SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education. Regular attendance at school is important for a number of reasons:

Attendance every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other students. Regular attendance will help them succeed in later life. If your child doesn’t learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.

Schools are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance, including students who arrive late. When a student is absent this should be explained within seven days by either:

- a letter sent to the school
- an Email
- a telephone call
- an oral notification to a member of staff

Failure to provide an explanation will result in the child’s absence being recorded as ‘unjustified’. If a student has recurring numbers of unjustified absences, they may be referred to a Home School Liaison Officer or Aboriginal Home School Liaison Officer. Attendance at our school is generally very good. If you are having difficulty maintaining acceptable attendance rates, the school is here to support you and offer advice. Regular attendance is not only a legal requirement but an essential for the development of every child.

Principal: Gareth Hockings

Wyrallah Road Public School proudly stands on Bundjalung land
152 Nielson St Lismore 2480 • 6621 3363 • wyrallahrd-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au  www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
REVIEW OF STUDENT WELLBEING POLICY
Late last year, following consultation with staff, students and parents, WRPS adopted a new Student Wellbeing Policy. The policy covers how our school agrees to deal with both positive and negative behaviour to ensure that everyone involved with the school can get the most out of every day. Now that it has been in operation for almost 12 months, it is time for a review. We are asking parents and carers to provide feedback about the policy by writing an email to the school email account: wyrallahrd-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au and identifying areas of the policy that you feel we could improve. All constructive feedback is welcome. You can view the policy on our website at: http://www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/draft-wellbeing-policy

CHOIR NEWS
Choir will resume this Friday at 2pm in the Library for both Stage 2 & 3 choir members. A reminder that in Even weeks, Choir will be held at lunch time on Friday while in Odd weeks, Choir will be after lunch.

LIBRARY NEWS
Every year, the school is required to do a stocktake of our library resources. This year it will be held during Weeks 4 & 5. During this time, there will be no borrowing. If you have library books at home, you may keep them until week 6 or if you want to return them, please do so by Friday, 24 October.

INTENSIVE SWIMMING
The Intensive Swimming Scheme for WRPS will take place over a ten day period from Monday, 3 until Friday, 14 November. This program is for ALL children in Years 2 & 3 and all students in Years 4-5-6 who cannot swim 50m of the pool competently. All children in Years 2 and 3 attend, irrespective of whether they can/cannot swim 50m. The program teaches competent swimmers in Years 2 & 3 water safety skills and water safety techniques that will help all students when near, around or in the water. WRPS prides itself on having all children water-safe by Year 6 and we strongly recommend that your child participates in this program.

KINDER EXCURSION – LISMORE SHOW
Last Thursday, Kindergarten went to the Lismore Show for a great day of learning activities. We started with a visit to “Kids Corner” where we played vets in the RSPCA van and cuddled lots of baby animals in the animal farm. We planted strawberry plants that we were able to take home, made badges and coloured in part of a mural. A dinosaur show was next where we learnt about lots of different dinosaurs and got to meet Rexie the T-Rex. After a relaxing recess and watching some horse jumping, we walked around the showground and got to milk a pretend cow, saw lots of chooks and walked through all the rides. We visited the police stand and all the children got to sit on the motor bike and pretend to chase the ‘baddies’ in the police car. Then we went to the circus and saw some amazing tricks on the ground and up in the air. Kindergarten behaved beautifully and were all very tired when we got back to school.
SYDNEY/CANBERRA EXCURSION

Students from our school have recently undertaken an educational tour of the National Capital. While on this tour they participated in a variety of educational programs focused on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist you (the parent) in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian government is contributing funding of $60 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education rebate programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school as this funding was already deducted from the cost of the excursion.

YEAR 6 EXCURSION SYDNEY (DAY 1) by Taylor and Laree

We arrived just outside of Sydney on the 13/10/14. The first place we stopped at was McDonalds around 5:30am to have breakfast. Then we got back on the bus and kept on driving to Sydney. When we looked out the window of the bus we could see the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Luna Park and the Sydney Opera House. We got off the bus and started walking to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We never realised how big the bridge was until we saw it up close. After we walked the bridge we went to the Rocks. We learnt that The Rocks is where the first part of Sydney was built. Then we jumped on a ferry to get to Taronga Zoo. When we got there, our bus was waiting to drive us up. At Taronga Zoo we had to fill out our work book by finding specific animals and writing down facts about them. We hurried to the bird show and after that, some of us gave money to a pink gala that then put it in a money box for Taronga Zoo. We were given money to buy lunch as we watched the elephant show. The last thing we did at Taronga Zoo was buy presents for our family and us at the gift shop. Then we got back on the bus and got ready for another long drive to our hotel in Canberra. We arrived at Greenleigh Hotel at 6:30pm and ate dinner then got put into our rooms.

