Wyong Public School
Community Update 2014
Create; Inspire; Succeed

WYONG PUBLIC SCHOOL HEROES

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<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>Eliza R, Justin B, Mason E, Tim G, Elise B.</td>
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<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>Courtney L, Bronnie T, Tahnaya H.</td>
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| Avatar Awards | Stage 1 | Molly C, Lana McD, James S, Zacary D, Mackenzie H-B, Erin C. |

Last day of school Wednesday, 17th December 2014.

School resumes years 1-6 Wednesday, 28th January 2015.
Principal’s Report

Presentation Day

We thank everyone for their attendance last week at both the Infants and Primary Presentation Assembly. I particularly thank the school leaders Lachie, Montana, Jessica and Cody for running two exceptional presentations for the school; and also acknowledge the work done by Miss Taylor in organising these two events with her helpers (Mrs Tremble, Mrs Bishop, Miss Garland, Mrs Wells and Mr Duncan). It has been a well organised and strongly coordinated event and we thank them. We also thank Brian Hilton Motors, IGA Wyong, Bendigo Bank and the Wyong Credit Union for their continued support though out the year.

Thank you to the friends and families who supported the days and we trust you enjoyed both presentation days.

Classes 2015 – school returns for years 1- 6 28th January 2015

Students and parents will be informed about classes and teachers on day one of school in 2015. The school will organise separate assembly areas across the school to accommodate this and the executive will coordinate this.

The Y4L classes for stages 2 and 3 will continue as normal for 2015. The Y4L class for stage 1 will not continue in 2015. We could not fill the year 1/2 class for 2015 with enough students and therefore have made this decision.

Teachers at Wyong Public School will continue to differentiate the curriculum to meet the needs of all students and their learning abilities. Identified gifted and talented students will also be provided with opportunities to be extended, within mainstream classrooms and students will have access to areas of the schools technology programs.

Book Packs 2015

Today you should receive a note regarding student book packs for 2015. I request that all families purchase the book pack by the end of week 2, Term 1 2015, to support the class teaching and learning program.

Camp Australia

The new after school care group Camp Australia is seeking new enrolments from day one next year here at Wyong PS. Please go to the website at http://www.campaustralia.com.au/Service/NSWWyongPublicSchool/24C1 or phone Camp Australia on 1300 105 343.

Welcome Mrs Bacon

Our new assistant principal Mrs Bacon has officially joined Wyong PS this week from Lethbridge Park PS. Mrs Bacon will supervise year 1 & 2 and has already spent time in classes meeting students and familiarising herself with the school and organisational matters. Mrs Bacon has many years’ experience and will this experience will be of great benefit to the students, staff and community at Wyong.

Aboriginal Assembly - Wyong HS

Congratulations to all award recipients from the assembly at Wyong HS last week. This was a tremendous morning with Wyong P.S. students receiving various awards. Our students performed with Dance Groups and Choir and demonstrated their wonderful skills and ability. Thank you to Mrs Bundy for her coordination Jesse Hope-Hodgetts and the staff who attended (Mrs Bishop, Miss Garland and Mrs Pass).

As this is the final newsletter of the year we wish to remind everyone that all students (except kindergarten) are due back on 28/1/2015. Our 2015 kindergarten have all received notes for their start
dates. We trust you will have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year with family and friends. Put your feet up for some well-earned rest, and enjoy the time away from work and time at home or away. We hope to see everyone back here later in January. On behalf of the entire staff and students thank you for a superb year, and we will see you all back in late January.

Reminders

Parents taking children early from school
From time to time we have students being picked up from school before 3 pm. We understand this may be for appointments and special occasions, and need your help to ensure that these appointments are conducted outside of school hours as much as possible. Student learning time is paramount and if your child has to leave early we do ask you to write a note to their class teacher to enable them to be ready to leave school on time. It is very difficult for the office to call children down to the office at short notice for appointments and by ensuring the class teacher is aware of your child’s early departure this would assist the office staff.

Mr T Miladinovic

String Program 2014

During 2014, students from years 2-6 (with an emphasis on students from years 3 & 4), have been part of the String Program. This has provided a practical music education where students have learned to play a stringed instrument.

