

The Wheeler Word



Phone: 9971 8352 Fax: 9982 5617
Email: wheelerhts-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: wheelerhts-p.schools.nsw.gov.au

Term 1 Week 11

Thursday 9 April 2020

Acknowledgement of Country

Our school sits on important Aboriginal land to us. We need to remember this was their land before we used it. I feel thankful that the traditional custodians took care of this land. Now it is our turn to look after it. So let us look after this land.

Aurora H – Year 3



TERM 2 ARRANGEMENTS

Currently the exact arrangements for Term 2 are yet to be finalised. Over the next two weeks, there will no doubt be more detailed information from the Federal and State governments as the COVID-19 situation evolves. Also of course the Department of Education will provide specific information for our schools.

Therefore we believe that school arrangements for Term 2 will be very similar to how we have operated over the past three weeks.

That is; schools will most likely be open for Term 2 but we encourage families to support government advice and keep your children at home.

Consequently the teachers have planned a series of online lessons to commence Week 1 next Term. As you will have noticed this week, the Learning from Home requirements have become more interactive with opportunities to communicate with your teachers. Please be sure to carefully study the Information Pack attached to this newsletter.

Any specific arrangements for Term 2 will be conveyed to all school families by email and the Flexischools app as they come to hand.

The Information Pack for Online Learning for Term 2 is attached to this newsletter and is on the school website. Please read all the information carefully.

FAREWELL TO WENDY CLIFFORD

Mrs Wendy Clifford our wonderful School Administration Officer has recently retired. Mrs Clifford has been at our school for 13 years and has done a tremendous job and will be greatly missed by the staff, parents and students of our school.

Mrs Clifford has been one of our most experienced and capable First Aid Officers and has assisted with many broken limbs, ambulance visits and thousands and thousands of injuries & ailments over the years. We wish Mrs Clifford good health and much happiness in her retirement.

EASTER HATS

It was lovely to see the many creative Easter Hats sent in by the families for our virtual Easter Hat Parade. Thanks to Miss McCombie for coordinating this activity.

KINDERGARTEN SIGHT WORD PACKS

The Kindergarten sight word packs have been posted to all Kindy families this week.

BAND LESSONS ON LINE

Band families will have received the information regarding online lessons. Thank you to Shauna Tyson and the band team for organising these fabulous resources.

TOLERANCE, UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY

At this incredibly challenging time it is always so gratifying to hear the positive, caring reports from our school and local community. There have been so many random acts and thoughts of kindness and compassion from young children, mums and dads, grandparents and carers, teachers and community members, politicians and all manner of people in our society and world.

Sadly, I have been informed of a few instances where people have been less than friendly and have made negative references to parents and children regarding their attendance at school. Please do not address anyone in this way.

SCHOOL ABSENCES

Please be sure to report all student absences to school through the normal processes. If you have informed the school of a long absence (until the end of term) then this will be on the school system and a note each day is not necessary.

ROTARY RAFFLE TICKETS

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, due to the onset of the COVID-19 virus and related logistical restrictions, the Rotary Club of Upper Northern Beaches has decided to cancel the 2020 Rotary Car Raffle. In these unprecedented times, it was not appropriate to conduct ticket sales and incur significant financial expenses.

The school can reimburse the full cost of each ticket that you have purchased or sold, provided you return the tickets to us.

Obviously, a number of school families have already returned their tickets and money. We have discussed the possibility of having a School Draw with the tickets already sold and returned. We would also then make a donation to Rotary who have absorbed all the costs associated with the raffle. We could also make a donation to a suitable charity like the current COVID-19 crisis or the Bushfire appeal.

Please let us know your thoughts and any specific instructions in regard to your own tickets. A final decision will be made in consultation with the P&C next term.

BOOK CLUB ORDERS

Most of the latest Book Club Orders have arrived. If you would like to collect these books please contact the school office to ensure that your order has arrived.

SCHOOL CANTEEN

Please be advised that the School Canteen will be closed until further notice.

Once again we thank you for your support of our school and the way that all families have implemented and adopted the Online learning over the past three weeks.

Best wishes for a very safe and healthy Easter break with your families.

Mr David Scotter
Principal

****ALL COVID-19 UPDATES are located on the [school website](#) under '[COVID-19 Information](#)' for easy access****

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CARE

Our wonderful Before and After School Care team will be operating during the upcoming Easter holidays. Be sure to book in!!

READING BOOKS & IDEAS

Many parents have asked us about accessing quality books and literature to read over the Easter holidays and next term. Please see the information from Mrs Westwood and some of the links attached.