We would like to thank Miss McLaughlin, Miss Doolan, Mrs Skimmings and Mr Nind for taking us down there and organising this trip. We would also like to thank the parents for paying for all of us children to go!

THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS by Niamh and Daisy 😊

On 15 October, Year 6 took a 3 hour bus trip to the Snowy Mountains. Having stopped at “The Shed” to get our snow gear on, we were very warm when we stepped out of the bus and into the snowy weather. We took a long trip on the chairlift to the top of the mountain. When we got off the chairlift, we followed the teachers across the stream that lies mainly beneath the snow to reach our destination. During our time there we had a best snowman, biggest snowball and penguin sliding competition. We threw some really big snowballs at our friends and teachers which was really funny. After about 5 hours of fun at the snow, everyone was pretty much exhausted and starting to feel the cold and it was time to go. We went back down the mountain on the chairlift above the snow-covered trees, back to the bus and back to our cabins.
THE WAR MEMORIAL by Jayden and Isaac

When we went to the War Memorial in Canberra as soon as we got there, the people showed us a video of the rules and the behaviour expected at the memorial. After they showed us the video, Miss McLaughlin walked us around for a little bit to show us what type of things the memorial had. After a little walk around, we went out the front to meet our guide. Our guide then took us to the WWII area and he talked to us about the prisoners of war and he showed us a German camp and he told us a few stories about the prisoners of war in Germany. Then he took us to the Japanese side and told us some more stories about the Japanese Prisoners of War.

Next we went to the aircraft museum and we watched a short film about the bombing of Berlin that a lot of Australian soldiers were in. It also had the audio of the actual event. After that Miss Doolan took us to the Wall of Remembrance and we saw all of the names of the soldiers who have served us in war. There were a lot of poppies and if you looked at it from a certain angle all you could see is red. We had an amazing time at the War Memorial!

QUESTACON by Coby and Lachlan

On the last day of the Canberra excursion, the year 6 students went to the Questacon Science Centre. There were lots of things to do and we had a load of fun. There were seven chambers in the building but we only got to go to four.

In the first chamber, there were things about how your brain can be tricked easily. There were optical illusions, things where you could feel what wasn't there, a wall covered in stripes that you sway back and forth while you were standing in front of it and a hologram of a robot which disappeared when you got too close!

In the next chamber, there were lots of cool things that we can’t really remember but what we did remember is really awesome! There was one thing where a very bright light flashed onto a wall and it froze the shadows of whatever was in the way of the light to the wall. There was also a room which made you look really small at one end but really big at another.

The third chamber was all about the planets and weather. There was a machine that made a tornado, a thing that explained how different planets orbit in different ways and a tesla coil which conducted lightning to make power for big machines but it only worked every 15 minutes. We had a lot of fun counting down the last 10 seconds!

The final chamber was the most fun of all. There was no real theme to the room but it seemed to be connected. There was a four player air hockey table, an air hockey robot which was very hard to beat, a gigantic 3D ball maze, and a massive 6.7m vertical slide called the Free Fall.

Before leaving, we went to the shop. It had lots of cool scientific stuff. There were propeller hats, grabbing claws, massive slinkies, sunglasses with mirrors on the sides and lots of other amazing stuff. We really enjoyed the experience at Questacon and would enjoy going there again.
YEAR 5 CAMP KOINONIA EXCURSION by Kimberly

Last Monday, Year 5 went on an excursion to Camp Koinonia, Evans Head. I couldn’t get to sleep for a while the night before the excursion because I felt really excited and nervous.

The bus ride was fun especially when it went eighty kilometres per hour. When we arrived, we went into our cabins, unpacked and then went to our first activity which was swinging in the chapel. Alivia went up the highest and her feet went out the window! (see photo)

After afternoon tea, I did surfing! Surfing was one of my favourite parts of the trip! First, we lay down on the surfboard then we tried standing up on it. At first I was scared to stand up but then I did it five times! After surfing I got sea lice and it really hurt. I had to walk like a penguin it was so painful. That night was trivia night. My group was called the Skittles. We didn’t win, but we tried our best!

