Tell Them From Me Surveys

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

If you do not want your child or children to participate, please print and return the consent form (available on the website above) to school by Friday 11th March.

Selective Test- Year 7, 2017

WCS offers students who are academically minded the opportunity to sit a school selective test. This test will help determine the best class placement to suit your child’s educational needs and will be used to support the development of the Year 7 Academic Classes for 2017. To be eligible to sit the test, a student must be within zoning for Wadalba Community School. The test is an independent test developed and marked by the University of NSW. The test will be held at school on Thursday 17th March, 2016. (This date was pushed back an extra day as advertised previously due to the Sydney North Swimming Carnival). The test will take 2 hours. Parents/ caregivers who wish their child to participate must complete a signed permission note and pay $18.70 by Friday 4th March. Late entries will not be accepted. If you require another note please go to: http://www.wadalba-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/selective-test-year-7-2017

Clean Up Australia Day

This year is the 26th anniversary of Clean Up Australia Day. Our school will be holding our event on Friday March 4th. We invite all students to help clean up, fix up and conserve the environment in and around our school. Thank you to all our families for your constant support.

When: Friday 4th March

Bring: A pair of gloves (material or disposable) and a plastic bag.

Dates to Remember:

1st Mar- Parent/ Teacher Interviews
3rd Mar- Debating team workshop
4th Mar- Clean up Australia Day
7th Mar- 5/6B Assembly
10th Mar- Selective High school placement test
13th Mar- Wadalba Markets
14th Mar- 1/2G Assembly
17th Mar- Yr 7 2017 Academic test
17th Mar- Body Image Workshop: Cuppa & Cake
18th Mar- National Day of Action against Bullying
21st Mar- Harmony Day
21st Mar- 4/5G Assembly
23rd Mar- P&C Meeting- AGM
23rd – 24th Mar- Smart Start workshops
25th Mar- Good Friday
28th Mar- Easter Monday
30th Mar- Disco night
4th Apr- K/1C Assembly
8th Apr- ANZAC Assembly (students only)
8th Apr- Last Day Term 1

Awards

Bronze Awards:
Oliver Peate (1)
Janayah Boyden (2)
Bayley Chant x 2 (2)
Aadan Herder (2)
Mae Couch (3)
Elizabeth McNally (3)
Hannah Brown (3)
Chloe Greco (4)
Charlotte Harris (4)
Joshua Whaite (4)
Liam Partridge (6)
Charlotte Robertson (6)

Silver Awards:
Liam Partridge (6)
Mae Couch (3)
Charlotte Harris (4)

Wadalba Winner Draws:
Thorpe: Netania Barrientos & Nate Burgess
Bradman: Liam Partridge & Will Keegan
Hall: Gabielle Roper & Semi Leweniqila
Freeman: Gabrielle Sonter & Yooralla Samuel

Assembly Classes of the week:
2S & K-6W
Parent Information Night
Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on the afternoon and evening of **Tuesday 1st March**. We use an online booking system where you can see the available appointment times for each teacher and select a time that suits you. Timeslots are 10 minutes each and range from 2:40-6:30pm. Go to: [http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and use the event code: S5Q6T

You will be emailed a confirmation once the booking is complete. Bookings close on Monday 29th Feb. On the day, ensure you arrive prior to your interview time to assist with the smooth running of the event.

If you are unable to make it on this night and still wish to have an interview, please contact your child’s teacher directly to arrange another time either in person or over the phone. You can do this by sending a note with your child or contacting the office to leave a

Library Monitors
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as the 2016 Library Monitors:

- Tayla Bott
- Lauren McManus
- Emily Hancock
- Maddison Porter
- Montana Moffat
- Madison Verdi
- Alannah Bryant
- Chloe Greco
- Hollie Greco
- Asma Kadarkhan

Our Road Safety Focus for Term One is PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Plan your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible.

Always hold your child’s hand. Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.

Orchid Way, Wadalba 2259  **Website:** [http://www.wadalba-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.wadalba-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/)  **Email:** wadalba-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au  **T:** 024356 2888
Community Board:

RAP-P WORKSHOP: PREPARING PARENTS FOR TEENAGE YEARS

The Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents in association with Uniting has been developed for parents of teenage and pre-teenage children and is designed to equip parents with the knowledge and tools to assist their children's progress through their teenage years safely and happily.

The free one day workshop presented by the Reconnecting Adolescents and Parents Team (RAPT) will be held at Evolution Youth Service on Thursday 10 March.

Being a parent of a pre-teen or teenager is enjoyable, challenging and demanding.

It is a time of big challenges as our children are starting to move from being children to becoming adults.

They may face challenges like:

- Learning to be independent while still feeling the security of home
- Becoming their own person and feeling good about themselves.

RAP-P will help me:

- Help my teenager to develop healthy self-esteem
- To gain independence while still feeling safe and part of the family
- Manage my stress so I can do my best job as a parent
- Prevent and manage conflict with my teen
- Promote harmony in my family.

The RAP-P one day workshop will be held on Thursday 10 March from 9:30am to 2:30pm (lunch will be provided) at Evolution Youth Service, 2 Ross Street Woy Woy.

Spaces are limited, book today on 4342 3684.

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Body Image and Young People Workshops and Cuppa and Cake Session

Wadalba Community School is hosting ‘Body Image’ sessions for students, parents and carers of students. The session is aimed at promoting healthy body images in young people. The session is being run by a wellness coach who has a great deal of expertise in the area of the psychology of eating and promoting a positive body image in young people. The session has been specifically designed to meet the needs of the parents and students within our school, based on the information we put forward to them.

