Dear Families

On Monday our staff worked together to review and assess how effective we have been in improving student learning outcomes throughout 2015.

We used a range of data including PAT Maths and Reading testing, NAPLaN, Personal Learning Plans, intervention programs such as Quicksmart and Minilit, classroom testing and observations, attendance, student behaviour management and values data to measure progress and growth. One major benefit of being a smaller school means the processes we use allow us to look at strengths and areas of development for individual students, not just year levels groups. The achievement of each individual student was discussed on Monday and directions made for 2016.

Our findings enable us to set whole schools directions and priorities for 2016 as well as construct class groups that are balanced and beneficial to all of our learners. We were fortunate that we were able to have our known 2016 staff join us for the day.

At this stage we have 6 classes for next year and have most of our staffing place for 2016 which includes new staff members, Maria Woodforde and Stephanie March and the reappointment of our counsellor Min Spry. We still have a couple of part-time positions to fill. We hope to have our staffing in place before the end of the school year so that we are able to inform students and families of their 2016 class placement.

With just 17 school days remaining we are in the home stretch – it’s an exciting time of the year with lots of celebrations ahead.

Have a great week,
Donella

Counsellor Column

Over the past few days, the media has been filled with images and reports from the attacks in Paris. Many of these images are confronting and downright scary, especially for children if they see or hear about the situation. So should parents talk to their children about these events?

It is completely up to individual parents of course. However, I read the views of some child psychologists and here are some of their thoughts:

- Children can see fear and anxiety in adults so not talking about it can be more worrying for children as they don’t understand why their parents are concerned or scared.
- Talk to children over the age of 6 about these events, if they ask about it.
- Find a balance between acknowledging there is the existence of violence in the world and helping the child to feel safe.
- If children under the age of 6 ask, be vague, don’t give too many details and reassure them they are safe.

Last Wednesday was Remembrance Day. Thank you to Annalise and Mia who represented the WMPS community at the service in Kadina by placing a wreath at the war memorial.

Thank you to Cynthia Inglis and June Nash who also attended and represented the school.

Min Spry
Counsellor
Each year, teachers collate photos and videos from events and learning at WMPS and turn them into a DVD with a music background. It's a great school memory for students and for parents.
Cost will be $5. If you would like to order a DVD, please fill in this form with your name, child's class and how many copies you would like and return to Miss Spry by the end of Week 7.
DVDs will be available to collect and pay for at the end of the term from the Front Office. We will advertise when they are ready for collection via the newsletter and Facebook. There are also copies of the 2014 End-of-Year DVD still available if you missed out last year.

Name __________________ Room: _____
I would like to order ___ copy/ies of the WMPS End-Of-Year DVD 2015

Karen Lee Dance

Karen Lee Dance Academy
"REWIND"
20th Anniversary Concert
Saturday 21st November McKnight Theatre, Maitland
2pm & 7pm

For Ticket sales:
http://www.trybooking.com/164304

Enquiries: Karen 0407 608 946 Enrolments being taken now for 2016

School Dental

Dental care is FREE for most school-aged children and ALL preschool children at the School Dental Service. All babies, children and young people 0-17 years are welcome to attend. School Dental Service clinics are open during the Christmas school holiday break.
Phone your local School Dental Service clinic now for an appointment. For clinic details visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au.

Position Vacant

PASTORAL CARE WORKER
(Previously known as “School Chaplain”)
WALLAROO MINES PRIMARY SCHOOL
Address: Lipson Ave, Kadina SA

Schools Ministry Group along with Association of Christian Churches of the Copper Coast (Support Group) are seeking applications for this 12 hour per week position, commencing Term 1, 2016.
The position exists to offer Chaplaincy Services to students, staff and the school community.
A Job and Person Specification, including details on “How to Apply”, is available from Schools Ministry Group on 8378 6829 or angelo@smg.asn.au

Closing date: 5pm, 30 November, 2015
For details about the next Information Session go to: www.smg.asn.au

Vacswim

Register Your Children at vacswimsa.com.au
Values Awards
Week 5 & 6, Term 4
2015

Congratulations to the following students for consistently displaying our Values

Relationships
Lily
Jordan
Jason

Collaboration
Skye
Lacey
Madi F
Emari
Kai
Amy
Erin

Trust
Jacob
Jordan Mi

Understanding

Communication
Hayden
Eli