



## Welcome back to an exciting new year!

To our new families, a warm embrace as you join the Wallaroo community, and to our returning families, welcome back. I trust that each of you have had an enjoyable and rejuvenating break over the festive season. A special greeting to all the fresh faces gracing our halls in 2024 I wish you all the very best and look forward to getting to know each of you better throughout the year. Furthermore, a hearty welcome to our newest additions to the teaching team: Terri Evens in Prep/1, Abbey Ritchie and Meagan Resuggan in 4/5 and Jemimah Rogers in 5/6.

Over the break we have been very busy improving our facilities. This included the installation of plush new carpets in rooms 7 and 8, the addition of air conditioners in the Common Room and First Aid room, and the introduction of sleek tables and chairs in our fresh outdoor learning space.

We've embarked upon the new school year with resounding positivity, and eagerly anticipate a year brimming with learning opportunities. From Prep to Year 6, students have seamlessly settled into their routines. The school gates swing open at 8:30 am, just in time for our 'Brekkie Club', ensuring a hearty start for every student, every day. At 8:50 am, the music will sound the commencement of our 'Ready to Learn' program, signalling the beginning of the school day in each classroom.

This year, we're thrilled to offer specialist classes in Physical Education, Visual Arts, STEM, Music, and Library studies. Additionally, we're exploring the possibility of launching a senior school band!

In 2024, our commitment to implementing our school-wide Values Education and Positive Behaviours for Learning program remains unwavering. This program is dedicated to fostering positive decision-making and cultivating essential skills for taking charge of our learning journey. Classroom dialogues about our school values and expectations have already taken place and are prominently displayed in each classroom. At the heart of this initiative lie our school values: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Your Best. It is our collective expectation that all members of the school community, including students, staff, and families, uphold these values. They serve as guiding pillars for our shared journey, where Wallaroo PS is recognised as a cherished hub for learning, work, and personal growth.

I extend my congratulations to our School Leaders for 2024. Paige and Hayley have been appointed as School Captains, with Abbey and Melodey serving as Vice-School Captains. On Monday, our School Leaders will embark on a Leadership Conference in the city, where they will hone their skills to become highly effective leaders.

Finally, but by no means least, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Jenny and Adam Brennan on the arrival of their little bundle of joy, Tyler James Brennan, born on January 9th.



Kind Regards

Kieran Walta

Acting Principal

### **Dates to remember:**

- |        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 12 Feb | Student Leadership Day     |
| 14 Feb | Prep Rest Day              |
| 16 Feb | Random Act of Kindness Day |
|        | Assembly—1/2CA presenting  |
| 21 Feb | Prep Rest Day              |

# Student Work Showcase

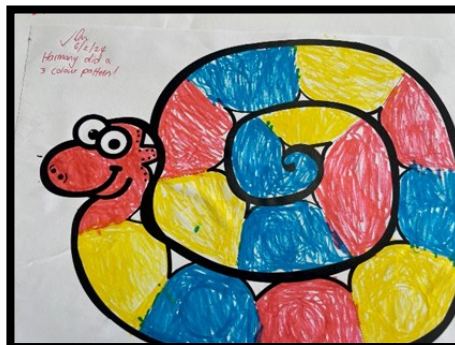


Each and every day our students display positive behaviours for learning! This week we celebrate...

## Prep / 1 E

### Harmony

In our recent Math lessons, we delved into the fascinating world of patterns! Through engaging hands-on activities, our students honed their skills in creating and extending patterns. Notably, Harmony showcased her mastery by crafting a vibrant snake adorned with a captivating three-color pattern. Exciting discoveries await as we continue our journey through the wonders of mathematics!

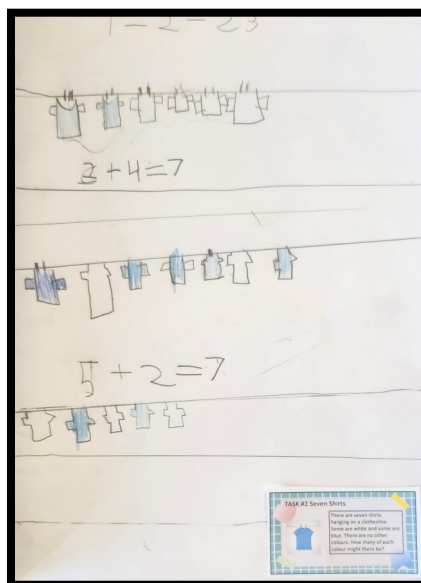


-Mrs. Evans & Carlie

## Year 1/2 CA

### Natalie

Natalie has had a great start to the school year, displaying a positive attitude to all learning areas. She has enjoyed participating in our open-ended Maths tasks this week, problem solving, working collaboratively, and using materials in the classroom to support her to solve many problems. Keep up the great work Nat!



