

ENDEAVOUR

NEWSLETTER OF WEST RYDE PUBLIC SCHOOL

'nothing left unattempted'

UPCOMING DATES:

Fri 11th Dec

PSSA

Year 6 Farewell

Wed 16th Dec

Final day of Term 4,
2020

Dates for 2021:

Fri 29th Jan: Students return to school of Term 1 for 2021.

Principal's Message.

What a year!

I know we say this at the end of every year, but boy, this has been a memorable one. It has been a year that has demonstrated the importance of connection and the true power of resilience.

We are so amazed at how fantastic our students have been throughout the chaos of 2020 and how each and every one of them have grown and improved in their own way. Parents, it has been a challenge only seeing you through the fence, but we hope that in 2021, we will have our community back with us, to continue our partnership, in person!

And to our extraordinary staff - our class teachers, support teachers, our admin staff, GA and cleaning team – THANK YOU! It is the work that each of you do in supporting our students and staff that makes West Ryde PS the phenomenal school that it is. I am sure you will all join me in giving our staff a huge round of applause!!

I hope that all our students and their families have a safe, restful and fun break and we look forward to seeing you all back in 2021!

Presentation Day

As you would expect, holding a full Presentation Day ceremony this year was not possible. On Monday 7 December, we recognised the achievements of our students with an assembly, but unfortunately, parents were unable to attend.

We had our first whole school morning assembly since March where the 2021 Student Leadership Team were announced to all students. Following this, all class and additional awards were presented in grades or stages depending on numbers.

We had a professional photographer - Kevin Cheung (one of our talented parents) who took photos of all our award recipients, which will be sent home before the end of the term as a memento of the occasion. There will also be a video of the Principal's address and the outgoing Captains' speech that will be sent to families before the end of the school year as well.

On Monday 14 December, we are inviting Year 6 parents on site for a graduation ceremony, observing COVID guidelines, to mark their final primary school assembly.

Staffing Update

At the end of each year, we always have a number of staff coming and going and this year is no exception. We farewell a few more of our valued WRPS staff at the end of this year.

- Deb Pegolo – has been successful at gaining a permanent Deputy Principal's position at Warrawee PS.
- Jen Spencer – is moving to the north coast near Evans Head
- Jess Seggie – will be taking up a temporary position at Kanwal Public School on the central coast
- Natalie Walker – will be taking up a relieving Assistant Principal position at Lindfield East
- Matt Logan – will be taking leave in 2021

All these teachers have made valuable and lasting contributions to WRPS in the time they have been here. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We will miss you all!!

In 2021, we will welcome Natasha Reynolds, who was successful through merit selection as our newest classroom teacher.

Semester Two Reports

Your child's Semester Two Report will go home on Friday 11 December. Our teachers use a wide variety of strategies and tools to assess student learning.

Assessment *for* learning, or formative assessment occurs throughout all lessons and provides information to adjust future learning. Assessment *of* learning, or summative assessment activities are also used throughout the year. Tools or strategies that are used by teachers to assess student learning include observations, discussions, authentic learning tasks, samples of learning, games, learning goals and student reflections. Teachers meet regularly to moderate student assessment activities to develop consistency of teacher judgement.

The comments for English and Mathematics reflect two areas your child is excelling at and two focus areas for future learning. Please take the time to read these with your child and praise them for what they are doing well and encourage and support the areas they need improvement on.

Along with the class and languages (Yr1-6) reports, most students across the school will also receive an English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) report. More than 80% of our students are from a Language Background Other Than English (LBOTE) and are at different phases of their English language learning. The additional report will inform parents of their child's English Language Proficiency Phase.

If you require more information about your child's progress, please make a time to meet with your child's class teacher. Also if your family circumstances have changed and you require an additional copy of your child's report, could you please contact your child's class teacher.

School Canteen

Earlier this term, the canteen tender process was completed and Bespoke Canteens was successful in gaining the position at WRPS. Bespoke Canteens will begin at the beginning of Term 1, 2021 and will be open 5 days a week, offering a variety of options for students from breakfast, recess to lunch. More information about their menu and ordering process will be sent to families in the new year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank Amy Bested for her contribution and management of the school canteen for the past few years. She has done an exceptional job at supporting families and the school through the running of the canteen.

