



Wiripaang Public School

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Respectful Responsible Learners



Positive Affirmation:

'I am grateful for all that I have'. This affirmation is about being **Respectful**. As we approach Christmas it is important to remember that it is not all about receiving gifts. It is important to ensure that we don't behave disrespectful...demanding what we want and 'having' to have the latest toy. We should remember what the real meaning of Christmas is, we should be grateful for what we already have and we should take great joy in being able to give gifts to those we love. Be grateful, be respectful.

Calendar Events....

11th December
- Year 6 Farewell
- Presentation Day
12th December
-Years 3-6 Soaring High Day
16th December
-Years K-2 Soaring High Day
-Carols on the Green
17th December
-Students last day Term 4

Dear Parents, Carers and Community,

It is time to reflect, revise and reward. It's time to celebrate and take pride in the achievements of our wider school community and to stay focused on the positive things happening around us at Wiripaang Public School.

Please join us as we come together to celebrate whole school achievement at our **Presentation Day on Thursday 10am** in the Hunter Sports High School Bini. We will then farewell our Year 6 students at Charlestown Bowling Club from 6pm that evening...a huge day of celebration! Parents are encouraged to come and view the speeches and dancing from 8.15pm.

It's been a fantastic year of building on our new school image...Go Wiri!
Community

- Active P&C raising money for the school
- Successful Spring Fair, support for PBL and purchasing of resources for the school
- Live Life Well canteen – healthy green/amber menu - canteen refurbishment
- New replacement play equipment in Lakeside Playground
- CityServe volunteer program - paint hall, Nikkinbah kitchen and playground

Staff

- Dedicated, professional staff who model positive relationships
- Instructional Leader - Early Action for Success across K-2 – speech therapy – improved student data due to intervention processes
- Weekly Professional Learning - access to cutting edge training eg: L3, L1 and Targeting Early Numeracy, PBL, Focus on Reading

Students

- Increase in students accessing the curriculum and improved individual growth
- Improved PBL data with K-2 performing strongly in 'Zero Hero' status
- Increase in student engagement

Wishing all of our families a Merry Christmas.....Oh Come all Ye Faithful.... see you at 'Carol's on the Green'.....Tuesday 16th December ...from 6pm

Mrs Saurins
Principal

Respectful

Responsible

Learners

Volunteer's Afternoon Tea

An afternoon tea will be held for all 2014 volunteers next Wednesday 17th December from 2-3pm at our Life's Good Café at the Nikkinbah Room. We would love to see all our wonderful volunteers come along and enjoy this occasion.



Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received an **Assembly Award** for being Respectful, Responsible Learners:



Jarrold Brandon
Andrew Forbes
Brandon Reid
Lee Thornton
Ethyn Hamilton
Peyton Hamilton-Vosilla
Marshall Hopgood
Ebony Maddison
Ethan Melksham

Jack Lawrence-Newell
Katja Cowley
Katie Wells
Jamahley Bell
Daisy Redding
Olivia Dando
Byron Lawrence-Carr
Chloe Gardiner
Ayden Harrow

Makayla Elliott
Kaitlin Cook
Felicity Davis
Zach Woods
Kaitlyn Raglus
Jake Pietras
Matthew Holmes
Joshua Parker



Seasons for Growth Grief Program Learning to live with change and loss

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At Wiripaang Public School we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth which will commence in Term 1, 2015. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

Every family will receive a notice in the near future with more details about the Seasons for Growth program. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth we would encourage you to talk to him/her about participating in the program.

Wiripaang Public School is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved. If you require further information please contact **Ms Clare Fleming** our Seasons for Growth Coordinator.

Library News



Thank you to those students who have been returning their books back to the library over the past few weeks. It's important to keep searching for any misplaced resources and return them as soon as possible before the end of term.

Holiday Reading – The holidays provide a great opportunity to pick up a book and read! Here are some tips to help parents encourage their child to read during the holidays.

- **Continue being a good role model**

Let your child see you read.

- **Encourage your child to read on his or her own at home**

Reading at home can help your child do better in school.

- **Keep a variety of reading materials in the house**

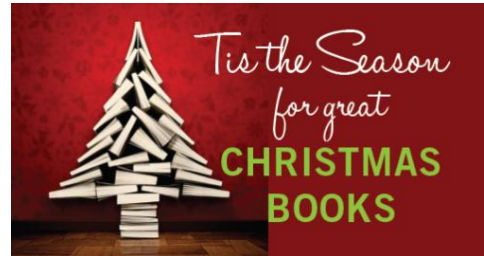
Make sure to have reading materials for enjoyment as well as for reference.

- **Encourage your child to practice reading aloud**

Frequently listen to your child read out loud and praise regularly. Offer to read every other page or even every other chapter to your child. Have conversations and discussions about the book with your child.

- **Establish a reading time, even if it's only 10 minutes each day**

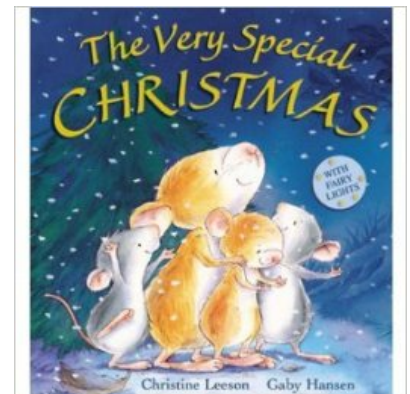
Make sure there is a good reading light in your child's room and provide books and magazines that are easy to both read and reach.



