



Talking Together

waggrakine

Achieve By Caring



Term 1 Dates

Year 6 Leadership Day

Friday 14 February

Year 6 Speeches

Tuesday 18 February at 8.45am

Parent Night

Tuesday 18 February

Year 6 Assembly

Friday 28 February at 8.45am

Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 2 March

TA 3 Assembly

Friday 13 March at 8.45am

Year 1-6 Swimming

Monday 16 – Friday 27 March

Music Assembly

Friday 3 April at 8.45am

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to the 2020 school year. We have had a very busy start to the year. We have started this year with 513 students and one less Kindy class. It has been a smooth transition for students settling into classes and new routines. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome new students and their families to our school community.



Staffing Update

We welcome a number of new staff:

Teachers

- Mr Horn in Year 4
- Miss Barnes in Year 4
- Miss Benton in Year 2

Our Indonesian Language Assistant is Ibu Ari and we also have a new School Psychologist - Mrs Casie Cope.

We congratulate Ms Gould who had a baby girl during the holidays and Mr Bonavia and his wife are expecting their first baby this term.

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

- 513 students
- 30 teachers
- 32 Education Assistants
- 3 AIEOs
- 7 admin staff
- 13 auxiliary staff

New Uniforms

In 2019 we transitioned into new uniforms and we now have over 90% of students wearing the new uniforms. Those with old uniforms are still welcome to wear them.



School Breaks

One of the changes we implemented last year was swapping the play and eating times at our breaks. Breaks are at the following times:

First Break

Play 10:55 – 11:15am
Eating 11:15 – 11:30am

Second Break

Play 1:30 – 1:50pm
Eating 1:50 – 2:00pm.

Grounds Update

All schools in Australia were granted funds under the High Priority Maintenance and Minor Works Program. The program has afforded Waggrakine PS \$322,000 to spend on upgrades. The majority of this amount will be spent on toilet upgrades, the remaining amount will be utilised for projects such as:

- A wall between TA 7 and 8
- A canteen servery door to the hall
- Flagpoles
- Windows and carpets to our Year 1 and 2 break rooms
- Security improvements
- ECE shade and Year 6 shade
- LED lighting



Parent Night – Meet and Greet

On Tuesday 18 February we wish to invite all parents and family members to come in and see their children's classrooms and meet their teachers. Teachers will provide an overview of the semester ahead and ensure you are on Seesaw, our communication platform to help us stay in touch. Collect a passport at your classroom and fill in the sections to go in the prize draw.

K-P Classes	5:15 – 6:00 PM
Year 1-3 Classes	5:30 – 6:15 PM
Year 4-6 Classes	5:45 – 6:30 PM

Activities will be held on the oval, the hall and library. The P&C will be holding a sausage sizzle on the night for a \$2 contribution. Come in for a fun late afternoon.

Regards
Lis Turner | Principal

have straight year levels throughout the school as this would leave us in the red.

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 \$900. We strongly urge all families to pay the small annual fee for ambulance cover or check your current private health insurance to ensure you have ambulance benefits for all family members.

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 your children with a lock 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 513 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

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>



Website

We are excited our new website went live early last year. The school blog is part of this website and there is an events calendar in the info tab for a school events including sports carnival dates for 2020.

Facebook

Continuing on from last year, we strive to reduce the amount of printing and paper we use. As such, we now aim to distribute 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.

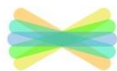
Newsletters

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

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.



SEESAW

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 2020 class. For new parents or those who didn't connect in 2019, you will receive a handout with directions 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.

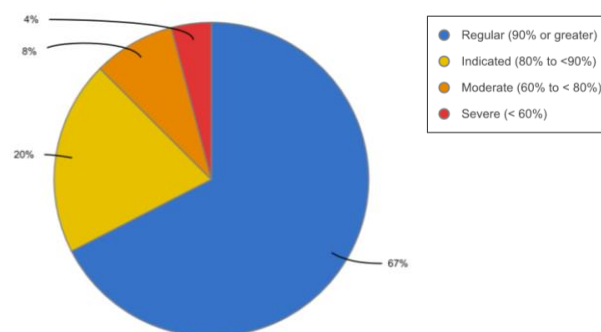
PBS

Waggrakine is in its fourth year of being a Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) school. You will notice our matrix of expectations displayed around the school, together with 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 again remind families of the importance of regular attendance for student achievement. Our Semester 2, 2019 attendance remained low with only 67% 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 with 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 have been set at \$50 per student. The contributions assist us to provide more funding to classes for hands-on activities such as cooking, outdoor play rewards, special classroom purchases, 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

Invoices will be sent home this week.



Payment Plans

The school is happy to put payment plans in place for any school activities throughout the year. If you are interested in this, please contact the office.

Centrepay

Waggrakine is registered for Centrepay – reference number: 555123236A if you would like to arrange regular payments for all school activities.