Cuppa and Cake
Thank you to all of those parents attending our Cuppa and Cake afternoon. It was fantastic to see some new faces as well as some familiar ones! The topics were the ‘Homework Debate’ and NAPLAN which lead to some great discussions. We value the input and contributions of our families and look forward to our next catch up.

Homework Review
Following on from our Cuppa and Cake we are conducting a full review of our Homework procedures in Primary. This will involve surveying families, teachers and students to find out what our needs are as a school community in regards to homework.

We would love to get feedback from as many people as possible so we have create this easy online survey for families:

http://goo.gl/forms/jV30RQdYBE

I will also be sending this link through our distribution list. This is your chance to have your voice heard. Students will be completing their survey at school. I will give you feedback on the information collected in our next newsletter!

Cake Day
Our first Cake Day of the year was a great success with the P&C raising $240! Thank you to all of those that volunteered their time and their cakes for this to be a success.

Awards
Bronze Awards:
Dennis Holland (K/1)
Amelia Murray (1)
Matilda Denmeade (2)
Tobey Cooke x 4 (2/3)
Chloe Greco (2/3)
Ayrila Purins x 2 (3/4)
Liam Lackenby (3/4)
Ciara Milson (4)

Silver Awards:
Tobey Cooke (2/3)
Liam Lackenby (3/4)
Matilda Denmeade (2/3)

Wadalba Winner Draws:
Thorpe: Kane Gibbs & Alannah Bryant
Bradman: Thomas Burgstaller & Dennis Holland
Hall: Chelsea O’Neill & Jake Rogers
Freeman: Harrison Ward & Brianna Spiken

Assembly Classes of the Week:
Yr 4 and 3/4
Language, Learning and Literacy (L3)

This year our Kindergarten teachers are training in L3. L3 is a research-based, cost effective Kindergarten classroom intervention, targeting text reading and writing.

Students receive explicit instruction in reading and writing strategies in small groups of three to four selected students. Students then rotate to independent individual or group tasks. This occurs in the daily Literacy session. If you have a child in K or K/1 and would like more information please speak to your child’s teacher.

Assembly Roster

Assemblies are held on Fridays commencing at 11.00am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>13th Mar</th>
<th>Yr 2/3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>20th Mar</td>
<td>Yr 3/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>27th Mar</td>
<td>Yr K/1</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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Disco:
Wednesday 18th March

This term we will be trialling a new format for our school discos. Both the K-2 and 3-6 discos will be held on the same night with a $5 payment required at the door on the night.

The theme this term was chosen by our student leaders and will be:

**WHITE BLACK**

So dress in your favourite black and white clothes!

K-2- 5:00pm to 6:15pm
3-6- 6:15pm to 7:30pm

Students can be dropped off and picked up at the Primary hall at the above times.

**In the Spotlight:**

A new classroom teacher

Name: Mrs Resli Calverley
I started teaching at Wadalba in: 2015
This year I teach: K
My favourite colour is: Red
My favourite food is: Peanut butter ice cream
My favourite book is: At the moment I am reading The Twits by Roald Dahl with my children and reliving some great times.
My favourite movie is: Mrs Doubtfire.
My favourite subject at school is: English. I love exploring new texts and finding new words to use and share with my class. I love reading and the joy it can bring to not only the reader but to the loved ones it is shared with.
In my free time I love: spending time with my husband and two children, watching soccer, walking my fur child aka our beagle Arthur and cooking.
My kids are: Layla 10 years young and Alex 6 years young.
If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be: to London to explore my husband’s family background and meet relatives face to face rather than through Skype.
Chinese New Year
Last week our students celebrated Chinese New Year. They learnt about the beliefs behind CNY and created a beautiful dragon that has the finger prints of every student.

Mrs Lee-Anne Collins

Lunches
We are finding that many students are either eating all of their food early in the day (such as before school or recess) or not bringing enough food to school. Many students seem to not have food at lunchtime. Please discuss this with your child to ensure they have enough healthy food to last them the day and help them focus on their learning.

Lost a note?
Did you know that many of the notes sent home are available online? Go to the Primary section of our website and go to ‘Notes Home’ and you can print a spare anytime you need one!


Harmony Day- 20th March
This year Harmony Day coincides with a live broadcast from STAR104.5 from 6am. This broadcast will be live from outside our high school canteen with all Wadalba students and families welcome. At 8:30 any Primary students present will be moving back to the primary area to their regular classes for further Harmony Day activities.

Facebook Page
Don’t forget to like our Facebook page so you can get instant updates of what is happening at our school.

Our Road Safety Focus for Term One is PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Children need an adult to hold their hand when crossing the road until they are at least 8 years old!
You are invited to our first ever ‘Easter Hat Parade’!

Where: Outside our Primary hall
When: Wednesday, 1st April, 2015
Time: 8:45am
Students Bring: A gold coin donation & an Easter Hat

Please help your child make a hat at home for this event. You can either decorate a hat or make one from scratch.
For children who would like help to make a simple hat at school instead Mrs Fitzpatrick will be holding a lunchtime workshop.
Our Easter raffle will be drawn at this time as well as the winners of our Easter Egg Design competition.

Community Board:
A FANASTIC source of information for families on everything from what type of school shoes are best to understanding NAPLAN!
Clean Up Australia Day- 27th March

The whole day was a great success. The students learnt about why we need to keep Australia clean and then did a fantastic job of cleaning up the school. Thorpe came first with collecting the most rubbish and gained 100 points for their house, Then in second place we had Hall on 75 points and tying third was Bradman and Freeman gaining 50 points for their team. But gaining an extra 10 points for good sportsmanship was Freeman.
We can't believe it is Week 6 already. Time flies when you're having fun!

We are settled into our routines and have already made new friends. We enjoy participating in fitness every morning to get rid of our never ending energy and on Fridays, we are learning Minky Ball.

We enjoy learning about Maths and how much fun you can have while learning. We get to play maths games and work with our friends- what’s not to like!

We’re mad about Maths!!
Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

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 must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principal may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school. We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.