On Tuesday morning I was first to wake up. My first activity was rock climbing. It looked hard and I was really worried but I made it to the top really quickly! My second activity was stand-up paddle boarding. It was also one of my favourites! I saw a giant jellyfish in the water that was bigger than my head! I bumped into lots of people. I also learnt how to control which way I went properly.

Next I did the vertical challenge. I wasn’t afraid this time! I did it twice and made it both times. It was fun, especially when I got pulled down. After that activity we played laser skirmish. There were three versions we played. In the first game I eliminated lots of people. It was great!

That night was the talent quest. I saw some funny, talented and entertaining performances. I really enjoyed watching those performances. There were singers, plays etc.

On Wednesday morning I was the first to wake up again. After breakfast we went canoeing. I didn’t fall off the canoe at all and I was glad about that because the water was freezing and there were stingrays! The canoe was a bit wobbly. My final activity was the flying fox. I was the ninth person to have a turn. It was really bouncy as I was going to the top. It looked similar to swinging in the chapel, but higher. When I tried going up-side-down on the flying fox it spun around! It was really great!

Overall, I think the excursion turned out really great. My favourite part of all was surfing and stand-up paddle boarding. They were brilliant! The rest of the trip was great fun too.

CAMP KOINONIA by Tom

I said goodbye to Mum and I got on the bus to go to Camp Koinonia. On the bus trip the year 5 boys’ bus played Truth or Dare and the Football Player Game. When we got to Koinonia we had morning tea then the owner Craig talked to us about the camp rules. After that we went to our cabins. In our cabin was Brady, Cody, Ethan, Flynn, Harry, Sam, Sonny and I.

Our first activity was laser skirmish and I got 97 hits, 47 kills and 29 deaths. After that we had afternoon tea, next was our second event which was canoeing (see photo), I didn’t like canoeing because it was too windy. Then we played touch football after we had a shower.
For dinner that night we had chicken with baked vegetables. Our activity that night was trivia night that was run by the student teachers. On my team there was Sam, Cody, Sonny, Ethan, Flynn and I. My team won the trivia night and we got a huge gold medal!!! Then we had supper which was biscuits and milo.

In the morning when I woke up, I woke everyone else up. For breakfast we had cereal, toast and juice. Our next activity was stand-up paddle boarding, which was my favourite activity out of them all. When we got back we had morning tea. After that we had swinging in the chapel which was very scary. Then we had lunch which was two chicken tender wraps. Our fifth activity was surfing which was very fun.

After we walked back we had afternoon tea. Our last activity for the day was rock climbing which was very enjoyable. We had a shower then we played soccer. For dinner we had lasagne and vegetables. That night we had a talent quest which I also won with a Bob and Fred comedy act, alongside Ethan who played Fred.

Breakfast was toast, cereal and juice and then we cleaned our cabin out. Our second last activity was flying fox which was the best and then we had morning tea. Our last activity was vertical challenge. Then we had chicken burgers for lunch and Mr Hockings announced the winners for the cleanest cabin, which I also won and then we went home.

CAMP KOINONIA by Ethan

On Monday the whole of Year 5 and I went to Camp Koinonia. Five teachers went and their names are Mr Maxwell, Mrs A, Mr Hockings, Miss Gulliver and Miss McCabe. It was awesome. We travelled in two buses - one bus for boys and one bus for girls. We left at 9:30am.

When we first got there we had to get in our cabins, get our stuff ready, get our beds ready, go outside, line up in our groups ready to do our activities.

My first activity was stand-up paddle boarding. It was pretty fun but my partner was too scared to go out in the deeper water. Stand-up paddle boarding was alright but at least it’s better than nothing.

My favourite activities were swinging in the chapel and surfing. They were both really fun. Swinging in the chapel was so much fun, especially if you went right to the top and went upside down. The drop is a bit scary but on the second go it is fine. In surfing there was a girl named Kirra and a man named Hamster. I caught about fifteen waves and it was so much fun.

The scariest activity would have to be rock climbing (see photo) because when you’re up the top it feels like you don’t have a harness on. So when you’re up high you think that if you fall you will go down and die. That’s why I think rock climbing is the scariest activity.

Laser skirmish was one of my favourites too because my team absolutely smashed the blue team. My team smashed in domination (a game) but their team found this awesome spot down at the quarry and started camping. There were about four of them down there and that is how they killed me.

