

# The Wheeler Word



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Term 4 Week 10

Wednesday 16 Dec 2020

## Acknowledgement of Country

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal land under all the buildings and concrete of our school. It is still Gai-maraigal and Garigal land that was respected and looked after by Aboriginal people for thousands of years. We need to respect them and the land.

*Maya R – Year 6*



## 2021 DATES

**Wed 27 & Thurs 28 Jan** School Development Days - Staff only

**Fri 29 Jan** Years 1-6 start school & Kindergarten Best Start

**Thurs 4 Feb** Kindergarten start school

**Thurs 1 April** Last Day of Term 1

**Term 2 Tues 20 April - Fri 25 Jun**

**Term 3 Tues 13 July - Fri 17 Sept**

**Term 4 Tues 5 Oct - Thurs 16 Dec**

## YEAR 6 FAREWELL, GRADUATION and CLAP OUT

Congratulations Year 6 on such a happy and successful end to your year. You have been a delightful group of young people and we are very proud of all your achievements. Best of luck for High School.

Special thank you to the Year 6 teachers Rachael Tekampe, Sam James and Alex Bennett who have done such a fabulous job over the last few weeks coordinating the many end of year activities. Special thanks also to Kelly Anderson, Cathie Butler, Jo Day, Simone Sakovits and the Year 6 parent helpers who made the Year 6 farewell such a memorable event.

## REPORTS

The Semester 2 reports were emailed to all parents yesterday and today. If you have a gmail or Hotmail account, please check your 'trash' folder. Please ensure you inform the school office if your email address has changed.

## TEXT BOOKS, WORK BOOKS AND STATIONERY LISTS

Information regarding stationery lists was emailed last week and a link is on the school website. Text book and work book lists will be emailed tomorrow. We hope that all families will be able to purchase all necessary books online and organise all stationery requirements ready for the new school year.

## STUDENT ACHIEVERS



### Physical Culture Star

Congratulations to Ruby O (3Y) who competed in the Physical Culture State Grand Finals held at Quay Centre in Homebush recently. She was awarded 6th place.

To reach the State Grand Final she had to qualify at two competitions held in November, where 12 girls were selected to progress to the State Grand Final. This is the second year in a row Ruby has qualified for the State Grand Final, and for the second time was awarded 6th place for her demonstration of the routines. Congratulations Ruby, a fabulous achievement.

### Chinese Stars

Congratulations to our five students who study Chinese after school and participated in the Youth Chinese Test Level 1. Natasha H (6T), Cameron H (4E), Hudson W (4E) and Lisa T (1J) passed the test and were awarded a special certificate.



### Tennis Stars

Last week Amber P (4RO), Aiden N (5B) & Harry H (5B) competed in a 3-day interschool tennis tournament at Pymble Ladies College. Even though Amber is only 10, she skipped the under 11's and played in the under 13 competition. Amber's team won the tournament. She was also undefeated in the singles and doubles.

Aiden N and Harry H played in the boys' competition and their team finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Congratulations to our fabulous tennis stars!

## FAREWELL

I would like to thank the entire school community for making my eight and a quarter years at Wheeler Hts PS so enjoyable. I was made to feel very welcome from the moment I arrived in Term 4 2012. Your students are delightful, passionate, creative & beautifully behaved. The staff are talented, dedicated and work superbly together as a cohesive team. The parents are supportive, helpful and advocate proudly for their children and our school. Our school has performed strongly in academic areas, the creative and performing arts, sport, Aboriginal Education and well-being initiatives. A number of staff themselves attended Wheeler Heights and each year a number of children and grandchildren of ex students enrol. This confirms that we live in a very close-knit community and a highly sought after school catchment area.

I believe that Wheeler Heights is the perfect enrolment size for a comprehensive school. We also have beautiful spacious grounds with facilities that are certainly second to none on the northern beaches.

I have had so many happy memories at this school. I will dearly miss the children and community of Wheeler Heights.

Thank you one and all.

Best wishes for a very safe, happy and healthy Christmas period with your families and friends.

David Scotter  
Principal

# Mrs Wright's Wrap Up

## SENSATIONAL, SPECIAL, SUPERB AND SAD FAREWELL EVENTS FOR OUR SUPER MR SCOTTER

It is with heavy hearts that we farewell Mr Scotter this week. Students, teachers, staff and parents alike, are devastated to be losing our much loved leader. Mr Scotter has been WHPS Principal since 2012 and has made a huge impact on so many lives. Upon arriving at our school Mr Scotter set about getting to know everyone. He was on the playground talking to the children, remembering their names and finding out what they liked to do and who they were as individuals. He had meetings with each staff member and asked about their goals, families and interests. He was at the front gate getting to know as many parents as quickly as he could. Over the years this commitment to his school community has continued. Mr Scotter attends every event possible. He is at sporting games, dance and band concerts, chess tournaments, Peninsula Community of Schools Music Festival and Aboriginal Education events, public speaking competitions... the list goes on. Whatever our students are involved in Mr Scotter is there. He visits classrooms, makes sure he knows what is happening across the whole school and just has a knack of being able to make EVERYONE feel special. We have a terrific team of teachers and support staff at WHPS and Mr Scotter ensures everyone feels valued and due to this the whole staff work so well as a team. Many parents have commented about Mr Scotter 'being at everything' and we have been flooded with positive emails and phone calls since Mr Scotter announced his retirement.



Mr Scotter has had such a busy week. He had morning tea with our outgoing Leadership Team and had a great time discussing their goals for the future. He played some amazing games with our K-4 super hoot achievers. He danced with Year 6 at their farewell dinner and he had morning tea with his staff including a surprise visit by his lovely wife, Rhona. The highlight of his week was held on Tuesday when every student and teacher was involved in a 'Super Secret Farewell Performance' morning titled 'Where in Wheeler is Mr Scotter?'. We have kept this a secret from Mr Scotter for many weeks and he was genuinely surprised when he walked into the hall on Tuesday to find his family waiting for him. Mr Scotter's wife Rhona was joined by his daughters, Emily and Katrina, his son, Lachlan, son in law, Sam and gorgeous little grandson, Adie along with other extended family members. Mr Scotter and his family then witnessed performances for each grade. It was so touching to see the thought put into the items and how well everyone knows Mr Scotter. An email with a link for our parent community to watch these performances was sent today. I would like to thank our teachers and students for the huge effort they put into the day. I know it meant a great deal to Mr Scotter and we are so happy we were able to surprise him with this. I would also like to acknowledge Mr James for all his work filming many events recently and then spending hours putting these together for us to be able to share with you all.



### Messages from our Captains

Dear Mr Scotter,

Thank you for being the best principal ever and always looking after our school and trying to make it better in all ways possible. Thank you for always coming and visiting the students and saying hi to everyone. I don't know how our school will go on without you but we hope you enjoy retirement. On behalf of the school we will miss you so much and we are never going to get another principal as good as you.

From Taj, School Captain, 2020

*To the best principal I could ever ask for,*

*From the first day you stepped into our school, to the last, you have changed everything for the better. You've made children want to come to school and learn because you always make everyone smile and laugh. You accept and welcome everyone into our school. Although I'm very sad that you are leaving, I am so happy I got a principal like you. I hope retirement treats you well and I hope to see you in the future.*

Poppy, School Captain, 2020

Mr Scotter, you are going to be so sorely missed and you have made an absolutely massive impact on our incredible school community. To say thank you, just doesn't cut it. Words cannot express what you mean to us all. We are so thankful to have had you as our principal and we wish you all the very best in your retirement.

Mrs Priscilla Wright  
Assistant Principal  
Instructional Leader