

The Wheeler Word



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Term 1 Week 1 Friday

Friday 31 Jan 2020

Welcome back to Wheeler Heights Public School.

We have had a very smooth start to the year with 5 new students starting this year. We currently have 454 students in 18 classes. Our 72 Kindergarten students are completing their Best Start assessment this week and will begin school next Tuesday.

We were able to form our classes on Wednesday afternoon. Please see the classes listed on the following page.

A full list of all teaching & non teaching staff will be published in next week's newsletter.

Meet the Teacher Nights

Year 3 & 4
Year 5 & 6

Tues 11 Feb 6-7pm
Tues 11 Feb 7:15-8:15pm

Kindergarten & Year 1
Year 2

Wed 12 Feb 6-7pm
Wed 12 Feb 7:15-8:15pm

These sessions will be held in your child's classroom, unless otherwise advised.

These nights are general information talks about plans for the grade and year ahead. Teachers will be providing some details about activities for the year and expectations of each class teacher. Please be advised that these evenings are not parent teacher interviews, for any specific individual concerns with your particular child it would be best to arrange a suitable interview time to meet with the teacher.

Latest Coronavirus information

Current advice from the Australian Government Department of Health for parents and affected staff is:

- People who have been in contact with any confirmed Novel Coronavirus cases must be isolated in their home for 14 days following exposure;
- Returned travellers who have been in Hubei Province of China must be isolated in their home for 14 days after leaving Hubei Province, other than for seeking individual medical care.

Students and staff currently excluded from school are those who:

- over the last 14 days has visited the province of Hubei in central China. They should not return to school or child care services for a period of 14 days after leaving China, as the coronavirus' incubation period can be as long as two weeks or
- are under medical assessment or
- have been diagnosed with the Novel Coronavirus or
- have had close contact with a confirmed case of the Novel Coronavirus. The Ministry of Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia.

In addition The NSW Ministry of Health and NSW Department of Education have recommended that:

- Any student or staff member who was in China, including Hong Kong but excluding the province of Hubei over the past 14 days is recommended not attend school or child care services for a period of 14 days after leaving Hubei Province, as the Novel Coronavirus' incubation period can be as long as two weeks.

Students who returned to Australia more than 14 days ago and have shown no symptoms are able to return to school this week.

There has been a small number of cases of confirmed Novel Coronavirus in New South Wales.

The Ministry of Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. Advice about not attending school would be provided to these close contacts by the Ministry of Health.

Consistent with current guidelines, staff and students who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. In accordance with our current practice if any child becomes unwell we will implement our infection control guidelines and follow the advice provided by the Ministry of Health as appropriate.

2020 DATES

Tues 4 Feb Kindy begin school

Tues 11 Feb 6-7pm Yrs 3 & 4 Meet the Teacher evenings
7:15-8:15pm Yrs 5 & 6 Meet the Teacher evenings

Wed 12 Feb 6-7pm Yrs K & 1 Meet the Teacher evenings
7:15-8:15pm Yr 2 Meet the Teacher evenings

Mon 17 Feb 7pm P&C Meeting

Thurs 20 Feb School Swim Carnival

Tues 10 March Pittwater PSSA Swim Carnival

Thurs 12 March Selective HS test (Yr 6)

Thurs 19 March PCS Extension Test (Yr 6)

Thurs 9 April Term 1 ends.

Term 2 Tues 28 April - Fri 3 July

Fri 1 May School Cross Country

Mon 18 May School Athletics Carnival

Thurs 21 May School Photos

Term 3 Tues 21 July – Fri 25 September

Mon 31 Aug Pittwater PSSA Athletics

Mon 7 Sept Yr 5 Dance Sport (Ballroom Dancing) at Homebush TBC

Term 4 - Mon 12 Oct - Wed 16 Dec

Class Organisation 2020

During Term 4 the teachers spent a great amount of time carefully planning the structure of classes for this year. Firstly the state staffing formula dictates the number of staff allocated to our school and then we must form classes to best accommodate the specific numbers in each grade. Many factors are considered when grouping children into classes; number of boys and girls, relationships and friendships that should continue or be split, special needs (assistance or extension), NESB, composite classes and other factors.

Please be assured that we always carefully endeavour to form the best combination of classes for the students and for the whole school.

