



WELCOME TO WALLANGARRA STATE SCHOOL

Wallangarra State School is a four-teacher school with students ranging from Prep through to Year Six. Students are taught in multi-age classes Prep 1/2, 3/4 and Years 5/6. There is also a part time teacher who works at the school 2 days each week. The parents, children and staff are proud of their school and are working together to provide quality education for all. Education Queensland's Statement of Purpose is:

Achieving the best educational outcomes for all students in our schools.

At Wallangarra State School, we believe our students have access to the best possible education:

- Our caring staff are dedicated, highly-trained professionals who are responsive to individual children's needs,
- Our students are responsible, motivated and eager to learn and widen their educational experiences,
- Our parent community is keen to support the school in a multitude of ways. The Parents and Citizens' Association is very supportive of the school and assist it both financially and directly through a hands-on involvement in school activities.
- Our resources are fantastic - we boast a computer ratio of two students per computer, a brilliant library and quality resources to support all of the key learning areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to you and your family and look forward to forming a productive partnership with you to further your child's academic, physical and social growth. We feel privileged that you have chosen Wallangarra State School as the place of learning for your child.

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SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our school's mission is to assist each child to develop socially, emotionally, academically and physically. Our over-arching goal is to help each child acquire the necessary skills to enable him or her to become a well-balanced, mature and co-operative citizen, able to adjust to changing environments and circumstances. Children are individuals who learn in different ways and at different rates. Optimum learning takes place through the continuous process of interaction between the learner and the total environment, including the classroom and the community. The teacher's role is that of a partner, giving guidance, offering suggestions and corrections in the learning process. In doing so, the teacher must develop a feeling of mutual respect for, and trust with, the child. The environment must provide the necessary motivation for a child to tackle tasks that are sufficiently challenging but not so difficult as to be out of reach.

SCHOOL HISTORY

Our school was established in 1888 with a successful centenary held in 1988 and a 125th in 2013. Over the years we have had a fluctuating school population with numbers varying from 107 students when the Army was stationed here to our present enrolment of 41.

OUR SCHOOL STAFF FOR 2023

TEACHING PRINCIPAL TEACHERS

Mr Scott Koch 5/6
Miss Isobel Lawrie 3/4
Miss Kirstie McCosker Prep 1/2
Mrs Juanita Sullivan (PT)

TEACHER AIDES

Mrs Jenny Lutter
Mrs Jody Lieberman
Mrs Tammy Ruth

BUSINESS MANAGER SCHOOL CLEANERS GROUNDSMAN

Mrs Jenny Lutter
Mrs Kristy Harding
Mr Anthony Harding

UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

The uniform consists of a maroon and white polo shirt and maroon shorts for both boys and girls. Joggers and white socks are the preferred footwear. Thongs and sandals and similar footwear are not acceptable for safety reasons. Winter uniform consists of a plain maroon tracksuit. All the above items are available from the school for purchase. Polo shirts are \$30.00 each and tracksuits \$28 for a complete set or \$14 for the top or bottom. The polo fleece jumper is \$30. We encourage the wearing of the school uniform at all times and this is supported by the P&C Association. If your child does not wear a school uniform a note or phone call is expected to explain the situation. The school hat is \$15 and winter beanies are also available for purchase at the school of \$8.00.

SUN SAFETY

The risks associated with skin cancer through over exposure to the sun are very high; therefore being a Sun Smart School we encourage the wearing of hats and sunscreen during all play times. We stress the importance of wearing of hats to the children and ask for your assistance in ensuring that your child has a hat to wear. Sunscreen is provided.



NO HAT - NO PLAY



SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos are taken annually in class groups. Individual portraits are available on request.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and success at school go hand-in-hand. Students should only be absent from school for illness or personal family reasons. Medical and other appointments should be made outside of school time if possible. If your child is away please send a note explaining the reason for the absence as well as the date. If your child is absent for a period of time please contact school, as it may be beneficial for your child to have some school work to complete at home. We will provide a summary of school absences for your child with their school report. Education Queensland collects data from the school pertaining to school attendance. Parents will be contacted if their child has 3 consecutive absences and we have had no contact from the parent.

BELL TIMES

Organising Bell	8.55am
Lessons commence	9.00am
First Break	11.00am
Re-commence school	11.45am
Lunch	1.15pm
Re-commence school	1.45pm
End of school day	3.00pm

Children are not to arrive at school before **8.30am**, as supervision is not provided until then. If you need to drop your child off earlier, prior arrangements must be made. Most staff are at school by 7.45am. Once students arrive at school, they are not permitted to leave the grounds without the principal's permission.

PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

The Wallangarra State School has an active Parents and Citizens' Association which meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 3.15pm. The P&C supports the school in many different ways eg .providing quality resources and experiences for the students. We would value your contribution. Meeting days can sometimes vary if need be.

