



Talking
Together

wanggajimanha

 Achieve By Caring



Term 2 Dates

TA10 and TA14 Assembly

Friday 10 May 8:45am

NAPLAN testing period

13 May to 24 May

Book Fair

21 May to 28 May

TA7 Assembly

Friday 31 May at 8.45am

School Photos

Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 June

TA9 and TA11 Assembly

Friday 14 June at 8.45am

TA6 Assembly

Friday 28 June at 8.45am

Last Day of Term 2

Friday 5 July

A calendar of events during each term is on the web site:

<https://waggrakineps.wa.edu.au/events/>

A reminder the first Monday of each term is a pupil free day.

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As schools and society evolve and grow I wanted to highlight some policies, guidelines and procedures within which we operate and provide an update of our growth and statistics as we enter our 40th year. I would also like to thank the community for embracing our new branding and being active players in developing our 'Achieve by Caring' culture.

We have developed this newsletter in a frequently asked questions format. Its intent is to address some of the questions arising from our community as our school grows and evolves.

The school has multiple support teams who champion our focus areas highlighted in the reprinted 2018–2020 School Plan, which accompanies this newsletter.

I look forward to an engaging and successful Term 2.



How are we funded?

Waggrakine has 550 students. Under a student-centred funding model, the census early in Term 1 each year determines school funding for the year. Funding is not just per student, but is also, under the following categories set by the Department; *Aboriginality, Disability, Locality, English as a Second Language and Social Disadvantage.*

The School Report with funding details is at: <https://www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline/annualreport.do?schoolID=5625&pageID=AD08>

Can anyone enrol at Waggrakine?

No. As a growing school, (past permanent building capacity), Waggrakine is only able to take enrolments from families who reside within our catchment (north of the Chapman River), and for the past 10 years we have not been able to accept out of boundary enrolments, any requests are sadly declined. Being in an area with many new subdivisions over the past 12 years, Waggrakine has grown 11 classrooms, even after losing the Year 7 students in 2015. In 2008 we had around 350 students, today we have 550.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Education Act all PP – Yr 6 children are guaranteed a place in their local government school.

What is a disability?

The definition of **'disability'** used in the DDA is broad. It includes physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological and learning disabilities. Diagnosed students with a disability fall under the following categories; *Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disability, Severe Medical Disorder, Hearing or Visual Impairment.* Funding is allocated to the school to support the employment of Education Assistants, release time for case conferences, specialist teachers and resources, including ICT.

Students 'imputed' (identified as having a disability, but may not yet be diagnosed) with a disability are also categorised through the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data.

Schools receive additional funds to help make educational adjustments for these students.

What is Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)?

The Positive Behaviour Support framework forms a whole school model for staff and students to: teach, learn, reinforce and model our three whole school expectations of RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and ACTIVE LEARNER. This framework defines the desired behaviours of our school.

*If a child doesn't know how to read we teach.
If a child doesn't know how to spell we teach.
If a child doesn't know how to count we teach.
If a child doesn't know how to behave ...
we teach!*

As a community it is our responsibility to teach our children the skills needed to succeed in society.

All staff provide ongoing positive reinforcement (Waggy Wonder tokens, assembly certificates, individual class incentive programs, free and frequent rewards) to students who are displaying our expectations, and support our students who need further practice displaying these skills.

What happens to students not following our three expectations?

As in the adult world, there are consequences for breaching our school expectations.

Minor breaches are commonly dealt with at a classroom level through:

- Classroom management strategies
- Time out in class or with another partnered class
- Loss of privileges

Major or reoccurring minor breaches are directly referred to the office and will result in a more serious consequence, such as:

- Walking with duty teacher - missing play time while walking with a teacher

- Detention – missing play and eating time
- Withdrawal – removed from class to work in the office
- Suspension

Please note: this is not an exhaustive list and students with additional needs may need tailored consequences related to their needs.

<https://waggrakineps.wa.edu.au/engagement/positive-behaviour-support/>

How is violence addressed?

In 2018 the Department undertook a review of violence in schools and the Minister of Education enacted a number of directives relating to this in late 2018. Not all of these directives apply to students with a disability, whose needs often require different and individualised interventions or consequences.

