



# WIRREANDA WHISPER

GROWING IN HARMONY

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TERM 1 WEEK 6 2017

[www.facebook.com/WirreandaPS](https://www.facebook.com/WirreandaPS)  
[www.wirreanda-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.wirreanda-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

## Principal's Message

Welcome Miss Maddie Guider!

Miss Guider joins our team as a permanent staff member. We welcome her to our school community as she takes 1G.



At Wirreanda PS the teachers and I work very hard to make the children independent and responsible for their learning and their behaviour. The Kindergarten children are now well settled into routines and have a good understanding of their responsibilities.

We ask parents to now please leave as the bell goes at 9.20am, unless you are volunteering or staying for a Monday Assembly.

Of an afternoon, parents are asked to stay well clear of the COLA and any area past the admin entrance, waiting on the grassed area in front of the school or the NOLA.

## Every Day Counts!

Going to school every day is a vital part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

It's not justifiable to keep your child away from school for: their birthday, shopping, visiting family and friends, a hot/or cold day, if they sleep in, minor check-ups or care such as haircuts.

## The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and parents must sign child/ren in at the office, even if your child is only 5 minutes late.

**Our 3 Way Conferences are in Week 10 and 11 this term.**

- **ES1: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**
- **S1: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**
- **S2: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**
- **S3: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

This form of parent-child-teacher communication helps to establish and build upon positive home-school partnerships with a focus on goal setting. Teachers will also discuss and gather information to assist in supporting your child as well as sharing observational information about how your child has



Education  
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settled in and commenced the new year of schooling.

3 Way Conference Bookings will be open from Tuesday next week.

Go to: [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au)

Enter the code: **nm745** in the code box, then follow the simple steps to book your preferred time.

Please note the new cross country course has been published at the end of the newsletter. Students will run a short section of the event along the footpath outside of the school this year. The course has been changed due to hazards running between buildings on last year's course.

*Kind regards, Philippa Young*  
**Principal**

## **NAPLAN**

### **National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2017**

In May 2017 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 9th-11th May 2017.

**TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY** Language Conventions & Writing

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY** Reading

**THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MAY** Numeracy

Friday 12th May – A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

**Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.**

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school

principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

**Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the school.** If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment through the office if you would like to discuss your child's participation in NAPLAN.

## **Deputy Principal's Message**

### **Cup of the Week**

Congratulations to 4O and 2C who have received the Cup of the Week over the last fortnight. While our You Can Do It focus is Getting Along, classes that are awarded the Cup, generally demonstrate many other outstanding qualities. Well done 4O and 2C.

### **Interrelate**

The Family Evening Interrelate Program was very well-attended by Wirreanda families. Thank you to our presenter, Lara for running such interactive, informative sessions. The Family Evening Program will be run again in 2019.

### **Clean Up Australia Day**

Clean up Australia Day will once again be on the calendar at Wirreanda this week. As a school, we take great pride in maintaining our school environment as a litter-free area and by recognising Clean up Australia Day we are showing our commitment to the wider school community as well.

This year Mr Stonell, the Clean-up Australia Day organiser, has provided a challenge to the students in Stages 2 and 3. Each class is going to produce an artwork, invention or creation from rubbish! Each exhibit will be judged by Ms Young and the winning class from each stage will receive a prize.

Kindergarten and Stage One will be cleaning up around the school grounds.

### **Road Safety**

There has been an excellent response to the students completing the Bicycle and Scooter Agreement. This is one way of demonstrating a

responsible attitude to riding safely to and from school. Thank you to the students who have handed their forms in at the office.

### Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Joshua Bohan who will be representing Wirreanda at the Zone Swimming Carnival on Friday. Joshua will be competing in the 50metre freestyle event and we wish him the very best of luck.

