

Waratah West Public School – Respect, Responsibility, Learning

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Wednesday, 13 December 2023

Dear Families and Friends of Waratah West Public School,

As the 2023 school year closes, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and enjoyable break. Many thanks to our school community for your commitment and dedication to our school. It is your continued support that enables the opportunities and successes of our students. We look forward to a year of excitement and challenge in 2024.

As we start Week 10 we are well and truly into planning for 2024 and finalising classes, staffing, reports, presentation days and year 6 farewells.

Our teachers are working hard to finalise assessments and your child's end of year report was sent home on Tuesday 12 December. I personally read every student's report and am so proud of their achievements. I am never surprised, but always in awe of how well our teachers know, value and care for every single student at Waratah West PS.

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION GRADUATION

Congratulations to our Kindergarten Transition 'Aqua Juniors' class of 2023, and welcome to our Waratah West family! We look forward to welcoming you back to Aqua class in 2024.



Many thanks to Ms Gallagher, Miss Thompson, Ms McCabe, Mrs Anderson, our current Aqua students and Year 4 and 5 buddies for organising a fantastic Graduation Assembly.



YEAR 6 FAREWELL

We were all excited to be celebrating the conclusion of our Year 6 students primary school journey at the Farewell on Monday evening. Mrs Anderson and Mrs Trowbridge worked tirelessly to ensure it was a memorable occasion.



PRESENTATION DAY

Tuesday 12 December was our annual presentation day. This was an opportunity to recognise some of the outstanding work and achievement of many of our students this year and introduce our 2024 leadership team. It was truly wonderful to have so many family members in attendance to celebrate.

Congratulations to our newly elected 2024 leaders:



Co-Captains: Isi Bower and Cillian Marsh-McGann

Vice Captains: Ezekiah Duncan and Noah Wood

Student Leaders: Muhammad Abdullah, Luka Krtalic, Ayden Sedunary and Rowan Umbaugh.



Thank you and best wishes for the future to our outgoing leaders Isaiah Bamblett-Clark, Mahe Tupou, Lucas Hoswell and Henry Tavola.

Friday 15th December is the final day of the 2023 school year for students. Best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful start to 2024.

STAFFING 2024

We sit in a privileged position as educators in our school. We face the most challenging situations with relentless determination. In every decision, every effort, and every action, we hold the wellbeing and the learning of the student at the heart. This includes when we plan school operations for the upcoming year, assigning teachers to classes and arranging learning spaces. Please contact the office to speak with me if you have any questions or concerns.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

School Administration Manager (SAM)- Mrs Celeste Shaw

School Administration Officer (SAO)- Mrs Lesley Roberts Monday, Thursday

General Assistant- Mr Peter Anschau Thursday, Friday

TEACHING STAFF

Wellbeing Support Dog- Barney Nightingale

Principal- Ms Nicola Moroney

Assistant Principal Inclusion and Wellbeing- Ms Jane Chapman

Assistant Principal Curriculum & Instruction- Ms Emma McCabe

Multicategorical Class (MC-Lime) Teacher- Mr Luke Henley **SLSO-** Mrs Rachel Pola

Multicategorical Class (MC-Indigo) Teacher- Mrs Jillian McCormack **SLSO-** Mrs Lesley Roberts

Behaviour Difficulties (BD- Crimson)- Teacher Mr Archie Ikihele **SLSO-** Mrs Jasmine McGuire

Kindergarten (Aqua) Teacher- Ms Skye Gallagher

Stage 1 (Tangerine) Teacher- Mrs Kate McMaster

Stage 2 (Silver) Teacher- Miss Jane Thompson

Stage 3 (Purple) Teacher- Mrs Penny Anderson

School Learning Support Staff (SLSO)- Mrs Virginia Murdoch; Mrs Amanda Trowbridge; Mr Tony Smith; Mrs Lynda Jarvis

Teacher Librarian- Mrs Sharne Dyett (Wednesday)

Learning and Support Teacher- Ms Alanna Quinn

School Counsellor- Mr Steve Britt Tuesday

Leader Psychology Practice- Ms Alison Fearon

BELOW ARE THE KEY DATES:

Thursday 14th December: Party Day, Disco, SISA. Out of uniform acceptable.

Friday 15th December: 2.45pm Year 6 clap-out. Handball competition.

Friday 15th December: Last day of school for 2023

Staff Return to School: School Development Days: Tuesday 30th January, Wednesday 31st January

2024 All Students Commence School: Thursday 1st February

Leader Induction Assembly: Friday 9 February 2.15pm

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE 2023 PRESENTATION DAY

I intended to teach myself ChatGPT over the weekend so I could deliver a polished speech so I started to write some key points and I found that I began writing and couldn't stop, because the words were coming from my heart. So it's maybe not the most articulate speech you've ever heard but it's genuine and heartfelt.