The sessions will address and explain:

- Why positive body image is important
- Mindful eating
- A case study
- Strategies that can be used to assist children who are experiencing body image concerns
- Answer any questions that you may have

Two sessions will be run for primary students in Years 4-6 and will be followed by a parent/carer information session.

Parents/Carers and Teacher Cuppa and Cake Session

Where: Primary Hall
When: Thursday 17th March
Time: 1:30pm -2:30pm

Email: wadalba-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au T: 024356 2888
Swimming Carnival Report

Last Thursday Years 3-6 and some Year 2’s who are turning 8 this year, attended the swimming carnival at Wyong Olympic Pool. Many students participated in different events and races. Students that were spectators were all supportive and cheered on their houses. At the end of the day students, teachers and parents enjoyed a relay, and all the students that hadn’t been in the pool throughout the day went and cooled down in the wading pool. The final house point scores were close with Hall winning on 259 points, followed by Thorpe on 254, Freeman on 181 and Bradman on 172.

By Tayla Bott and Jorja Boyden (Thorpe House Captains) – Go THORPE!!

In the Spotlight:

Our new Classroom Teacher!

**Name:** Miss Kendal Hindmarch  
**I started teaching at Wadalba in:** 2016  
**This year I teach:** K/1, 6HM and RFF  
**My favourite colour is:** Purple  
**My favourite food is:** Caramello Chocolate  
**My favourite book is:** the Hunger Games series  
**My favourite movie is:** Remember the Titans/ Forrest Gump  
**My favourite subject when I was in school was:** English and Maths for opposite reasons. I love that Maths is black and white; there is always a correct answer and alternatively, I love that English is based on perspective and creativity.  
**My favourite subject to teach at school is:** Inquiry Units. I love providing students with an opportunity to take some initiative with their learning and seeing where it leads.  
**My family is:** Myself, my partner Mitch and my son Kyan  
**I love teaching because:** when you are inspiring learning and encouraging children to reach their potential, every day is rewarding  
**If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be:** to travel through Europe, it has been my dream for over a decade.
CLASS LIFE IN 3N

Half way through the term already and 3N has settled well into new classroom routines. They are all enjoying learning and are participating with enthusiasm in any activity!

In 3N we were lucky enough to have eight new students join us this year. Zack, Mischa, Chelsea, Nevaeh, Natallia, Tahj, Christian and Jett are fabulous additions to our school community and have already formed strong friendships in and out of the classroom. All of our students in 3N have been friendly and welcoming. I am very proud of them all.

Last week we had our first Drama lesson for the term. Together with 2S we had a lot of fun! Our amazing high school teacher Ms Wright has a passion for drama that clearly rubbed off on the students. We became snakes, crocodiles, elephants and tigers. Ms Wright was very impressed! Sport is always popular in 3N. This term we are focussing on throwing and catching skills. Students have enjoyed playing Newcombe Ball, which is a modification of Volley Ball, and touch football. We may even have some future champions on our hands!

Students are working well in our new format literacy groups and are working hard to improve their writing skills. Maths groups are always fun.

3N have been using Class Dojo to reward positive behaviour. The class have been responding well and they all love to change their avatars when they get past 10 points! Students can receive points for many categories including home reading, homework, listening, participating and trying your best. I hope parents are finding it a useful tool as well.

It has been a fabulous, fun and busy start to the year in 3N!
Why connect at school?

Peter held his daughter Rachel’s hand tightly. It was a first for him to be taking Rachel to school. His heart was pounding as they made their way to the classroom. There was the teacher, Ms Lim. She smiled at them, “Welcome Rachel, hello Peter.” Another child waved at Rachel. She seemed happy to have a friend to play with. So why was Peter still nervous? “We’re having a morning tea for parents next week. Will you come?” Ms Lim asked. “I’ll try,” Peter said. “It all seems different from when I went to school,” he thought as he headed out the door. “They seem to want parents to be involved. I wonder what else has changed?”

Schools can be scary places, and not just for children

Parents and carers also need to feel welcome and at ease to get the most out of being involved with their children’s school. When parents and carers are involved and connected with school, children are better learners and have better mental health and wellbeing. This is an important emphasis in schools nowadays that may be very different from what parents or carers remember, or what they may have experienced in another country.

Connecting at school

Being connected at school is not about having mobile phones and computers. It’s about knowing you can get support, that you will be listened to, and that you can work together with school staff to help your child learn and develop. Working together to care for children is the best way for schools and parents/carers to support children’s mental health.

- When schools and parents and carers work together, children find it easier to understand what is expected from them and are better able to manage. They have fewer behaviour problems and do better at school
- When parents and carers are connected to school it helps them get support when they need it. Support may come from talking with teachers or other school staff, or from making connections with other parents and carers. Schools help families to connect through having lots of different activities that parents and carers can get involved in
- Being connected to the school helps keep parents and carers informed. Parents and carers who are informed about what their children are learning at school and about opportunities to get involved are able to support them better at home.

School is a place for adults to make new friends too! Having opportunities to get to know other parents and carers, to find out how to support your children’s learning, or to get involved in class activities can help parents and carers feel connected to the school.

How parents and carers can get connected to the school:

- Make contact with your child’s teacher and keep in touch. Ask for help if you don’t understand something
- Check for notices that are sent home and keep informed about school activities through the school newsletter
- Attend information sessions and social activities at the school whenever you can
- Make contact with other parents and carers at your school: perhaps meet up informally with parents or carers of other children in your child’s class, find out about parent social groups that meet at or near the school, or join a parent committee
- Take an interest in the school council and consider joining it if you have the time and skills