**Have a wonderful fortnight,  
Mrs Sue Wilson**

## Parent Workshop

**2:45pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
Library**

Come along and learn about our new:

- Behaviour Levels
- Recognition Scheme

Please RSVP via our skoolbag app

### Save the Date in 2017

- 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Cross Country
- 29<sup>th</sup> March - Athletics Carnival
- 6<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Hat Parade
- 7<sup>th</sup> April - ANZAC Service
- 4<sup>th</sup> May – Zone Cross Country
- 19/20<sup>th</sup> June - School Photos
- 24<sup>th</sup> August - Book Week Parade
- 28<sup>th</sup> August - Stage 3 Camp

SCHOOL ACTIVITY REMINDERS		
Activity	Due	Cost
Yr 6 Souvenir Shirt	10.3.17	35.00
ICAS Competitions	31.3.17	Varied

### Canteen News

**We urgently need volunteers!** especially on the following Fridays – 10<sup>th</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> March & 31<sup>st</sup> March. If you can help us out, even for a few hours, please contact Sharon in the Canteen.

### Sushi Success!

I hope that all of the students enjoyed trying the sushi. Thank you to Lisa Janssen, Sheridan Hicks,

Kelly Reeves, Kylie Hill & Susan Patten for making the day a success.

**Before school** - purchases can be made from 8:50 – 9:10am, Monday-Thursday we have milo and toast and we have juice cups, yoghurt & fresh fruit available every day. Lunch orders must be handed in before 9:20am.

Recess items vary each day and will be written on the Canteen's blackboard.

Children in Yrs 1 – 6 need to bring their lunch bags to the canteen to collect any pre-ordered drinks. Kindergarten only has their pre-ordered drinks sent to the classrooms with their lunches. Please remind your children what you've ordered for them.

If your children are wanting on ice block at lunch PLEASE DON'T ORDER IT WITH THEIR LUNCH, give them the money separately. We're finding a lot of the children are forgetting to collect them and/or throw away their lunch bag.

Please come and see me if your child/ren have any special dietary requirements to discuss menu options. I usually have gluten free bread, chicken tenders and meat pies in stock. (Prices vary from the standard menu)

### Canteen Roster:

#### Week 6

Thur 2<sup>nd</sup> L Matthews, J Donohue, K Haworth  
Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> P Ashpole, M Taylor, J Ross

#### Week 7

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> K Bennett, A Bradshaw, E Grice  
Tues 7<sup>th</sup> K Bennett, L Cutajar  
Wed 8<sup>th</sup> K Hill, G Smith  
Thur 9<sup>th</sup> L Matthews, J Donohue  
Fri 10<sup>th</sup> L Brooks **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

#### Week 8

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> K Bennett, A Bradshaw, E Grice  
Tues 14<sup>th</sup> K Bennett **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
Wed 15<sup>th</sup> K Hill **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
Thur 16<sup>th</sup> L Matthews, J Donohue  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> J & A Smith, P Ashpole **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Sharon Grant  
Canteen Coordinator



## PAID ADVERTISING

Wirreanda's newsletter contains paid advertisements, which assist with the cost of publication. The publication of such advertisements does not imply endorsement of any product or service by the NSW Department of Education or Wirreanda Public School.



**saverplus**

### Stressed about back to school costs?

Would \$500 help pay for uniforms, books, excursions, tutoring, a laptop or tablet?

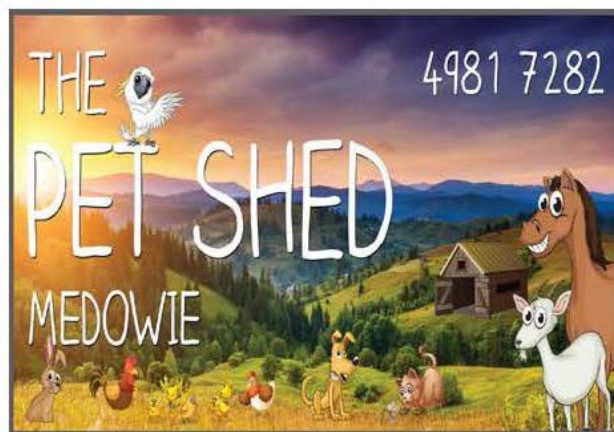
Saver Plus matches your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to \$500!

You may be eligible if:

- you have a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession card and,
- you or your partner have some regular income from work such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work.

**Contact Cynthia Culhane**  
your local Saver Plus Coordinator:  
02 4032 4703 / 0418 699 646  
or [cynthia.culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:cynthia.culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au)

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in the Newcastle area by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government. Find more information at [saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au).



