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# Wangaratta Primary School Newsletter

## Issue 1

### February 2, 2017

#### Work Habit Keys

\*Persistence \*Getting Along \*Organisation  
\*Resilience \*Confidence

#### Our Values

\*Respect \*Tolerance & Inclusion  
\*Ready to Learn \*Personal Best

### EVENTS CALENDAR

#### Friday, 24 February

- ◆ F/1/2 Grandparents Day
- ◆ Bush Dance

#### Monday, 13 March

- ◆ Public Holiday

#### Wednesday, 20 March

- ◆ Yrs 3/4 Wonga Wetlands

#### Friday, 31 March

- ◆ Last day of term 1

#### Monday, 17 April

- ◆ Term 2 commences

## From the Principal

#### Welcome-

Welcome to Wangaratta Primary school in 2017. It has been my great pleasure to commence my role as Acting Principal. I have found that all members of our school community have been incredibly welcoming and friendly. This has made the transition from my previous schools very easy.

I would like to introduce myself to the school community.

As a young graduate teacher I went to South Australia to begin my teaching career. I got the opportunity to work in a variety of rural settings during this time. I have been teaching in the North East, Wodonga region since 1997. I came to a small one teacher school at Talgarno as the Head teacher. I then moved to Tallangatta Primary School as the Leading teacher. I then moved into the Principal role in May 2011. I was Acting Principal at Baranduda Primary School for the first 6 months of 2016, I was seconded to Tallangatta Valley Primary School in semester 2 2016, to assist the school community with the very difficult decision to close their school. This involved the transition of the students, parents and community into the Tallangatta Primary School community. A very difficult role but one that was incredibly rewarding, when watching the students integrate into their new school setting with such ease.

I am married to my husband Michael, we have twins Max and Cassandra who have entered year 9 at Tallangatta Secondary this year. We live on a beef cattle property at

Talgarno. We are involved in Tennis with our local Talgarno club, swimming club at Tallangatta, Football at Mitta and Ballet in Albury.

My passion has always been teaching and to date I have had some incredible experiences and adventures in this field. I firmly believe in the benefits of a State School education and continually strive to improve myself and my teaching abilities. Some of my current educational interests are in the field of cognitive development, specifically the effects of trauma on how our brains operate. I have a deep seated believe in the social and emotional wellbeing of all students, having worked extensively in this area throughout my teaching career.

I look forward to the opportunity to get to know the members of our school community better over the coming weeks. Once again thank you for the warm welcome that I have received.

#### New members of our school community-

The start of the 2017 school year has also welcomed to our school 41 new foundation (prep) students to begin their schooling with us. Along with these students we have welcomed 6 new families to our school. We wish them all the best within our school community. This brings our total school enrolment to 207 students.

I would like to welcome to our team new staff members: Tania Sutherland 3/4D and Zoe Henschke P/E and the return of Luisa Downing (Teaching Support). Also new Education Support Staff Ruthe Zylstra 5/6 and Shirley McDonald in Foundation.

Thank you to the Parents and Friends club for hosting our Cheers and Tears morning tea in the staffroom to welcome new parents to our school. It was good to see mostly cheers and to be able to share first day of school stories.

#### Staff professional development-

Our school staff team were engaged in professional development activities to begin the school year. The focus for this session was on building common expectations around planning and curriculum implementation. This is a very exciting project for the school and I look forward to being a part of this development.

### Open classroom and bush dance-

Once again this year WPS will be holding open classrooms from 5pm followed by our Bush dance. We hope that many of our families will join us on this night to meet the teachers, find out about school programs and enjoy a social evening. The date for this event will be Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Parents and Friends will be running a barbeque on the night. We hope to see you all there.

### Playground opening-

It was with great excitement that the Parents and Friends group hosted our playground opening on Tuesday. This opening was a combined fundraising effort of parents for the past 4 years. The children at WPS have been involved in the process and feel a great sense of pride and achievement. Thank you to Carly Johnston for her speech in which she acknowledged the efforts and contributions of the many people who have combined to see this project completed. We hope the children greatly enjoy experimenting with all the new equipment.

Regards Mandy



## Compass News

Welcome back to 2017! This year brings with some changes and exciting things we will trial within compass. The first is our new attendance rolls. Previously we have had a morning roll and an afternoon roll, however this year we have a roll for each hour which allows our specialist teachers the ability to mark a roll and track attendance within their classes also. If you know your child will be away you can log into compass at any time and provide these details or you can ring the office and let them know.

All new families will be issued with compass logins shortly.

We have also implemented a 'late pass' which any student will need if they arrive after 9am. They will need to sign in at the office to get this pass and then give it to their teacher. Similarly if you need to pick your child up early for any reason you will need to sign them out from the office first and give their teacher an 'early departure pass' before they can leave the class. This will assist the office to keep track of the comings and goings of students throughout the day.

If you have any questions about this system please come in and ask at the office.

Andrea Matheson  
Leading Teacher



## Buddy Bus Stop



Dear Parents/Carers

Buddy Bus Stop will start on Monday, 6 February at recess and will run each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until the end of Term 1.

Buddy Bus Stop is a Social program to help students make friends and gain confidence in themselves.

If you have any questions please see our Volunteer Jeff who will be running this program.

## General Information



### Learn to Save with Piggy!

Every time you make a deposit into your savings account on a School Banking Wednesday you receive a stamp. Collect all 6 stamps for the school term and you will be entitled to a reward! Your stamp card will be issued when you make your first deposit. Call Wangaratta branch on 5721 9499 to find out how to join school banking.



sick bay

### Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to form a roster for our First Aid room. If you are able to assist changing and washing bed linen please see Yvonne or Katrina in the office.

### Dinner for Daniel—Saturday 4 March

Club Mulwala. \$110 each which includes two course dinner. Special Guest Bruce and Denise Morcombe and Celebrity Guest Shane Crawford.

For more information please call 0417 427 308.