Principal's Report

Welcome back to another exciting term for the staff and students at Wallacia Public School. This term will again be extremely busy with a range of educational opportunities provided for our students. I look forward to your continued support and partnership in the education of your children. If you wish to discuss any issue relating to the school and the education of your child, I encourage you to contact the office to make an appointment with either the class teacher or myself as necessary.

Changes to the School Newsletter

I would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone that there will be changes to the frequency, and method of delivery, of the school newsletter this term. Instead of the newsletter being produced fortnightly, it will now be produced monthly. The newsletter will also not be printed in hard copy. It will be available on both the school’s website and the ‘Skoolbag’ application that is available on both i-Phone and android platforms. It will also be e-mailed to those parents and carers who have provided their e-mail addresses to the school office. In the event that you require a paper copy, these will be available at the office on request. A comprehensive Term 3 planner will also be available on the school’s website and on Skoolbag. Notifications of upcoming events, notes home, and other important school information will also be conveyed via Twitter and Skoolbag. It is hoped that the combination of these forms of communication will keep the school community completely informed of upcoming events and be more cost effective than a fortnightly newsletter, meaning additional funds can be spent on teaching resources for our students.

These changes to the way the school communicates with its community were discussed and sanctioned at the last P&C meeting, however, will be reviewed via parent survey at the conclusion of Term 3. If there are any concerns or comments, please feel free to approach me with them at any time.

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC stands for ‘National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee’. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920’s, which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. Throughout last week, students at Wallacia Public School engaged in a variety of learning activities designed to increase awareness in the Wallacia community about ways in which we can embrace and maintain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. All students appeared to engage positively in these activities and the teaching staff will continue to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural perspectives into their units of work.
Education Week

Education Week celebrations will be held in Week 3 this term. During this special week in education we celebrate the hard work of our students and teachers in Public Education. We would like to invite parents, carers and community members to celebrate with us on Friday 1 August. We will begin the celebrations by opening our classrooms to the community between 12.30pm and 1.00pm. Following this, the P&C will provide a BBQ lunch for students and visitors. After lunch we will hold a tabloid sports afternoon. It would be great to see as many parents, carers and community members have the opportunity to see what we do at Wallacia Public School.

Book Week

Book Week will be celebrated in Week 6 this term. As is tradition, we will hold a book parade on Tuesday 10 August. This parade will begin at 9.30am and conclude at 10.30am. It would be great to see all students dressed as a character from a book they enjoy. All classes will parade around the covered area and each student will be given the opportunity to announce the character they have come dressed as to the rest of the school.

P&C Meetings

P&C meetings will continue to be held on Monday evenings beginning at 6.00pm in the school library. The dates for these meetings this term are Monday 28 July and Monday 1 September.

The P&C works hard to support the school to provide valuable resources for our students and always welcomes new members to the organisation. I would encourage any parents, carers or community members who are considering joining the P&C to come along to our next meeting. We would love to see you there.

I would also like to thank the P&C for a recent commitment of $2000 to be spent on reading resources for our Stage 2 and Stage 3 students. This commitment will support our students in all areas of English and will be particularly important as we establish guided reading groups across the Stages 2 and 3.

Assemblies

Assemblies will continue to be held fortnightly this term. Assemblies will begin this coming Friday at 2.15pm. In order to assist parents, I have asked staff to send home an award notification slip on the Thursday afternoon preceding assemblies. The idea behind this is to allow those parents who would like to witness their child receive an award the opportunity to do so. Please do not feel any obligation to attend assemblies if you receive one of these slips. We understand that parents are busy and have commitments that often make it impossible to attend. These slips are a courtesy only.
**Sentral software**

We recently installed a new student welfare and administration software package at the school. This package allows staff to record and track all aspects of student welfare and attendance. This system will change the way that parents or carers sign students in and out of the school for partial absences. Where in the past a slip had to be filled out and taken to the class teacher, now parents will need to see the office staff who will immediately enter the time of the absence into the database and then print a slip. This slip should be signed by the parent or carer and handed to the class teacher. In the event that the school office is unattended for any reason, parents or carers should see the class teacher who is also able to enter the absence time and reason into the database. This system streamlines the process of managing and monitoring attendance and welfare and should ensure increased accuracy in reporting to parents.

**School Office**

There will be times during Term 3 and Term 4 when the school office will be unattended. Office closures will be necessary to facilitate training for both Mrs Mullen and myself in new administrative systems that are currently being rolled out across the Department of Education and Communities. Although every effort will be made to ensure the office remains manned, there will be times where this won't be possible. If the office is unattended, there will be a system in place to ensure parents and carers are able to make contact with students if necessary. Advice that the office will be closed will be provided on Skoolbag and Twitter and on the term planner on the school website. When this occurs parents and carers will still be able to contact the school on the number 0455 072 289. This is the school's mobile phone and it will only be actively monitored during the school day at times when the office is closed. This ensures parents and carers are still able to get important messages to students where necessary. We appreciate your understanding when office closures are necessary.