TUCKSHOP

The tuckshop operates on a voluntary basis each Wednesday. Any parent who is able to assist either by donating items or making themselves available for a roster please contact the school. The tuckshop operates as a convenience for the children and not as a fundraiser but is very well supported. Any profits made from the tuckshop go directly back into the P&C funds to be used for the children.



SPECIAL NEEDS

If a child is experiencing any difficulties, we will contact you immediately to discuss matters. If we believe that a child is experiencing learning difficulties requiring specialist attention, a Guidance Officer from Education Queensland will be contacted to assess the child. We have access to a wide range of support services, which we will use to support your child. Parental permission is needed before any assistance can begin. Listed below are the specialist areas our school has regular access to:

- Speech Therapist
- Occupational Therapist Reading
- Guidance Officer
- Languages Other Than English Teacher
- Advisory Visiting Teachers
- Physiotherapist

SMOKING



Please be aware that smoking is not allowed anywhere on school grounds.

ACCIDENTS

If your child is involved in any sort of accident at school immediate first aid is administered. Our school has several trained First Aid personnel. If the accident is serious an ambulance from Tenterfield is called and you will be notified immediately.

MEDICATION

If your child requires any sort of medication, a note from you must be given to the class teacher informing us of the type of medication, dosage and time the medication is to be given. The Principal/Admin must sight the original medication container to verify the medication has been prescribed for the individual students. We will not administer any medication without written authority from the parent or guardian; this includes Nurophen and Panadol. A register is maintained each time any medication is given to a child. Medication needs to be clearly labelled as we cannot, by law administer any unmarked medication.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

If your child contracts an infectious disease (eg chicken pox, head lice, measles or school sores) please contact the school immediately. In certain cases, children will be required to be kept at home until the disease is no longer infectious.

COMPETITIONS

From time to time we enter students into various academic and social competitions. Entering competitions helps students to develop experience with working under pressure of deadlines or exam conditions. Year 3 and 5 complete the Naplan tests.



LIBRARY

We are very proud of our new extensive computerised library, and we encourage our students to use its facilities. We have a huge selection of Junior Fiction, Senior Fiction and Reference books. Students are asked to demonstrate appropriate care for books and to protect them by using a library bag if they wish to borrow a book.

JEWELLERY

Jewellery is not regarded as suitable school attire and may sometimes cause a safety risk, therefore, we ask that it is not worn. Children who have their ears pierced may wear sleepers or studs. Signet rings, medical alert bracelets and watches are permitted. Facial jewellery is not permitted.

LOST PROPERTY

Losing personal belongings like uniforms, hats and shoes can be very stressful for the child, parents and staff. Much time is wasted searching for lost items, or finding the owners of items that have been found. This problem is very easily avoided by ensuring that all uniforms, hats, lunch boxes etc are clearly labelled with your child's name. We have a lost property box at school which you are invited to search through to locate any mysteriously lost items.

Please label all items of clothing!

PBL – Positive Behaviour Learning Expectations

Behaviour management at our school is fair and consistent and is aimed at helping students develop self-discipline. We acknowledge that children need to learn about acceptable codes of behaviour and decision-making. To help students develop this knowledge we emphasise the need for students to behave appropriately. In particular we focus on:

- ❖ Self control
- ❖ Demonstrating respect for others
- ❖ Accepting responsibility for our own actions
- ❖ Rules are necessary for a safe and supportive environment.
- ❖ Rights and responsibilities.

Students learn that they have certain rights. They have the right to learn in a safe and supportive environment free from interruptions. They have the right to make choices. They also learn that with these rights there are responsibilities including; making choices that don't adversely affect others, behaving in a way which doesn't impact negatively on others' learning, and behaving in a way that reflects positively on our school.

Students have worked with staff to develop a set of rules, which apply to all. The guidelines are designed to support students' rights and responsibilities.

These expectations are:

Be Thoughtful
Be Responsible
Be Accountable
Be Co-operative
Be Kind

Whilst most children behave appropriately most of the time, we have developed an action plan for those times when students fail to comply. This plan includes a series of consequences designed to teach the child more appropriate behavioural

choices. The consequences include warnings, time out, visits to the principal's office, students contacting their parents by phone, suspension and exclusion. When students visit the office, their name and behaviour are recorded in our behaviour management book. More information about our plan is available upon request. This behaviour management plan is frequently discussed with students to ensure complete understanding. This school uses a dot system. Red dots for major incidents and green dots for less serious. We also use warnings and reflections.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

We place great emphasis on students' physical growth and development. Research indicates that students who are coordinated and physically fit often achieve better results academically and socially. Physical confidence also helps to develop a positive self-image. Friday afternoon sport gives students the opportunity to use skills in game situations. Weekly specialist lessons, swimming lessons, athletics training and interschool sports are all part of the school program. At all times, we deliver the message that winning is not everything but good sportsmanship is.



ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Our school strives to develop students who are environmentally conscious and who engage in environmentally sound practices. The school re-use plastic bags and both sides of all pieces of paper are used.

Where financially and hygienically possible we buy products made from recycled materials. The students frequently engage in art activities which involve re-using materials which might otherwise have been thrown out.

BICYCLES

Many of our students ride their bicycle to and from school. The school has a designated area for bicycles providing racks



for the bikes at the rear of the main building. Children will not be permitted to leave the school grounds without wearing a helmet. Students are not permitted to ride in the school grounds.

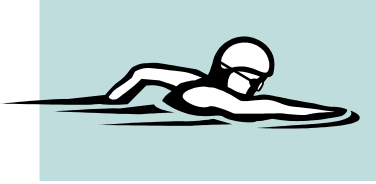
STUDENT LEADERS

We believe in encouraging students to take leadership roles within our school community. At the end of the of the year students in Year 5 prepare a speech for students and staff who then vote for the School Captain positions. Students in year 5 (depending on numbers) prepare speeches for the roles of sports captains. An induction ceremony is then held honouring our school leaders. Among their several duties, School Captains are expected to run the assembly and be role models of responsible behaviour, stickers and certificates as well as verbal praise. This helps children construct meaning about the world around them whilst developing a positive self-image. Our school captains for this year are Nate Thomas, Ruby Kirk and Tahlia Ruth.

DAILY HOME READING

Parents often indicate that learning to read is one of the most important skills their children can learn. An integral part of this program is the daily reading which we expect to occur at home. Research indicates that children learn to read when they feel comfortable and confident and are exposed to a wide range of quality texts. This means they are read to and are encouraged to read aloud. We expect students in years 1 to 3 to read aloud at least 3-4 nights per week. Students in years 4 to 6 are expected to read silently every night. Students are encouraged to borrow from classroom and library resources. Daily reading is recorded on the reading sheets and awards are then presented as these are filled. School-based incentives are provided to encourage motivation. Home reading is not intended to be an upsetting or stressful experience. If it is, children's reading development can become adversely affected as they associate reading with an unpleasant experience. We have developed a whole school approach to reading development. Please approach the teacher if there are any concerns.

SWIMMING



Education Queensland provides special funding to subsidize swimming lessons for all students from Prep to 6. Swimming is part of our school Physical Education program and all students are expected to attend. Students travel to the Stanthorpe Pool by bus and have 10 one hour lessons at the end of the year. There are always qualified first aid personnel in attendance. All the instructors are all Aus-Swim trained.

CONTACT NUMBERS

If you change your address or telephone number during the year please let the school know so that our school records are kept up to date. Emergency contact numbers must be provided for all children.



COLLECTING STUDENTS

From time to time you may need to collect your child early from school. For safety reasons, we require that you come to the office and sign our register when you pick them up.

COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT AND CONCERNS

At our school we value parent input and welcome discussions. We recognize that parents are keenly interested in education and may have concerns or worries. Experience has shown that often a problem or conflict can be avoided if a matter of concern is discussed before it reaches the stressful problem stage. Your child's teacher or the Principal is always approachable for such

discussions. Please use this opportunity as the first step towards reaching a solution. Sometimes seeking clarity is all that is necessary.

VOLUNTARY BOOK CONTRIBUTION

A \$50 voluntary book levy that is paid to the school at the start of the year covers all text books, exercise books, art and craft supplies internet usage, display folders a homework folder, paper that the students We ask that parents provide the consumables for your child (pencils, rulers, rubbers glue, colouring in pencils etc), for use for the whole year. THIS IS VOLUNTARY. If you do not wish to participate in the scheme, a book list will be made available to you



ASSESSMENT REPORTS

Assessment is an ongoing concern for teachers. Many tools such as checklists, anecdotal records and tests are used to collect data about your child's development. We provide a written report at the end of each semester, (term two and term four). We expect to have an interview with each family at the end of each semester. We will contact you if we feel there are any problems and we urge you to do the same. The school maintains a portfolio of information on each student, which has current and up to date work samples.



MONEY

Sometimes money needs to be bought to school for different activities. Please ensure the amount of money, the reason the money is being sent and the child's name is clearly marked on the envelope.

COMMUNICATION



The school sends home a newsletter with the eldest child in each family every second Wednesday. This newsletter is our main tool of communication to homes. We also use our parade each Friday to keep students informed. Flyers and notices are also sent home to parents. Please remember to check the Facebook page for reminders and changes.



COMPUTERS

We are an exceptionally well-resourced school in the area of technology. We currently have a ratio of one computer per two students. We have Internet and 20 computers located in the year in the computer lab. The computers are used as tools to enhance learning in many different ways.



Last Thoughts

**THANK
YOU**

Thank you for choosing to send your child to Wallangarra State School. We are proud of our school and I know that our staff is committed to the school and to the students.