



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the 'Djeran' edition of the newsletter.

At the last assembly I remarked on how much I notice the changes in our weather when we are seated outside for our assemblies. In a traditional weather system, we typically have four seasons of a set three-month duration. We are currently in Autumn which is categorised by leaves changing colour and falling from the trees. However, what I really like is the way in which the six Noongar Seasons tell the story of our weather. The Noongar seasons are not defined by strict dates but instead by the changes in the temperature, wind, rain and food availability. We are currently in the season of 'Djeran'. Djeran is the time of year where the cooler weather begins. Cool nights, morning dew on the grass and lighter winds. As the season progresses, the nights will become cooler and damp. It is the season where bulbs and seeds are collected for food. It is also the season for flying ants – and I have certainly noticed them on my drive to and from work lately!

It's not just the seasons changing that I notice at Waroona. A change that has really struck me this year is the change in our school climate or culture. What do I mean by school culture? Well, some of the measures of school culture or learning environment are attendance and suspension data. Why is that? Because if students are engaged in their learning, they attend more often and they behave according to the expectations of the school. I am delighted with the current rates of attendance; they are well above attendance rates from previous years. Overall our primary attendance rate is at 91.5% with Year 1 and Year 3 at almost 95% attendance. Our secondary attendance rate is currently 82% with our Year 8 students leading on 90% attendance. As you know we have targets set for our rates of attendance, that we promote and reward regular attendance (that is above 90% attendance for all students). Staff have been busy in the last few weeks supporting students whose attendance rate is below 90% to reach this target. Even with a 90% attendance rate it means that a student is absent from school one day per fortnight, or 20 days per year, which is 4 weeks per year, and over 13 years of schooling that is an absence of almost 1.5 years. Students with an 80% attendance rate miss 1 day per week of school, or 8 weeks per year, which over 13 years of schooling is over 2.5 years of absence. A student with a 70% attendance rate is quite shockingly missing over 5 years of schooling and a student with a 60% attendance rate is missing almost 8 years of the 13 years of compulsory schooling. As you can imagine, that has a devastating impact on learning. Every day, every class COUNTS!

Our current rates of suspension are dramatically reduced from those of previous years. Our orderly learning environment, our PBS values of consideration, aspiration, responsibility, engagement and safety set the expectations for student behaviour across the school.



Parent support and engagement is also a key measure of school culture and I am delighted to note that we had 88 parents book interviews with teachers for our Progress Reporting in Week 2. That is also a huge improvement on previous years and I thank those parents for their commitment to supporting the progress of their children's learning. Thank you to those parents that regularly attend our school assemblies. You too are showing your support to our school and to your child's learning and development. Thank you to all parents for abiding by COVID restrictions over the last few weeks, wearing masks, maintaining appropriate distance and using sign in procedures.

Which brings me to mask wearing. Our secondary students have made me a very proud Principal in the past two weeks with their compliance and responsibility around mask wearing. They abided by the mandate to wear masks and really lived our school values of 'responsibility' and 'safety'.

Finally, NAPLAN testing commenced last week for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN results are a very important measure of the quality of teaching and learning at our school. NAPLAN data is used to compare the performance of students at our school compared to schools *like* Waroona – so that fair comparisons can be made about the value adding that we do. It also provides us with very useful information and helps us to determine areas that we need to work on and improve for groups of students and individual students. I urge all of our students to try their very hardest in their NAPLAN tests over the next few weeks. They are an important measure of how well we are doing as a school to improve student achievement and progress. I know that our teachers have been preparing students to do their very best in these tests. So go well Waroona students.

In closing, I am feeling really proud of where our school is at right now. We are starting to see some great outcomes from the efforts of everyone; staff, students, parents, our School Board and P&C and the wider community - to ensure our school is a great school. I thank you all.

Ms Jacquie Abbiss
PRINCIPAL

PRIMARY NEWS

Hi Waroona

Despite COVID restrictions, we have had an incredibly smooth and settled start to Term Two. A number of events have come and gone with many more in front of us.

Our ANZAC Assembly held on the first Friday of this term was very successful. We were fortunate to have Tracey Fickling from the Waroona-Hamel RSL join us and she was greeted by a very respectful school audience. We were also fortunate with the fact that our assembly was just before the three-day lockdown





allowing us to remember those who had sacrificed so much, as the town service had to be cancelled.

Our Parent Interview afternoon was very successful with many parents taking the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher. This sends a great message to the students that the relationship between school and home is incredibly important.

Last Friday our school co-organised Aussie Sports for Year 4-6 students at the town oval. We were blessed with beautiful weather and students from all schools enjoyed the opportunity to participate in an interschool event aimed at making sport fun! We will travel to Harvey in two weeks' time to do it all again.

Finally, at the time of writing this article our students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 are all involved in NAPLAN testing. This has become one of a range of tools for assessing our school's effectiveness. We would love parents to assist us by ensuring their students are ready for testing with a good night's sleep and a substantial breakfast.

Enjoy the rest of the term.

