property.</li> <li>• Speak with care and compassion to others.</li> <li>• Listen attentively when someone is speaking.</li> <li>• Accept differences in others.</li> <li>• Keep hands/feet and objects to yourself.</li> <li>• Show pride in our school.</li> <li>• Respect others personal space/privacy/property.</li> <li>• Be inclusive of others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and organise yourself for learning.</li> <li>• Be responsible for your own belongings.</li> <li>• Walk responsibly on all concrete areas.</li> <li>• Follow school dress code.</li> <li>• Set a good example for others to follow.</li> <li>• Help and encourage others.</li> <li>• Act safely.</li> <li>• Speak calmly.</li> <li>• Place all rubbish in the bin.</li> <li>• Only enter a classroom with staff permission.</li> <li>• Tell the truth.</li> <li>• Keep toys/trading cards/valuable items at home unless it's for news.</li> <li>• Take any found money or valuable items to the office.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try solving minor problems first.</li> <li>• Communicate effectively.</li> <li>• Participate actively.</li> <li>• Ask for help if needed.</li> <li>• Set challenging goals and work towards them.</li> <li>• Present all work to a high standard.</li> <li>• Know what your learning goal is (WALT)</li> <li>• Know what you are learning about (WILF)</li> <li>• Persevere and have a go.</li> <li>• Show pride in all school work and achievements.</li> <li>• Show resilience.</li> <li>• Strive for independence.</li> <li>• Arrive on time.</li> <li>• Discuss problems.</li> <li>• Attend school regularly.</li> <li>• Participate in school Waste Wise practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Before and After School</b> Up to 8.45am and after 3pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say 'good morning/afternoon' to peers and staff.</li> <li>• Be respectful when wearing school uniform.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If at school without an adult before 8.30am, go to undercover area to sit and talk quietly, until released.</li> <li>• Be in class by 8.45am.</li> <li>• Order lunch before 8.45am.</li> <li>• Hand in phones or electronics to office before 8.45am or on arrival.</li> <li>• Put lunch box in your class crate (if you have one).</li> <li>• After school head straight to designated pick up or home.</li> <li>• Walk bikes/scooters/skateboards on school grounds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow classroom routines to be prepared.</li> </ul>