Awards from Term 1 Week 2

Great First Week at Big School! Well done to our kinders: Mason, Curtis and Axari.

Spelling Awards – Fabulous spellers: Georgia, Hayley C, Lucy, Ella, Brady, Kirra-Lee, Ruby and Jiah.

RSL (State wide) Art Awards:
Silver: Mary, Indikah Jiah, Declan, Fletcher.
Bronze: Lucy, Jacob, Drew, Wade, Hayley C, Sean.

Awards for Term 1 Week 3

Super Spellers: Hayley C, Lucinda, Brady, Ella, Ruby, Mason and Axari.

Sports Awards: For excellent participation in the Tregeagle District School Swimming Carnival: Hayley C, Georgia, Wade, Mary, Jacob and Lucinda, with special mention to Lucy for winning her age race. Well done all of you!

Merit Award: For Lucinda for being a great helper, showing initiative and thoughtfulness towards others.

Term 1 at a glance

Friday, 15 February
Active After School Communities: Tennis on Fridays, Soccer on Tuesdays

Wednesday, 20 February
Student Banking

Friday, 1 March
Clean Up Australia, Schools Day

Wednesday, 6 March
World Maths Day

Friday, 15 March
‘Funky Friday’ Crazy Hair day fundraiser, Leukaemia Foundation

Friday, 29 March
Public Holiday – Good Friday, Easter

Monday, 1 April
Public Holiday – Easter Monday

Thursday, 4 April
General Knowledge Day, Small Schools Community

Solar Power

Despite waves of sheeting rain over the last week the installers from Greaves Electrical persisted in the installation of our brand new Solar Power Energy System.

From today, we are now the proud owners of a 10 kilowatt system. Even in the utter grey sogginess of today we are still already producing about 3kW.

We have 42 solar panels, mostly on the roof of our library and a few on the COLA (covered outdoor learning area).

Wyrallah Public School – sustainability!
HOMEWORK
Attached is a survey about homework. It would be very much appreciated if you could quickly fill it out and return it to school. The survey will assist with our school’s evaluation of student homework and study skills. Your feedback will help us gain valuable information about students’ homework habits, attitudes and skills. Support between school and home helps us to achieve our aim of improving student outcomes from every student at Wyrallah Public School.

FEES - SCHOOL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION
Many thanks to the families who have already paid the School Voluntary Contribution, commonly referred to as School Fees. As a reminder the money is used at our school to provide students with textbooks and workbooks for the year. It also provides class consumables which many other schools require students to purchase, such as pencils, paints, rubbers, glue and rulers.

$30 per child, $20 for second child, and $10 for third child
An invoice for the school contribution is attached to last week’s newsletter. If you are having financial difficulties in paying these fees please feel free to contact the school. The school does have a small amount of funds for financial support. All information will be treated confidentially.

LIBRARY
A reminder that Library is on Thursdays. Don’t forget your library bag. Happy reading!

CANTEEN
Many thanks to Charlotte for preparing and presenting our first 2013 school canteen. The wraps were delicious and healthy. Everyone is looking forward to the next canteen.
Next Canteen will be: Wednesday, 6 March: Homemade Sausage Rolls and Fruit Juice Popper (orange or apple or apple blackcurrant), cost $5.

GENERAL CONSENT FORM AND INFORMATION UPDATE
Thank you for those families who have already been able to return their updated information forms. There are still some outstanding ‘General Consent and Information Update’. Please return by Monday, 25 February. It is also very important if during the year there is any change in address, phone numbers, emergency details or student medical information that the school be notified.

Lisa Fahy
Principal

TIPS
Helping your Kindy kid succeed at school
A great way to kick off your child's formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom.
Speech problems
All kids learn how to talk and listen at different rates but did you know there’s a general pattern to your child’s language development?

Traditional Italian
Wood Fired PIZZA
Saturday Night at Wyrallah Hall
Eat in or Take Away
il carretto PH:0403 806 849
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday, being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go to school today because Austin is coming to visit”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”. As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.