

Warranwood Primary

Middle School Newsletter

Term 2 2017

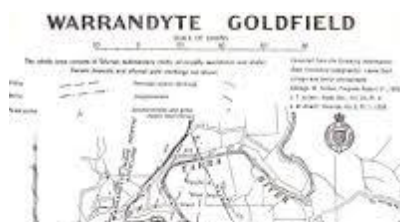
Welcome Back

Welcome back from your restful Easter holidays where we hope you didn't indulge in too much chocolate! What a busy time Term 1 was with all the beginning of the year festivities, House Swimming Sports, Information Nights, Getting to Know You Interviews, school photos and the Swimming program.

Term 2 is going to be just as busy, although a little longer! We began the term with reflecting on the significance of ANZAC Day. Upcoming events include Mother's Day, NAPLAN, Learn by Doing incursion, Open Day/Night as part of Education week, with reports and interviews to finish off the term.

River of Voices

River of Voices is a whole school project being undertaken in Term 2 and Term 3. This will begin with an inquiry approach culminating in a collaborative group project presented at the end of Term 2. Students will be researching aspects of the history of Warranwood's area in relation to indigenous culture, gold, agriculture/urbanization and the future.



Term 1 Swimming Program Croydon Aquahub

The Middle School staff have observed the students participating in an active and skill based swimming program at the Croydon Leisure Centre. The students worked on stroke techniques and water safety skills in each 45 minute session in the final fortnight of Term 1. The group sizes were as low as 1:6 and the Warranwood students were commended by the instructors for their listening skills, application and personal improvement that was made throughout the program. We are hoping the students will apply their swimming knowledge and skills to water activities in their leisurely aquatic pursuits.



Science Unit: Force

This term we are excited to introduce our science focus on Force. Students will be looking at force and motion, friction, pushing and pulling, and gravity. Students will be exploring, testing and developing their understandings through a range of challenged based learning tasks and a selection of experiments. Students will be using a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) approach to design, plan and create a number of models related to force. Students will have the opportunity to participate in experiments, attend an incursion (Learning by Doing) and create their own force generated machine. Here are two of our students actively engaged in creating their own marble run, something all classes have now begun as part of this focus.



Camp Jungai – Term 3

The Middle School camp this year will take place during third Term from Monday August 28th until Wednesday 30th. Camp Jungai will provide a wide range of outdoor adventure experiences and indigenous culture.

The camping program at Warranwood plays an important role in developing students' resilience and independence. The experience of camp provides students with valuable real life opportunities to manage their own world and find solutions to challenges that arise.

Many Middle School students are already comfortable with being away from home for short periods of time. This may include sleep-overs at friends' houses and/or staying with relatives. If your child is not comfortable with this please start the process to prepare them and ensure they have the opportunity to be comfortable with being away from home.

The expression of interest form and payment information will be available in the coming weeks. Camp information evening will be held on Wednesday June 21st at 7:30pm in the library.

We will require several parent helpers on camp. If you are interested please express this in a letter addressed to Roseanne Parsons (Camp Coordinator) with details about yourself and the experience that you can bring to the camp - a Working With Children Check is required. Letters need to be returned by Friday June 16th.

Please see the Preparing for Camp hints sheet on the last page.

Mother's day stall will be held on Wednesday 10th May.

Mother's Day Stall



A variety of gifts will be available for purchase with prices ranging from \$1 - \$6 .

YEAR 3: NAPLAN

NAPLAN is the measure by which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians have the literacy and numeracy skills and knowledge that provide the critical foundation for other learning and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community.

The tests can provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are only one aspect of each school's assessment and reporting process and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

NAPLAN tests some skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the National Statements of Learning for English and Mathematics which underpin state and territory learning frameworks.

In the classroom, some preparation is undertaken to familiarize students with the format and structure of the NAPLAN tests. Students are encouraged to develop their independent, time management and problem solving skills. This preparation is completed to reduce anxieties and develop confidence in their own abilities to produce their best.

The 2017 NAPLAN tests will take place on May 10th, 11th and 12th.

Term 2 Important Dates



Tuesday 25 th April	ANZAC day
Thursday 27 th April	Cross Country
Wednesday 10 th May	Mother's Day Stall
Wednesday 10 th May	The Fathering Project 7.30PM
Tuesday 9 th May	Year 3 NAPLAN Testing
Wednesday 10 th May	
Thursday 11 th May	
Monday 22 nd May	Deposit notice for Camp Jungai going home.
Tuesday 23 rd May	District Cross Country
Wednesday 24 th May	Open Day/Night
Wednesday 24 th May	Power of One Incursion
Monday 12 th June	Queen's Birthday
Thursday 15 th June	Indoor Movie Night
Tuesday 20 th June	Pizza Day
Wednesday 21 st June	Camp Information Night 7pm
Friday 23 rd June	Semester 1 Reports available on Compass
Monday 26 th June	Parent Teacher Interviews
Tuesday 27 th June	
Friday 30 th June	Term 2 Ends at 2:30pm

Middle School I.C.T Program



At the beginning of the year all Middle School students signed a computer use form agreeing to follow school protocols including respect for equipment and appropriate use of websites. It is important to empower younger internet users with the knowledge of how their reputations can be affected by their interactions online, what language and actions are considered appropriate online, and to give them practical strategies to avoid participating in negative online behaviours. As a result we have offered the students the opportunity of using Edmodo as an educational platform.

