

Seahorse Tales

TERM 1, ISSUE 9

MARCH 27, 2008

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

YEAR 3 AND YEAR 5 BASIC SKILLS TESTS 2008

This year there will be no Basic Skills Tests for years 3 & 5 students, in August. The tests were developed for NSW students only. Instead there is a new set of tests, for years 3 & 5 students, and this time the tests will be administered nationally, to all students in these grades across Australia. Teachers and students are currently preparing for these tests. The new test dates for all year 3 & 5 students are:

- Tuesday 13 May~Language and Writing
- Wednesday 14 May ~Reading
- Thursday 15 May ~Numeracy

TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL FOR YEAR 5/6 KIDS

Yesterday saw the beginnings of a transition program for students who will be going to High School in the next year or so. It was coordinated by Leanne Dennis, from Woolgoolga High School, under a special program specifically designed for Aboriginal students. One of our students has written a short article for this newsletter, about the program. It sounds great! Over the following months more students will be involved in these transition programs, to help them better understand how high schools work, and feel comfortable about going to high school.

Cheers, Graeme Ross, Principal

NEWS ARTICLE FROM 1B

There are 23 children in 1B, 11 girls and 12 boys. We have a busy week learning all we can about different topics. This term we have been looking at celebrations in different countries as well as the different kinds of celebrations we have in our country and in our families. One such celebration is Easter and at Woolgoolga Public School we have an Easter hat parade. Some children have written a 'Recount' [writing about something that has happened] about making the hats and about the hat parade. Please read what they have written.

MAKING HATS

Yesterday we made some Easter hats. We are going to see the Easter eggs. After lunch we are having a hat parade.
Reagan Harris 1B

Yesterday we made a hat for Easter. I like the way I decorated it. I can't wait to show the parents.
Natalie McIntosh 1B



Yesterday we made our Easter hats and we wore them. After that we put them on the back table to dry and be safe for the parade.

Jacob Harvey 1B

Yesterday we made a hat for Easter. We made it for the parents to watch us in the parade. I like Easter. *Lily O'Brien 1B*

THE HAT PARADE

On Wednesday we had an Easter Hat Parade. We walked around a circle. We saw some lovely creations. It was in the cola. It was fun.

Jaymi Bardon 1B

Yesterday we had the hat parade and we had fun showing our decorated hats.
Reagan Scheuermann 1B



On Wednesday we had an Easter Parade. We were showing our hat that we made in class. Everyone was clapping. We were happy. They were happy as well.
Isha Maan 1B

Yesterday I won some Easter eggs in the raffle. I made a mask and put some decorations on it for the hat parade. We had fun.

Mady Jurotte-McVey 1B

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Harmony Day	Fri Mar 28
School Disco	Thu Apr 3
Shubert 7's Gala	Mon Apr 7
Cross Country	Thu Apr 10

CONGRATULATIONS!

Certificate of Merit

- ◆ Mya Thompson-KK
- ◆ Byron Grant-KK
- ◆ Chenoa Skinner-1H
- ◆ Adam Hennessy-2R
- ◆ Myadah Elsaid-2R
- ◆ Luke Williams-5/6R
- ◆ Sione Fangupo-5/6R

HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day is celebrated around the world to help foster cultural understanding and respect. Our school will celebrate Harmony Day on Friday. Students and staff are asked to wear as much orange as they can. Each class will be paired with a buddy class and students will spend time sharing books with one another. It promises to be a wonderful day for everyone.

Our Voluntary School Contribution is only \$20.00 per year, per student. All monies are used to purchase much needed resources. Please consider contributing if you haven't already done so. Many thanks.

ORIGIN OF THE SEAHORSE TALES

Have you ever wondered why the newsletter is called the Seahorse Tales?

Its name came about in 1995, when a school competition was held to promote the newsletter, and to give it a unique identity. The students came up with some brilliant ideas, and a selection panel was formed consisting of students, staff and community members to judge the hundreds of entries. After a very lengthy decision making process the name 'Seahorse Tales' was chosen because of its association with the school's seahorse logo as well as its connotation of 'stories, accounts, 'yarns', etc'. The competition was won by a very proud Brock Lamont, and the 1st Edition was printed on 21 July 1995.

NEWSLETTER CONTENT AND DELIVERY

Our weekly newsletter attempts to keep you informed about various 'happenings' at WPS. This year we have introduced some regular features. These include a section on 'Tips for Encouraging Good Behaviour', and also a weekly article about individual class activities. We hope you have been enjoying these new items. Many families are already taking advantage of accessing the Seahorse Tales via our school website, and we are currently investigating the option of electronic delivery for those families who have email facilities.

It's always good to receive feedback and to hear from the school community in regards to what 'you' would like included in the newsletter. With this in mind, I am seeking your input as to how we could further improve our newsletter. Please feel free to phone me at school with any suggestions or new ideas, or email me at:

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

*Yours in Public Education
Maxine McClelland (Administrative Manager)*

TIPS FOR ENCOURAGING GOOD BEHAVIOUR

RESPONSIBILITY & CONSEQUENCES

As children get older, you can increasingly give them responsibility for their own behaviour and the chance to experience the natural consequences of that behaviour. You don't have to be the bad guy all the time. For example, if your child forgot to put their lunch box in their bag, they will go hungry at lunch time. It is their hunger and their consequence and it won't hurt them to go hungry 'just that one time'. Sometimes, with the best intentions, we do so much for our children that we don't allow them to learn for themselves.

