

# Seahorse Tales

TERM 1, ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### OUR PARENT/CARER/TEACHER EVENINGS

Thanks so much to all parents and carers who have come along to partner the school in hearing more about what is happening for their child in classrooms this year.

Our final evening will be next Monday for parents and carers of children in Kindergarten.

It begins at 6pm in the Library, followed by a BBQ, to finish at approx. 7:30pm.

### SCARBOROUGH STREET BUS AND NO STOPPING ZONES



I must again remind all parents and carers that when they are dropping off or picking up their children they must obey the street/traffic signs.

These signs are there for the safety of students, parents/carers and staff.

I cannot emphasise this enough. There was another incident yesterday morning where a parent chose to stop close to the crossing, in the No Stopping zone, allowing his daughter to get out of the car and run across the road, and in the process she was almost hit by a car coming up the hill.

I have again been in contact with the police to help us enforce the traffic rules around the school.

Student safety is paramount. (And a special thankyou to all parents/carers who do observe the signs by delivering, and picking up, their children safely.)

### STUDENTS READING!

Wow! I just need to report to you on how much reading is taking place in our school. It is wonderful to see: all classes have organised groups of readers and watching these in action is superb.

Thank you to all parents and carers who are taking time at home etc and engaging their child/ren in reading.

Reading improvement is our No.1 target in our school this year.

**Cheers**  
**Graeme Ross, Principal**

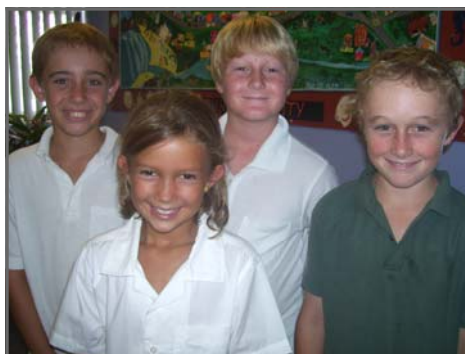
## EXEMPLARY SPORTSMANSHIP DISPLAYED BY WPS STUDENTS

### Coffs Harbour District Swimming Carnival ~ Friday 20 February

The weather was beautiful, the water sparkling and the atmosphere electric!

The clear morning signalled what turned out to be a great carnival all round.

Thank you to all the students who competed last Friday. Your behaviour, commitment and sportsmanship was exemplary.



Mrs Goodenough completed many laps of the pool observing closely, in her role as referee, while Mrs Rovere was kept busy frantically recording times and working out places after events, at the recording table.

WPS sincerely thanks all parents who happily and competently managed our school team and kept a close eye on the needs of our students.

A particular thanks goes to Racinda Koopmans who was given the onerous task of keeping track of swimmers and races, filling in gaps as necessary due to absences and early departures yet still managed to support and cheer-on our competitors. (You did an extremely efficient and excellent job Racinda. Thank you!).

The Mid North Coast PSSA Swimming Carnival is scheduled for today, Thursday 26 February, at the Coffs Harbour Olympic Pool. Students who were successful and who will be representing their district (pictured above) are:

- ◆ **Isaiah Koopmans**
- ◆ **Cinnamon Frost**
- ◆ **Bryce Nicolson**
- ◆ **Joshua Butterworth-Harvey**

Congratulations and Good Luck!

**Sharon Rovere & Joanne Goodenough,**  
**Swimming Coordinators**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

North Coast Cricket	Mon 2 Mar
Mid North Coast Basketball	Tue 3 Mar
ARL Gala Day	Wed 6 Mar
North Coast PSSA Swimming	Tue 10 Mar

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Certificate of Merit

- ◆ Alyssa Jenkins KK
- ◆ Inderjot Singh Bajwa 1B
- ◆ Sukhraj Tiwana 1B
- ◆ Brynd Storrie 1/2H
- ◆ Beau Pearce 1/2H
- ◆ Macy Stewart 2C
- ◆ Kulraj Gill 2C

### Certificate of Excellence

- ◆ Lily O'Brien 1/2H
- ◆ Oskar Farwell 4J

### Principal's Values Award

- ◆ Bryce Nicolson 3/4G
- ◆ Rubea Frost 1/RB



All parents and carers are welcome to attend 'Friday Assemblies' This week Stage 1 (10:20am) will be hosted by **Macy Stewart and Gurpal Bhorla of 2C** Stages 2-3 (12:20pm) Item by **4/5M**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WPS****Clean Up Australia Day at WPS**

The official Clean Up Australia Day for schools will be held tomorrow

**Friday 27 February**

Since 1992 children all around Australia have turned out in their thousands to help Clean Up Australia.

