

Respect

Courage



Resilience

Compassion

A Strong Beginning for a Great Future

**Steven Lynch
Principal**

Walwa Primary School

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Term 1, Monday 18th March 2019

School Review

We have had our first day of the School Review. It was fantastic to see that our students really shone on the day in terms of their great attitude and manner towards their study and their ability to reflect orally on their learning and the school in general.

The school had also rated itself on a range of areas including teaching and learning, community and leadership and the panel thought it fair to rate us higher on many categories than we had originally thought as a school, which was encouraging.

The final review day will be this Thursday, March 21st. All parents are requested to attend a discussion at 9am with the reviewers, if you are available, for 30 minutes, where they will ask for some reflections about the school. This would be much appreciated to get some vital feedback for future directions for the school.

Final Day of School Review

Once again the kids have shone with their knowledge of their learning and how they can be better learners.

Thank you to Joan Sibley, our reviewer, Jody Grimmond, our SEIL, review challenge partners Julie Butler, principal of Eskdale PS and Rachel Saunders, Principal of Bethanga PS and Hayden Drummond, school council president and all of the families and community members who attended on the second day. The reviewers found your input invaluable.

Some clear directions in the form of Targets, Key Improvement Strategies and Goals came out of the days. The school is also poised to go up a level on many of the FISO (Framework for Improving Student Outcomes) rating scales in the near future with just a little more work.

School Council Elections

I am pleased to report that at our last School Council Meeting new office bearers were elected for 2019. They were as follows:

President – Hayden Drummond

Vice President – Kristie Taprell

Secretary – Erin Albon

Treasurer – Hayley Jeffs

Maryann Rosetta – Parent Representative

Sandi Grieve remains as Community Representative and we have space for at least 3 more parent representatives if anyone is interested and available. Please pick up forms from Erin in the office if interested. Thank you to the school council's ongoing commitment to supporting our school in achieving its goals.

Working Bee

On the last day of term, Friday April 5th at 12pm there will be a working bee at the school. There are a few jobs doing as below:

- sweeping leaves
- weed gardens
- check full drain
- pick up sticks
- examine overhanging tree branches
- examine drain in driveway
- clear foyer entry garden and so on
- books sorted into levels in boxes

Afterwards we will be having a free sausage sizzle for everyone to say thank you. I look forward to seeing you there.

Lunch Order Day

We will be having a lunch order day on Thursday April 4th (second last day of term) from Jingellic Store. Please find order form attached about this. They usually do a nice lunch for the students.

No Bus

On Friday 5th of April there will be no afternoon bus service due to school finishing early after the working bee.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to Kristie and Maryann who have organised our Easter Raffle! Tickets have been sent home. The raffle will be drawn on the 5th of April – the last day of term. Good luck and thank you for your support.

Cued Articulation

I have been doing cued articulation with our Prep students to help them learn their sounds. This program is based on physical cues to support where the sound is made in the child's mouth and gives them another prompt to recall the sound.

Cluster Activities

We have been included in a range of cluster activities including various days such as World Environment Day and NAIDOC Day. These will be great socialisation opportunities for our kids. We do plan and assess writing together etc... so it is great to feel connected in these groups. Lyn Sharratt's research that I am studying at the moment also points out the importance of working as a cluster to improve student outcomes. Please watch the Diary Dates regularly. We will need assistance with transport for some of the days such as our Environment Day at Bethanga next term and in Term 4. We are hosting the Term 3 NAIDOC Week activity at Walwa. We will need some help from parents with cooking breakfast and dinner at that time. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sight Words

The children in the junior school are learning their sight words. These should be learnt by quick sight recall as a whole unit and not really sounded out slowly. The idea of learning sight words is to speed up reading fluency to then aide comprehension.

School Website

Erin and Tyrone have been working hard to update our school website. We have added our policies and information about ChildSafe. For further information about any policies or the school, please refer to our website which has more information. Our website address is:

www.walwaps.vic.gov.au

We also have a Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/Walwaps/

Advertising

We will be accepting business card sized ads in our newsletter. If you would like to advertise a business in our school newsletter each fortnight it will cost \$25 per term or \$100 for the year.

6 Traits of Writing

I have been required to attend an ongoing 5 session PD called literacy Leaders and I have been learning about the 6 Traits of writing that make up a well-rounded piece of writing. Eventually, we will teach these to the children and use them to assess student writing. They include: word choice, ideas, voice, organisation, sentence fluency and conventions.

O H and S

We are almost compliant in this area. Staff will undergo various refresher online modules to update their skills and understandings throughout the year to keep up with latest legislative requirements.

Child Safe

I want to remind everyone that Walwa Primary School is a Child Safe school. This means that we comply with strict government guidelines about ensuring our school is an extremely safe place for children, after the family home. We are working hard to maintain these standards.

