

WATTLE FLAT PUBLIC SCHOOL



Newsletter



Wiradjuri
Country



Wednesday 20th September 2023

TERM 3

WEEK 10

"Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible." - Tony Robbins



FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK



Dear Families

Welcome to our final newsletter for Term 3! This week we have welcomed Mrs Fiona Proctor who will be teaching each Monday in Term 4.

Term 3 has been busy and exciting, with lots of achievements to celebrate. To reflect, our Stage 2 students went to Dubbo for camp, we had Book Week and Education Week celebrations, we visited Bathurst Art Gallery, and we had some great incursions including our STEM day and our Police Youth Officer visit last week!

I am very proud of the students at Wattle Flat Public School. Even across one term it has wonderful to see their growth and achievements. They have shown they can be active learners, team players, hardworking, supportive of each other, and good citizens in the community.

Next term we will begin to shift our focus to end of year reports, therefore we will be looking closely at individual student learning goals as they link to planned learning and assessments. Our Stage 3 students will head off to Narrabeen for camp. We will also continue our transition to high school program for our Year 6 students, as well as begin to welcome our little ones in to get ready for Kindergarten next year! We will take part in the Footsteps Dance program and disco, which will prepare us in the lead up to the Bathurst Small Schools Creative Arts Festival.

Thank you to all of our students, staff, parents, carers, and to the Wattle Flat community for your support in being able to provide quality learning experiences and opportunities at Wattle Flat Public School.

Have a safe, enjoyable holiday! I look forward to continuing to work with you in Term 4.

Rachel McGlenn

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KEEP CALM
IT'S ALMOST
SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS

FOOTSTEPS



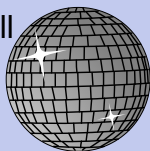
We have been fortunate enough to be invited to join in the Footsteps dancing program. The students will undertake hour long sessions during the morning with Footsteps from the 9th of October to the 13th of October. The dances they will be taught will be performed by the students the Creative Arts Festival on the 23rd of November. More details for the festival to follow soon. **Please ensure that your children arrive at school by 8:40am during the week so the class can start at 8:45am.**



As part of the Footsteps program, they will be holding a free disco for all the students.

Where?

Kelso Public School Hall

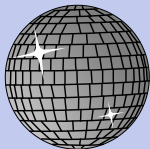


When?

12th of October, 2023

TIME

6pm - 7:30pm



Pick up and drop off will be at the back entrance from Gilmour Street, turn onto Tareen Avenue and the Barina Parkway.

YOUTH OFFICER VISIT

Thank you to Senior Constable Youth Officer Skye Davies and Linda who came to visit our school on Friday and gave us a presentation about being safe online.

Tips from Evie and Charli

- Do not talk to people you do not know online because you do not know if they are who they are or if they are pretending to be someone else.
- Do not play with your devices in your room. If you do this and are getting bullied your parents will not know and will not be able to help you.
- If someone is bullying you, you should not retaliate, you should tell your parents, carer, teacher, friends, or you can call kids helpline.
- Bullying is not cool, and you should always look for help if this is happening to you.



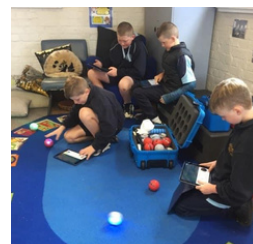
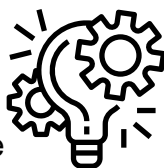
STEM VISIT

Report by Aydan and Chase

Last week Ms Byrne from Lithgow Public School came out with lots of fun things.

- Sphero Bots! They roll around the ground and are controlled by an app on an Ipad. They are round and a bit bigger than a tennis ball. We all got a turn of controlling the sphero bots and this activity was Chase's favourite!
- Magnetic Cubelet Bots - We got to use magnetic cubes that were on wheels and powered by a battery. Willow was really good at getting hers to move! We had magnetic Lego pieces that we could build onto the magnetic cubes. This was Aydan's favourite activity of the lesson.
- Blue Robots - The blue robots were also cool. They were like little bees on wheels, and we put out plastic tracks that looked like roads that we could drive them on.

It was a great lesson, and we hope to do something like this at school again soon. Thank you, Mrs Byrne, for coming to Wattle Flat Public School.



WESTERN REGION

Last Friday, we went to Dubbo to compete in the Western Region Athletics Carnival.