As I near completion of my seventh year as Principal of this wonderful school, I wish to extend my gratitude to all in our community for your ongoing support throughout 2023.

In last year's address I said our school is a school with a soul, as well as a purpose, and every year that passes strengthens this belief. This is a place to belong, and it is a place that binds together its past and present community as part of the Waratah West Public School family. This is evidenced by the continued attendance of the **Ainsworth family** at this event, in remembrance of their wife/mother Renee who was a proud Aboriginal principal of this school.

I often hear the comment that we are a family school. Yes, we are, and proudly so; most importantly, we are an inclusive school – we have a strong culture of belonging that recognises the richness and diversity of the wider school community. I was surprised and delighted to recently discover that within our student population there are 17 different languages spoken, with even more cultures represented.

This is a school with a deep and abiding commitment to the provision of the very best educational and wellbeing experiences for our students, and as such I would like to thank our teaching and support staff for their professionalism and dedication to their roles in the school. It is this dedication that provides for the opportunities and successes of our students. I would like to thank the administrative and support staff who work,



often in the background to support the operation of the school and our teachers in delivering their learning programs. Our teachers bring their enthusiasm, knowledge and expertise to the classroom, promoting excellence and supporting our students to achieve. My sincere thanks to all of you –teachers, administration staff, support staff and cleaning staff for the work you have done this year.

I'm going to ask **Ms Jane Chapman** to stand. I want to acknowledge the amazing contribution that Jane makes on a daily basis to the students staff and families of our school. Jane is absolutely the heart and soul of our school and I am thankful to have her as my colleague, copilot, and my friend. The difference she makes to all our lives is immeasurable and often taken for granted but deserves to be spoken and celebrated

Equally, **Ms Emma McCabe** as she flourishes in her role as Assistant Principal Curriculum & Instruction brings her unique teaching expertise to all our teachers and students, as well as the element of magic that makes learning such a fun and engaging experience for staff and students alike. Ms McCabe is an inspiration to us all.

Our school continues to grow and change, but always maintaining the values of kindness and inclusivity that we hold in such high regard. I need to sadly farewell a long standing staff member, **Mrs Johanna Bunny**. Jo made the difficult decision to retire earlier this year.



In a school there's a unique relationship between a School Administration Manager (SAM) and a principal. A principal relies so heavily on the support of the SAM as I have with Jo. We alone see the challenges of each other's jobs that are not always visible to others. Our working relationship developed to the point where Jo knew intuitively what I needed from her and would answer my questions even before I asked them, let alone all the times I lost important documents etc and

she would just know where to find them. I miss you Jo, and you are missed by our school family, which you will always remain a part of. From my heart, thank you for your amazing contribution to our students, staff and community, and for the many laughs, and some tears, that we have had over our years working together. I wish you all the very best for your retirement because you have most certainly earned it.

If you listen to the news media it will be no surprise to you that public education is underfunded, and for a variety of reasons school budgets for 2024 have been impacted. For this reason it may not be possible for us to offer programs and employment in 2024 that have been a mainstay of our school for many years. Sadly this impacts several long standing staff members, of whom I want to single out **Mrs Amanda Trowbridge**. Amanda has been so many things to so many students and staff, always reliable and getting the job done often in the background- when things 'just happen', we know that it is often Amanda who has made it happen behind the scenes. This, together with the immeasurable impact she has had on the lives of so many of our young people, makes her a treasured staff member, and we are hopeful that we will be able to perform some kind of budget magic in 2024 and see her back with us in some capacity.

Welcoming our wonderful Multicategorical (MC) support class Indigo, and our Crimson BD class students to our school community has absolutely been a highlight of 2023 certainly enriched our little school and been a source of enormous pride for me professionally. I commend our staff for the agility they have shown in making significant changes to learning spaces at very short notice to support our students to have the very best learning experience possible.

For our Year 6 students today is one of the last formal occasions that they will wear their WWPS school uniform and be together as a group, before we officially farewell them on Friday. I proudly look back at the growth and achievement of our Year 6 cohort since beginning their school journey in Kinder. During this time, we have enjoyed many wonderful student achievements- across academic pursuits, the sporting field, creative and performing arts and other performances, and through many other areas where our

students have been able to demonstrate their talents and leadership skills. **Eddie, Ethan, Henry, Ilyas, Isaiah, Latanah, Lucas, Mahe, Tahlia** I thank each of you for the unique contribution and the leadership you have provided to our school this year. You are a talented and compassionate group of young people with a bright future ahead.