KEEP READING



northern
beaches
council

Did you know that **the Northern Beaches Council libraries are offering a home delivery service** on books? Find out more:

https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/library/during-covid-19/library-2-you?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Library2U%20update-%20all%20library%20members&utm_content=Library2U%20update-%20all%20library%20members+CID_2c849ace71c7ea6f9d81dff4e717851f&utm_source=campaignmonitor&utm_term=Find%20out%20more

Looking for appropriate books to read? Don't forget the **Premier's Reading Challenge!** Such a long list to choose from...perhaps your local council library can deliver some to your door! For students K-2, you could also search for the titles in YouTube (read aloud).

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>



Remember, any reading experience your child engages in will assist their literacy development. So – encourage your child to read, share a book with them, read to them, talk about books you are reading – predict what will happen next, imagine you are the main character, make up a different ending...the possibilities are endless! Happy reading and have fun!!



Tips for parents

- Hear your child read, discuss books and read to your child every day!
- Look through the book together first. Discuss what is happening and have your child predict what could happen next.
- Encourage your child to “Put the words together to sound like talking”. Model what this phrasing sounds like if necessary. On the page turn, let them know which part sounded good.
- Encourage your child to “Think about what makes sense and looks right”. Let them read to the end of the sentence to see if they will correct it themselves. If they don't, let them know “That didn't make sense” or “That didn't look right” or just “Check that” and ask them to try it again from the start of the sentence.
- Read the book again for 2-3 days in a row. Each time your child reads it, it should sound more fluent.
- Remember, independent home reading should be easy. Choose more difficult books to read to your child. Enjoy your reading time together!
- There is a section in Mona Vale Library just for beginning readers. You can find many of the Beginner Books and Andy Griffiths junior readers there. Sally Rippin, Else Holmelund Minarik and Tedd Arnold books are in the short chapter book section.

Kathy Westwood

Learning and Support Teacher

Wheeler Heights Public School



Learning from Home Phase II

(Commencing Term 2, 2020)

Information Pack

Emailed to all parents on Thursday 9 April 2020



The Wheeler Way

Wheeler Heights Public School

Online Learning Environment Guidelines

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you again for your support and patience as we have worked to implement remote learning for our students. Next term, remote learning will continue to be delivered in a similar format, however, there will be more opportunity for communicating with teachers and submission of work requirements. Some of these aspects have been rehearsed this week within the Google Classrooms. We have been impressed with how our students have tackled these tasks.

As we continue the transition to our online environment for our students, teachers and parents we feel it is important to give you and your children some guidelines, expectations and parameters.

For Students:

- **Read** your teacher's instructions carefully. Daily work will be posted **from 8.30am** each day
- **Think** before you make a comment or ask a question
- Try to **solve** your problems by being creative and solution focused
- **Questions and comments** posted (during 9.15am and 1pm) should relate to the learning activities, it is not a place to 'have a chat'
- A teacher will reply to your questions or make a comment as soon as they can
- A teacher from each grade/stage will be online during the **normal school hours of 9.15am-3.15pm**, but not all the time as they are preparing lessons too
- Always **do your personal best** and do not rush your work.

For Parents:

- Please ensure your child is taking **regular 'brain breaks'** and where possible have morning tea and lunch breaks similar to a school day.
- Allow your child a degree of **flexibility** if required. Teachers understand only too well that not all work will be completed by students at the same time or pace. Also, every child is working at their own ability. Work is set to cover all abilities and some students may not be able to complete some tasks. Please don't worry, there is a lot we are all trying to manage. Please understand we realise families will be working online at different times. Submission of work can occur when convenient to your family each day.
- Contact the school if we can provide support with any technical issues, we are all learning together and appreciate that this is a steep learning curve for many.

We are so proud of the way our Wheeler Heights students and community have embraced this new learning environment. We would like to sincerely thank you all for the many emails and words of encouragement and for managing this new learning space. Thank you also to our amazing teachers who are working above and beyond to ensure the continuity of learning for the students of WHPS.

Kind regards,

David Scotter
Principal

Priscilla Wright
Assistant Principal

Attendance

From Term 1, Week 11 we started taking official attendance within the Google Classrooms. This is a check in to ensure students are completing work remotely.

You are still required to advise the school if you are keeping your child at home and participating in remote learning. This can be done for extended periods of time, rather than on a day by day basis. Please notify the school via email or through FlexiSchools if this is the case.

If your child is sick please notify the school via email or through FlexiSchools so this can be recorded on the school records.

Communication

WHPS will continue to communicate with you using our normal communication methods such as the FlexiSchool app and email. ***If you have a hotmail address, please regularly check your 'junk' folder as school emails appear to be rejected sometimes.***

All Updates and attachments are located on the school website, click the COVID-19 tab.

Teachers will be communicating with students via the Google Classrooms and some teachers that previously utilised Class Dojo will continue to use that platform.

