

Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

November	
Wednesday 17 th	K-2 Pyjama Day
Thursday 18 th	P&C Meeting – 9.00am at Sportsground
December	
Tuesday 7 th	Kindergarten 2022 Transition – 9.30 – 11.30am
Monday 13 th	Presentation Night
Tuesday 14 th	Year 6 Farewell Luncheon
Wednesday 15 th	Walla Walla Pool
Thursday 16 th	Last day of School - Students
Friday 17 th	Staff Development Day

Respect, Kindness, Best Effort

Dear families,

Week 6 is now drawing to a close and the end of the year is fast approaching. Our students and classrooms are buzzing with cooperation and learning, which is lovely to see. The COVID landscape is ever-evolving and we are endeavouring to plan our annual celebrations and milestone events in line with current COVID-safe guidelines. I thank you for your patience and understanding as the rules, and our plans, change.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our focus expected behaviour for next week is:
Kindness – ‘lend a hand’

Over the last two weeks we have been focusing on **kind words, kind actions**. Teachers have been awarding tickets in our lolly-guessing competition to students who have demonstrated kindness in the playground and classrooms. I have been really impressed at the effort students have been putting in to make each other feel good with the power of kindness. They’ve also been practising apologising and making amends when they make a mistake, or are not their best selves. The big winner/s will be announced tomorrow!

For the next four weeks we will be giving out recognition tickets for all of our values: kindness, respect and best effort. If we collect enough to fill our container, the whole school will have a **celebration day at the**



Walla Pool on the last Wednesday of term, 15 December (see below for more info). We'll also draw out tickets each week for special prizes – the more tickets you earn, the more chances you will have in the prize draw.

COVID-19

Last week the Department announced some easing of Level 3 COVID restrictions for school operations (which were updated again yesterday). Firstly, the good news: **parents and carers are allowed onsite for meetings and to assist with curriculum delivery and student wellbeing activities if they are fully vaccinated.** We would be delighted to have reading and maths helpers in our classrooms, in fact, any kind of helpers would be warmly welcomed. You might even like to play a game, do some craft or gardening in the playground during lunch or recess. I realise that it is an extremely busy time of year for our families, but if you would like to spend some time at school with us, please contact the office via phone or email.

Other COVID-safe guidelines (full details are available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>):

- Assemblies and Presentations – are allowed to go ahead but unfortunately parents and external visitors are not able to attend on school sites. We are currently in negotiations to gain permission for immediate family to attend our presentation. If this restriction is not lifted, we will make arrangements to live-stream and record the event. At this stage, our presentation is planned for Monday 13 December at the School of Arts Hall.
- Graduations – are allowed and fully-vaccinated parents are permitted to attend. At this stage, our Year 6 graduation is planned for Tuesday, 14 December at the Sports Ground.

End-of-Year Celebration Day and Values Reward

I have booked the Walla Pool on Wednesday 15 December for a well-deserved day of fun and relaxation for our students (and staff!) in recognition of their hard-work and achievements in another tough year.

I am hopeful that as many of our families as possible will be free to join us. I've booked one bus to help keep costs down so if you are available to come and are happy to transport your own children, please indicate so in the permission note that will come home next week.

Reporting and Parent-Teacher Interviews

The Department of Education has issued adjusted reporting guidelines for Semester 2, due to the impact of COVID and learning from home. In accordance with the guidelines, your child's Semester 2 report will use plain English and describe their progress on achievement on the learning covered. They will not report achievement against the A-E scale. Reports will look very similar to those sent home in Semester 1, 2020.

As fully-vaccinated parents are now allowed on school sites, we are pleased to take this opportunity to finally meet in person to discuss your child's learning progress and social development. **Parent-teacher interviews** are available on Monday and Wednesday afternoons for the next two weeks. Bookings can be made through the SkoolLoop App.

Parents who are not vaccinated, or who don't wish to meet at school, are most welcome to book a timeslot for a telephone or Zoom appointment. We understand that this is a hectic time of year, so if the available times don't suit, please just email the office and we will make a mutually-convenient appointment.

Decodable Readers for K-2

Over the last two terms, Miss Dean and I have been reviewing our early literacy teaching in line with evidence-based best practice in literacy instruction. Consistent with the new NSW English syllabus which is currently in development, the research tells us that the systematic teaching of synthetic phonics (letters and the sounds they make) helps all students to master the fundamentals of reading and writing.

