



NEWSLETTER No. 11

Thursday 16 November 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are now past the halfway mark of the term and across the school we are busy planning for the end of 2023 and the start of 2024. The community survey you completed recently also helps with our future planning. Last Wednesday, at the Board meeting, we went through the feedback obtained and noted the relevant areas where the questions and the comments reflect areas for improvement. I thank everyone for their involvement in completing the survey. Between questions asked in person or through email, I am often asked as the new Principal how and when change happens across the school. Smaller areas of operational running get changed as the need arises. As I've arrived at a time when we are reviewing and redrafting the next Business Plan, this starts an audit across the school of all our processes and procedures to determine what is an operational change such as our day to day curriculum or processes, or what needs to be a strategic change, such as those elements included in our next Business Plan. Our audits help highlight what we are doing well so we can either keep or strengthen those elements and help identify areas for improvement. This is a lengthy process often taking up to a year to completely map out change required to be implemented across the school in its next strategic cycle. We do this slowly and methodically to ensure any change is planned for and managed effectively and efficiently. In Term 1 next year, we will be at a point where we can present to you some draft work in the business plan and provide you the opportunity for further feedback. Once the Business Plan is completed, drafted, and officially goes live, I will begin to talk in the newsletter about the changes in direction as we work towards them and provide information on how we are tracking our strategic directions as a school.

At present, we are busy planning our school structures and staffing for 2024. Schools always

try and offer the best structure they can based upon a few factors including, student numbers, staffing capacity and future proofing. We are also required to comply with classroom size rules set by the Department of Education. Wherever possible we try to avoid split classrooms, but the reality of the numbers we have may dictate the necessity for it. Schools are often in situations where the future numbers may fit perfectly into one or two classes, so for example, a school might have only 32 year 6's enrolled, which in itself is the maximum class size, but this then does not provide any capacity for students to be allocated to that class who move into our local intake area which are guaranteed a placement at the school. The required action at that point would then be to re-structure the school which as you can imagine is incredibly disruptive to do throughout the schooling year. That is often why splits are necessary to account for movement. Across this year in every term, we have gained students and lost students as families move in and out of the area, so this is a very real factor for which we must account.

At this stage, our school and most schools typically have a few class structures in mind and as we near the end of the year, we tentatively lock one in place as the preferred model for our internal staff reference and planning purposes. However, until the first few non-student days back, where schools often get enrolments walking through the door prior to school start, we typically cannot make this information public, in case the new enrolments at the beginning of 2024 change the entire school structure. By the time we release the class structure and reveal student placements, it has given us enough time to account for change and to provide a model that is unlikely to change throughout the year. Where schools are required to restructure throughout the year, it has often been due to an unforeseen movement in enrolments that could not have been predicted. I hope that gives you a little bit of insight into how we plan classes and school structures.

In the event space, please stay tuned for the notices that will come out regarding our exciting events coming up. Many classes have end of year excursions planned and we have Christmas on the Green coming up on December 6.



Lastly, I would like to thank the presenters and parents who attended the 2024 Kindergarten information session last Friday and the Positive Parenting Program this week. It was positive to see the turnout and welcome you to our Greenwood community.

Thank you.

Dean Gill
Principal

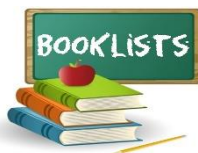
REPORTS

Staff have been working hard on gathering all the data sets and finalising these documents. They will be distributed via Connect to parents on Tuesday **12 December**.



BOOKLISTS

This year we are using Champion again as our supplier for our booklists. You can now order online at <http://www.champion.com.au>.



Campion offers free delivery for orders placed by **18 December 2023**. Please note delivery charges for orders placed after this date will be \$8.00.



HONOUR CERTIFICATE WINNERS

TA2	Cooper
TA3	Sage, Lily
TA4	Lucy
TA5	George, Daphne
TA6	Mila, Scarlett
TA8	Toby, Sasha
TA9	Georgia, Willow
TA10	Tim, Richard
TA11	Malachi, Sophie
TA12	Nina, Lucy
TA13	Aubree, Kaeley
TA14	Mia, Lawson
TA15	Kian, Isabelle
SUSTAINABILITY	Eneas, Michael, Connor

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello Greenwood Community!