Throughout the year, more than 100 students were involved. Approximately 80 students attended the program each day. The program is inclusive and all students from those classes participating, were invited to attend. Most students are encouraged to continue, however some did leave the program or left the school. The numbers remain fairly steady.

The class size is determined by the number of instruments so generally has a maximum of 20. Up to 15 are a preferred number and using only violins especially with the younger years. The school has 11 violins (I have 4 extra that are used as well), 3 cellos and one double bass. Many students have purchased their own instruments through involvement with the program. This is a natural evolution and encourages commitment and responsibility, allowing playing skills to develop.

The 7 classes held on Fridays were from 30 – 45 minutes: Combined Stage 3 (11 students), S3G (10), S2A (15), S2CF 2 classes (19)& (6), S1/2M (13), S2F(19). A String Ensemble was held before school (28 from the above classes with many having their own instrument). This developed ensemble/ playing skills as well as preparation for the commitment necessary for the Instrumental Festival. This proved to be very popular. There was often a lunch time group and sometimes even a recess one.

Within the class, students learn the 4 open strings diagrammatically, by rote, and then move on to reading traditional music notation. It is always such a natural process when approached this way. These skills of connecting a mark or symbol with a sound cannot be underestimated. There is much focus and concentration involved. They create and explore the possibilities of sound and in the process are able to perform both known and unknown pieces of music. Students improvise and organise their own sounds individually and in groups.

The classes vary according to interest with a wide overall repertoire. This depends on the interest of the class. I.e. drums and guitars have been incorporated into performances or students are encouraged to research performances. S3G worked on a film score for a horror movie, complete with their own non-traditional notation. Some other classes found it difficult to leave “What shall we do with the Drunken Sailor”. There were many variations on a theme with different orchestrations and percussion added and some wonderful performances. Movement is also explored with inspiration from “string themed” performances. In this way, the wider musical world is incorporated into the classroom.
The Instrumental Music Festival has been a great goal to work towards with the more advanced students. There is quality in the material played as well as the rewards of the venue. For those students it is a highlight of the school year. The end of year community performances also provides a performance goal.

Through playing, students become aware of patterns, phrasing, structure, melody, form, pulse, rhythm and tempo. Within Music these concepts occur in time and space. Like sport there is much body awareness, however unlike sport there is the ultimate and that is the abstraction. Music is created with organised sounds but these both create and represent an expression, a mood or a feeling. Not only are we working with others in a team, learning to listen, read, focus and concentrate but individually we come to express ourselves.

The program allows for students exposure to creating their own musical sound both individually and in groups. Music through commitment and participation, working to socialise and develop the individual, by giving them the capacity to make their own music and to develop self-esteem within an inclusive environment.

Mrs Reynolds- Teacher

**Aboriginal Education**

Pat Bridge painted these brush holders. The brush holders were made by John Doran. Each stage now has a set of high quality sable-style brushes for art work. During the visit of Brett Parker in NAIDOC Week we could see the potential of students to produce better work as Brett allowed students to use artist-quality brushes. Following this we purchased these brushes and some artist-quality paint for each stage. The paintbrush holders painted by Pat will help us care for these brushes.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly of Excellence was a great success, well done to our wonderful students.
Year 6 Farewell

Our Year 6 students celebrated their graduation from Wyong Public School at our Year 6 Farewell last Wednesday evening at Wyong Golf Club. The students had a very enjoyable evening and looked very grown up. These students have represented our school well over the time they have been here and we wish them all the best as they move on to the next exciting phase of their lives – high school.

A big thank you to the parent volunteers: Jacqui Boyd, Heather Dainer, Jes Kroemer, Megan Hitchens, Kylie Brown, Melanie Webb, Cathi Humphrey-Hood, April Izzard, Tracy Callaghan and Karen Barson for their help at the working bees, setting up the venue, and preparing decorations and items. Also another big thank you to Adrian and Lisa Warwick at Billabong Patisserie, East Gosford for their extremely generous donation of providing our farewell cake. Please help support Billabong Patisserie to show our thanks! Our farewell would not have been possible without our generous parent and community support - thank you all very much.

Holly Casamento

Year 6 Farewell Coordinator