Welcome back everyone, to the start of the 2015 school year and a special welcome to our new families. I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months.

This year we have had a number of unexpected new enrolments, particularly in the younger part of the school and this has meant that forming classes was a bit more complicated than in recent years. Today the majority of classes had to move rooms in order to align similar groupings of students in the same area of the school.

We have formed a number of multi-age composite classes to optimise student learning, and to ensure that all groupings were socially appropriate. Recent research, both here and overseas, has shown that children in multi-age classes build confidence and operate well as members of a group, becoming more independent learners and problem-solvers. They also make more friends outside of their standard age group, and develop additional skills that they will need later in life, such as tolerance, working with diverse groups, peer support and leadership skills.

We will explain the significant benefits of this structure in detail at our Meet the Teachers afternoons in three weeks’ time. In the meantime, you are welcome to come and speak to either Mrs Polios or myself if you need to. There will also be an opportunity for some conversation about classes at our informal community BBQ on 18th February.

As this newsletter contains a considerable amount of information that you might need to refer to during the year, please take the time to read through it thoroughly and perhaps even keep it on the fridge for future reference.
P&C Meetings
Our Parents and Citizens Association provides an opportunity for parents and other members of the school community to participate in making decisions about our school, and to advise the Principal on matters which are relevant to students’ learning. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the connected classroom (near the school office). The February meeting is next Tuesday 10th Feb at 9:30. All parents and community members are very welcome to attend. If you are new to the school please consider attending to support your child’s school.

Please Note: the P&C Annual General Meeting is in March and only financial members are eligible to vote for our 2015 executive.

Mrs Lock
Principal

A Message from Mrs Polios
Welcome to the 2015 school year and our very first newsletter!

We have a busy term ahead and a fabulous Harmony Day event planned for everyone. Throughout the term, children will be learning about identity and intercultural understanding. This year, we plan to celebrate Harmony Day by:

- Conducting a whole school assembly
- Wearing orange
- Viewing the class installations in The Gallery.

Each installation will represent each class’ perception of identity and intercultural understanding.

- Viewing performances

We’ll provide you with more details as the term progresses.
This year, we welcome back Mrs Jasmin Khan and we welcome two new teachers to our team, Mrs Laura Littlebury and Miss Rebecca Berthold.

**NEWSLETTER**

Our Newsletter is the school’s main form of communication with parents. The Newsletter comes home every fortnight on **Monday**. Additional copies of the Newsletter are available from the office or can be viewed on our school website at [www.whalan-p.schools.edu.au](http://www.whalan-p.schools.edu.au)

Today, with the newsletter, you will receive a copy of our **Term 1 calendar** with all of this term’s events.

Another good way to be ‘in the know’ is to install the **Whalan Public School App** FREE of charge

For iPhones, just look for our school name "Whalan Public School" in the Apple App Store.

For Android phones, look for our school name "Whalan Public School" in the Google Play Store.
WHAT’S NEW IN 2015?

Student assemblies will take place each fortnight (odd weeks) beginning next week.

3-6 assembly on Monday starting at 2.00pm
K-2 assembly on Tuesday starting at 2.00pm

*Note the change of day for K-2 assemblies*

Changes to attendance requirements
Students who are enrolled at school are required to attend regularly. New child protection laws include criteria for ‘educational neglect’. Students who attend less than 90% of the time fall into this category.

Wet n Wild passes
All students who have outstanding attendance this year will go into the draw for some Wet n’ Wild passes.

Outstanding attendance criteria = less than 5 days absent and less than 5 partial days in the whole year.

Term 1 report
This year we are introducing a term 1 report which will be sent home mid-term. The report will inform parents of their child’s social skills and their commitment to learning. Additionally, the report will inform parents of any specialist programs that will support their child’s learning in 2015.

Mrs Polios
Deputy Principal

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
From time to time, parents may have questions or concerns. We encourage you to speak to your child’s teacher in the first instance. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, then please make an appointment to speak to the supervisor for your child’s class.
**Supervisors:**
For all support classes: Ms Mackenzie
Preschool classes: Mrs Lock
Kindergarten including K/1K: Mrs Tamsett
Year 1: Mrs Van Vliet
Years 2 & 3 including 3/4W: Mrs Polios
Years 4 – 6: Mrs Chambers

**MEDICATION**
School Learning Support Officers dispense medication two times a day at 11:15am and 1:15pm.
If your child requires medication at school, please collect a medication form from the school office, complete the form and return it to the school office.

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The most important thing parents and carers can do to help their child get a good education, is get them to school every day!

Parents and carers want the best for their children – a good education can be life changing!