Should you wish to contact the school, our email address is:

wheelerhts-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Getting Help

Teachers will be available during school hours to 'trouble shoot' or answer specific questions related to daily tasks. Students can ask teachers questions via their Stage Google Classroom between 9.15am and 1pm each school day and teachers will attempt to answer these questions by the end of the school day.

For issues that are more complex, please direct enquires to the school email address (stated above) and these will be distributed to the appropriate personnel.

How can you help?

Provide support for your children by:

- establishing routines and expectations
- defining a space for your child to work in
- monitoring communications from teachers
- check in with your child at the beginning and ending of each day to ensure they understand what is required of them
- taking an active role in helping your children process their learning
- encouraging physical activity and/or exercise
- checking in with your child regularly to help them manage stress
- reassuring your child that completing the work at times that suits your family each day is completely acceptable by the school
- monitoring how much time your child is spending online
- keeping your children social, but set rules around their social media interactions.

Provide support to our school by:

- being respectful. If you have a concern regarding work set, please email the school; remembering that we are all learning together. Negative comments on Facebook do not help students / teachers or fellow parents.

Wellbeing

We understand that every family is different and operates on routines that suit them. This information pack is a guide to help support our WHPS community and we know that the 'school day' will look different in each and every household.

Please be assured that the staff of WHPS are still here and ready to support your child in their learning and wellbeing.

Should you need further support, please contact us, as we work together in these unprecedented times.

The following websites are also very useful should you require them.

Kids Helpline

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

eSafety Commissioner

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

WHPS Expectations for Learning from Home

<p>RESPECT</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow your teacher's instructions• Always use appropriate language• Be polite and use good manners
<p>RESPONSIBILITY</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure your questions / comments are about the work you are doing• Ask your teacher for help• Submit your work when required
<p>PERSONAL BEST</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do your best work• Try to complete the work when you can• Upload your work if you are asked to.

One of the best things about Wheeler Heights Public School is the parents, carers and extended family members that make up our supportive school community.



The staff of Wheeler Heights would like to extend a gigantic thank you to our parents and carers during this time.

We understand that you have been asked to take on a new and different role whilst you support your children with their remote learning.

We thank you for your assistance, understanding and positive feedback whilst we implement new methods of learning and teaching.

We are looking forward to having students back in the classroom. However, if remote learning continues we are well prepared and extremely excited about the learning activities we have planned for next term.

Wishing you an enjoyable holiday from the staff of Wheeler Heights.

Holiday Incursion Ideas

This school holiday you may not be able to visit places as usual, however, with a little imagination you can still enjoy a wide variety of fun 'days out'. Here are a few ideas:



<p>Visit the Zoo</p>	<p>Many zoos like Taronga Zoo are offering behind the scene tours showing the animals being fed. You can even watch the seal show from home. Click on the link to their live stream or to select videos. https://taronga.org.au/taronga-tv</p>
<p>Mini Olympics</p>	<p>Create your own Olympics and even your own events depending on what resources you have. No shot put no problem just replace the shot put with a shoe toss.</p>
<p>Visit an Art Gallery (Later create your own art and home exhibition)</p>	<p>Many art galleries are also going on line. Click on this link for virtual tours of The Louvre and many other museums. https://www.businesstraveller.com/business-travel/2020/04/02/these-museums-are-offering-free-virtual-tours/ Click on the link to The Modern Met https://mymodernmet.com/free-images-national-gallery-of-art/ After your visit be inspired to create your own artworks and hold your own art exhibition. There are also many art lessons online and drawing lessons for kids.</p>
<p>Visit the Aquarium</p>	<p>Click on the link to learn more about the animals at Sydney Aquarium. Watch videos about feeding penguins and much more. https://www.sydneyaquarium.com.au/explore/live-stream/</p>
<p>Virtual Tour of the Pyramids of Egypt</p>	<p>Visit the Pyramids on a virtual tour https://www.google.co.uk/maps/about/behind-the-scenes/streetview/treks/pyramids-of-giza/</p>
<p>Make a Short Film Put on a Play or Puppet Show</p>	<p>Children can write and create their own play or puppet show. If you have an iPad, or video camera kids can create their own movie. If you don't have enough actors no problem use animation instead.</p>
<p>Go to a Restaurant</p>	<p>Enjoy a restaurant in your house. Children can create the decor and the menu.</p>
<p>Visit the Grand Canyon or Yosemite National Park</p>	<p>Google the Grand Canyon for a range of virtual tours or click on the link for a virtual tour of Yosemite Park https://www.virtualyosemite.org/virtual-tour/</p>
<p>Movie Day</p>	<p>Enjoy a movie, complete with popcorn and ice-cream. Take this opportunity to show your children your favourite movies when you were growing up.</p>
<p>Baking Competition/ MasterChef</p>	<p>Create your own MasterChef team competition.</p>
<p>Attend a Dance Class</p>	<p>Whether you like ballet or hip hop you can find an online dance class.</p>
<p>Camping or a Picnic</p>	<p>Set up the tent in the backyard to enjoy a night under the stars or simply enjoy a picnic in your backyard.</p>
<p>Learn a new skill</p>	<p>Whether you want to learn to paint, computer code or knit there are many on-line free tutorials available.</p>
<p>Use your Backyard</p>	<p>Explore your garden, grow vegetables, build a fort or an obstacle course. Use your imagination!</p>
<p>Travel Overseas</p>	<p>Use Google Earth Colourful Communities to travel around the world and learn about different places.</p>

