



Dates to Remember Term 4

Friday 13 December Twilight Picnic
5.00—7.30

Monday 16 December K-2 Party Day

Tuesday 17 December St 3 Party Day

Wednesday 18 December Students Last Day
2.30 Year 6 clap out

Dear Parents

It was wonderful to see so many parents come to share in our Presentation Day ceremonies. They certainly were a celebration of school life in 2013. Our students' co-operation and respect during the ceremonies was very impressive. Our students stayed focused and I am very proud of them.

All the official guests were complimentary when they commended our students and teachers on the excellent standard of performance, co-operation and school tone.

Congratulations to all our performers: stage groups; choir, dance troupes; and ukulele group. All were wonderful and delighted their audiences.



Congratulations to all award recipients and to our student leaders elect: prefects and captains.

I was very impressed with our 2013 leaders, who helped with, and compered the ceremonies so well. They rushed from one ceremony to the next with only a short break in between them. Our leaders did an

outstanding job and really demonstrated their leadership skills.

I believe there are many parents, who like our teachers, are very proud of our students.

Thank you to all the Waratah staff who contributed to the ceremonies in so many ways. Thank you also to all the teachers for preparing their students.

Preschool Concerts

Congratulations to our preschool on two very lovely concerts. The children were beautifully dressed and sang and moved brilliantly. Both concerts were real treats for family and friends. Preschoolers continued the days in party mode with a visit from Santa. Thank you to Miss Dodds, Mrs Maher, Mrs Pirini, Mrs Leedham and Mrs Rufo for their wonderful organisation and to Mr Henry for his help with filming and to Mrs Lewis and Mrs Woods for accompanying the children.

Tuesday 10 December

The P&C held its annual **Christmas lunch** for the students.

Twilight Picnic - On Friday 13 December our P&C will be holding a Twilight picnic. The aim of the evening is to have an informal time in which students and parents and teachers can share time together. In particular it is a good time for prospective parents to bring their children to the school to meet with other parents. There will be stalls and carol singing and classes, the choir and the ukulele group will be performing. The picnic will take place on and around the bank near the hall. Should it be raining the picnic will take place under the hall COLA. Parents are encouraged to bring along a picnic tea, picnic chairs and rugs. Please note that **NO dogs or alcohol** can

be brought onto the school grounds during this event. Thank you to our P&C for the organisation of the Twilight Picnic and to teachers for preparing the students.

Wednesday 11 December

10.00 am 3—6 ceremony featuring

- Performances by our dance, choir and ukulele groups.
- 3-6 class awards
- Year 6 Graduation certificates
- Special Year 6 awards
- Announcement of student leaders 2014 (please note induction will take place in 2014)

11.45 am K—2 ceremony featuring

- K—2 class awards
 - Announcement of student leaders 2014
- At these ceremonies we will be joined by a number of special guests including Tim Owen MP, Dr Fiona Walsh and Mrs Nicole Avard representing Waratah Technology High School, Mrs Glennis Armstrong representing The Rotary Club, Mr Arjonilla who represents Sharon Claydon MP and Mrs Bailey who is our long standing dance teacher.

Wednesday 11 December

- Year 6 Farewell will be held at Alder Park Bowling Club at 6.00 pm—8.30 pm

Friday 13 December

- Stage 2 party at Stockton Pool

Monday 16 December

- K—2 Party Day

Tuesday 17 December

- Stage 3 Party Day

Farewell to Colleagues

At the end of this year some respected and loved teaching staff will be leaving Waratah Public School or not returning to full time employment. We will greatly miss these teachers and wish them well in their future.

Mrs Sanderson, Mrs Wolfenden and Mrs Gallego are retiring from fulltime work. These three excellent practitioners have given many

years of service to children of our school and have been so much at the heart of the Waratah ethos, exercising their unique gifts as they have contributed so positively to the learning and wellbeing of students. Mrs Cromie will be having an extended holiday in 2014 and possibly retiring.

Holidays

I would really appreciate your vigilance during the break. Should you see or hear anything untoward at the school, please contact Waratah Police Station and also ring school security on 1300 880 021.

Christmas Wishes

Thank you to our parents and community for your support, encouragement and help this year and to the wonderful staff of Waratah Public School, have a well-deserved break!

To those families who leave us as their children move to high school, all the best and to all our school community , have a safe and happy holiday.