2020 Classes

KB Miss Laura Bamford
K/1H Miss Sarah Higgs
2J Mr Mitchell Jeffery
3J Mr Chris Jolly
4E Ms Deanne Earl
5A Mrs Belinda Alexander
6T Ms Rachael Tekampe

KM Miss Skye Migan
1J Mr Nicholas Jones
2S Ms Madi Smithies
3Y Mrs Nadine Young
4RO Mrs Rosemary Radom & Mrs Julianne Owens
5S Mrs Adele Sullivan
6J Mr Sam James

KT Miss Kate Thompson
1M Ms Patricia McCombie
2W Ms Elizabeth Wilson

Band 2020

Please be advised that all Band rehearsals will begin in Week 3 this term.

Dance Groups

The Junior & Senior Dance groups will recommence with Miss Tahlia in Week 4.

Chess 2020

Coaching will start in Week 2, next Tuesday afternoon in the Library. New enrolments are very welcome; please see the flyer later in the newsletter.

School Toilets

Have you had a look at our school toilets lately? A huge thank you to Kate Mack and Susie Paul who have transformed the old toilet block walls and toilet doors into creative, colourful and thoughtful masterpieces that all the students are thoroughly appreciating.

Welder Needed

The school is in need of a suitably qualified welder to re attach a metal Fireman's Pole on the K-2 playground equipment. If you would be able to assist could you please contact the school office.

Year 5 & 6 Camps

Unfortunately Camp Mogo, the venue for the Year 5 and 6 camp this year was severely damaged during the recent bush fires. We are currently sourcing a new camp venue therefore the advertised date may have to change. Mr Bennett has spoken to the Year 5 and 6 students, the a new venue and date will be advised as soon as possible.

School Chickens

Thank you to the Silverthorne family, OOSH and Mr Jones who looked after our school chickens over the Christmas break. The chickens are looking very healthy and are delighted that the boys and girls are back to feed & entertain them!

Newsletter by email and school website

The newsletter is emailed and uploaded to the website each Thursday afternoon. Hardcopies are available at the office if required. If your email has changed please be sure to confirm with the office. Again this year most notes will be available on the school website wheelerhts-p.schools.nsw.gov.au for easy access at any time. Notes can also be picked up from the front office.

Stationery Lists for 2020

The exercise book list, the text book list and the grade/stage stationery lists are on the school website and on previous newsletters. The exercise and textbooks are purchased through LJ Harper. This site will close on 15 February.

Important Dates

The Year 3-6 Swimming Carnival will be on Thursday 20 February at Manly Pool. Please be advised that students in Year 2 who are turning 8 years old this year and are **strong competitive swimmers** are eligible to compete. Please note that the K-2 Bubble Fun Day will be held at school on the carnival day. Notes will be distributed shortly.

We are trying to be a NUT FREE School. Anaphylaxis - What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen (such as food or insect bites). We currently have a number of anaphylactic students enrolled at Wheeler Heights. Many schools have students with such allergies. As a community we are requesting that students do not bring nut products to school. Most importantly we remind you that students should never share their food at school or pressure any other child to try something to eat.

School Program Fees

A note outlining whole school program fees and expenses will be distributed shortly. Prompt payment would be very much appreciated, with a special prize draw for payment made by the due date.

Morning Supervision

Please be advised that for safety reasons students should not arrive at school before 8:45am. Students must remain seated in the morning until the bell rings and there is a teacher on duty. If a student needs to arrive earlier than 8:45am for band or sports/club practice, then younger siblings should not be left unattended at school. Don't forget that Before and After School Care operates from 7am each day and until 6pm each evening. Please visit OOSH for an enrolment form.

Road and Car Park Safety

Please be extra careful in the morning and afternoons around the school and car park areas. We must always follow road rules and be extremely vigilant when young children are present. As parents and teachers we must set the correct example for our children and never compromise where safety is concerned. If you do see unsafe practices occurring outside the school please give the council a call and let them know. The council will then send traffic rangers to observe and help to enforce the rules.

P & C Meeting - Monday 17 Feb 7pm

The first meeting of the year. All parents are very welcome to come along, meet new parents and find out all about our fabulous school. Meetings are held in the staff room at 7pm.