**21 Abundance Road Medowie**

**Open 7 Days**

**Weekdays 8.30 am to 5.30 pm**

**Saturday 9 am to 1 pm**

**Sunday 9 am to 12 pm**



*Em's  
Pony/Horse  
Riding Lessons*

Medowie, NSW

**What you can learn and experience during a lesson:**

The basics of learning to ride from the ground up  
Horse/pony care & maintenance and why it is important.  
Safety when around horses/ponies  
Confidence building both on the ground and in the saddle

**Lessons available for Children and Adults**

**Prices:**

30 Minute Lesson - \$30.00  
45 Minute Lesson - \$40.00  
60 Minute Lesson - \$50.00

If you have questions or would like to book a lesson please send a message to my Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/em.keats.37>  
**PH 0457132255**

## Ethics Classes at Wirreanda Public School

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

1<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Ethics classes are available as an option in NSW public primary schools during the Special Religious Education/Special Education in Ethics (SRE/SEE or 'scripture') timeslot. Primary Ethics is the charity authorised by the Department of Education to create curriculum and train volunteers to deliver ethics classes. The ethics curriculum is available for children from Kindergarten through to year 6, however due to the number of Ethics teachers available at Wirreanda, this term the program will only be offered to **Stage 1 students**. The class will be available to 22 students, selected on a first-in basis.

Ethics classes are discussion based, covering a range of age-appropriate topics. Children learn to express their own views as well as to listen carefully to, and consider, the views of others.

Ethics classes are delivered by trained volunteers using approved lesson materials. Volunteers are usually parents from the school community including:

- Ethics teachers who deliver classes each week
- An ethics coordinator who recruits and supports volunteer teachers and liaises with the school to organise classes

Ethics classes will be commencing in Week 8 this term and will be held every Thursday afternoon.

Please return the slip below by 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 if you are interested in choosing ethics for your child.

For more information on the curriculum and volunteering, please visit [primaryethics.com.au](http://primaryethics.com.au) or contact Megan Rowan at [wps.primaryethics@gmail.com](mailto:wps.primaryethics@gmail.com).

Philippa Young  
Principal



### ETHICS CLASSES 2017 – Stage 1 Students

**Please return this form by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March if you are interested in choosing ethics for your child in 2017**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ethics classes at Wirreanda

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Could you be an ethics teacher for Wirreanda?

Ethics teachers receive full training by Primary Ethics, the not-for-profit organisation approved to design curriculum and training for the ethics program. Training consists of a two day workshop and short online modules. Lesson materials are provided. Suitable volunteers have an interest in children's education and development of critical thinking skills and must be available Thursday afternoons each week.

In ethics classes, children learn how to think logically, disagree respectfully and support their arguments with evidence, rather than act according to blind habit or peer pressure.