OFF THE SHELF

One of the most beautiful Christmas books we have in the library for younger readers is **The Very Special Christmas** by Christine Leeson and Gaby Hansen.

Molly, a curious mouse, learns about a Christmas tree and with her animal friends explores the woods for things that might make beautiful decorations for it. The last page of the book shows her tree that actually lights up and twinkles when the page is turned.



2013 has been a great year in the library!!



Thank you to Wiripaang students especially those who have borrowed responsibly from the library this year.

Thank you to Mrs Venables for working so hard to always keep our library collection organised and functioning efficiently.

Thank you to Mrs Saurins and our fantastic staff and Merry Christmas to everyone in our wonderful Wiripaang Community.

Bronwyn Ansell
Teacher Librarian

Dream Big
READ!

Biodiversity Workshops

On Thursday, 27 November 2014, classes 3/4T and 3/4G participated in two workshops called Biodiversity and Our Natural Environment conducted by Margo Smith and Jacquie, an Environmental Sustainability Officer from Lake Macquarie City Council.

Students were involved in hands on activities to help to understand what diversity means and to discover that our school has many forms of biodiversity, by studying the differences in plants, trees, grasses and animals in our playground. We took samples back to the classroom to observe them closely. We also discovered some interesting insects and caterpillars, and were amazed at the amount of birdlife in our playground.

Students also learnt that if we drop litter on the playground, it pollutes the habitat of some animals and can also make them sick.

The messages we learnt were:

- Don't be a tosser
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Try not to use plastic bags
- Recycle your food scraps to make compost

Saving Energy Workshops

Classes at Wiripaang Public School have participated in workshops designed by AusGrid explaining how and why we should save power. Each class has a student called a "Power Ranger" who is responsible for turning off lights and fans when they are not in use.

Our students have also learnt about how to be safe around electricity. Some of these lessons include:

- Do not use a hair dryer near water
- Do not play near electrical wires
- Do not poke a knife into a toaster
- Do not go near any electrical wires during a storm, especially if they have fallen down

Our School Vegetable Garden

Thank you to Margaret and our LandCare students who are working hard in our vegetable garden. These students and others in our environmental lessons are learning garden concepts such as:

- Needs of living things
- Sun and water are part of the basic necessities of life on Earth
- Food webs and healthy eating

Students are also learning composting concepts and how organisms break down food, the composition of soil, waste minimisation concepts and the concept of ecologically sustainable development.

It was exciting to harvest our radishes, potatoes, corn, beans and we are still harvesting our tomatoes and herbs. These are being used in our canteen for our students and staff.

Our students have learnt many new things about a successful garden by weeding, composting, watering and growing vegetables and herbs organically. As growing food is seasonal, there is always something exciting happening in our vegetable gardens.

I would like to congratulate all of our students who have participated in planting trees, shrubs, grasses, vegetables, bulbs and herbs, as well as weeding, composting and watering our plants. It clearly demonstrates that the students have pride in their school and many visitors have commented on our gardens and the efforts our students and staff have made to create such a wonderful looking garden. Keep up the excellent work.

A special thank you to Mrs Gowanloch for her work and expertise.

Rose Chesterfield
Environmental/Science Teacher



Canteen News



Due to the renovation of our canteen, our school canteen is now **CLOSED**. I would like to thank everybody for their support this year and hope to see many new volunteers when we open on the first day back next year with a brand new canteen.

Canteen Committee

P & C News

The P & C are asking for hamper donations for our Christmas raffle. Tickets will be on sale for \$1.00 each at the Presentation Day and on Carols Night. Prizes will be drawn at the Carols night.

Thank you for your support.

P&C Committee



Tips for Parents

Ready for high school

Can you recall what you were most apprehensive about when you started high school? This video of Year 7 students explain why teens shouldn't be worried about starting high school, and how they can get off to a great start in the first few days.

Watch the videos: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/what-happens-in-year-7>

Choosing school shoes

Are expensive school shoes the best option for happy feet? Let's face it. School shoes have never been at the cutting edge of fashion. In fact if you look at what your parents were wearing, the humble school shoe really hasn't evolved much at all.

Tips for choosing shoes: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/choosing-the-right-school-shoes>

Teach your kids to be waterproof

As temperatures rise, the risk of drowning increases too. Review these water-safety tips to help keep your family safe this summer.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/water-safety-tips>

Road safety reminder for parents and carers these holidays

Remember when walking near roads, on footpaths, near driveways and in car parks always: hold your child's hand, talk to your child about road safety and point out road safety dangers and differences in new environments.

The best way to keep your child safe on or near the road is to hold their hand. Talk with your child daily about road safety. For further information visit:

<http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/children/pedestriansafety.html>

Community Information

We are a ...
Sun Smart School...

Please wear your school hat everyday....

BE SUN SMART!

- SEEK out shade
- SLIP on a shirt
- SLAP on a hat & sunglasses
- SLOP on sunscreen



Fair Play Café
OOSH & VC

- PS3 cave
- Rock Climbing
- Arts & Crafts
- Qualified Chefs
- Private buses w/ seat belts
- Indoor play equipment

CCB & CCR Approved

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