Schools' Clean Up Day is specifically designed to allow students to participate in Clean Up Australia as part of a school activity.

**Important information for families ...**

- ◆ **All classes** will be designated an area of the school grounds to clean up.
- ◆ **Each student** is asked to bring a plastic bag to collect rubbish and a pair of gloves if they wish.

It's a great way for WPS students to learn about how to reduce the impact of waste on our environment and make a real difference in their local community.

**Stage 2 Swimming ~ Term 1 every Wednesday**

**Group 1: 11:35am-12:25pm**

**Group 2: 12:00-1:00pm**

This program will include various types of swimming and water skills to help develop physical fitness and enable students to challenge themselves. It is expected that all Stage 2 students will attend as part of the PD/Health/PE syllabus. Pool entry is \$2.50, to be paid each Weds.

**Year 5 Excursion ~ Wed 10 June to Fri 12 June****The Great Aussie Bush Camp ~ Tea Gardens**

Preparations are being made for the Y5 major excursion to the Outdoor Education Experience Fitness Camp at Tea Gardens, just north of Newcastle. Notes have been sent home detailing the many activities available at the camp. All students wishing to attend the excursion need to pay a holding deposit of \$50 by Friday 3 April. The anticipated cost of \$250 is to be paid in full by 29 May.

**WPS WEBSITE OF THE WEEK****A 2009 Maths Dictionary for Kids by Jenny Eather**

An animated, interactive dictionary for students which explains over 600 common mathematical terms in simple language.



<http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/>

**MUSIC NOTES RE OPERA HOUSE EXCURSION**

The non-refundable participation fee for the Opera House excursion is now due. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity! If your child is involved in this excursion and has not yet paid the \$30 fee please contact the school office as soon as possible. Many thanks.

**Nicola Fraser, Music Tutor**

**TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS**

The Department of Education & Training has translated a range of useful documents for parents and caregivers. These documents have been translated into over 40 different languages, including Punjabi, Arabic, Spanish and many more. Should you wish to access these documents please visit:

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/index.htm>

**WE NOTICED THAT ...**

- ◆ **Blake Power** of **4/5M** is trying really hard in swimming
- ◆ **Jessica Midavaine** and **Brianna Hughes** of **6M** have been selected in the Coffs Area Senior Girls Cricket team, to participate at the North Coast selection trials in August

**WPS P&C****NOTICE OF AGM**

The P&C Annual General Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 17 March**, at 7:00pm to be held in the school staff room. All welcome.

Membership is only \$2.00 per year.

**Please note:** only paid members of the P&C have voting rights at the AGM and subsequent meetings.

**TIME TO LAUGH**

**Q.** Why did the man freeze his money?

**A.** He wanted cold, hard cash!

**Q.** Why did the robber wear blue gloves?

**A.** Because he didn't want to get caught red handed!

**WPS Staff Profile**



**Name:** Graham McKeough

**Position:** Mostly vertical

**Favourite Food:** Sushi in Tokyo, Pizza in Rome, Crepes in Paris and also Chinese

**Favourite Season:** Duck season (and spring)

**Favourite TV Programme:** Top Gear and House

**Favourite Movie:** Lord of the Rings

**Favourite Song:** We've got to get out of this place!

**Favourite Colour:** Blue

**Favourite Holiday Destination:** Rome, Paris, London

**Favourite Hobby:** Painting and gardening

**Favourite Animal:** Tiger (real), Dragon (mythical)

# Library News



## SMART Board Installation



The big news in the library is the installation of the SMART Board in Week 3.

The SMART Board is an interactive wall-mounted whiteboard with a touch screen measuring 155cm wide and 115cm tall. A projector puts the computer's desktop image onto the interactive whiteboard and works with any program loaded or available on the host computer.

Users can write on the interactive whiteboard in digital ink or use their finger to control computer applications by pointing, clicking and dragging, just as with a desktop mouse.

The SMART Board is a wonderful resource that engages students' attention and enhances instruction and learning. Each class is having a lesson on SMART Board use within their library lesson.

**Tanya Molloy, Teacher / Librarian**

## Interested in becoming a Library Monitor?

During Term 1 any student in Years 5 or 6 interested in becoming a Library Monitor is welcome to come to the library to assist.

Monitors will be presented with a Library Monitor badge at a special assembly early in Term 2, if they are still keen to fill this responsible role.



## Open Hours / Timetable / Stage Topics

WPS's Library is open Monday to Thursday. During the morning students may access the library from 8.30am to 9.05am for borrowing and homework.

The library is also open first half of lunch for K-6 and second half of lunch for K-2.

Our students are lucky to enjoy an air conditioned library with a huge range of books, the new SMART Board, various games and toys and a bank of 17 computers.