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2018/12/Schools-to-take-a-stand-against-violence.aspx>

Who are our community partners?

A number of department and interagency partners work with the school to assist us in supporting our students and families.

- School Chaplain and Psychologist
- The Schools of Special Education Needs: Disability, Mental Health, Behaviour and Engagement
- Child Protection and Family Services
- Ngala, Helping Minds, Child Adolescent and Mental Health and Centacare
- Child Development Services (speech, occupational therapy, physiotherapy)

<https://waggrakineps.wa.edu.au/community/affiliations/>

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/documents/43634987/44524721/Managing+Student+Behaviour.pdf/214dc553-e552-90c5-bad8-7dee8b4c4c5e>

What changes are taking place to the school grounds?

Fencing

The School Board and a number of parents have recently been discussing and lobbying the need for improved fencing to ensure student safety within school grounds. I am pleased to announce Waggrakine Primary School has gained funding for the proposed installation of a security fence around the school oval and facilities.

The fence will improve staff and student safety. It will also discourage antisocial behaviour after hours on school grounds. Public access to the oval outside of school time will not be affected by the installation of the fence.

The proposed plan is available for viewing in the school office until 14 May 2019 for comment. The WA Planning Commission require comments and feedback to be made in writing to Lis Turner, School Principal. Please include your contact details to allow us to follow up any issues that may arise.

Shade

The school has just funded new shades over the Year 1/2 and 3/4 playgrounds, a new swing is on its way for the senior playground, as are new football goal posts. We continue to expand our nature playground areas.

Increased educational facilities

Over the past three weeks we received two new classrooms, two disabled toilets and two sheds. We are grateful for the supply of these buildings from the Department of Education.

The new classrooms will allow for:

- Decrease in class sizes in future years
- Increase our intervention programs to support individual students

What safety processes are in place for students?

All students must be signed out at the office or ECE during school time by a person identified at enrolment or who staff have since been notified of as a person able to collect students. Teachers will release the student on presentation of a sign out slip provided by office staff.

All relevant staff are made aware of any court orders in place. Please ensure the school has the latest court orders.

All staff members hold current Working With Children Checks and a Department of Education Screening Clearance (a National Police Clearance with additional notifiable protection for children).

Emergency procedures

Late in Term 1, the Department sent out guidance to all schools around emergency procedures and requirements. Every year schools practice emergency evacuations and procedures.

We have had these processes in place for many years but annually review and refine them. In response to Department directions we have developed a two tier safety procedure where students remain in classrooms;

- blue procedure - a student is escalated and we do not want classrooms disrupted
- red procedure - an intruder unknown or dangerous to the school and police will be called

If any 'red' procedures take place, we will notify all parents through Seesaw. For this reason, it is important you are connected to Seesaw to get important and immediate updates.

What happens when a child is putting themselves or others at risk?

All classroom based staff are trained in 'Team Teach' training. *"The emphasis within the Team Teach framework is that at least 95% of responses should be non-physical. Prediction, prevention, de-escalation, the importance of non-verbal and verbal*

communication and structured debriefing and repair are a strong focus of training."

If a child is at risk of harming themselves or others and verbal interventions are not working, or immediate intervention is required, it may be necessary for staff 'to use reasonable and proportionate physical intervention to restrain them'. If this is the case, a report is made to the all relevant parent/carer and the Department.

Students requiring support regulating their behaviour have individualised plans and procedures in place. These plans are developed through discussions with outside parent and relevant support agencies.

How does the school communicate with me?

All families are requested to sign up to Seesaw, please see your child's teacher for the QR code to register. Notices are posted through this forum as it is a safe and private platform.

Located on our school website you will find a newsletter link, downloads to policies, annual school calendar of events and term dates.

The school's Facebook page is used as an additional reminder of notices posted on Seesaw or website. A pinned calendar is also on this page. Please answer the two identity questions to approve your request to join.

Hard copy newsletters are being phased out, so please ensure you have access to Seesaw or 'follow' website for reminders.

Students receiving a merit or honour certificate at our fortnightly class run assemblies will be notified via text message.

Any more questions?

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to pop in and see us in the office.