As students are learning to master 'cracking the code' to read words, we will be sending home beautiful new decodable readers for them to practise. Decodable readers are specifically designed to be read by saying the

sounds a beginning reader knows and blending them together, rather than guessing at unknown words. An information has been sent home with this weeks newsletter and laminated copies will be placed in reader folders. (More information is available at: <https://www.littlelearnersloveliteracy.com.au>) Students who are able to read simple texts independently will bring home a range of other, predictable readers for practice. Sharing quality books for pleasure, including being read to by an adult or older sibling, is an important way to foster literacy development and a love of reading.

Miss Dean and I look forward to discussing your child's reading journey, and how you can support them, at parent-teacher interviews.

Welcome to our Kinders for 2022

Our kindergarten transition program got off to a flying start this week and our new kinders Astrid, Joseph and Sidney had lots of fun with Miss Dean and Mrs Craft. They look very grown up and ready for school in their new hats.



School Photos

Our school photos taken by Miss Wright look beautiful, especially the individual and family shots. Each family will receive an email with their photos attached early next week. Here are some candid samples taken in the playground:



Yours in learning, Joanne Scherf
R/Principal

Lunch Orders

Please note: Lunch orders are due by 3.00pm each Wednesday. **Late orders will not accepted.** If your child does not place their lunch order, with payment, into the ordering tub by 3.00pm on the Wednesday then they will have to bring a packed lunch from home.

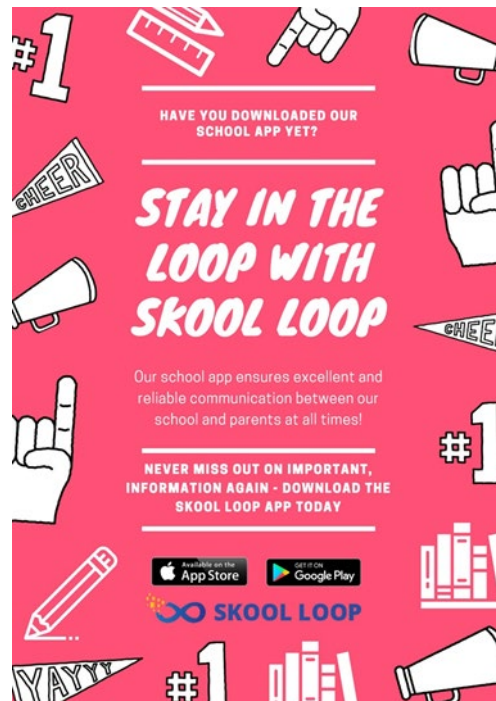


Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews will be held on Monday 15th and 22nd November and Wednesday 17th and 24th November 2021 (Week 7 and 8). Please see Skool Loop for booking times and to make your booking.

Remembrance Day

Today the Year 6 students led our Remembrance Day service for students and staff.



K-2 News

We have some exciting news to share in K-2. Students in K-2 will be taking home some new decodable readers this week. Readers will go home on Mondays and are to be returned on Fridays. Students will be given two different readers each week. These readers may be paper based SPELD books or one of our new books. Please take care of these books and return at the end of each week so they can be changed. Information regarding decodable readers will be included in students home reading folder. We also encourage parents to read different texts with their child/children at home.



Our fuzzy jar is full! We have filled our fuzzy jar by making lots of positive choices in the classroom and playground. The students have chosen to wear their pyjamas to school as their reward. We will be celebrating 'PJ day' next Wednesday. Students may wear their school uniform or pyjamas on Wednesday the 17th of November.

This week we made our own playdough. Students have been learning about different materials and their properties in MAPPEN as part of our Robot Buddies unit. Students worked together in small groups measuring, mixing and kneading the ingredients to make the playdough.



3 – 6 News

The 3-6 students have transformed into entrepreneurs. They are in the process of designing a business plan related to a product. To gather information, students conducted a survey. They surveyed the K-2 students about the features and appearance of their chosen product. This allowed students to plan for a product that is competitive among similar products/services. At the end of the term, students will pitch their products to the K-2 students.