In the first newsletter of last year, we wrote –

*For the last five years in a row we have improved our school’s attendance rate.*
2009 – 86%
2010 – 87%
2011 – 88%
2012 – 89%
2013 – 89.5%

Wouldn’t it be fantastic if THIS YEAR, we can increase our school attendance rate to over 90%!

Well, we did it!

Our school’s attendance rate for 2014 was 90.9%

So, let’s set ourselves a new goal –
Let’s aim to increase it again by another 1% to 91.9%.

How you can help:
Here are the statistics – it’s easier than we think

310 children x 41 weeks x 5 days = 63,550
100% attendance = 63,550 days

1% attendance = 635 days per year
= 158 days per term
= 16 days per week

That means, if 3 more students attended every day our attendance rate will improve by 1%.

Imagine though, if all students who didn’t have 100% attendance last year, improved their attendance by 3 more days.

300 x 3 days = 900 = another 1.4% improvement!
How does our school reward good attendance?

Lunch with Mrs Lock (once a term)

Daily draws for ice block / popcorn / milo treats

Weekly prizes for best attending classes

Attendance awards at assembly for outstanding attendance and improved attendance

Starts today
Each week, the 2 best attending classes, will be rewarded with a class prize. The best attending classes choose their class reward from a selection of prizes on offer.

This selection includes:
✓ ingredients for a cooking lesson
✓ pizza lunch for the whole class
✓ a wheelie bin full of games for the week
✓ audio stories for the class to share
✓ an ipod for the class to use for the week
✓ a Nintendo 3DS for the week
✓ an ipad for the week

What does our school attendance look like now?

The bar represents 100%. The shading represents what our school percentage for attendance is now, after 4 days of school (90.5%)
The students were placed in their 2015 classes yesterday. We have formed 12 classes K-6 in addition to our 3 preschool classes and our 5 support classes. Your child brought home a letter which tells you your child’s class, the teacher’s name and where their classroom is located.

Our new Kindergarten children are in fluid classes at the moment and will remain that way for another week. We are aiming to form our 2015 Kindergarten classes before the end of next week. When these classes are formed parents will receive a letter with their child’s class details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kookaburras</td>
<td>Miss Martin</td>
<td>Preschool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koalas</td>
<td>Mrs Habib &amp; Mrs Littlebury</td>
<td>Preschool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroos</td>
<td>Mrs Whitton</td>
<td>Preschool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stars</td>
<td>Mrs Somerset &amp; Mrs Maddock</td>
<td>Preschool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KN</td>
<td>Miss Nielsen</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KH</td>
<td>Mrs Heinrich</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1T</td>
<td>Mrs Talde</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1K</td>
<td>Mrs Kehagias</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/1K</td>
<td>Mrs Keeghan</td>
<td>K, 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3K</td>
<td>Mrs Kliese</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3C</td>
<td>Miss Carter</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3B</td>
<td>Miss Berthold</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4W</td>
<td>Miss Weller</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6P</td>
<td>Mrs Pullen</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6A</td>
<td>Miss Andrews</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6N</td>
<td>Miss Nguyen</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6K</td>
<td>Mrs Kneale</td>
<td>K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6F</td>
<td>Mr Flanagan</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6M</td>
<td>Ms McCann</td>
<td>K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6B</td>
<td>Mr Boyd</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Role</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Emmett</td>
<td>Librarian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Galea</td>
<td>‘Relief from Face to Face’ Art teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Khan and Miss Littlebury</td>
<td>Kindergarten support teachers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Van Vliet</td>
<td>Year 1 support teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Mackenzie</td>
<td>Years 2 - 4 support teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Garland</td>
<td>‘Catch Up Literacy’ teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Chambers</td>
<td>Years 4 – 6 support teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Constable</td>
<td>‘Relief from Face to Face’ teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Van Vliet</td>
<td>Reading Recovery teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCHOOL RULES AND REWARDS**

To ensure we maintain a happy and safe school environment, we have three key rules that outline expected behaviour and link home, playground and classroom expectations.

- Be safe
- Be respectful
- Be a learner

These three rules apply to all classrooms, the playground and all school related activities. Students have been talking about these rules and what types of actions/behaviours would be evident in the classroom and the playground when each rule is followed. It would be helpful if you also talked about these rules with your child.

At the beginning of each year, we have a fresh start with our reward system. This year our CCs (Connected Cards) are **purple**. There are 2 types of CCs again this year – a **pale green CC** and a **dark green CC** which is our RESPECT CC.