Edmodo is a closed online community where students can save work and post it whilst giving and receiving feedback from peers and teachers. This provides a tremendous forum for learning beyond the classroom. The Edmodo program will also support our ongoing cybersafety initiatives over the year.



Coding is an important skill for students across all year levels to increase their development of problem solving, critical thinking and creativity, and it helps to prepare students for the digital age. Hour of Code is a student friendly program which allows students to collaboratively work to solve problems and in turn create 'lines of code'.

Our school has subscribed to Typing Tournament Online. This website enables both home and school users to access this highly effective typing tutor. Children learn to type best by regularly practising the skills using all ten fingers on the correct keys. A letter has been sent to all Middle School parents informing them of this new program and how you may assist your child at home.



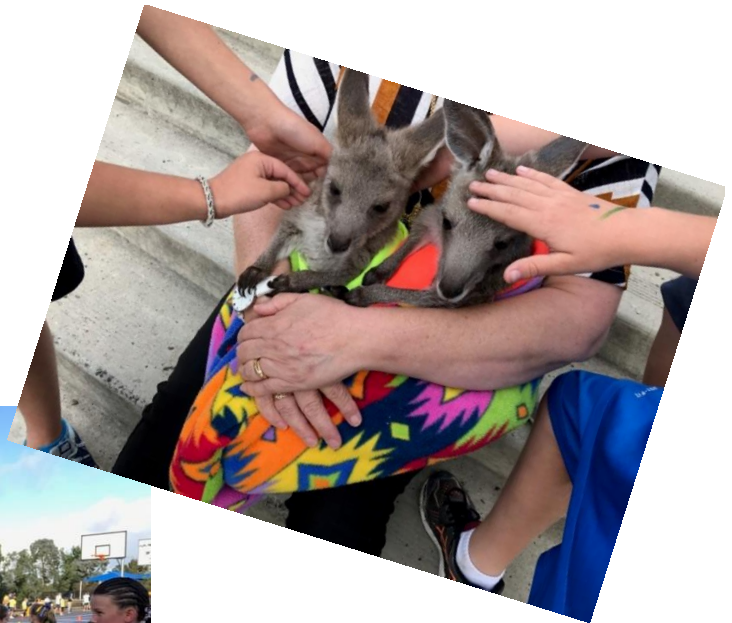
Middle School Sport

Our sporting experiences will continue throughout Term 2, with students regularly playing a range of games in house teams. Students are encouraged to focus on good sportsmanship, doing their best, encouraging others and maintaining a positive approach.



Reporting and Interviews

At the end of this semester we will again be issuing reports (available on Compass) and holding interview afternoons and an evening. The opportunity to speak with parents and share students' achievements and celebrate successes is an important event on the school calendar. Stay tuned for information when bookings open for the interviews via Compass. Of course should you feel the need to share a concern or query about your child or their progress please contact your class teacher to ensure that the home-school communication is at its best.



Preparing for camp – some helpful hints

The face of parenting is changing.

Too many parents hover around their kids not giving them the space to grow up or grow away from them. Fear is a factor that drives the move toward this constant hovering.

Helicopter parents have forgotten that their job is to make themselves redundant as soon as possible. Not redundant in an emotional sense but in terms of practical independence.

These helicopter parents generally over-parent; bubble-wrapping their children in parental concern. And it's not healthy for children. They need to be able to grow up free from having to please their parents, free to make their own mistakes and free to feel discomfort. We learn so much from our mistakes and some of life's disappointments. The stronger the wind the stronger the trees has some currency here.

Parent-as-coach is the answer

Rather than be a helicopter parent, help children cope with difficulties and challenges by viewing your role as that of a coach.

Help children overcome difficulties that they encounter:

- 1. Reframe the difficulty as a challenge rather than a problem.** Even use the term challenge when speaking about the issue. "Going to school camp can be a challenge but I think you have what it takes to get through it." Kids take their cues about how they view the world and events primarily from parents so if you see problems everywhere then it would take an innately optimistic child to see them over-wise. Your attitude is catching!
- 2. Encourage by showing confidence in children's abilities to overcome difficulties that they meet.** If you think that a child can't do something then you are probably correct. Children generally meet their parents' expectations whether they are positive or negative. Parents also need to keep children's confidence up when they experience difficulty
- 3. Teach children the skills and mechanisms to cope with their difficulties.** Talk them through challenging situations and give them ideas to help them cope. You may even rehearse some skills or the language that they may need in certain circumstances.
- 4. Give your child the opportunity to deal with the problem in their own way.** Don't keep checking up on them. For instance, one parent who was unsure if her son could cope with being away on a three day camp found excuses to visit her child twice. The sub-text to this type of monitoring is that she didn't think her child could cope.
- 5. Praise them for their success (or partial success) in getting through the difficult circumstances.** It may also be useful to deconstruct the event with older children. "What did you do to help you get over your fears when you spoke in front of the school?"