



Walkaway Primary School Newsletter

Newsletter #7 22nd May 2019

MAY UPCOMING EVENTS

22nd Room 1 Assembly
9am

22nd P&C Meeting 1pm

23rd School Council
Meeting 2.30pm

JUNE UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd WA Day

19th Possum Magic K/P
Excursion 11.30am

20th School Council
Meeting 2.30pm

26th Room 6 Assembly
9am

26th Disco 6-8pm
Theme: Billionaires

26th P&C Meeting 6-8pm

28th NCVISSA Winter
Carnival



Dear Parents and families,

I am so proud of our Year 3 and 5 students for their excellent focus throughout the four NAPLAN tests: writing, reading, language conventions and numeracy. The students remained positive and any doubts were very short-lived, with these students demonstrating great resilience. Also, thankfully, we didn't experience the network challenges experienced by other schools during our NAPLAN testing.

STAFFING

As you know, we farewelled Mrs Andrea Garratt this week, leaving us with very big shoes to fill. We have completed a recruitment process and will be appointing Education Assistants over the coming weeks, with additional Education Assistant time being employed to support classrooms where a need is identified.

I would also like to formally congratulate Mrs Robyn Griechen who has been successful in winning the permanent 0.2 position (1 day) and Mrs Erlin Indrayani who was the successful applicant for the permanent 0.1 LOTE position (1/2 day).

PLAYGROUND

The kids are loving our "revamped" cubby area and have been enjoying some very creative and cooperative play. If you have any time available on Friday morning at 9am, we are looking for some parents to help us finish the sand area. If anyone has an electric planer at home that would be helpful to smooth off the tops of the logs. Other than that, the jobs will include de-barking the logs and digging the trench to put them in. We will have a few more busy bees this year to create a fairy garden and develop the playground area behind the library. Some of our ambassadors have taken on the role of getting student feedback on the development of these areas.

WALK, JOG, RUN CLUB

Our Walk, Jog, Run Club will start next week and will be on every Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:30 until bell time. This will help with our general fitness and is also great preparation for cross country next term.

MOTHER'S DAY MORNING TEA

A huge congratulations to our fabulous P&C for another very successful Mother's Day Morning Tea, with 228 lucky attendees who were able to shop at the stalls, win an amazing raffle, enjoy the entertainment provided by Mr Clune and the talented Walkaway students and, of course, enjoy the delicious food made by our dedicated parent group.

Kind regards, Megan Barrett, Principal



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Attached with this newsletter is Our Plan 2019-2021. Our Plan is also available on the website www.walkawayps.wa.edu.au on the following link:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a69cee_7dcd0e3bb94649519807f7edcc24d137.pdf

In this document you will find the targets we aim to achieve over the next 3 years and the strategies that we will either continue or adopt to provide our students with the best opportunities to succeed.

Also attached is the 2018 Annual School Report, available at the following link on our website:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a69cee_6b14e98b9fea4e49b24a8d9349d578b4.pdf

For further information, on the following page, I have developed a frequently asked questions format to address some of the questions arising.

Who can enrol at Walkaway?

Walkaway Primary School has 71 students K—Year 6. Under a student-centred funding model, the census early in Term 1 each year determines school funding for the year. Funding is not just per student, but is also, under the following categories set by the Department; Aboriginality, Disability, Locality, English as a Second Language and Social Disadvantage. Each year at the beginning of Term 3 we will ask for Kindergarten enrolments for the following year so numbers can be determined allowing for planning to take place.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Education Act, all PP-Year 6 children are guaranteed a place in their local government school.

What is a disability?

The definition of 'disability' used in the DDA is broad. It includes physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological and learning disabilities. Diagnosed students with a disability fall under the following categories: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disability, Severe Medical Disorder, Hearing or Visual Impairment. Funding is allocated to the school to support the employment of Education Assistants, release time for case conferences, professional learning and resources.

Students 'imputed' (identified as having a disability, but may not yet be diagnosed) with a disability are also categorised through the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data. Should these students be undergoing diagnoses, the school can also receive funding while this process is being completed.

Who are our community partners?

A number of department and interagency partners work with the school to assist us in supporting our students and families:

- School Chaplain and Psychologist
- The Schools of Special Education Needs: Disability
- Child Development Services (speech, occupational therapy, physiotherapy)
- Helping Minds

What happens when a child is putting themselves or others at risk?

We have half of our staff trained in 'Team Teach', with the remaining staff being trained in the coming weeks. "The emphasis within the Team Teach Training is that at least 95% of responses should be non-physical. Prediction, prevention, de-escalation, the importance of non-verbal and verbal communication and structured debriefing and repair are a strong focus of the training."