Connected Certificates will have the year 2015 written on them.
At least 5

Total of 10

5

10
WHALAN MEDAL GOALS

Our school has published its Whalan Medal goals for:

✓ Student leaders
✓ Kindergarten
✓ Years 1 & 2
✓ Years 3 & 4
✓ Years 5 & 6

The goals are discussed early in the year with all students. When students have earned 10 Connected Certificates, they will be nominated for their Whalan Medal. Students who have consistently demonstrated Whalan Medal goals will have their nomination forms signed by their teachers, their supervisor and the principal.

School leaders, library monitors, sports house leaders and student representative councillors must meet the school’s Leadership Qualifications when nominating for any student leadership position.

We have published the school’s Leadership Qualifications and the Whalan Medal goals for each stage below.
# Leadership Qualifications

## I am a learner

- I am able to lead small groups.
- I can organise activities in the playground.
- I speak clearly in front of my peers.
- I represent the school in different events.
- I seek ways to serve my school.

## I am respectful

I am a role model for my fellow students by:

- encouraging other students in a positive way.
- wearing my badge with pride.
- speaking respectfully to others.
- being respectful to all teachers and visitors.

## I am safe

- I model safe behaviour in all settings ie SunSmart
- I advise people to be in the right place.
- I ensure school equipment is used appropriately.
- I make correct choices to avoid conflict.
- I always play by the rules.
# Whalan Medal Goals

## Kindergarten

### I am a learner

- I can say the Whalan expectations - *Safe, Respectful Learner.*
- I attend school regularly.
- I have a go.
- I listen to instructions.
- I work with others.

### I am respectful

- I speak nicely to others.
- I tell the truth.
- I listen to others.
- I share and look after all equipment.
- I put up my hand when I have something to say.

### I am safe

- I am SunSmart.
- I can always see a teacher and they can see me.
- I keep my hands and feet to myself.
- I move safely and sensibly.
- I use the toilet properly.
- I go to the teacher when there is a problem.
### Whalan Medal Goals
#### Grades 1 and 2

#### I am a learner
- I join in class activities.
- I always have a go.
- I listen carefully to instructions.
- I cooperate with others.

#### I am respectful
- I use my manners.
- I am honest.
- I wait for my turn to speak.
- I share and look after all equipment.
- I include others.

#### I am safe
- I am SunSmart.
- I am in the right place at the right time.
- I keep my hands and feet to myself.
- I move safely and sensibly.
- I use the toilet properly.
- I tell a teacher when there is a problem.
# Whalan Medal Goals

## Grades 3 and 4

### I am a learner

- I do my best work for all teachers.
- I always have a go and try my hardest.
- I ask for help if I don’t understand.
- I listen carefully and follow instructions.

### I am respectful

- I listen when others are speaking.
- I am polite and use my manners at all times.
- I take turns and let others have a go.
- I look after all equipment.
- I work together with teachers, visitors and students.
- I treat others the way I would like to be treated.
- I am honest and take responsibility for my choices.

### I am safe

- I am SunSmart.
- I use class and playground equipment appropriately.
- I make good choices about what and where to play.
- I play safely with others.
- I am a good friend.
- I am a good sport and play by the rules.
## Whalan Medal Goals

### Grades 5 and 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>I am a learner</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I consistently work to the best of my ability.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am prepared for all lessons.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am actively engaged in my lessons.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I demonstrate attentive listening by following given instructions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>I am respectful</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I make all teachers, parents and visitors feel welcome.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I cooperate in providing a classroom atmosphere in which others can learn.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I go out of my way to care for the school environment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I help and encourage others to always do their best.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I listen to and respect other people’s opinions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am honest and take responsibility for all my actions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>I am safe</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am SunSmart.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am in the right place at the right time in the classroom and the playground.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I make correct choices to avoid conflict.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a good friend.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a team player and demonstrate good sportsmanship.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can walk away from unsafe situations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I use my school equipment appropriately.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PBL = Positive Behaviour for Learning

PBL Matrix = a table that outlines our school expectations for all areas of the school and for different settings eg canteen, library, assembly

CC = Connected Card (green this year)
(there are 2 types – regular CC and RESPECT CC)

Connected Certificate = A certificate given to students after they have earned 10 CCs (at least 5 RESPECT CCs)

Whalan Medal = a school medal engraved with the child’s name and current year awarded to students who consistently demonstrate our school expectations

COMING EVENTS

Week 3 (next week)

Monday 9th
3-6 assembly –

Tuesday 10th
P&C meeting - 9.30am in Connected Classroom
K-2 assembly -
After School Sport starts for years 3 & 4

Thursday 12th
Year 5 high school orientation day at Chifley College Mt Druitt Campus 9.30am - 1.15pm

Friday 13th
After School Sport starts for years 5 & 6

Week 4

Monday 16th
Stewart House
Wednesday 18th  School leaders’ induction assembly
Community BBQ from 3.00pm

Thursday 19th  Scripture lessons begin for years 3-6

Friday 20th  PSSA summer competition begins

Leaders’ Induction assembly
Students can nominate for a school leadership position this week by completing a nomination form for one of the following positions:

- Library monitor (K-6)
- SRC representative (2 – 6)
- Sports house leader (5 & 6)

Nomination forms will be sent home this week and need to be returned by this Friday 6th February.