On behalf of the Waratah West School Community, I take this opportunity to thank our community partners for the generous support they have extended to us throughout 2023. Our friends from **Jesmond Lions Club** deserve special mention as they consistently volunteer to contribute to our school in so many ways. I recently put out a call for a mini working bee and our Lions as usual turned up for days in a row to get the job done. We value your continued assistance as we build a supporting and nurturing school community.

Families and school staff both have pivotal roles in supporting and empowering children as they move through school. We thank our families for working in partnership with us to provide opportunities for all and transform lives through learning. It is our genuine aim to foster for you and your children a strong sense of connection and belonging to our school community throughout the whole primary school experience. To our families I say a heartfelt thank you for the gift entrusting us with nurturing your precious children.

Finally, to our **students**. Congratulations on your achievements this year. We have a school of passionate, engaged and enthusiastic young people who excel and display their talents in so many different ways. It has been wonderful to see the confidence and pride grow in each of you over the last seven years. This is developed through the opportunities that you seize, the opportunities your teachers inspire and the opportunities that this school offers you. Today, we celebrate the achievement of many students who have excelled throughout 2023. I wish to congratulate our



award recipients this morning for taking a strong hold of the opportunities that have led to your achievements

today. Whether you are receiving an award today or not, I am proud of each one of you; congratulations and thank you.

Nicola Moroney
Principal



WEEKLY AWARD WINNERS



*Leon, Angelina,
Mark, Brynley,
Tamsyn, Luka, Isi*

	Teacher & SLSO Awards	Superstar
LIME	Henry	Kareem, Leon
Indigo	Tallon	Vincent
Crimson		Stonie
AQUA	Domenik, Angelina	Paige
MAGENTA	Isabella, Samuel	Tony, Daniel

TANGERINE	Finn	Lachlan, Alatini
SILVER	Tamsyn, Muhammad	Tiarna, Harvie
PURPLE	Mahe	Noah, Isi
APC&I	Tamsyn	
APSE/W	Tom	

2023 STUDENT LEADERS FAREWELL

What a year! We can't believe we only have a couple of days left as school captains at Waratah West Public School. We are very honoured to have had the privilege of leading the school in 2023.

There are so many things that we are going to miss when we head to high school.

- Our friends across all classes in the school, particularly our year 5 classmates.
- Ms Moroney, Ms Chapman, Ms McCabe, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Trowbridge, Mrs Laing and all the dedicated teachers and staff that have played an important part in our education.
- Barney, the turkeys, the birds, the fields and the beautiful school environment that we are so lucky to have.
- The amazing experiences including Purple Fun Week, Beach Day, the Knights Visit, Wednesdays in the Wild, Children's University and most recently the Year 6 Farewell.

We wish the 2024 Captains and Vice Captains all the best as they soon takeover from us and begin the important role of leading the school and upholding "The Waratah West Way"

Thank you to everyone for the fantastic opportunities that we've had at this school. We will miss it all but will definitely come back and visit next year.

Captains and Vice Captains for 2023; Mahe, Isaiah, Henry and Lucas



NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure

NSW Public Schools

School holiday works notification - Summer | December 2023

School Infrastructure NSW regularly inspects and maintains schools to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our school communities.

The school holidays are the ideal time for a lot of maintenance and project work to take place in schools across the state without disrupting learning. The Summer school holiday period is our busiest of the year as this extended time allows us to complete work that takes longer or may be more disruptive.

Planned work over the school holidays at some schools may involve working with hazardous materials such as asbestos or lead containing material. This may include remediation or removal of material, or sampling. This notification is to let you know about work taking place at your school involving these materials.

Planned work over the Summer school holidays

We will be doing work involving hazardous materials at your school **during the Summer school holidays**. This period may include **from the end of Tuesday 19 December 2023** up to when students return to school the **morning of Thursday 1 February 2024**.

For more information about the type of work and location within your school grounds, see the listing for your school on our website: <https://edu.nsw.link/HolidayWork>.

Where work involves these hazardous materials, an independent occupational hygienist is engaged to monitor the work. The relevant area will be cordoned off before work starts, and safety measures and monitoring put in place.

Work will be done in accordance with SafeWork NSW regulations and relevant plans including the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. All work will be completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by occupational hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

When the remediation component of the work is finished, the relevant areas will be inspected by the hygienist and the school will receive a clearance certificate before the area is reopened for next term. If the area is part of broader work that needs to continue, the contractor will receive a clearance certificate to continue work. The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority. Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

For more information please visit <https://edu.nsw.link/HolidayWork>.

If you have any questions about the work, please contact us on the details below.

School Infrastructure NSW
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 482 651
www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