-Mrs. Clark-Allison & Maria



## Year 3/4 G

Savi

This week, our class created flowers to represent various acts of kindness. Savi skillfully articulated numerous ways she can demonstrate kindness on each petal, displaying genuine pride in her efforts. It was heart-warming to witness such dedication to spreading positivity within our community.

- Mrs. Graham & Jack



## Year 4/5R

Kaden

This week, we delved into the theme of friendships, exploring what qualities make a good friend. In a creative activity, we crafted flowers, each petal symbolizing a characteristic of a supportive friend. Kaden showcased his understanding by articulating various reasons why he considers himself a valuable friend, enriching our discussion on fostering meaningful connections.

-Mrs. Resuggan, Mrs. Ritchie and Corinna

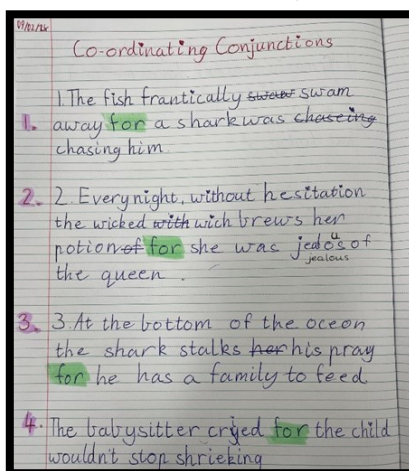


## Year 5/6R

Maia

This week in our literacy sessions, the Grade 5/6 class delved into the art of crafting compelling sentences. Exploring the use of coordinating conjunctions, we discovered how they inject vitality into our writing. Using the word 'for' as our muse, Maia impressed us with her creation of captivating sentences, sparking inspiration for all of us to elevate our writing skills further.

- Miss Rogers, Mrs. Wells and Deb



This year at Wallaroo, we've embraced a new whole school instructional model in Literacy called Explicit Direct Instruction. This teaching and learning practice has strong research behind it with the aim of improving our students' retention of new knowledge through a variety of engagement techniques and regular revision. This innovative approach not only facilitates the acquisition of foundational skills but also creates mental space for higher-level skills such as reading comprehension, written composition, and problem-solving.

Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) is characterised by highly structured, explicit teaching and constant checking of student's understanding through effective questioning. Teachers provide clear, fast paced content in smaller chunks of time, while students actively engage in practise and application through structured activities and exercises. Student participation is paramount whether it's talking, writing on their whiteboards, pair-sharing or reading with the teacher, students are actively involved in their learning every 1 minute.

In each newsletter edition, we will introduce an engagement norm that students are actively employing in every classroom. This week, we're spotlighting the "pair-share" norm:



**Pair-Share** - This norm provides students with the opportunity to articulate their responses to a peer in their own words when prompted by the teacher, enabling them to process information. The Wallaroo classrooms have been abuzz with deep conversations as students enthusiastically share their understanding with their partners.

Both teachers and students have embraced this new evidence-based approach with great enthusiasm, and we are excited to see the growth our students will make in their learning.

## **Annual Privacy Reminder for 2024**

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website [www.wallaroops.vic.edu.au](http://www.wallaroops.vic.edu.au)

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#).

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

#### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

#### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- ⇒ **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- ⇒ **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.





# SOMERVILLE

# TENNIS CLUB

# OPEN DAY

## SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2024

10 AM - 12 NOON

PARK LANE, SOMERVILLE



ACTIVITIES

SERVE RADAR

PRIZES

HOT SHOTS

GIVEAWAYS

FAMILY FUN DAY



# February

# Student Birthdays

5th Ella

9th Lily

15th Imogen

20th Parker

24th Hayley

25th Akuol

26th Ollie

Don't forget your birthday book from Mr Walta!





# 2024 Student Leaders

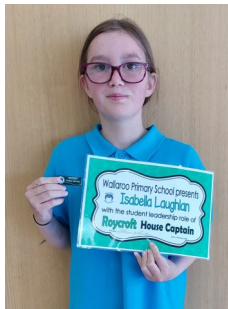
## Cuthbert House Captians



## Mockridge House Captians



## Roycroft House Captians



## Fraser House Captians



## Wallaroo Primary School Captians & Vice Captians