“I competed in the senior relay and long jump and met new friends. It was lots of fun.” (Aden Lyons)

“I competed in shot put and discus and I had a great time!” (Israel Lewis)

It was Burning  at Dubbo.



Report by Aden and Israel.

Congratulations to both Aden and Israel for their amazing efforts. We are very proud of them both!



YEAR 6 FUNDRAISING

Report by Payton

We have had two lolly jar guessing competitions. Great effort to everybody for all their guessing. We have so far raised \$28 towards our big surprise at the end of the year. Thank you to everyone who has supported us and congratulations to Israel and Charli who have been our winners so far. Our next guessing competition will start again next term.



WELCOME

This week we give a warm welcome , Mrs. Fiona Proctor. Mrs. Proctor will be teaching the students every Monday for term 4. Mrs. Proctor looks forward to getting to know all the students and being here at Wattle Flat Public School.



student SPOTLIGHT



KARA EDWARDS

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT SCHOOL? Learning and playing with my friends.

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL FOR THE YEAR? To improve my persuasive writing.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROWUP? A mechanical engineer

MERIT AWARDS AND PBL DRAW RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our recent merit award winners. Evie, James, Payton and Aydan have both been working hard in class and are very deserving of their awards. Our PBL draw winner was Evie.



STAGE 3 CAMP REMINDER

Stage 3 camp to Narrabeen is on the 6th of November. The full cost for the camp was \$575, our P&C has generously subsidised \$100 per student, leaving the balance at \$475. Some students have already paid their \$50 deposit. If you want to check how much you owe, please check with Mrs Cole before the due date.

Money must be paid in full by Tuesday 10th of October to ensure our number of students attending are booked in.

BEING RESILIENT IS

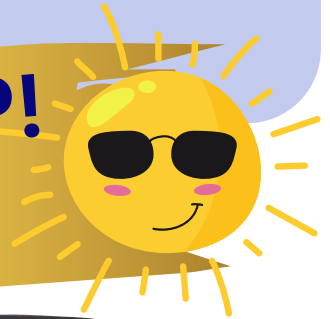
BRILLIANT

As part of our PDHPE learning we have begun a new unit of work that empowers students to develop resilience and help them respond positively in different situations. So far, we have had some great discussions about what makes us unique, what resilience is, our values or things that are important to us. Moving forward we will be learning about our support networks, positive self-talk, flexible or fixed thinking, our strengths, overcoming challenges, emotions, mindfulness, and emotional regulation.

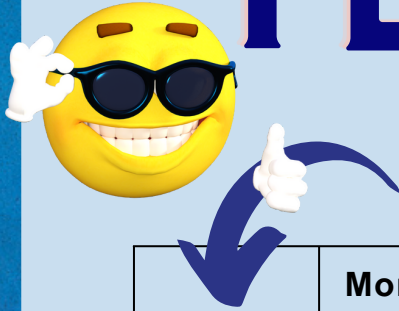
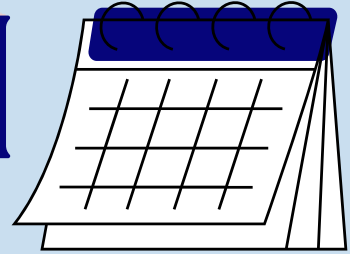


TERM 3 - THATS A WRAP!

What a great term we have had!



TERM 4



DATES TO REMEMBER

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1	09/10 Footsteps 8:45 am - 9.45 am	10/10 Footsteps 8:45 am - 9.45 am	11/10 Footsteps 8:45 am - 9.45 am FOOTSTEPS DISCO KELSO PUBLIC 6-7:30PM	12/10 Footsteps 8:45 am - 9.45 am LIBRARY DAY	12/10 Footsteps 8:45 am - 9.45 am
WEEK 2	16/10	17/10	18/10 BATHURST LIBRARY VAN 	19/10 LIBRARY DAY	20/10
WEEK 3	23/10	24/10	25/10	26/10 LIBRARY DAY	27/10
WEEK 4	30/10	31/10	1/11	2/11 LIBRARY DAY	3/11
WEEK 5	6/11 STAGE 3 CAMP NARABEEN	7/11 STAGE 3 CAMP NARABEEN	8/11 STAGE 3 CAMP NARABEEN	9/11 LIBRARY DAY STAGE 3 CAMP NARABEEN	10/11 STAGE 3 CAMP NARABEEN
WEEK 6	13/11	14/11	15/11	16/11 LIBRARY DAY	17/11
WEEK 7	20/11 VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION (CAPA FESTIVAL)	21/11	22/11	23/11 BSS CRATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL 5PM-9PM LIBRARY DAY	24/11
WEEK 8	27/11	28/11	29/11 BATHURST LIBRARY VAN KHS TRANSITION DAY	30/11 LIBRARY DAY	1/12
WEEK 9	4/12	5/12	6/12	7/12 LIBRARY DAY	8/12 PRESENTATION DAY 10AM-12PM
WEEK 10	11/12	12/12	13/12	14/12 LIBRARY DAY	15/12 End of term