TIMETABLE			
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
KD	3/4G	3C	5A
KK	4J	1/2H	
1B		2C	
1RB		6M	
4/5M			
5/6R			

This term **Kindergarten** students are learning all about the library and Safety, in conjunction with PDHPE.

**Years 1 and 2** are learning about Australian Animals.

**Stage 2** students are studying Aboriginal Culture.

**Stage 3** students are studying Australian Icons as part of the HSIE component, "Values and Identity."

**All stages** will be beginning the Premier's Reading Challenge.

**Please ensure student's have a library bag for borrowing.**



**HELPFUL HINTS FOR PARENTS****'Beat the buzzer' game**

Getting your children ready for school or to leave the house can be a challenge, but there are ways you can encourage them to cooperate.

If you find yourself nagging and shouting a lot in the mornings, try the 'Beat the buzzer' game, developed by researchers from RMIT University, Victoria.

The key to this game is rewarding your child for being on time and ready. Praising your child will make an enormous difference. Parents often don't feel like praising their child for being ready on time because it's behaviour that is expected. But if you don't praise it, then don't expect it!

**How to play 'Beat the buzzer'**

- ◆ Explain that you want to introduce a game called 'Beat the buzzer' to help with getting ready in the mornings.
- ◆ Establish a 'ready time': your child must be ready for school at this time.
- ◆ Together, write a list of what your child needs to do in the morning. With younger children, you do the writing, but ask them to help you draw a picture for each one. Explain exactly what you expect them to do on their own and what you will help with. The list might look something like this:
- ◆ 'eat breakfast; get dressed; brush teeth; wash face; brush hair; pack bag and put on shoes'.

Once you have a list that you are both happy with, put it where your child can check it throughout the morning. Explain to your child what will happen if they are ready on time, and what will happen if they are not ready on time.

Choose some special rewards for beating the buzzer. Make up a simple chart to keep track of success with ticks or stickers. Activities with mum or dad are often the most effective rewards. Appropriate consequences for not being ready may be not being allowed to watch TV or going to bed 10-15 minutes earlier. Set the timer and leave your child to it. Let them know that you have set the kitchen timer for the required amount of time. Now it's up to them.

Encouraging your child to check the list rather than telling them what to do next, this helps them to become more independent. Watch for your child being independent and responsible; praise and encourage them. But avoid giving reminders and instructions, this will just lead you back to nagging or fighting. If your child gets all the tasks done by the time the buzzer sounds, they win!

If at the end of the time your child was not ready, calmly let them know that the buzzer has sounded and get them ready. Remind your child they can try again the following morning, but always follow through with the consequence you decided on. <http://raisingchildren.net.au>

**Woolgoolga Public School**

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Website: [www.woolgoolga-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.woolgoolga-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

**WPS SCHOOL CANTEEN**

**OPEN: Tuesday to Friday**

**CLOSED: Mondays**

*If you would like to help out, our canteen manager, Maree Hartin would love to hear from you.*

**FUN THINGS TO TRY AT HOME****The Bouncy Egg****What You Need:**

- ◆ 1 egg
- ◆ White vinegar
- ◆ A cup

**Activity**

- ◆ Pour the vinegar into a cup.
- ◆ Place the egg in the cup and store for a week or until the egg shell has dissolved.
- ◆ Go outside and drop the egg from just a couple of feet from the ground.
- ◆ It *should* bounce right off the ground without breaking!

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

*Woolgoolga Public School does not endorse or make any recommendation concerning community notices*

**AVROS HOCKEY CLUB**

Junior sign on is this Saturday 28 February from 12-2pm at the Hockey Pavillion. U7's, U9's, U11's less than \$60 the season. 13's under \$80. Also 16's, men's and women's teams. Boys and girls welcome. One venue. Regular game times. More information contact Mick Wunderlich Ph: 6642 6037 or Peter McPhillips Ph: 6642 5147.

**WOOLGOOLGA DANCE STUDIO**

Woolgoolga Dance Studio is running classes from WPS on Thursdays in Boys Break, Hip Hop, Lyrical Contemporary and Jazz/Funk. Please call Rebecca Ross for further information, on Mb: 0417 698 914.

**COUNTRY CLUB SWIM SCHOOL**

Enrolling now for Term 1, 2009. Pools are indoor and heated. Qualified, experienced teachers. Bookings essential. Email: [info@woolgoolgaswimschool.com.au](mailto:info@woolgoolgaswimschool.com.au) or Ph: 66542858.

**AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

For more information about 'After School Care', please contact the program coordinator on Ph: 6654 8554.

Vacation Care is also available each school holiday. Venue ~ Short St, Woolgoolga.

Monday  
to  
Friday