Principal’s Message

Welcome back to another exciting year of education for the students and staff of Wallacia Public School. I trust that all of our families had a safe and restful Christmas holiday break and enjoyed quality time with their families. It was great to see many of the students returning to school with big smiles on their faces, obviously happy to be back at school, to play with their friends and to engage in learning. It was also great to see so many of them in their new uniforms. They looked really smart and were proud to be wearing them. New uniforms can now be purchased at ABEL SCHOOLWEAR, 44 Peachtree Rd, Penrith.

A reminder that our P&C will hold its first meeting tonight at 6.00pm. This is an important meeting, as it is the Annual General Meeting, where office bearers are elected for the year. It would be great to see as many of our parents there as possible.

During the holidays, I had the pleasure to be informed that two of our 2014 Year 6 students had been selected for the Self Select class at Glenmore Park High School. This is a great achievement for both Jemma Sutton and Dylan Smith who were competing with students from the entire feeder schools area to Glenmore Park High School, including Regentville Public School, Glenmore Park Public School and Surveyors Creek Public School. This achievement reflects the strong work ethic of both Jemma and Dylan and also the excellent teaching that occurs at Wallacia Public School. Well done, Jemma and Dylan.

Welcome to Wallacia Public School
This year we have several new students who are embarking on their learning journey with us. I would like to take this opportunity to personally welcome:
Gabrielle Sammut (Kinder)
Jett Gonzalez (Kinder)
Kobe McAdam (Kinder)
Caleb Maher (Kinder)
Fox Redmond (Kinder)
Lachlan Dinsmore (Year 1)
Katelyn Dinsmore (Year 2)

I know that all staff and students will make them feel extremely welcome and that they will thoroughly enjoy their time at Wallacia Public School.
Getting children to school on time
I would like to start the year by reminding everyone of the importance of getting your child or children to school on time every day. The very first part of the school day is a time when teachers provide an overview of the day and prepare students for the day ahead. Teachers will explain what is expected of students and provide important reminders about expectations. Teachers will then move into their Literacy sessions. Students who are consistently late to school miss vital information and are immediately put at a disadvantage when it comes to preparing for and engaging in the day’s learning activities. I understand that unforeseen events occur occasionally that impact on being able to arrive at school on time and these circumstances are not generally of concern. Students who are consistently late are flagged on our Sentral computer software, and when this occurs I am obligated to put in place strategies to improve the persistent lateness.

School Communication
This year there will be a change to the school’s website. The tab labelled Term Planner will be removed and all planned events will be placed on the Calendar tab that is on the 2nd menu row. This has been done to reduce the need to double handle a Term Planner and Calendar which are essentially identical. To view an event, click Calendar, then click the arrows to select the month, then hover over an event to see further details. As in the past, all notes will be published on the school’s website as will the school’s newsletter. The Skoolbag application will continue to be used to ‘push out’ alert reminders of events as will the school’s Twitter account.

School Information Evening
On Tuesday 10 February, all classroom teachers will hold information sessions where they will provide an overview of their teaching programs for the year, as well as library times, releases from face to face times and other important information about your child’s class for the year. These sessions will be held in your child’s classroom. Where you have children in different classes, I would suggest that couples split between the two, or alternatively, make an individual appointment with your child’s teacher at a later date. Please note that these information sessions are not parent teacher interviews where specific questions regarding students can be asked. If you would like to ask specific questions about your child, please make an appointment with your child’s teacher.
I will be offering child minding in the library for Wallacia Public School students for the duration of the meetings. During this time students will watch a G rated DVD.

Not Hat, No Play
A reminder that we expect that all students will be wearing a hat if they are to play in the sun during recess and lunch breaks. If students arrive at school without a hat, it is expected that they will remain seated in a shaded area during playing times. This is in line with Sun Smart guidelines and protects and educates all of our students about the importance of protecting their skin from the damaging long term effects of over exposure to the sun.
OHSC
At the end of last year I was advised that the tender process for establishing an OHSC service had changed. The ramifications for us are that it is now going to take longer to establish our service here. Our Senior Asset Services Manager has advised me that the new format tender documents will be on his desk within the next two weeks and that we will then move forward as a matter of priority.

Swimming Carnival
Tomorrow, the Nepean Valley Small Schools will hold their annual swimming carnival at Glenbrook Swimming Pool. I would like to wish all of our competitors the best of luck as they compete against the students from Orchard Hills Public School, Mulgoa Public School and Luddenham Public School. It would be great if any families present could say a big thank you to the staff from Orchard Hills Public School for their organisation of the event.

In conclusion, I would once again like to welcome everyone back for another exciting school year and remind the community that my door is always open should community members require assistance with any issue of concern to them regarding the school.

Mark Davies
Principal

AGM P&C Monday 2nd February 2015

Welcome to the 2015 school year.
Our AGM and P&C Meeting will be held on Monday the 2nd February at 6pm in the library. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Positions available are:
President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraising, School Banking, and Book Club.

It is very rewarding to be part of a small community with the interests of our children at heart; we look forward to seeing you there!

We have some great news to start the year, we have received a NSW Community Building Partnership grant for a new LED School Sign for $16 977.00. The project will begin in Term 1.

Jody Smith
Free Workshop—Triple P

A parenting program for all mums, dads, single parent families, step parents and carers - the Triple P positive parenting program can help with a specific problem, provide tips on parenting and help with understanding the child’s development and behaviour. The program gives you the tools to:

- encourage the behaviour you like from your child
- deal positively and consistently with problem behaviour
- take the stress out of parenting.

Date: Starts on 19th February for 6 weeks
10.am to 12.30pm

Venue: Warragamba Town Hall Annex

Contact Julie on 4774 2245 to book your place.