If a child is at risk of harming themselves or others and verbal interventions are not working, or immediate intervention is required, it may be necessary for staff 'to use reasonable and proportionate physical intervention to restrain them' or redirect them to a safe area. If this is the case, a report is made to the parent and the Department. Staff and students are familiar with procedures to ensure the safety of other students including evacuating them to a safe place. This procedure has been practised with the students.

Students requiring support regulating their behaviour have individualised plans procedures in place. These plans are developed in discussion with the parents and relevant support agencies.

What is Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)?

The Positive Behaviour Support framework forms a whole school model for staff and students to: teach, learn, reinforce and model our four WALK values. This framework defines the desired behaviours of our school.

We are RESPONSIBLE

Always show RESPECT

Learn, to ACHIEVE our best

Keen to COOPERATE

*If a child doesn't know how to read, we teach
If a child doesn't know how to spell, we teach
If a child doesn't know how to count, we teach
If a child doesn't know how to behave...
we teach!*

As a community, it is our responsibility to teach our children the skills needed to succeed in society.

All staff provide ongoing positive reinforcement (WALK tickets, assembly certificates, individual class programs, Fun Friday incentive) to students who are displaying our expectations, and support our students who need further practice displaying these skills.

What happens when students do not follow our behaviour expectations?

As in the adult world, there are consequences for breaching our school expectations.

Minor breaches are commonly dealt with at a classroom level:

- Classroom management strategies
- Loss of Fun Friday time
- Walk with the teacher (if at recess/lunch time)

Major or recurring minor breaches are directly referred to the office and will result in a more serious consequence:

- Bench time (if at recess or lunch)
- Detention
- Withdrawal – removed from class to work in the office
- Suspension

Please note: this is not an exhaustive list and students with additional needs may need tailored consequences related to their needs.

How does the school communicate with me?

Currently, we use Message You for communication with our families. Our parents can use Message You to notify us of student absences, information for bus runs etc. In the coming weeks, we are going to transition to Seesaw for office communication as Message You is limiting for the amount of information we can include to ensure everyone is informed. Message You will remain for parents to contact us regarding student absences and for emergency contact to families.

Located on our school website, www.walkawayps.wa.edu.au, you will find a newsletter link, downloads to policies, our term planner and much more. The school's Facebook Page, Walkaway Primary School – An Independent Public School, is used as an additional reminder of upcoming events and to celebrate school and student activities.

Any more questions?

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to call in and see us in the office.

Sadly we said good bye to Mrs Garratt last week. On her party day we had lots of fun making party hats and necklaces. Thank you for all the lovely fruit you sent in.

R

The weather has been nice so we have been able to enjoy our outdoor time playing and practising our gross motor skills.

O

We have made a few changes in our Happy Place. We now have a Vet, a farm and a big drawing table.

O

Copy Cats are going well with their soapbox words and having a go at writing stories by sounding out the words. Kitty Cats have been working on drawing pictures, especially people.

Let's hope we have some more rain soon! Mrs C

M

Cute quotes: Our little farmer in the making has been helping to set up the "broom spray!"

O

"Mrs Clement, are those little pimple things on faces real?"

"Yes they are"

"WOW! Pimples are real!"



This term is certainly flying! Nearly half way through already. We had a sad week last week saying goodbye to Mrs Garratt, who has been a part of the Senior Room in our school for many years. Thank you to those parents who sent in lovely food for the party. There was so much food that we had enough for the next 2 recesses!

R

O

O

M

F

- Leavers' shirts are well under way, the cost being \$53.50 per student.
- Homework Contract due this Friday 24th May
- Working on Persuasive Writing – using scaffolding to assist the students.
- Disco being planned. **Room 4 to provide supper** for this.
- Thank you for sending students in school shirt to sing at Mother's Day Morning Tea. A great effort by our students and well done to the volunteers on what looked like a lovely morning.
- Working on positive Mind Growth, as mentioned at beginning of year class meetings.
- I am working on promoting Resilience – also mentioned and covered in the beginning of the year meeting, to continue to endeavour to do ones best.

Have a great fortnight and thank you for your support and feedback.

Mr Clune



R

In room one, we have been practicing and practicing for our assembly despite all the viruses and colds that have been going around.

A

All the students have been working hard on their reading, writing and maths.

D

If any parents would like to make an appointment after school to come and discuss their child's academic progress or any concerns that may have please let me know. Thanks to all those who have already been to see me.