Dogs at school

Just a gentle reminder that dogs (of any size, age, breed etc.) are not permitted on school grounds. You will have read lately about a number of terrible incidents involving dogs, children and innocent victims. Unfortunately animals can often be unpredictable and some children and adults have issues with some animals. It is our responsibility to provide a totally safe environment within the school grounds.

Thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.

Welcome to our new Canteen Supervisor Heidi Tetz who began this week. Please see details later in the newsletter about a couple of P&C Canteen positions still available.

David Scotter
Principal

FROM THE OFFICE

Flexischools app

Flexischools sent an email to all users requesting you to reinstall the app. Please do so, to continue receiving messages from the school. Remember to choose each group including scholastic year, roll class and any extra curricular group that is applicable for your child/ren. The roll classes will be updated within the Flexischools app by this afternoon.

Parents new to the school – we request you install the Flexischools app. The app is used to distribute messages, create absence notes and order from the canteen and uniform shop. Instructions to load the app are listed on page 4.

IMPORTANT: In the past the school has sent home a blank information sheet for you to update with address/phone/emergency contacts and medical conditions. This will only be sent to Kindergarten and Year 1 this year.

If any personal details have changed please inform the school office by email:
wheelerhts-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Address

Phone No.

Change in family relationship

Medical conditions

Emergency contact – this contact is used in emergencies only, if we are unable to contact a parent. The person/s listed as emergency contacts do not have automatic permission to collect your child/ren from school. A written note is required, if anyone other than a parent is collecting a child early from school.

Include your child's name and class within the email.

Thank you

Jodie Sly
School Administration Manager



Through the Flexischools app, you will be able to:

- receive instant notifications regarding whole school events
- receive specific information relating to a roll class or group e.g. individual PSSA team, dance group.
- send absence notes via the app
- place canteen & uniform shop orders

GET STARTED

Step 1: Download the App

Download the Flexischools App from the App Store or Google Play.

Note: for iPhone and iPad select 'Allow' notifications.



Step 2: Add your School and Group/s

Click on the search icon and search for 'Wheeler Heights Public School'

Ensure when you add the communication groups you choose for each child:

- Scholastic Year
- Roll class
- Each extra curricula group e.g. senior dance

If your child is in a PSSA team, choose the individual team e.g. 'girls cricket' AND the group titled 'PSSA'. The individual team group will have specific information regarding that team only, the PSSA group will give information regarding cancelled games/wet weather.

Step 3: Select NEWSFEED

Step 4: Add your Flexischools Account

Click the 'Order Now' button located in the bottom right hand corner of the App. This will open up a login screen.

- Already a Flexischools User – enter your details and login.
- New to Flexischools User – Click 'Register', enter your email address and follow the instructions in the email.

To place an order with canteen or uniform shop

Click on the 'Order Now' button located in the bottom right hand menu of the App.

- Select the items you wish to order.
- Select payment option and complete payment.



P&C VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Wheeler Heights Public School P&C Association is offering the following amazing volunteer opportunities for parents or friends of the school to join our canteen, a focal point of our friendly school community.

Canteen Convenor

The role of the Canteen Convenor is to run Canteen Sub-Committee meetings in a fair, democratic and unbiased way and to oversee the operations of the canteen. Other key activities include:

- Developing and maintaining canteen policies and procedures
- Acting as the liaison between the School Principal, the P&C President, the school community and canteen workers on all things relating to the canteen
- Attending P&C meetings to present monthly and annual reports
- Coordinating end of term stocktake

Canteen Secretary

The Canteen Secretary's role is to prepare and keep a full and accurate record of the minutes of the Canteen Sub-Committee meetings and related correspondence. Other activities include:

- Distribution of meeting agendas and minutes
- Preparation of notice of meeting and call for agenda items
- Keeping up to date with the NSW Healthy Canteen Strategy and informing Canteen Sub-Committee and Canteen Supervisors of any changes
- Full and accurate record keeping

If you are looking for a flexible role that adds value to our school please contact Paul Hardy, P&C President
president@whps-pandc.org

We look forward to hearing from you soon.



SYDNEY
ACADEMY OF CHESS

Level 1 30A George St, Burwood 2134

Office: (02) 9745 1170

CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Wheeler Heights Public School is held on Tuesdays from 3:20pm to 4:20pm, starting on 4 February 2020.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can collect an enrolment form from the school office, or email enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.