Dear Parents/Carers,

We know times are tough at the moment given the uncertainty and worry of COVID-19 and as many parents juggle multiple roles at the same time. We know people's wellbeing is important so we wanted to reach out to all of our *Got It!* school communities. *Got It!* is an early intervention program that supports children's social and emotional wellbeing. The *Got It!* Program is provided through NSW Health.

We are reaching out to all the schools we have worked with over the last few years to let families know that our team are available to be a point of contact and support during this time.

The *Got It!* team are available to be contacted directly if you are experiencing any concerns related to parenting and/or for your children. The *Got It!* team are also able to provide relevant resources or facilitate referrals for support to families based on your individual circumstances.

Please don't hesitate to reach out and contact us via email: NSLHD-MACQ-GOTIT@health.nsw.gov.au or phone 9887 5886. The team are available between 9:30am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

Take care,

The *Got It!* Team

Emma McKeown, Liz De Jong, Kimberley Scriven, Donna Fenech and Kate Quick

Mental Health Line: Phone: 1800 011 511. A mental health professional will answer your call about mental health concerns for you or someone you are concerned about including children, teens, adults and older people. This service operates 24/7.

Mental Health Line
1800 011 511 

Kids Help Line. Phone: 1800 55 1800. **Age Group:** 5 to 25 years. A private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service.

Link: [kids helpline WebChat Counselling](#)

 **kidshelpline**
Anytime | Any Reason

Lifeline: 13 11 14. A 24/7 crisis support and counselling service.

 **Lifeline** Saving Lives
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

P&C MESSAGE

MOTHERS' DAY FUNDRAISING

Hello WHPS Families,

We hope you are all doing well with your social distancing! Although we, unfortunately, won't be able to have our usual Mothers' Day Breakfast this year, we are happy to announce that we were on the front foot and have been planning a stunning gift for you!

This year we arranged for all the kids to draw a picture that will be made into a WHPS tea towel. We will be producing 1 tea towel per year (where there is a composite class, the whole class will appear on both years tea towels). This will be a great gift for Mums, Grandmothers, Mothers-In-Law or just a great gift for extended families in general.



The tea towels will be able to be purchased online (likely not on Flexischools given issues in the current climate). We will send communication via Class Parents and will post information on the School Facebook page once we have more information (such as pricing, how to collect etc.).

We have been advised that the current COVID-19 situation shouldn't affect our order or timelines too much so plan to have these available for you to purchase at the start of Term 2.

Enjoy the 'holidays'!

Regards,

Fiona
Wheeler Heights Public School Fundraising Team

EASTER MESSAGES FOR SRE STUDENTS & FAMILIES



SPECIAL LEARNING AT HOME EVENT *Now out! Connect A1 Easter lesson*

Dear friend,

Based on the *Connect A1* Easter lesson, this FREE resource is ready for parents to download and enjoy with their children at home!

Click here — [Connect-Learning-at-Home](#) — to find fabulous Easter lesson plans for all age groups, including songs, video links and activity pages.

We pray that this Easter — as you celebrate side by side with your family at home — you will know even more fully the depth and height of God's love for us through his Son, Jesus.

God bless you,

The team at CEP
Christian Education Publications



A MESSAGE FROM THE LAKES CATHOLIC PARISH

Please go to the home page on Lakes Catholic Parish Website and click on the link

<https://www.lakesparish.org.au/>



SUPPORTING OUR NORTHERN BEACHES HOMELESS
AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES THROUGH
CORONAVIRUS

#SHOWUSYOURCANS

Community Co-op Northern Beaches is calling on all residents to open their pantries to donate spare canned food and other non-perishable food items. The Co-op is working closely with local support organisations to distribute the food to our most vulnerable people. Every single can will help.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP
TO FIND YOUR CLOSEST
TOUCH FREE LOCATION TO DONATE



COMMUNITY CO-OP
NORTHERN BEACHES