Mr Carl Carulli
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (Primary)

SECONDARY NEWS

I start my Term 2 Newsletter with a big thank you to all our high school students. They have been amazing during our COVID-19 restrictions and have demonstrated immense patience whilst wearing their masks. Well done.



It's that time of year again where NAPLAN is a focus. The Year 7 and 9 students are actively engaged in NAPLAN online. The test results will help provide some quality additional data for their teachers and thus assist in understanding where each student is at and therefore teachers will more accurately plan for progress. At a school level when the results are in we can drill down on what aspects of the curriculum and literacy and numeracy skills need to be addressed and on an individual and group basis fill some of those learning gaps. As I explained in a recent secondary assembly to the students, it's what the students don't know that really interests the teachers.

Once again the calendar is now full of interesting events for the high school students to participate in. In particular, the School Dance will take place on Friday 25th June. Students need to ensure they have attended for 90% or more in Semester one and have not received a suspension.

Mr David Mattin
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (SECONDARY)

P&C Uniform Shop
Open Tuesday mornings between
8:30am & 9:00am

CHAPLAINS CHAT

Hi everyone



I hope you are well and are enjoying the cool change this time of year brings about. I have always enjoyed the atmosphere of sitting with my family in front of the heater and watching a movie together.

Another great season in life is our schooling years. When I look back on my schooling years one thing I remember is trying to negotiate friendships.

Friendships can do us a world of good but they can also cause us a lot of pain. So it's important to be able to recognise a healthy or unhealthy friendship.

Unhealthy Friendships
Puts you down to build themselves up.
Talks about you negatively and puts you down to others. (rumours gossip etc.)
Doesn't let you join in a game or event.
Tells you who you can be friends with or will only let you be friends with them.
Criticizes and judges.
Manipulative and deceitful.

Healthy Friendships
Appreciates and likes you for who you are.
Says good things about you to others.
Makes you feel welcome.
Allows you to choose your own friends.
Encourages you to grow.
Honest and transparent.

All great friendships happen when both parties are 'others' focused and are givers and not takers.

Learning to foster and grow great friendships is a valuable skill that can benefit us throughout our whole life.

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or friendships my door is open and I am more than happy to organise a time to see you to discuss strategies to support healthy friendships.

Have a great rest of the term.

Regards

Mr Rodney van Dongen
Chaplain





ASSEMBLY MERIT CERTIFICATES

The following students received merits at our assemblies this term:

Year 1	Kylah Underwood	Quinn Bombara	
Year 2	Margaret Mendoza		
Year 3	Marshall Kinsella	Aser Ibrahim	Holly Melling
Year 4	Joel Kelly	Tamzen McGregor	Jett Grant
Year 5	Kaiden Simpson	Skyla Lawson	Akasha Fardella
Year 6	Ashlyn Clements	Sianna Dittmann	Zoe Lawson Jordon Dinah-Wood
Year 7	Emily Ingram	Isabella Grayden (x2)	
Year 8	Jake Pich	Loren Davis	Isabella Mendoza
Year 9	Ella Prosser	Faith Websdale (x2)	
Year 10	Jazmyne Birch	Rachel Smith	Tayla Salvona

P&C Update

This year we decided to try something different for Mothers' Day and the P&C Fundraising Committee ran a successful Mothers' Day stall. We made approximately \$330 with many popular items selling out on Wednesday and those last-minute buys purchased on the Friday. We hope to do something similar for Fathers' Day.

Our canteen will not run alternative specials this term. Instead, every third week (assembly weeks) we will have a pre order special. The Canteen Committee's Hot Dog lunch special received 75 Hot dog orders and many orders delivered offsite to the kids participating in the Aussie Sports day at the town oval. We raised over \$300.

The Early Learning Committee have a wood raffle at the IGA on Saturday 12th of June (Week 8). We need 4 volunteers to help our committee members sell tickets. If you can help, please put your name down on the roster outside of Room 32 (Pre Primary).

I have had a few conversations with parents and grandparents who are apologetic they are unable to help the P&C more. We understand and hope you realise that if your child has a uniform on, if you buy from the canteen or a lunch order special at a carnival or event, you are supporting the P&C which helps support our school. But if you have goods or services you could provide for raffle prizes or volunteer us some manpower at times during some of our larger events or IGA raffles or in the canteen we ask you get in touch.

Our next P&C Meeting will be at 2pm on Wednesday the 26th May in the school Community Room. You are more than welcome to come along and see what we are working on. Please sign in at the Front Office as you arrive and they will direct you to the meeting.

DONATE YOUR CONTAINERS

WE RECEIVE 10 CENTS FOR EACH

WHEN RETURNING YOUR CONTAINERS, USE OUR SCHEME ID:

Waroona DHS P&C
C10313256

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT



ELIGIBLE CONTAINERS



WANTED

Our Year 9 and 10 students are looking for some old forks, spoons and knives for the Design and Technology class – they are looking to recycle them for coat racks.

If you have any that you no longer use and you would like to donate, please bring them in to our front office. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.