Week 4 Term 1 Tuesday 16th February 2016

Dear Parents and Friends,

Congratulations to all of the students on their participation and achievement in the events at last Thursday’s Walbundrie Small School’s Network Swimming Carnival. A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard to help host the carnival at Walla Walla pool. The P&C did an incredible job to run the canteen and supply a BBQ lunch for all five schools. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Mrs Dittko and Miss Widdison who were behind the scenes organising the paperwork so that the carnival ran smoothly. It is my wish that we can continue to host this event as we have the only pool in our Small School’s Network. I look forward to your ideas and comments about this at the next P&C meeting.

The Southern Riverina Swimming Carnival will be held this Friday 19th February at Lavington Swimming Pool. Permission notes and information was handed to qualifying students yesterday. Please return these to school as soon as possible.

Sport in Schools Grant

Walla Walla Public School was successful in receiving a grant from the Australian Institute of Sport and the NSW Department of Education. The funds received will enable the school to introduce the students to a different sport each term through a series of workshops held at the school.

Visual Arts Opportunity for Year 5 & 6

Walla Walla Public School was also successful in their application to join the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery’s Aboriginal Arts program this year. The students will study the artworks of Wiradjuri artists and learn to produce works using different methods over the course of several months.

In Term 2, students will travel to Wagga Wagga to participate in language, culture and art activities at the Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery.

In Term 3, we will proudly hang selected pieces of our own framed art as part of a large exhibition to celebrate this year’s theme ‘Gulbalanha: to know and understand each other’. This will be open to the public for several weeks.

I was part of this project in 2015 and found it to be one of the most rewarding visual arts programs I have ever been involved with and I am confident that the students at Walla Walla Public School will enjoy the program as much as I have.

The project is fully funded by the NSW Arts Unit.

The “Tell Them From Me” Student Feedback Survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is attached. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Monday 29th February.
**Gum Swamp Environmental Day**

Thank you to the P&C executive and Kathie Le Busque for meeting yesterday with the staff to discuss an Environmental Education Day for all K-6 Walla students planned for early next term. This is the result of the Walla Walla P&C receiving funding after a highly successful Community Small Grant application being lodged to the Local Land services - Murray as part of the National Landcare Program in conjunction with the Australian Government. There is an enormous amount of organisation involved with many specialist speakers being invited to run workshops for the students. Further details will be presented as the date gets closer.

**Year 6 Shirts**

Our Year 6 students are proudly wearing their Year 6 shirts this week. We thank the P&C for their generosity in donating these shirts and helping our students to feel a sense of belonging and leadership.

**Canteen**

Parents, please check with your child that they are ordering appropriate food from the canteen. We have noted that many of our younger students are unable to eat a whole hot dog, plus perhaps an ice cream and a milkshake, and a lot of food is going to waste. Smaller items of food may be more appropriate for your child, and please be aware that you can also order a HALF milkshake.

**Hats**

Our new Broad-Brimmed school hats have arrived and can now be purchased for $13.00.

_Helen Duncan_
_Relieving Principal_

**P & C News**

- We have made a date for our next P&C meeting, which will also be our AGM. Tuesday the 1st of March at 7pm in the senior classroom. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY, only for this meeting, due to so many other things on a Monday. Everyone is welcome to attend. Any apologies please contact Shelley on 0428290362.
- Our next Catering at the Walla Bowling Club is Friday the 4th of March from 6:30pm. Come along and support your School, while at the same time enjoying a delicious meal.

_Shelley Schilg_

**Dates for the Diary**

**2016**

**Term 1**

*Friday February 19th* - SRPSSA Swimming  
*Friday February 19th* - Albury PSSA Tennis Trials  
*Tuesday 1st March* - P & C Meeting  
*Friday March 4th* - SRPSSA AFL Trials (Howlong 12.30pm)  
*Thursday March 10th* - SRPSSA Soccer Trials (Jindera)  
*Friday March 11th* - SRPSSA Netball trials (Culcairn)  
*Monday March 14th* - Small School’s Athletics Carnival  
*Monday March 15th* - Healthy Harold Life Education Van  
*Wednesday April 6th* - Small School’s AFL and Netball trials (Walbundrie PS 4.30pm)  
*Questacon* - Brockelsby PS – Date to be confirmed

**Canteen Roster**

22nd February: Tania Watkins, Rebbeca Brown  
29th February: Karla Lieschke, Jess Torrens