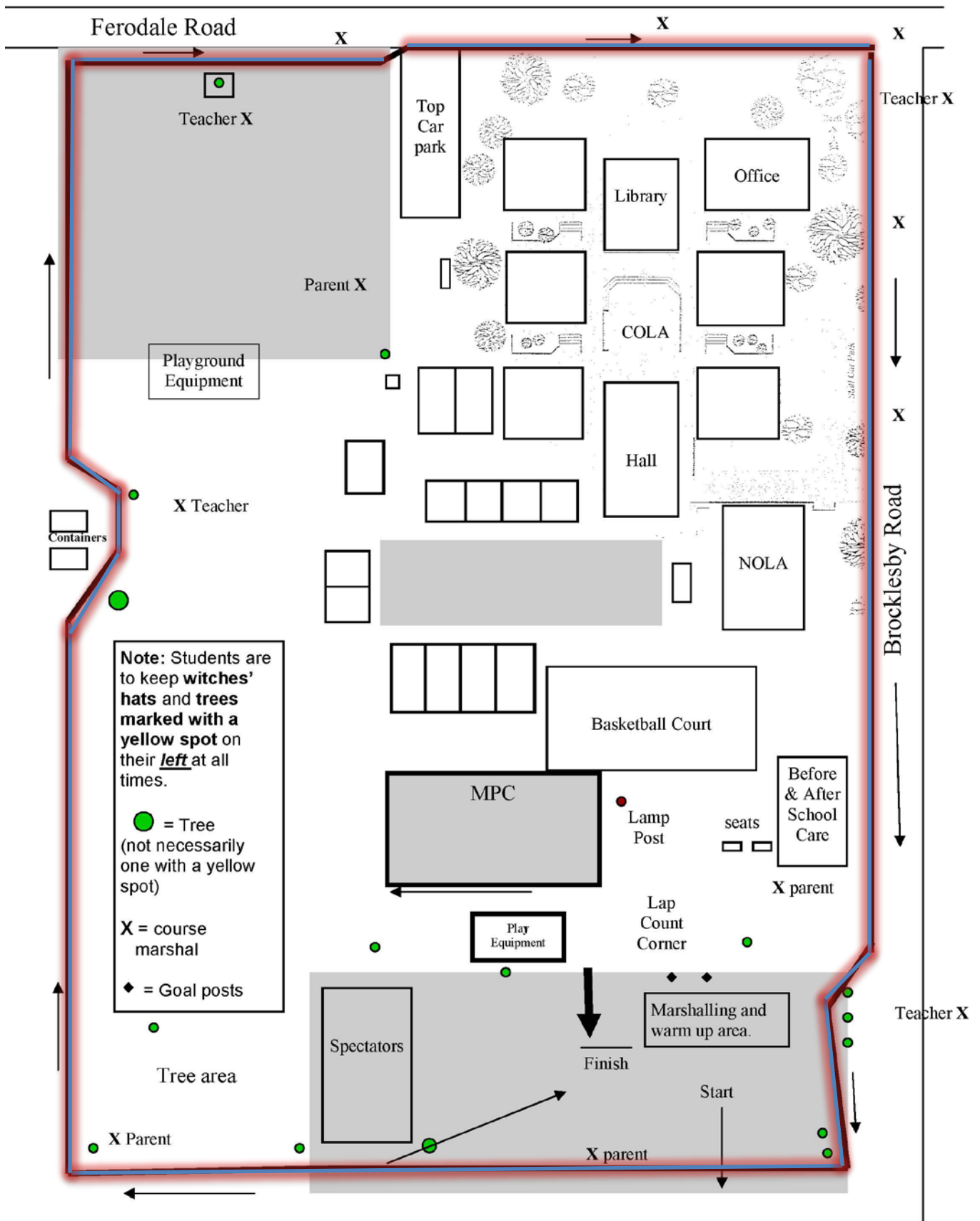
Children discuss topics such as:

- imagining how others feel
- how do we treat living things?
- what is laziness?
- how do we disagree in a respectful way?
- fairness

If you are looking for an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to our school, please visit [www.primaryethics.com.au](http://www.primaryethics.com.au) and/or contact Megan Rowan at [wps.primaryethics@gmail.com](mailto:wps.primaryethics@gmail.com)

Philippa Young  
Principal

# Cross Country Course 2017



# Term 1 Wirreanda Public School 2017

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6	27 Feb	28 Feb Family Interrelate Evening	1 March	2 March Interrelate Year 5 PSSA Swimming	3 March Interrelate Year 6 Clean Up Australia Day Kindergarten Photos
7	6 March	7 March 3:30pm P&C Meeting	8 March	9 March Scripture starts	10 March Interrelate Year 6 Yr 6 Souvenir shirts \$ due
8	13 March	14 March	15 March Yr6 GATS Day	16 March Stage Assemblies Begin	17 March National Day of Action Against Violence & Bullying
9	20 March	21 March Harmony Day	22 March Sushi Morning Tea in Canteen	23 March School Cross Country	24 March
10	27 March Hunter Cricket Trials Stage 3 3-Way Conferences	28 March Stage 2 3-Way Conferences	29 March Athletics Carnival 3-6	30 March <b>AWARDS ASSEMBLIES</b>	31 March ICAS \$ due
11	3 April Early Stage 1 3-Way Conferences	4 April Stage 1 3-Way Conferences	5 April	6 April Easter Hat Parade	7 April ANZAC Day Assembly
School Holidays					
Term 2					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	24 April Staff Development Day	25 April ANZAC DAY	25 April Students Return K-6 Assembly	26 April Year 4 Bridge Building GATS	27 April