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Woodburn Public School

Week 10 Term 3

Wednesday 9 September 2021

For Your Diary

Week 10 13 - 17 September

Fri Mufti Day! Come dressed in casual clothes for our last day of school Term 3

Term 4

Week 1 4 - 8 October

Mon Labour Day Public Holiday

Tues Students first day back at school

Next P & C Meeting

Monday 18 October at 6:30pm in the staffroom

Return to face to face teaching and learning

After almost 5 weeks of Stay at Home orders, and the requirement for Home Learning for students wherever possible, it has been a delight to welcome students back for this final week of term. It seems silly to say welcome back and goodbye within the same week, but I am extremely hopeful that the coming two weeks will afford everyone (students, staff and community) a degree of normality and the opportunities to have some fun together.

To our mighty team of staff, I urge them all to enjoy self-care. We know home learning was not necessarily easy on students and families, nor was it kind to staff. Staff were required to do many things differently, developing learning packs and fostering ways to communicate with students and parents. Things were certainly different and challenged us all to do things in new ways, and with additional thoughts and challenges to make them successful.

As we enter these holidays, I encourage our official band of staff, along with all the mums and dads who have aided in the home learning space, to put yourselves and each other first for the next two weeks. Fun, smiles and laughter will be good for us all.

COVID Restrictions - Level 3 upon return to school and until further notice

All staff and students are expected back on site and the school is to be offering one platform of learning. In our case, learning is being offered as face-to-face instruction unless circumstances change.

Returning to school this week was, in departmental speak, at Level 3 of COVID Operations. Students are back but life is still different. Under Level 3, students are back on site with the following restrictions:

a little
nonsense

now and then
is relished by
the wisest men.

- ROALD DAHL -



email: woodburn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

- QR Code check-in for all staff and essential services
- Non-essential visitors not allowed on-site
- Mask wearing requirements for staff
- Arrangements to reduce mingling of student cohorts wherever possible
- Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances not permitted
- No assemblies
- No excursions
- No community use of school facilities
- No SRE (Scripture)
- Further detailed advice available from the NSW Department of Education website

These rules and expectations are allowing regional schools to continue operating with students on site, but also with the knowledge that circumstances can change with any political announcements (one way or the other)

Cancelled Events and Activities

With restrictions on excursions and border crossings in place, the decision was needed regarding planned events and activities for Term 4. The following planned events are now cancelled:

- Senior Camp
- Stage 1 proposed camp
- Lismore/Mid-Richmond Public Speaking Competitions
- NSWPSA Sporting Completions, Carnivals and Gala Days

The disappointment of this is understood, but focussing on the negative is not in the best interests of anyone. These circumstances are challenging, but looking forward, our students have the years of school ahead of them to enjoy other events and opportunities. Life could be worse for many and we need to establish a forward focus in whatever ways we can.

Playground Upgrade – Regional Renewal Program

Over the coming school break, there will be

further enhancements to our playground, with a large focus on creating shaded spaces for students to sit and relax. The work will involve an additional playground retaining wall and the levelling of ground under existing trees. The existing sandpit will be relocated from its current location to a spot nearer the basketball court and fixed equipment. This will place the new sand pit in a more suitable location for supervision. In addition to the above, we are also looking to establish a second long-jump pit for use at school carnivals, as well as the levelling of low patches in our playground which remain excessively wet following rain.

SASS Recognition Week

Officially, last week was the time NSW schools celebrated and recognised the work of our non-teaching staff. As we were in the Home Learning space, a school-based celebration was not able to occur. Today, teachers are making up for lost time and thanking the team who do so much without due recognition. I have said it before and will confidently say it again, the team of administrative and support staff in our school frequently go above and beyond in the interests of our students, our school and our community. We have an exceptional team who deserve to be acknowledged for their work.

NAPLAN 2021

Students in Years 3 and 5 who sat the 2021 NAPLAN assessments will be taking home their results today. These results are a snapshot of school performance, used in our school as an 'over time' reflection of school performance. As the number of students sitting NAPLAN each year is relatively small, average results can be dramatically affected (up or down) by one or two students individual results, so rather than focus on any one year in isolation, trend data is our guide.