At other times you need to provide consequences for unacceptable or dangerous behaviour. For these times, it is best to ensure that you have explained the consequences and that your children have agreed to them in advance.

<http://raisingchildren.net.au>

Woolgoolga Public School

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Website: www.woolgoolga-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



CANTEEN ROSTER



Maree Hartin Raelee Wright	Fri 28 Mar
CLOSED MONDAY	
Maree Hartin Cathy Scott	Tue 1 Apr
Maree Hartin Dot Falzon	Wed 2 Apr
Maree Hartin Sandy Butler	Thur 3 Apr

NEWS ARTICLE FROM 1B cont:

We have also been involved in a SPOT program where speakers visit the school to talk to the children about looking after, and safely handling, animals and pets, especially dogs.



Here are some selected 'Recounts' of these visits.

On Monday Denise and Spot came to 1B classroom to show us how to pat dogs safely and to read the signs. Next we played a matching game. I felt happy because I like Spot.

Velvet Allen 1B

Today Denise talked about a dog, Spot, in 1B classroom. We had fun playing a matching game. Then we felt happy.

Sahaj Lalli 1B

On Monday, Denise and Spot, came to 1B classroom. Denise taught us how to pat Spot safely. She gave us a sticker. I felt happy because she let us pat Spot.

Chelsea Mallett 1B

On Monday, Denise and Spot came to 1B classroom, at Woolgoolga Public School. She taught us how to pat dogs safely and to read the signs. I felt happy because I got to pat Spot. Next we played a matching game. I felt happy because I like games. *Alex Rook 1B*

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

Details about the Autumn Vacation Care Program, and the booking form, can be downloaded from the school's website. It promises to be 'lots of fun'!

Monday
to
Friday

A BIG THANK YOU

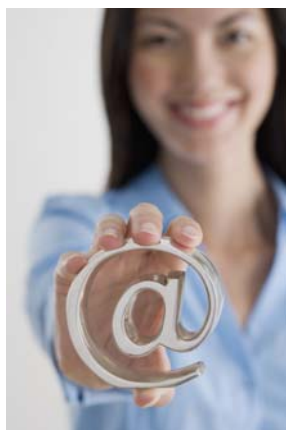
Thank you, thank you, thank you to all our families K-3 who filled in and returned the Priority School Program (PSP) surveys recently! We are very happy to announce that we were able to send away 100% of these surveys. An amazing effort.

We are all crossing our fingers now while waiting to see if we have been accepted in to this much sort after program that will mean valuable extra funding for our school to improve literacy and numeracy programs.

Our lucky draw for \$50.00 Cinema Vouchers took place at our K-6 assembly on Wednesday 26 March and our lucky winners are pictured below.

'Enjoy your visits to the cinema!'

*Kerry Dibb
(Assistant Principal and PSP Coordinator)*



WANT TO RECEIVE THE SCHOOLNEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter via email, so you can see all the wonderful pictures in colour, plus the newsletter 'paper free', please contact the school by emailing your address details to:

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

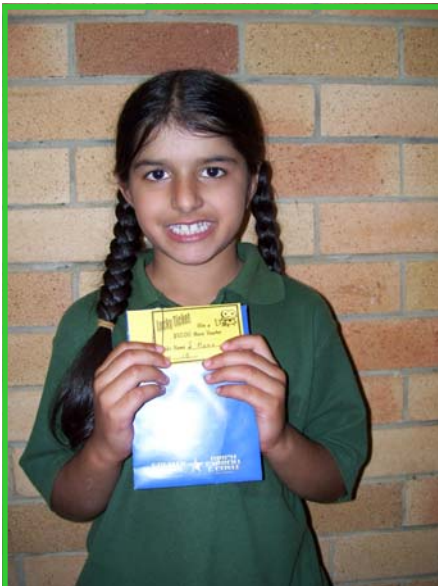
We will add your email address to our **contacts list**, so that you receive the 'Seahorse Tales' electronically each Thursday.

You might also know of a family member (grandma, etc) that also might like to receive the newsletter via email. Just let us know and we will be happy to oblige.

Graeme Ross (Principal)



Jake Hoyle



Isha Mann



Adam Hennessy

HERE ARE THE LUCKY WINNERS WITH THEIR '\$50-00' BIRCH CARROL COYLE CINEMA VOUCHERS

ADVANCED NOTICE ~ 2008 CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

Our school Cross Country Carnival, weather permitting, will be held on **Thursday 10 April, 2008**. Further information will be sent home shortly. All students must remember to wear appropriate footwear, sunscreen and hat on the day. An extra bottle of water is also required (labelled with the name of the student - thankyou).

Students will soon start training 'to get fit for the carnival. Please remember that parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are all welcome to come along to watch this wonderful event. Hope to see you there!

IS YOUR CHILD LOOKING FOR SOME EXTRA POCKET MONEY?

The ADVOCATE newspaper need paper deliverers in this area.

For more information call
The Coffs Coast Advocate today
on Ph: 6650 2919
and ask for Christine Webb

BANDANAS, WOODWORK, ART AND THE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

On Wednesday 26 March, Aboriginal students in years 5/6 went to the high school and participated in a textiles class. We made bandanas. First we used a machine to cut and sew the edges then we ironed the edges of the bandanas. We then pinned the ironed edges in place. We then used a sewing machine to sew down the edges. They look great. We will be continuing this program, doing other things like woodwork and art.

Written by Chloe Sankey (5-6M)