NCNS
Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services

Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre
Penrith City Children’s Choir 2015 Plans:

Singing Day  Tumba, Tumba  
February 15
A fun afternoon of rounds, singing games and partner songs that will captivate all members – old and new. Enjoy the power of ‘Drill Ye Tarriers’, the bouncy rhythms of ‘Hine ma tov’, and the beauty of ‘Sometimes’. A great introductory ‘taster’ session for new members. An informal performance for family and friends will be given at the end of the afternoon.

Project I  Follow my lead  
March 1 and 15. Plus orchestral rehearsals on Wednesday 18 and Friday 20 March leading to the performance on Sat 21 March.

Sing in the world première of Paul Terracini’s ‘Like a minstrel’. You will be performing with Penrith Symphony Orchestra (PSO) and a massed adult chorus of nearly 100 singers, conducted by the composer, at the Joan Sutherland Centre. This concert, first in PSO’s 2015 subscription series is part of the Joan’s 25th anniversary celebrations. Those choristers who sang ‘Carmina Burana’ in 2013 with the same forces will know this is an event not to missed.

Project II  Songs of the Sea  
Part A June 21
Part B August 2 and 23 with a performance on Sunday 30 August as part of Penrith City Choir’s concert ‘Songs of the Sea’. Children may participate in Part A and / or Part

Sailors, pirates and creatures of the deep – this project has them all! Don’t miss ‘The Captain’s Tale’ by Paul Jarman, ‘Ferry me across the water’ by Lyn Williams and the mysterious ‘Whales’ by Douglas Coombes. Plus more excitement as Penrith City Children’s Choir joins the adult chorus for some rousing sea shanties.

Project III  Summer Beat  
October 11 and 25
Sing and play! Hot and hazy summer days are just around the corner. So we’ll be getting in the mood: on the beach under the ‘Lazy Coconut Tree’; holidaying with ‘Time on our hands’; and enjoying some laid-back jazz in ‘The Orchard Green’. A wide range of percussion instruments will be available for children to play, adding to the carnival atmosphere. An informal performance for family and friends will be given at the end of the project.
Boys and Girls, 7 – 13 years are invited to join

Penrith City Children’s Choir

on Sunday 15 February
for its Singing Day

Tumba, Tumba

directed by Lucy McAlary

If you love to sing, please join us.
No auditions.
Applications close 13 February.

For further information,
contact the Administrator:
Liz Strasser
0418 202 849
pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au

2015 REQUIRED STATIONERY
K – 2
HB pencils x 2, coloured pencils (pack of 12), textas (optional-max. 12) glue stick, sharpener (with case preferable) and eraser x 2.

3 – 6
HB pencils x 2, coloured pencils (pack of 12), textas (optional-max.12) glue stick, sharpener (with case preferable), erasers x 2, ruler, blue pens x 2, red pens x 2 and small scissors x 1.

Please ensure that students’ belongings are clearly labelled and fit into ONE SMALL pencil case. Additional stationery can be kept at home. Please DO NOT send any unnecessary items not listed, ESPECIALLY NOVELTY stationery.

Please ensure your child has everything they need for the whole year.
Make Online Payments

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school’s website by selecting $ Make a payment.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, excursions, book fees, student invoices and sales to students. There is also a category called “Other” to cover items not covered in the previous headings, “Other” can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

P & C payments cannot be paid using online parent payments.

When you access the $ Make a payment you must enter:

- the student’s name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the student’s name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice Number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.
**SCHOOL BANKING START DATE 2015**
School Banking will commence on Friday, 6\textsuperscript{th} February 2015. Students need to take their deposit books to the office and place it into the grey satchel on the counter between 8.30am and 9.00am. Thank you for your cooperation.
Natalie Micsko  
School Banking Coordinator

**NO PEANUTS/NUT FOODS**

Wallacia Public School currently has students enrolled with severe allergies to peanuts and other nuts, including nut and peanut products.

To allow these students to participate fully in all areas of school life we are requesting that parents/caregivers do not allow any students to bring any peanuts or nut products to school at any time, (this includes peanut butter, Nutella sandwiches or snack fruit & nut bars and any other nut bars that may contain peanuts or any other nuts, cakes or biscuits that may contain nuts).

Thank you for considering the welfare of these students when sending food with your child/children to school, school excursions and school functions at any time.

**Library News**
Library will commence Week 3 (Monday February 9). Library days are as follows;
- Monday  1/2/3T
- Tuesday  5/6 J
- Wednesday 2/3/4 B

All students will require a Library bag in order to be able to borrow.
Art Workshops - Term One 2015
Bookings Essential Ph: 4735 1100

Kid’s workshops: challenging, inspiring and fun, creative experiences in a stimulating gallery and studio environment.

All Term Workshops:
- include a sketchbook and all art materials
- build on and develop students’ existing practical skills
- foster the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills
- are suitable for new and returning students

Note - wear clothes suitable for a workshop environment

Wednesday Drawing School
9 – 12 years old, $130 pp
4 February – 25 March
4pm–5.30pm
Tutor: Naomi McCarthy

Students will learn expressive and observational drawing techniques that extend and consolidate their existing skills. Students will learn new techniques whilst working with a range of drawing mediums and a variety of subject matters.

Art Attack Saturday
5 – 9 years old, $130 pp
7 February – 28 March
10am–12noon
Tutor: Na’ama Aitzmon-Simon
Tutor: Paula Perugini

Students will explore art themes and concepts while creating a range of a creative and imaginative 2D and 3D artworks inspired by the gallery’s exhibitions. Students will use a mix of traditional art making techniques and experimental methods with a range of materials.

Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest
86 River Road Emu Plains NSW