We are halfway through the term – I don't know about you, but this term is absolutely flying, and it will be the end of the year before we know it. Even though it is almost time to celebrate, it is important to keep that routine going, maintain those bedtimes and with this wonderful weather we have been having... head out into the great outdoors. Studies have shown that spending more time outside increases concentration, lowers aggression and increases a child's ability to cooperate. Make sure you continue to check in with your child/ren, celebrate their progress and just be there. Emotions and feelings tend to heighten this time of year, it's perfectly normal; reassure them, listen to them, but remind them that these things they are feeling and experiencing are only temporary. They will get through it – and so will you!!

Despite the warmer weather, the library at lunchtime has been buzzing with students coming in to colour, draw, read, play games or do jigsaw puzzles. Very excitingly, our Christmas crafts are getting underway this week to allow as many students as possible to have the opportunity to create some Christmas-themed masterpieces. Watch this space or for your child/ren bringing home their creations!! The library is open at lunchtime for students from years 1 to 6 on Wednesdays to Fridays as an alternative to outside play, allowing students to have a quiet space to unwind and reset for their afternoon. The only downside is that time flies when you are having fun!

Emma Swan
Chaplain



SUSTAINABILITY

BATTERIES:



Greenwood Primary School is very focussed on “Reducing, Reusing & Recycling”.

During the 2023 school year, the students, staff and school community have so far collected approx. 45kgs of dry cell batteries. That is a lot of waste not going into landfill. The household battery (dry cell) recycling program will be collecting until the end of Term 4 and we encourage all families and staff to bring in your old batteries and leave them in the bin provided outside the Library or TA 2. The passage below gives more information on why we need to recycle batteries and the products that can be made from them.

Battery facts:

- Batteries are the most common form of hazardous waste disposed of by Australian households, with 97% ending up among usual rubbish collection in landfill.
- When batteries are dumped into landfill their casings disintegrate and metals and chemicals used within the battery can leach into the surrounding environment. Preventing the batteries from going directly into landfill, by participating in the battery recycling program, will remove this risk.

Battery Recycling:

The batteries collected in this program will first be sorted. The components and metals are then separated, melted and recycled into new products such as street lights, new batteries, car parts and steel frames for houses.

Batteries which cannot be recycled in Australia will be exported to existing European battery recycling facilities.

What batteries are not accepted?

Automotive and sealed lead-based (Ph) – These can be taken to your next Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop off day. Visit www.wastenet.net.au/events for more information.

Mobile telephone batteries.

Batteries have a huge impact on our environment and with your help we can prevent them ending up in landfill.

*Thank you,
from the Sustainability Committee*



Dates to Remember

November

- 17** Assembly TA2 & TA3
- 21** Warwick SHS Transition Day

Waste Free Lunch Day

- 29** Kindy 2024 Transition Session – 9.15am – 10.15am

- 30** Kindy 2024 Transition Session – 9.15am – 10.15am

December

- 1** Assembly TA11
- 4** Yr 1 Pop Magic Incursion
- 6** Yr 2 NDGC Excursion
Yr 3 Bounce Excursion
- 6** Christmas on the Green
- 11** Year 4 & 5 High Flyers

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Indonesian

In Term 3, the students were learning about Indonesian Independence Day and why it is a very important day for Indonesian people. We watched the 'How Indonesian people commemorate and celebrate this very day' and cooked Indonesian treats to celebrate this day. Students in years 3-5 were making "Martabak Manis" with crumpets whilst years 1-2 students were making Indonesian flag with rice crackers.

The students were surprised with the topping combinations that the Indonesian people love to put on their Martabak. They had *Susu Kental Manis* (condensed milk), *pisang* (banana), and *keju* (cheese). They all said it was "Enak sekali!"