Some summary points from 2021 NAPLAN include:

- Year 3 reading this year reflects a peak performance (our best reading result in recent years), and reflects the steady improvements school wide in recent years
- Year 3 growth trend (all elements of the testing program) since 2015 has seen the school consistently achieving state-wide average scores

since 2019, with results above statistically similar school groups Year 5 growth trend (all elements of the testing program) has been positive since 2018, with results remaining above statistically similar school groups

The school staff utilise NAPLAN results, along with school-based assessment data, to reflect on teaching and learning programs and practices. This reflection then supports the school to determine future areas of growth to best meet the learning needs of our students and school community.

School Security

With the holiday break almost upon us, I again urge community members to keep a close eye on our school outside school hours and to report any security concerns that arise. Together, we can protect the assets that support the students of our wider community.

Please report any concerns to the department's Security Hotline on 1300 880 021.

With spring upon us, I hope the weather over the coming holiday break is kind and allows for plenty of outdoor entertainment, and that the world remains in a space for a normal and scheduled return to school for Term 4 commencing Tuesday 5 October following the Labour Day Public Holiday (Monday 4 October).

Until next newsletter.....



Casual Day Friday!

This Friday is an out-of-uniform day for all students. Come dressed in anything that sparks joy and let's celebrate the beginning of the school holidays.

Uniform Donations

Uniform donations, particularly navy girls and navy boys bottoms, are in low supply at school. If you have any unwanted uniforms that your child has grown out of, and are looking for a good home for them, we would happily accept them at school.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!



MINI GUARDIANS

5 - 7 years | \$60pp
Spend a fun-filled day with our awesome keepers behind-the-scenes in the Animal Park.



WILDLIFE GUARDIANS

8-12 years | \$80 pp
Become a Wildlife Guardian and understand conservation and caring for our native wildlife.



KEEPER FOR A DAY

12+ years | \$100pp
Go behind the scenes and learn all about Zookeeping from one of our qualified and experienced Senior Keepers!

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Healthy things to do with your kids these school holidays

Get kids in the kitchen

Teaching children how to cook is an easy way to encourage them to eat healthily — well into adulthood. One study published in the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behaviour* found that young adults (aged 18 to 23) with some cooking skills had better nutritional outcomes a decade later, such as eating more vegetables and consuming less fast food.

Find simple recipes that you can make together at the Dietitians Association of Australia website.

Be active for at least 1 hour

There is some evidence that children can lose some fitness and increase their body mass index (BMI) during a summer break. So, children aged 5 and over should be physically active for at least 60 minutes every day.

Try incorporating activities that make kids 'puff', and build strength, into your day. For example, a few minutes of dancing before dinner, playing 'chasey' or 'tip', and scootering to the shops.

Take them to the dentist

It may not be the most popular holiday activity, but it's important. More than half of Australian 6-year-olds have some tooth decay.

Children need a dental check at least once a year from the age of 12 months, or within 6 months of their first tooth appearing. Medicare covers the cost of dental services for some children; you can check whether your child is eligible on the [Child Dental Benefits Schedule \(CDBS\) website](http://Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) website).

Schedule swim time

School holidays can be the perfect opportunity for kids to master their freestyle — or simply build their confidence in the water.

Let them sleep

Kids need more sleep than adults, which facilitates their growth, learning and development. Getting a solid night's sleep can make your child happier, help them concentrate and improve their behaviour.

Ages 3 to 5: 10 to 13 hours Ages 6 to 13: 9 to 11 hours Ages 14 to 17: 8 to 10 hours

Let them be bored

You don't need to amuse your kids every minute of the school holidays — boredom is good for children. By pushing through boredom and entertaining themselves, kids learn to think more creatively and hone their problem-solving skills. They're also able to choose activities that match their mood. If your child's feeling energetic, they'll be physically active; if they're tired, they may find a restful thing to do. Boredom also promotes resilience, as they learn to get through something that, to a child, can feel tough or stressful.