M

All the students enjoyed making and buying their special Mothers' Day gifts and put a lot of thought and love into them.

I

The Mother's Day Morning Tea was amazing as always and we are in awe of the talent and commitment of our parents at this school.



Ms Harman

The Mother's Day Morning Tea was an impressive event and the students had a great time singing for the guests. Thanks to Mr Clune for his musical talent and training our students so beautifully. An amazing amount of work went into organising MDMT from a lot of dedicated parents. Wow!

R

Here's some of what we have been up to in class:

- NAPLAN for Year 3s

D

- Our new comprehension strategy for guided reading is Fact and Opinion. A fact is true and an opinion is what someone thinks or believes.

O

- We are working on Persuasive Texts in writing where we have to convince the reader to agree with our opinion.

- Spelling - /i/ /air/ and /l/ sounds

M

- Maths – Fractions & class money system

- Design and Technology – troubleshooting rubber band powered cars



- Exploring EPIC reading app

S

- Watching a demo cracking the stock whip (thanks Amber)

- We had a party to farewell Mrs Garratt. Everyone will miss her so much. Thank you to everyone for the delicious food sent in to share.

Regards Ms Heywood

School Banking Dates for Term 2

22nd May

5th June 19th June

3rd July

Room 3 8.30am till 9am



Saturday Netball



Round 2

Walkaway vs Northampton 6 – 6

Best Players: Lilly & Jasmine

NSG Walkaway vs St Lawrence 8 – 0

Best Players: Ethan & Macy

Round 3

Walkaway vs NA

Best Players: NA

NSG Walkaway vs St Lawrence 7 – 2

Best Players: Blaise & Jocelyn

Congratulations to NSG Walkaway for moving up two grades to D Yellow

St John's/ Walkaway Hockey 2019

Full Field lost to SFX Gold 4 - 0.

Half Field defeated Tarcoola 9 - 2.

Fixtures for Saturday, 18th May

Full Field vs Geraldton Grammar 8.30

Half Field vs SFX Gold 11.30 Grass 4



Please note that the Full Field team have a game on Monday, 20th May at 4pm on the Grass.

A reminder that fees (Full Field \$70 and Half Field \$40) are now overdue.

Don't forget that all players must register with Hockey Australia. If you are having difficulties with this please see Mr Matthews.

It's on again!



Collection boxes are in the office and the Walkaway Store.

Walkaway Choir

I intend to enter a choir in the Geraldton Music Festival early in Term 3. I will be calling for students from Yrs. 2–6 to volunteer to be apart of this group.



Mr Clune



“Book Fair – Book Fair Beach-Catch the Reading Wave”

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Book Fair which was held in the Walkaway School Library from Monday 13th May to Friday 17th May 2019. The theme was Book Fair Beach! Catch the Reading Wave.

We have had another successful Book Fair. The amount of sales was \$1033.00 plus the Library is buying \$150.00 of books which makes the grand total of sales \$1183.00 which is fantastic.

This means that the school library will benefit by being able to choose books from the Book Fair to the value of \$354.00 plus we choose an extra \$50.00 of books just for having the book fair making the grand total of \$404.00 of new books.

Many, many thanks to Mrs Holliday for helping me to decorate the library and display the books. I couldn't have done it without you. Also many thanks for advertising the fair on Facebook for everyone to see.

A special thank you to Lisa, Mackenzie and Allira for all your help and assistance in the busy times, you were fantastic and very responsible.

Thank you to Kacie for helping to pack up the Book Fair.

A very special thank you to the Walkaway P & C for displaying and selling the Book Fair books at the Mother's Day Morning Tea on Friday 10th May. Your support is very much appreciated.

Thank you to all staff, parents and students for your support and the students for entering in the colouring in competitions.

Competition prizes are chosen from the book fair. Congratulations to all the winners and well done to all entrants. Thank you to the judges who had another hard task judging the winners. There were many deserving winners but unfortunately they were only able to choose one winner in each group.

The winners were:

Kindy, Pre/Primary: Book prize – Lilly Tilka

Poster – Theo Dewar and Callum Levett

Years 1/2: Book Prize – Kalahni Miller

Poster – Jai Hope

Years 3/4: Book Prize – Macy Hicks

Poster – William Harcourt

Years 5/6: Book Prize – Karla Roach

Poster – Mia Hicks

How many shells in the Jar – Guessing Game:

The winning number was 84 which no one guessed. The closest guess was Jasmine Reed with 85.

Thankyou everyone for another great Book Fair.

Sincerely, Mrs Cobley – Librarian