BE A LEARNER
BE RESPECTFUL
BE SAFE

Hello and welcome back.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our new families and to the 13 Prep students that started with us this week.

This year is ramping up to be another very busy one for Wheatlands and Education in general. Moving throughout the classes this week, I have been overwhelmed with the speed at which all students have reengaged with school routines and expectations.

Students have spent portions of each day throughout the week completing diagnostic testing for their teachers to assist with learning groups in Literacy and Numeracy sessions. Early analysis of data with individual teachers have yielded some very pleasing results with a number of students across the school surpassing regional benchmarks for the end of the year – very pleasing indeed.

Parents may have seen or heard recent media releases detailing the State Governments response to the Federal Government’s Students First – A fairer funding agreement for schools initiative. From this the State Government has committed $131 million to schools under its Great Results Guarantee. From this bucket of money Wheatlands State School will receive an additional $23,000 in this year’s school budget. The allocation of this money will be discussed at the first P&C meeting held on Thursday February 13th at the school admin building. If you would like to contribute to these discussions and to find out more about this initiative please come along.

Teachers will shortly send home a letter indicating availability to meet with parent to discuss setting targets and goals for students. It is an expectation that every child has a parent or carer meet with the class teacher to discuss the learning plan for the year.

When packing lunches, can I please ask parents to remember to pack a spoon if it is required and to cut up fruit and other items prior to packing, it is not possible for duty staff to leave the eating area to tend to these matters during duty time.

Reminder: School shoes are to be predominately black as outlined in the schools uniform policy which is endorsed by the school P&C.

Looking forward to another successful year at Wheatlands.

Yours in Education

Daniel Bishop
Principal

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Prep/One News

The first week of prep/one has gone very, very fast. We have been reassessing the year one students in readiness for guided reading and sight words to begin next week.

The new prep students have all settled in well to the routines and transitions of school. At break times we have been impressed with their management of water bottles, hats and lunch boxes and returning to line up after the bell. This week the preps talked about the letters ‘s’ and ‘a’, we made the jolly phonics actions for these letters and completed some activities. Next week preps will look the letters ‘t’ and ‘p’. We also started using the computers this week, logging into www.starfall.com. As well as using playdoh, blocks, duplo and pegboards.

Yesterday we began our ‘buddy reading’ session with the Upper Class. Both the upper and lower class get a lot out of this program, not only in terms of oral language and literacy, but socially the children learn about cooperating with others. It is wonderful for the prep/ones to have the older students as another ‘friendly face’ around our school.

Green slip students for this week - Anna Christensen and Ruby Kiem
Book Work Award for neat cutting in and gluing to– Shaelee Keliher

Mrs Alex Brimblecombe

1-2 Class

This week has certainly gone quickly. Students have chosen new teams already. We will begin our points system next week. All teams chose a name and will be displayed on student desks next week.

Just a few reminders – Homework will begin next week. Please be sure to read over the homework requirements in your introduction letters to ensure your child is reaching expectations.

Library – Wednesday

Banking – Tuesday (completed Wednesday when Mrs H is here).

Looking forward to a fantastic and exciting year ☺

Miss Sarah Sullivan.
Welcome back everyone! I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable break. It is great to be back into the swing of things. We have had a very busy first week. We completed 6 PAT tests in 3 days. I am very proud of the kids as they showed great focus and perseverance throughout the tests.

In English, students will complete a unit of work about engaging with poetry. In this unit, they will listen to, read, view and adapt poems featuring an Australian setting. They will analyse texts by exploring the context, purpose and audience and how language features and device can be adapted to create new meaning. Their assessment piece will be to write and present a poem. The first poem we are going to look at is My Country by Dorothea McKellar.

Spelling Mastery and Guided Reading Groups will continue this year, as well as time specifically allocated to Handwriting, Grammar Conventions and Reading Conventions.

In Maths, we will be covering a number of topics this term. We will begin with Addition and Subtraction. We have commenced speed times tables. This daily exercise greatly increases their ability to recall multiplication facts with speed and accuracy. Students will continue to use the Mathletics program.

In Science, students will study the unit Feathers, Fur or Leaves? The unit provides opportunities for students to explore features of living things, and ways they can be grouped together. Through hands-on activities, students will explore how living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things. They will use this knowledge to investigate the animal groups in the leaf litter of the school grounds.