Students who wish to nominate for more than one leadership position must complete separate nomination forms for each position that they are interested in.

Our Leaders’ Induction assembly will take place on Wednesday 18th February at 9.15am under the cola.

If your child is interested in nominating for a leadership position, you might like to sit with them and talk about the roles and responsibilities as outlined over the page.
Student Representative Councillors work democratically to represent the student body in school decision-making. Students work together, with help from a staff member, to improve school life and to contribute students' ideas. The skills, values, knowledge and attitudes that students learn from participation in SRC are vital to their future role as citizens of a democratic society.

At the start of each year, each class 2-6 will discuss, nominate and vote for their 2 class representatives.

**Criteria for SRC selection**

Being a school leader is an important position within the school community. School leaders are expected to demonstrate Whalan Public School’s expectations for behaviour (safe, respectful, learner). School leaders need to be positive role models to other students in the school. Leaders must carry out their duties to the best of their ability.

Students who feel that they satisfy the criteria for the leadership position and can fulfil the responsibilities can apply for nomination. Students must complete a nomination form which requires support from two students, a teacher and parent/carer.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- ✓ consistently demonstrate our school expectations
- ✓ attend all SRC meetings, participate in decision making and complete any tasks allocated to them
- ✓ report back to the class or school and address issues in a fair and democratic manner
Sports House Leaders

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
✓ consistently demonstrate our school expectations
✓ show exemplary sportsmanship at all sporting events
✓ lead and guide the sports team at all sporting events

Kokoda       Madang       Wewak       Rabaul

~ Eligible: Two Year 5 students and two Year 6 students for each house. The students who are school leaders, SRC or library monitors are unable to apply.

Library Monitors

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
✓ be an ambassador for reading
✓ promote borrowing and an avid reading culture
✓ assist the librarian with daily returns and upkeep of the books
✓ remind the class which day library is

~ Students who feel that they satisfy the criteria for the leadership position and can fulfil the responsibilities can apply for nomination. Students must complete a nomination form which requires support from two students, a teacher and parent/carer.
A REMINDER TO PARENTS

We welcome information from parents about a child’s health, even if specific support is not required from our school.

Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the Principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or otherwise required by law.
Family Links
2015 TERM 1 Activities

TUESDAYS:
WOMBATS PLAYGROUP
9.30am - 11.30am
17th February – 24th March 2015

Wombats Playgroup is a fun filled playgroup for children aged 0-5 years and their families. Light morning tea provided. Everyone welcome! For more information call 8886-6300. Located in the Meeting Room (next door to canteen)

TRIPLE P!
11.30am – 1pm
3rd February – 24th March 2015

Triple P is a parenting group for families. Everybody is welcome! Call Nasrin for more information 8886-6307. Located in the Meeting Room (next door to canteen)

Limited childcare places available.

FRIDAYS:
RED READING MAT
8.30am – 8.55am
6th February – 27th March 2015
(Located under the SHED)

Come read a story with me on the red mat. Take a book home and swap it the next week! Look for Barbara wearing the red hat!

All Family Links activities are FREE!
# Whalan Public School

## Uniform Price List - 2015

(All prices are inclusive of GST, and are subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls tunic</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polo shirt – White with logo</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polo shirt – Green with logo</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorts – Green</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacket – Polar fleece</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacket – Microfibre</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumper – Crew neck</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>limited sizes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surf hat</td>
<td>$8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports socks</td>
<td>$8.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENT CONTACT DETAILS - UPDATE / CHANGE

Date: ...........................................

Students Name: .............................................................. Class: .................................

Address: ........................................................................................................................................

Mothers Phone: ..............................  Fathers Phone: ..................................................

Mothers Mobile: ..............................  Fathers Mobile: ..................................................

Mothers Work: .................................  Fathers Work: ..................................................

Other information: ................................................................................................................................

(Please include emergency contacts)

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STUDENT CONTACT DETAILS - UPDATE / CHANGE

Date: ...........................................

Students Name: .............................................................. Class: .................................

Address: ........................................................................................................................................

Mothers Phone: ..............................  Fathers Phone: ..................................................

Mothers Mobile: ..............................  Fathers Mobile: ..................................................

Mothers Work: .................................  Fathers Work: ..................................................

Other information: ................................................................................................................................

(Please include emergency contacts)