that's a
WRAP





Wattle Flat Public School SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

All settings

We keep our hands, feet and other objects to ourselves.
We use equipment safely.
We walk safely around the school.

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Classrooms

We keep our belongings tidy.
We put our chairs in.
We sit on a chair safely.

Walk to and from Class

We walk around the school on the paths.

Toilets

We leave our food outside.
We always wash our hands.
Games are for the playground.
We turn taps off.

Playground

We stay in bounds.
We wear a hat.
We walk on the cement.
We play on the fixed equipment.
We use the equipment for its intended purpose.

Assemblies

We walk in lines.
We sit quietly in allocated area.
We cross our legs.
We hold all equipment still.
We finish our food before assembly.

RE S P E C T F U L

We speak nicely to others.
We listen to others.
We wear our school uniform.
We use our manners.
We respect each other peoples personal space.
We respect the differences of others.
We report bullying and harassment.
We put rubbish in the bin.

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We respect others right to learn.
We respond appropriately.
We respect other's opinions.
We follow class expectations.

We are quiet around classrooms.

We flush the toilet.
We respect others privacy.
We have one person to a cubicle.

We take turns and share.
We respect our environment.

We pay attention.
We stand to sing the national anthem.
We remove hats/hoodies/beanies
We keep our hands by our side.
We receive awards with pride.
We applaud appropriately.

L E A R N E R S

We are prepared for work.
We follow adult instructions.
We actively participate.
We are risk takers.
We attend school every day.
We are punctual.
We are determined and resilient.

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We attempt all tasks.
We ask for help if needed.
We are on task always.
We strive to improve.

We return to our class promptly.

We are quick and leave promptly.
We make correct use of toilet paper and water.

We participate and follow the rules of the games.
We tell an adult if there is a problem.
We encourage others to play.

We put our hands up to speak.
We listen to all speakers.
We are on time.

LEARNERS



Protect your children online

Protect your children

The use of mobile telephones, tablets and personal computers is common in most people's lives.

Children are encouraged to use these devices to assist with their studies and stay connected, but this technology can also be used by online predators to target children.

A lot of children use mobile devices to keep in contact with friends via social media. Whilst using these sites, there is a chance they could come into contact with online predators.

Here are some simple steps we all can take to help protect our children when they are online.

Children - protect yourself online

- **NEVER** post personal information, including your name, home address, photograph, phone number or school, anywhere on the internet.
- **ALWAYS** tell your parents or another adult you know of any contact online that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- **NEVER** arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you have chatted to online without your parents' or carers' full knowledge. Have a parent/carer accompany you.
- **ALWAYS** think before sending. Pressing 'send' is definite and final - you can't get it back.
- **DO NOT** send a picture of yourself to anyone you don't know.

Parents - protect your children online

- **ALWAYS** educate your children about the dangers associated with online conversations.
- **ENSURE** that you discuss age-appropriate sites with your children.
- **TALK** to your child about what they do online and their favourite sites to visit.
- **CHECK** with your child's school, public library, and other places they frequent to find out what internet sites they're accessing.
- **ALWAYS** monitor the status of safety settings on devices used by your child.

Protect your home devices

- **DEACTIVATE** settings like GPS from social media sites used by your child.
- **ENSURE** you and your family use strong passwords to secure your devices.
- **ALWAYS** use secure web browsers and active parental control restrictions on your home computer and devices.
- **PROTECT** your passwords so your child cannot automatically purchase apps without your approval.
- **DO NOT GIVE YOUR PASSWORD TO ANYONE - NO ONE!**
- For more information on this topic visit www.esafety.gov.au

For more crime prevention information visit us on www.police.nsw.gov.au



Justice

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