We recently had more awareness training in this area as a cluster and I feel confident that we will meet the requirements, through our review, to be compliant.

However, our overall mission is to ensure that parents understand we are working to create a culture of safety in regards to student welfare in our school so the students' safety is of the utmost importance before anything else in the school.

Just a reminder that if you work with children in the school at any time that you need to have a Working With Children's Check.

Please visit PROTECT website for further information about ChildSafe requirements:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx>

Grade 4-6 Canberra Camp 2019

This year we are going in late May to Canberra with the other small schools in the cluster. The dates are:

Wednesday May 22nd, Thursday May 23rd and return Friday May 24th.

The itinerary includes fantastic venues such as The War Memorial, Questacon and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) just to name a few.

You can use your CSEF of \$125 to assist with the costs involved here if you are eligible. Also we are happy to set up a payment plan over the first two terms (or longer if needed). Please return your

intention to attend ASAP for cluster numbers. Thank you to everyone who paid their \$50 deposit, which was all families!

Further information will be sent home in Term 2.

IEPs

We have been working on individual education plans and goals for the children. Hopefully I will get to meet with you in regards to this before the end of the term. The Review and PDs have taken over but we have been setting goals with the children and involving them in deciding upon their goals.

Homework

I would like to see our students have an excellent commitment to their homework from the beginning of the year. Homework requirements are as follows:

Grade F/1 – home readers each night, sound and sight-word practise each night

Grades 3-6 – spelling practise, times tables, reading each night

Music Grant Instruments Pick-Up

We have a big order from Blackline Music in Albury that we have purchased with our music grant. But we need a way of picking it up. We need someone to go with at least a ute and pick up the instruments which includes a drum kit! Please contact the school if you can help. Thank you in advance.

Homework Club

Homework Club is cancelled this week due to the final day of the School Review. Homework Club will be held again next Thursday March 28th from 3.15 – 4.15pm. Next term, the after-school sessions may become a high interest activity.

Professional Development

This week I am attending two days of PD run by Lyn Sharratt, well known Canadian educational practitioner, researcher and author. We will be focussing on how we can identify and further support individual student's needs within the school and how we can create a collaborative approach to meeting every child's educational needs in the school. I have also attended the 2nd session of the Literacy Leaders course on Monday. Every session I attend is high quality however it is hard being away from the students so often at the moment.

Family Counselling

Free family counselling is available to us through info@gatewayhealth.org.au Please contact them on that email address for further information or to make an appointment or ring 0260228888. I am

not sure if appointments are in Albury/Wodonga or Corryong so please call them to find out. If anyone in your family needs counselling please contact them for this free service.

Curriculum

The whole school will be studying a Science Unit about Weather this term. This unit is about weather in our area and how it occurs. The children have been sketching the weather daily. As well they have been doing food dye and glow-in-the-dark edible jelly and making Native Insects Hotel.

In Maths we are currently studying number patterns and numeration.

We will also be working on Respectful Relationships this term and below is a link for the Level 3 and 4 curriculum I am basing it on. The kids are enjoying it a lot:

<http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/Resource/LandingPage?ObjectId=7327c6bf-696a-41c4-8fc3-3c45dccdc8bd>

Mrs Haugen will be doing a Canberra unit and a Me unit. In Writing we are moving onto persuasive texts. In PE we are focussing on hitting and kicking skills in relation to balls.

School Maintenance Plan

From our Maintenance Inspection late last year we have had a number of items identified in our school that need repairing over the next 1-2 years. After my PD last Thursday we now have a 5 year plan drawn up for our immediate issues. Some include the beading in the boys toilets, some light repairs and minor plastering and painting.

Maths-a-thon

We are aiming to hold a Maths-A-Thon in Term 2. This will encourage the students to learn some really useful number facts and help raise some money for the school. There will be no fundraising in Term 1 as there was a lot for families in Term 4 last year and this term there are fees and savings needed for the Canberra excursion for Grades 4-6.

Dates to Remember

- Monday March 18th – Mr Lynch at Literacy Leaders PD in Wangaratta
- Thursday March 21st – School Review Final Day
- Friday 5th April – Last Day of Term
- Tuesday 23rd April – First day back of Term 2
- Grade 5/6 Cluster Camp – May 22nd, 23rd and 24th
- Wednesday June 5th – World Environment Day – Cluster Day at Bethanga Primary School – (parent transport needed).
- June 10th – Queen's Birthday Long Weekend
- Friday 18th-19th July – Eskdale PS Sleepover at Walwa PS and Friday NAIDOC

WALWA PRIMARY SCHOOL IS A CHILDSAFE SCHOOL



Our Captain and Foundation students

The students and reviewers at their forum