What Works Best

Our school is committed to ensuring that how we teach your child is based on what we know makes the biggest difference to their learning. In our 2021-2024 school plan, we will focus on using the 'What works best' eight practices for effective teaching.

These practices include:

- having high expectations of your child.
- using explicit teaching in the classroom.
- giving effective feedback to your child on their learning.
- using data to inform how we teach your child.
- using regular and effective assessments so we know how your child's learning is going.
- supporting the wellbeing of your child by looking out for their mental, physical and emotional health.
- managing the classrooms well so they are safe, positive and stimulating environments for learning.
- making sure our teachers collaborate with each other, and experts outside the school, so teaching practice continuously improves.

In addition, research shows that greater levels of support and engagement from parents and carers are associated with better student academic and wellbeing outcomes. We also know that students learn more

effectively when the home and school environments form complementary and supportive roles for learning. It is for this reason that we are focused on continuing to foster the partnership between our school and parents.

The Department of Education has now released a 'What works best' resource for parents and carers, which provides tips for having conversations with your child about their learning. You can visit the department's Parent Hub where you'll find other tailored resources for parents and carers, as well as a message from the NSW Minister for Education the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/learning/what-works-best-2020-update>

Albina Lee, Relieving Principal

Deputy Principal Report

It has been an absolute pleasure working with the students, staff and community here at West Ryde Public School. Together we have worked through the most amazingly trying year and we have all supported one another- a testament to the truly fantastic school community we are. Our students should be especially commended on their resilience and positivity throughout 2020.

As we finish the year, I would like to wish everyone a well-deserved break with family and friends. I would also like to wish our wonderful Year 6 students all the best in their future endeavours. I look forward to not only their farewell event tonight, but also their graduation on Monday.

Please see below for important information regarding Year 5 opportunity class placement.

There is a modified timeline for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2021. The Opportunity Class Placement Test was conducted on Wednesday 18 November 2020 in primary schools and test centres across NSW. The results will be released to parents and schools in **mid-January 2021**.

To ensure that most vacancies are filled by the start of Term 1, 2021, parents who are offered placement on behalf of their children will have just **one week** to respond to their offers.

Parents are being emailed to ensure that they watch their emails or depute someone else to respond on their behalf if they will be out of contact when the results are released as offers will lapse if parents do not respond in time.

Many thanks.

Deb Pegolo
Relieving Deputy Principal

STEM Club 2020

This year we had an enthusiastic group of Year 2 students come together every Thursday lunchtime for STEM Club. With the guidance of Miss Dowswell, Miss Mills and Miss Truong, the students developed problem-solving, collaboration and critical thinking skills as they completed STEM activities.

One of the activities was a coding task where students block coded different scenes from the novel "Singepoo Strikes Again!" by Paul Jennings using the iPad app "ScratchJr". Another activity was a parachute making challenge where students were presented with various materials to create a parachute that would stay in the air the longest.

Students used the design process throughout the challenge to improve and reflect upon their designs. Congratulations to Megan (2SY), Anika (2SY) and Vasisht (2SM) for creating the parachute which remained in the air for a record 5.02 seconds when it was dropped from the second floor of I-block!

The students should be commended for their passion, creativity and commitment to STEM Club throughout the year.

Miss Truong

Students leaving school early

Any parent wanting to take their child out of school early for any reason, a DoJo message must be sent to your child's teacher as early as possible stating the precise time you will pick your child up. You are required to come to the office to sign your child out. Your cooperation would be very much appreciated.

Students arriving before 8.30am

Parents are reminded there is no supervision of students on school grounds prior to 8.30am.

Any students arriving at school **prior to 8.30am** must not wander around the playground and must be seated on the bench near the COLA until the 8.30am bell.

Making Online Payments

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school's website by selecting '\$ Make a payment' or via <https://quickweb.westpac.com.au/OnlinePaymentServlet>

City of Ryde Christmas Banner Winner

When you're walking or driving around the City of Ryde, look up and see if you can spot Danica's Christmas banner! Every primary school in the City of Ryde has been assigned 1 banner and Danica's design was chosen as the winner from our school!

