



Talking
Together

waggrakine

Achieve By Caring



Term 1 Dates

P&C Meeting (all welcome)

Monday 18 February at 3.25pm in staff room

Year 6 Leadership Day

Wednesday 20 February

Year 6 Speeches

Thursday 21 February at 8.45am

P&C AGM (all welcome)

Monday 25 February at 3.30pm in staff room

TA 17 and 18 Assembly

Friday 1 March at 8.45am

Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 4 March

Parent Night – details tba

Wednesday 13 March

TA 16 Assembly

Friday 15 March at 8.45am

Ride2School Day

Friday 22 March

TA3 Assembly

Friday, 29 March at 8.45am

Year 1-6 Swimming

Monday 1 April-Friday 12 April

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to the 2019 school year. We have had a very busy start to the year with 565 students on our roll. It has been a smooth transition for all students settling into classes and new routines. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome over 100 new students and their families to our school community.



Waggrakine
PRIMARY SCHOOL



www.waggrakineps.wa.edu.au

Principal Lis Turner

Deputy Principals D. Suckling, M. Ostaszewskyj, Z. Nixon

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Staffing Update

We welcome a number of new staff:

Teachers

- Mr Bonavia in Year 6
- Miss Barrett in Year 4
- Mrs Painter in Year 3
- Miss Brook in Music (Mrs Marchant has taken leave)
- Mrs Bridgeman taking Year 1 Sport and PP release

And Education Assistants

- Mr Lawson
- Miss Williams
- Ms Walmsley
- Mrs Hogan

We congratulate Miss Wann who had a baby boy during the holidays and Miss Jerovich who is now expecting a baby mid-year.

Did you know we now are the largest primary school in the Midwest? We have:

- 565 students
- 32 teachers
- 33 Education Assistants
- 3 AIEOs
- 7 admin staff
- 15 auxiliary staff

New Uniforms

It was lovely to see so many students in their new uniform and we congratulate the P&C for their amazing work organising pre orders and early sales of the uniforms. New stock has been order and the P&C will let you know when it has arrived. As discussed with the School Board we have a two year phase in period, where students can wear the old pebble shirts. There are no changes to the faction shirts. We have a fantastic P&C, who are always looking for new families, so please get involved.



Our staff also have new uniforms which look great. Staff submitted their designs, which were then voted on by staff. The final designs selected were created by our Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (also on leave this year) Peggy Walsh, and the other by me.



School Breaks

One of the changes we have implemented is swapping the play and eating times at our breaks. There are various reasons, including:

- Children rushing their lunch or throwing away large amounts of food to run out and play.
- Teachers now release or walk children out to the play areas, so there is no longer a bottleneck rush of children running from the quadrangles to the oval. Year 1-3 has 10 classes who before, would all be running at the same time to play which is very daunting for many of our younger students, especially our 80 Year 1 students, new to the main school. Your child's safety and wellbeing is our main concern.
- Students are encouraged to eat their lunch at the first break, as the majority of student were already doing this because they were hungry, and their recess at the second break. However, discuss with your child what you prefer or what works best for them.
- From Monday 11 February, the canteen will be providing ordered lunches in the 1st Break (10.55 – 11.25am). At 11.15am (eating time) students will be able to collect their lunch orders from the canteen window in the hall. No other items will be available for purchase during this break. The canteen will be open for snacks, slushies and daily specials during the entire 2nd Break from 1:25 – 2:00pm.

Grounds Update

We have built a new playground for the middle primary students in the holidays, big thanks to Mrs Loveland and Mr Wann our gardeners for their support over the holidays.

A number of other improvements are pending including shade over the two middle area nature play grounds, increased fencing around the oval for student safety and the creation of a number of break rooms for students.

New Website Coming Soon

We are excited to announce our new website will go live in the following weeks. The school blog will become part of this website, more information to come.

Regards

Lis Turner | Principal



Why You Need Ambulance Cover

Each year there has been a need to call an ambulance for an emergency. We do not hesitate in doing so, as the safety of your child is paramount. This may be done before parents 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.

Newsletters

Now that we have Seesaw up and running we will no longer be printing newsletters, but will post them on the web site and Seesaw.

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. It is also strongly advised you provide a lock to your children as we cannot be held responsible if your child's bike or scooter goes missing.



Composite vs Straight Classes

Like all schools, the funding allocation is determined based on the number of students enrolled on census day. As at the end of Week 1, we have 565 students enrolled at Waggrakine. 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>



Facebook

Continuing on from last year, we strive to reduce the amount of printing and paper we use. As such, we now aim to keep our newsletter electronically. Regular small communications will be done through the school Facebook page 'Waggrakine Primary School' or Seesaw. 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 as it is a closed site. There are two questions we ask you to answer to help us identify potential members.

Seesaw

Waggrakine Primary School is now in its second year of using Seesaw. Seesaw will give you a window into each of our classrooms and into your child'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. The app also provides you with an inbox where you can private message your child's teacher, however, please understand that teachers will respond to messages inside school hours.

Please contact your classroom teacher with any questions about Seesaw. With your help, we can continue building our school community of lifelong learners. Parents who were connected to Seesaw last year will be automatically linked to your child's 2019 class. For new parents or those who didn't connect in 2018, you will receive a handout with directions on how to download and sign up to your child's Seesaw. If you didn't receive this handout or require a second one, please contact your teacher.

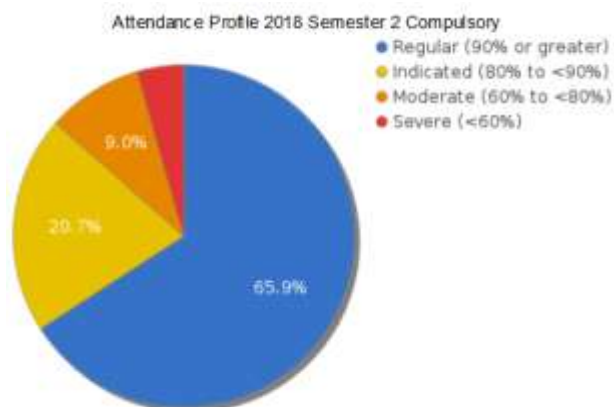
PBS

Waggrakine is in its third year being a Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) school. Our matrix of expectations has now been printed and you will notice it up around the school as are the PBS expectation posters and murals.



Attendance

Helping your children to achieve academic milestones is a priority, and as attendance data correlates to academic data we once again remind families the importance of regular attendance for student achievement. Our Semester 2, 2018 attendance remained low with only 65.9% of students attending over 90%.



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.



Sun Smart Policy

In order to play outside at recess and lunch breaks, students 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.

Parent Contributions

Parent contributions are set by the School Board each year. In accordance with the School Education Regulations 2000, a maximum of \$60 per student can be charged. Waggrakine Primary School sets these contributions considerably lower each year. This year our contributions remain unchanged at \$40 per student. The contributions are used to supplement school expenditure in areas such as: computer consumables, classroom activities and consumables, Physical Education, Art, Indonesian, Music, and Technology and Enterprise resources and materials.

Contributions may be paid by cash, cheque or direct deposit. Using your child's name as the reference, our bank details are:

Account name: Waggrakine Primary School
BSB: 016 650
Account number: 3408 19733

A Note 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.

A general P&C meeting will be held on February 18 at 3.25 with the Annual General Meeting on Monday 25 February 2019 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.