Chicken Pox

One of our students has presented with Chicken Pox.

The following is the fact sheet provided by the Health Department:-

Time from exposure to illness—2 to 3 weeks.

Symptoms—Slight fever, runny nose and a rash that begins as raised pink spots that blister and scab.

Do I need to keep my child home? Yes, for 5 days after the rash first appears and until blisters have all scabbed over.

Regards

Mrs Butler

Student Reports

Students Reports will come home today Wednesday, except for Stage 3. Theirs will be Thursday due to Year 6 Farewell arrangements.

Thank you

Preschool News

Well, another year is coming to an end and what a year it has been!

We have seen approximately 80 small preschool children grow into creative, curious and intriguing individuals, ready for new adventures both in Kindergarten and Preschool in 2014.

Assessment and Rating Process

The preschool underwent its Assessment and Rating and fared well although many changes were implemented to ensure this success.

Special Events

This year, we have had visits from the Fire Brigade, Jeral Puppets and Healthy Harold and have also visited the primary school for the Easter Hat Parade, assemblies, NAIDOC & Harmony Day celebrations. To end the year, we will also be holding a beach party day. A separate note will be sent home regarding this day.

Christmas Concerts

Both Christmas concerts were successful with the children performing well and showing pride in themselves. It was beautiful to see it all come together nicely on the day. We were all very proud of each and every child and thank all family members and friends who were able to attend to support the children.



A visit from Santa

The children all wrote a letter to Santa and posted it in our North Pole letter box. Santa came to visit on the days of the Christmas concerts and told the children he would do his best to reply! What an exciting time for the children.



Thank you

We would like to say thank you to everyone who helped us throughout the year in the preschool and for all donations of resources, including a new camera, the boat, fishing rods and craft materials which have assisted us to extend the children's interests.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

It has been a pleasure teaching and caring for your children in 2013 and we wish your families a very Merry Christmas and safe holiday season. We hope to see you all in 2014!





We are
desperate for
Hamper
Donations

We are struggling to make up hampers for the end of year raffle this year.

Please donate ASAP

Raffle will be drawn at the Twilight Picnic

Please place in the box outside the canteen.

Thank You For Your Support

Twilight Concert

13 December

5.00 pm—7.30 pm

Christmas Gift Stalls

Raffle Draw

Carols and Santa

BBQ and Drinks

NB: You can pre-order your sausage sandwich and drinks. See the form in the bulletin.

This will be a cash only event

The Uniform Shop Last

Days!!!!

The Uniform Shop's last opening days are this Friday 13 and Monday 16 December 2013. Take this opportunity to organise your child's uniform for 2014.

End of Year Sale

Maroon Sports Shorts \$10

2nd hand boys grey shorts \$4

old supplier stock

boys cotton grey cargo shorts -\$10 (#14)

maroon sports shorts - \$5 (2x#14)

Opening Times

Monday: 8.30 am—9.15 am

Friday: 2.30 pm—3.15 pm

I would like to sincerely thank all the lovely ladies who volunteered in the Uniform Shop 2013 and to wish everyone a festive Christmas season and a Happy New Year!!

The Uniform Shop 2014

The Uniform Shop will be open extended hours in the first week back Term 1 2014. These selected times reflect volunteer availability and parents seeing their children off on their first days of school.

Opening Times – Week 1

Wednesday 29.1.2014:

9.00 am—10.00 am

Thursday 30.1.2014:

8.30 am—9.30 am

Friday 31.1.2014:

2.00 pm—3.15 pm

Week 2

Monday: 8.30 am—9.15 am

Friday: 2.30 pm—3.15 pm

Year 6 Ice Cream Days

Year 6 will be holding a fund raiser on **Friday November 15. 22, 29** and **Friday December 6 and 13** to raise money for the Year 6 gift to the school. The children will be selling ice creams for \$1.00 each on both Fridays at lunch time.

Thanks for your support!