The street banners have been installed in the below areas:

- Anthony Road and Chatham Road, West Ryde
- Rowe Street East, Eastwood
- Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park
- Delhi Road, North Ryde
- Devlin Street, Top Ryde
- Blaxland Road, Top Ryde (along Ryde Park)
- Ryde Park (small banners)

The banners will be up until Boxing Day. Well done Danica!!



Keep Covid Safe during the holidays

As we come closer to the end of the school year, we'd like to extend our thanks to you, our parent community, for demonstrating so much resilience and patience towards the circumstances we faced together. We strived together to get the best outcomes for our students despite the pandemic and you have stayed by our side the entire time. Thank you again.

We will be sending a COVID-safe summer pack to each student before the year ends. The contents of the pack will help students maintain healthy hygiene practices and to stay COVID-safe during the school holidays.

Here are some quick tips to help you and your families stay COVID-safe during the school holidays:

- Encourage your children to use their packs whenever they leave the house
- Meet outdoors whenever possible and wear sunscreen
- Meet in small groups
- Encourage good hand hygiene practices and remind your children to cough and sneeze into their elbow
- Keep up-to-date with the latest health information by monitoring the [NSW Government website External link](#)

From all of us at West Ryde Public School, be safe and enjoy the school holidays

Community Language News



In week 7 Kindergarten students had a first-hand experience of what learning a language is like at WRPS as they will embark on their language learning journey next year. Students enjoyed the lesson on body parts taught by Miss Liang using a fun and easy digital language program called ELLA (Early Language Learning Australia), combined with hands-on language games.

This program is an Australian Government initiative aimed at encouraging more students to study language. At WRPS we are very lucky to be part of the ELLA trial from 2019 to 2021. We look forward seeing you all during language time next year kindergarten!

Lolly Guessing Competition

The Year 6 Leaders and Sports House Captains have been running a lolly guessing competition to fundraise for the Year 6 Farewell. Every two weeks there has been a new jar with a delicious assortment of lollies carefully curated by Miss Truong.

The first jar was the "Jellybean Jar" which had 457 jellybeans and was won by Isabelle (5TT) and Michael (5AV) – they both guessed 458 which was the closest guess and they received 228.5 jellybeans each for winning. The second jar was the "Red Jar" which contained a mix of red snakes, red berries, red jellybeans, red frogs, red liquorice and red sour gummies. This jar had 256 lollies and Jason (5AV) guessed the exact number! The third jar was the "Mentos jar" and contained 250 Mentos. It was won by Indiana (6NK). Congratulations to our winners so far!

There are still two more jars to win with the themes of these jars to be revealed soon. If you wish for your child to make a guess and help support our Year 6s, it is 50c for one guess and \$1 for three guesses. Happy guessing!



New On-line Enrolment System

We are excited to announce we will be rolling out the new Online Enrolment System from Monday, 23 November 2020

The Online Enrolment System is designed to provide flexibility for our parents to submit an enrolment application online and at the time that best suits you. The application can be accessed on all browsers and mobile devices including iOS and Android.

The online application process is currently restricted to:

- Enrolments into **local** schools only
- Children who are Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens or permanent residents
- Children who live in NSW.

We offer our support and encourage you to complete your application to enrol online. If, however, you do not feel comfortable completing an application online, a paper copy will be available for collection from the front office or can be downloaded from the Department's [going to a public school site](#).

Further information about online enrolment can be found on our website [here](#)

Uniform Shop

Uniform Shop is closed to all public until further notice, however, it will be taking orders. If you would like to order any uniforms you will need to complete the '**Uniform Order Form**' together with the correct payment **(CASH ONLY)** or alternatively, you can make a booking via Skoolbag. Please be aware that there is only limited appointment times.

Please place Order Form and payment in an envelope and bring to the school office. You will be contacted to collect your order once filled.

Great News!!

Yuna from 2RC has won 1st Place in Blue Belt/Female/Individual/ 7-10 years at the ASMA Taekwondo Championships. Congratulations to Yuna on this great achievement...



The School Band is recruiting!

Steve, the director of Teaching Services Australia spent some time in the Year 2 learning spaces this week showcasing some of the instruments that students can learn through the school band and music program. He showed students various instruments including the trombone, clarinet and the glockenspiel.