In Geography, students will be exploring similarities and differences in places near and far. They will draw on studies at the local scale, including representations of Australia and the location of Australia’s neighbouring countries. They will understand the different climate types and their influence on the characteristics of places. They will recognise that a ‘place’ is a form of bounded space with each place having a location on the surface of the Earth. They will identify the environmental and human characteristics of places in Australia and Australia’s neighbouring countries using sources.

In Technology, students will be designing their own desktop tidy to store their stationery. We have started by researching different kinds of organising systems on the internet, deciding what stationery to put in our trays and also what supplies we might need to make our desktop tidy.

Erin Hubbard

News from the Big People

I am excited to be back at school. My minions are hard at it, having completed our PAT testing and only reading assessments to complete. Homework will start next week and the minions are rapt! Our term overview is jam packed as usual. We are also looking forward to Canberra later in the year and encourage those icy cup lovers to bring along their $1 coins to purchase an icy cup after school!

In English, students will complete a unit of work studying the novel, The Hunt for Ned Kelly. They will analyse texts by exploring the context, purpose and audience and how language features and device can be adapted to create new meaning. Their assessment task will be to write a narrative recount on the capture of Ned Kelly. Our lecturette topics will all be about geographical features.

Spelling Mastery and Guided Reading Groups will continue this year, as well as time specifically allocated to Handwriting, Grammar Conventions and Reading Conventions.

In Maths, we will be covering a number of topics this term. We will begin with Addition and Subtraction. We have commenced speed times tables. This daily exercise greatly increases their ability to recall multiplication facts with speed and accuracy. Students will continue to use the Mathletics program. The website is www.mathletics.com.au. Students earn points for completing tasks and improve their maths skills at the same time.

In Science, students will study the unit Our Changing World. The unit provides opportunities for students to explore how sudden extreme weather events can affect the Earth’s surface. They will gather data, record and interpret data relating to weather and weather events.

In Geography, students will be exploring how people and places affect one another. In this unit students extend their mental map of the world with a focus on Europe and North America. Students will be introduced to geographic concepts and be involved with using different types of maps. Geography will be a 2 term unit.

In Visual Arts we will be exploring art appreciation, to build our arts vocabulary. We will study the work of modern and traditional artists and have a go at creating pieces using what we have learned about techniques and elements of art. Our first artist is Wassily Kandinsky an abstract, modernist, Russian artist.

Libby Meikle

ICY CUPS $1

Sarsparilla, Orange, Raspberry, Lime
P & C NEWS -

Centenary memorabilia items are available for sale from the office.

Next Meeting - Thursday 13th February at 6pm,

We would love for as many parents as possible to attend, newcomers and old, if anyone has any questions please feel free to chat to our committee;

President - Julie Brown 0429 059 131 browntonyjulie@gmail.com
Secretary - Ngaire Louis 0467 684 850 theflyz@bigpond.com
Treasurer- Kieran Ramke 0400 689 872 akramke@bigpond.com

I would like to THANK everyone involved with the Centenary held last November, we all worked our butts off, some on the day and some for the last six months. The day was a great success. Thank you so very much.

Julie Brown
P&C President

**Uniforms**

Please find attached a Uniform Order Form.

All current orders must be handed into the office by 14th February and must be *paid in full* when order is placed.

Another Winter Uniform order will be placed before the Easter break.

**Library News**

Who wants to be a ‘Student Librarian’?

Mrs Anderson is calling for anyone interested in becoming a ‘Student Librarian’ for term 1, 2014.

What does a ‘student librarian’ do?

A student librarian helps Mrs Anderson in the library every Wednesday lunchtime. Your jobs will include helping set up the library for lunchtime activities, and also helping pack away. You will learn how to put books back on the shelves. You will also help keep the library looking neat and tidy. You still get to participate in library lunchtime activities, but are Mrs Anderson’s ‘special helpers’.

How do I apply?

You will need to see Mrs Anderson and put your name into a box. Mrs Anderson will draw out 6 names for term 1. Don’t worry, if you miss out, you can reapply for next term. Mrs Anderson will make sure everyone who wants a go will get one.

Good luck!

**Expressions of Interest—Parent Volunteer**

Parent Volunteer required for Library help, Wednesdays from 1.45—3.00pm

Please see Daniel Bishop, Principal

Mrs T Anderson
Teacher Librarian

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Wondai Proston JRLC will be holding a free Combine Sign On & Come & Try Rugby League Day on Sunday the 9th of February hosted by NRL Development Officer Colin Huxtable from 10.00am to 12.00 noon followed by a sausage sizzle. Fee’s for 2014, $75.00 for the 1st child.

All inquiries to Wally Knight 41690971