Some Hamper Donation Ideas

<p>PRESCHOOL Coffee Tea Coco Herbal Tea Christmas Cake Shortbread</p>	<p>KINDERGARTEN Savoury Biscuits Sweet Biscuits Muesli Bars Lollies Dip Biscuits Chips Popcorn</p>	<p>YEAR 1 Minced Pies Nibbles – nuts, rice crackers, pretzels etc. Cake Mix Pancake/Pikelet Mix Christmas Puddings Muffin Mix</p>
<p>YEARS 2 Noodles Pasta Sauces – Tomato, BBQ, Apple, Mint etc. Pesto Mayonnaise Salad Dressings Tomato Paste</p>	<p>YEAR 3 Spreads – Vegemite, Peanut Butter etc. Gravy Powder Stock –Chicken, Beef, Veg. Jams and Conserves Pickles/Chutney Marinades</p>	<p>YEAR 4 Tinned Food – Fruit and Veg Tinned Tuna etc. Baked Beans etc. Pasta Sauce Foil Cling Wrap Baking Paper</p>
<p>YEAR 5 Bon Bons Wrapping Paper Sticky Tape Wrapping Decorations Christmas Decorations Napkins</p>	<p>YEAR 6 Soft Drink Juice Cordial Apple Cider Soda Water Sunscreen Aeroguard</p>	<p>Anything that would help for Christmas Lunch or feed the kids during the holidays.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Merry Christmas and Thank You From the P&C</p>

Understanding your child's grades

The following information aims to help you in understanding the A-E scale at Waratah Public School and the grade allocation your child receives for each area of learning.

A	This means your child is <u>we ll ab o ve</u> the level expected for their grade at this point of time. They have achieved a very high level of competence and can apply their skills to new situations.
B	This means your child is <u>ab o v e</u> the level expected for their grade at this point of time. They have achieved a high level of competence and can apply their skills to most situations.
C	This means your child is <u>at</u> the level expected for their grade at this point of time. They have achieved a sound level of competence.
D	This means your child is <u>b e lo w</u> the level expected for their grade at this point of time. They have achieved a basic level of competence.
E	This means your child is <u>we ll b e lo w</u> the level expected for their grade at this point of time. They have achieved a very limited level of competence.

Please keep in mind the grades given to your child in each Key Learning Area take into account their classwork, participation, attitudes, teacher observations and assessments. The above information is simply a general explanation of the A-E scale.

Reading your child's report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . .

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents.

Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child's abilities. A quick check of your child's last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends' children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher

comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child's progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning.

If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter

Talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

Term 4 Calendar 2013

T4	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10	9 December	10 December Rehearsals for presentation Day	11 December Presentation Day Years 3—6 10.00 am Years K—2 11.45 am Reports Go Home! Year 6 farewell	12 December	13 December Last Canteen Day St 2 Party Day Twilight Picnic 5.00—7.30
11	16 December K-2 Party Day	17 December St 3 Party Day	18 December Students Last Day 2.30 Year 6 clap out	19 December SDD	20 December SDD

Term 1 Calendar 2014

T1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	27 January	28 January Staff Development Day	29 January Students resume Years 1—6	30 January Kinder—Best start interviews	31 January Kinder—Best start interviews
2	3 February Preschool returns Kindergarten starts	4 February <i>Swimming Carnival</i>	5 February Preschool returns	6 February	7 February
3	10 February	11 February	12 February	13 February	14 February
4	17 February	18 February	19 February	20 February	21 February
5	24 February	25 February	26 February	27 February	28 February

KINDERGARTEN AND PRESCHOOL ENROLMENTS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR 2014

Please contact the school office for an application form

Children must turn 5 before 31 July the year they are attending
Kindergarten

Children must turn 4 before 31 July the year they are attending
Preschool

✂

2013 Twilight Concert Friday December 13

Sausage Sizzle Order Form

Name _____ Class _____

Contact Number(s) _____

_____ Sausage Sandwiches @ 2.50 each Total \$ _____

_____ Drinks @ \$2 each Total \$ _____

Order Total \$ _____

Please place your order and money in the P&C Post Box in the office foyer by

Wednesday 11 Dec 2013

✂

Twilight Picnic Helpers

We are looking for volunteers to help at the Twilight Concert on Friday 13 December. The stalls run from 5.00 pm until 6.15 pm. We would appreciate any time you can give.

Money raised will go to equipment for the kids.

Name _____ Phone _____

I can help on the

Gift Stalls BBQ Drinks Stall

Raffle Setup (2pm—5pm) Hamper Wrapping

Please place in the P&C box in the office foyer

Call Anne for more details 49688817

Thank you for your support