Playing any instrument increases coordination and concentration, develops maths and language skills and is just really fun! If you want your child to try out an instrument or would just like more information about the programs offered, please see information below.



WRPS Band – Now Accepting New Enrolments For 2021

The WRPS Band, co-ordinated by Teaching Services Australia, is now accepting new enrolments for 2021. Enrolments are open to any student who will be in year 3-6 next year and no prior musical experience is necessary. For further information:

*WATCH our demonstration video (20min) – <https://vimeo.com/472412276/3d1ab09a0a>

*READ our online resources – www.teachingservices.com.au/resources-and-faq/

*RETURN our 'Expression Of Interest' form – www.teachingservices.com.au/eoi

WEST RYDE SCHOOL BAND JOIN THE BAND!

Is your child interested in joining the school band?

The school band is now taking enrolments for 2021 and is open to all students currently in years 2-5.

No prior experience needed!

During Term 4 students will see a **band demonstration** at school that highlights the different instruments available for tuition. After this demonstration they will receive a green *Expression of Interest* note providing introductory information.

What do you need to do?

1. Carefully read the green *Expression of Interest* and then register your child's interest in joining the band online at <https://www.teachingservices.com.au/eoi>
2. Once you register online a TSA tutor will meet your child to help them assess which instrument they are most suited to**
3. The results of this instrument trial will be sent home with enrolment information

Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer! TSA provides a variety of tuition options as well as instrument hire and sales to help parents give the gift of music to their children.

TSA is a registered COVID-safe provider and delivers instrumental programs with a focus on inclusion, student engagement and well-being.

***Instrument trials will take place within strict COVID-safe guidelines and will include a basic aural and rhythm assessment among several other activities which measure your child's suitability for each instrument.*



(02) 9651 7333

enrolments@teachingservices.com.au

www.teachingservices.com.au



Communication

At West Ryde PS we use a range of communication methods to keep our community up to date:

Newsletter – The newsletter is sent out to families via the Skoolbag app. The newsletter can also be found on our website and a hard copy in the office foyer.

School Website – The website provides a platform to locate general information about WRPS. Permission notes, photos and new stories are uploaded throughout the year.

Skoolbag App. – The Skoolbag app provides notifications to your phone. The app is used to provide you with reminders about school events. For information on how to download the app, please see the instructions in the newsletter or go to the website.

Could we please ask that you do not come to class lines or to classrooms and expect the teachers to talk to you while supervising the children or teaching the class.

Our staff are more than happy to talk to you at a time that is suitable to both parties and affords enough time to discuss any issues that you might have.

We do understand if the issues are urgent. If this is the case please see the office staff so that they can communicate this urgent information to your child's class teacher.

Wakakirri 2021

West Ryde will be participating in Wakakirri for the first time in 2021! Wakakirri is a 3-7 minute performance by a group of students who theatrically tell a story using a combination of dancing, creative movement and acting to pre-recorded music. Wakakirri is an Aboriginal word which means "to dance a story." The program is open to all students in years 2-6 and auditions will be held in early 2021.

Why should students be involved in Wakakirri?

Wakakirri is Australia's largest performing arts event for schools which celebrates storytelling through dance. Wakakirri is a fantastic opportunity to develop students' performing arts skills and allows them to make new friends by collaborating with students from other years. Involvement in this program promotes student resilience, team work, confidence and self-esteem.

Here is a link to the 2020 winning school's performance:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3NiP3973zM&feature=emb_logo

Any questions or queries about Wakakirri can be directed to the coordinators, Miss MacInnes, Miss Collins or Miss Au.

Stay informed with the SkoolBag App

The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and all school communications.

- 1 Download the app**
Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store
- 2 Create an account**
Sign up in seconds with your email address
- 3 Add your school**
Search for your school and add your subscription groups

SkoolBag

Wakakirri 2021 (cont)



December, 2020



The run up to Christmas and the holiday period can be busy and stressful. Throw in traffic congestion, fatigue and distraction. This edition provides some tips to help you get through it safely, as well as how to prepare for 2021.