Camp Koinonia was really fun and I think everyone who hasn’t been should go because it was the best excursion I have ever gone to.
MY CAMP KOINONIA EXCURSION by Aidan

On Monday Year 5 went to Camp Koinonia. After we arrived and took all the bags off the bus, we had recess. Then I went to cabin three with my friends and unpacked. I had the biggest bed in the cabin. Our first activity was laser skirmish. (see photo) I wanted to be on the blue team but I was on the red team; it didn’t really matter. We lost a couple of games and won a couple, it was so cool, awesome and fun!

Our second activity was canoeing. The teachers were Hamster and Leon. It was hard to paddle because it was so windy. We beat the record for the number of people on a canoe without capsizing. When we got back to camp we had showers and I realised I had lost a sock. I played Frisbee until dinner. After dinner we had the trivia night. It was alright, we didn’t come first, but we tied 4th place. For supper we had milo and a biscuit, yum! That night I had to open up all the windows in the cabin because it was so hot. I stayed up late because I could hear a possum scratching the wall but I got to sleep eventually.

On Tuesday before breakfast we could choose between jogging on the beach and playing games. After breakfast we went stand up paddle boarding. (see photo) Yes! It was one of the best activities that I did, it was so awesome! After morning tea, we went to swinging in the chapel. I was the first one to go all the way to the top and swing through the window. This was also one of my favourite activities. Next we went surfing. I had one of the best surfboards. I really liked surfing too. After that we went rock climbing. It was fun but I didn’t go to the top. I played frisbee until dinner then watched the Talent Quest. It was cool to watch what all the different groups did. My favourite was jokes by Bob and Fred.

On Wednesday, I played frisbee again until breakfast. Flying fox was our first activity; it was awesome. I was the second to go on it. The first person got stuck half way. My hands were sore from pulling the rope. My last activity was the vertical challenge. It was fun, I went up twice! This was one of my most favourite excursions EVER!

COMMUNITY NEWS

- Wilson Park Public School - 2LM Children's Christmas Appeal Fundraiser - Saturday, 25 October 7am - 2pm. Mega Garage Sale @ Wilson Park Public School - 230 Wyrrallah Road, Lismore. Furniture, household items, toys, cake stall, tea and coffee to be sold. Lismore West Rotary Club will be running a BBQ to raise money for the appeal. Come and enjoy this exciting event!
- Reclaim the Night – Spinks Park, Friday 31 Oct @ 6pm. Live music, free face painting, food stalls & loads of activities for the kids! March around CBD starts at 7pm
This week at Helping Hands we are preparing for our first dress-up disco/party night. On Friday, 31 October we will be holding a Halloween themed dress-up disco/party. The children are busily making a Halloween scarecrow, masks, paper chains, ghastly ghosts, scary bats, spiders and much more. We will be playing lots of party games including apple bobbing, donut eating competition and skeleton relay. To attend the disco/party, you must be enrolled at After-School Care and booked in to attend on the day. New bookings and enrolments are welcome.

We held a colouring in competition last week and these are our winners: Ruby with princess bubble gum for best colouring in, Maddox with adventure time for best effort and Baily with Yu-gi-oh for most original. Please feel free to visit After School Care to see our other entries. Well done to all entrants - it was a hard choice for Mr Hockings and myself to judge the winners.

We have vacancies daily. We also accept casual bookings if, for instance, you have to work a shift you wouldn’t normally do, have an important appointment to attend or just want a quiet afternoon to do the grocery shopping. Please feel free to come and visit our friendly staff who are more than happy to answer any of your questions. Alternately you can contact us via phone 0448 125 995 or email wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au. Thank you to all the families who have supported us this term. Julie, Emily and Georgina.

SCHOOL CANTEEN – A TOOL FOR LEARNING

As part of the school environment, the school canteen is an education opportunity. The children are learning about the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating: In class they are learning about having everyday foods most of the time and sometimes foods (chips, confectionary, muesli bars, pies, etc.) only sometimes. Buying lunch from the canteen is a chance to reinforce this message by choosing salad rolls and wraps, or other every day foods.

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UNIFORM SHOP: Frid 8.30-10.00am and each Thurs during Kinder Orientation - Roster 24 Oct: Darren Speers

Polo Shirts on special now, selling at cost price of $15 Maroon Shirt, $17 sports shirt.

WRPS has a ‘no hat, play in the shade’ policy, so as the weather is warming up, please remind your child to pack a LABELLED school hat every day. If your child does not own a hat, you can purchase one from the Uniform Shop - 2 styles available, Surf Hat $7, Hybrid Hat $12.