Driving tips

- Allow extra travel time to get to places.
- Avoid alcohol if you plan to drive.
- Place packages in the boot or restrain them with a seatbelt to avoid them moving about, in case of a crash.
- Ensure pets are properly restrained

Planning ahead

Now is a great time to think about how your family will travel to school in 2021. Walking, cycling or catching a bus to school is a great alternative to school zone congestion.

- Plan and practise a safe travel route with your child/ren.
- Identify safe crossing locations.
- Discuss how to spot dangers, like vehicles exiting driveways.

Double demerits

Double demerit points apply for speeding, seatbelt, mobile phone and motorcycle helmet offences during the following holiday periods:

Christmas Day to New Years Day:

Starts Thursday
24 December 2020 to
Sunday 3 January 2021
(inclusive).

Australia Day

Starts Friday
22 January 2021 to
Tuesday 26 January 2021
(inclusive).

Wishing you a very safe and happy festive season!

Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child - they will learn from you!

 City of Ryde

Road safety on holidays

A message from NSW Department of Education - road safety education

With the school holidays approaching, daily routines often change and everyone is a lot more relaxed. Different play locations and holiday destinations means changed traffic environments and new safety concerns. To help keep our children safe, we all need to remember these key road safety messages in these new environments:

Point out the road safety differences and dangers.

Roads, footpaths, parks, car parks and bike tracks can look very different in holiday areas or maybe totally foreign, especially if going overseas for your holidays.

The best way to keep children safe is to actively supervise them.

Talk and teach children about road safety every time you are out and about. Even on holidays it is important to actively supervise them.

Talk to children about being a safe road user.

When out walking talk about the safe decisions you make, they may not have experienced these situations before.

Stop, look, listen, think every time you cross the road.

If a child is aged 8 years or younger hold their hand when walking near or across roads. Up until at least 10 years old supervise them closely. When on holidays children can often be overly excited and not thinking about being safe.

It's the law that everyone wears a helmet when riding a bike in a public place.

It also makes good sense to wear a helmet when riding scooters and skateboards too! It is a great way to encourage always wearing a helmet.

Click clack front 'n back every person for every trip.

Safe travelling in the car on long distances means taking a break every two hours. Give your children fun things to do in the car so they don't distract the driver. If using a different car while on holidays check they are in the right child restraint for their age and size.

Remind the other adults such as grandparents, aunts and uncles, who may be caring for your children while on holidays, about these key road safety messages. Take care and have a great holiday together.



NSW
GOVERNMENT

Holiday Safety



NSW
GOVERNMENT

Safe Travel



Be extra careful out and about on the roads...make it a happy Christmas for everyone...

City of Ryde



Rotary Carols 2020 ONLINE

Rotary
Clubs of Macquarie Park
and North Ryde



Believe in the magic of Christmas!

Due to Covid-19, The Rotary Carols on the Common Committee have cancelled their outdoor Carols Event on the North Ryde Common. We still want to celebrate the Joy of Christmas with our community and help those in need.

Featuring our live video link on **Sunday 13th December at 7pm.**
Go to Facebook - Carols on the Common - Live online

Gather your group of family and friends and watch it on Social media or on your TV screen. We will be sending this link to various TV screens in our Community Clubs, Retail outdoor dining areas, nursing homes, hospitals and other community housing, where we can all raise our LED candles and wear our Santa hats and join in the carols.

Carols performed by

 John Smolders AM	 Music Director & Chairperson Roseanna Gallo OAM	 Jordyn Richards
 Master of Ceremonies Stephen Sim	 Cheryn Vlazny	 Eleanor Taig
 Jane Marney	<p>Music accompaniment by Jade Darby from Bennelong Music</p> <p>Santa Clause will make a magical appearance and other special guests will send through their Christmas cheers.</p>	

Professionally filmed and broadcasted by our Gold Sponsors, **Sydney Classic Productions.**

Sound and lighting and creative production provided by Bronze plus sponsor **Action Sound**

Money raised online will aid Foodbank NSW & ACT, Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) Ryde Centre and other local community projects who have been affected by COVID-19

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:



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Community PLUS • George & Susanna Macri Strathfield Superbowl, Mitsubishi Electric, Sign Your Wall

Community • Group Travel Management, MP John Alexander OAM, MP Victor Dominello,