Wallsend South Public School serves a supportive parent community which clearly values high educational standards. It is a school which values positive student behaviours and attitudes.

WSPS Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>This week is Week 8 Term 1 commencing Monday March 16</th>
<th>Next week is Week 9 commencing Monday March 23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td></td>
<td>Raw Art for Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Year 5 Interrelate</td>
<td>Interrelate Year 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LHS 6 - 7 meeting</td>
<td>Uniform Shop Meeting @ 2.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Community Chat @ 9.10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Interrelate Year 6</td>
<td>AECG</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School Council @ 5.30</td>
<td>Canteen Meeting @ 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Zone Soccer Trials 12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Year 7 EOIs for 2016 due. SRC Coin line for Cambodia</td>
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Dear Parents
Welcome to Week 8. As we move towards greater use of technology, I am beginning to look at our communication practices at WSPS. Given that we have over 700 Skoolbag users currently, for 550 children, it would be fair to assume most people are using this App. However there are, for a variety of reasons some families who don't. Last year we talked about the Tallong going out by email, via the website and Skoolbag from the beginning of Term 2. I therefore would ask that if you prefer a newsletter in hard copy, that you notify me accordingly by the end of term. This request can either be handed in at the front office or placed in the blue Parent Survey box at the front door. If we don't receive a notice to this effect we will assume you are happy with an electronic version (email, website or Skoolbag). If you don't currently receive an email version and would like to do so, please provide me with your email address. Tomorrow is Community Chat and the 'kick off' topic is Starting the School Year. Have a great week,

Ian Hamilton

Canteen

Tuesday
Carmel Stormer
Sandra Dart

Wednesday
Linda Gresswell
Tammie Jones

Thursday
Kim O'Connor
Megan Rinkin
Kelley Banks
Leasa Gray

Friday
Alicia Hutchings
Kristine Morgan
Leanne Sendjurian
Jacky Pree

Monday
Karina Currington

Uniform Shop
Tuesday 8.45 am-9.15 am
Carolyn Dean

Karina Currington
**Dates for Future Reference.....**
- K-6 Disco April 1 in School Hall
- P & C March 31

**YEAR 6 EASTER RAFFLE**
Year 6 will be running an Easter egg raffle this term to raise money for the Year 6 Farewell/Year 6 gift to the school. This raffle will be drawn on the last day of this term (Week 10 - Thursday 2 April) at an afternoon assembly. We require donations of Easter eggs and baskets (big and small) so that we can create prizes for the raffle.

Students will need to take any donations to Miss Burton’s room (top of K Block near the lift). Students can purchase tickets under the sun shelter during Recess and Lunch. The office staff will also have tickets for sale to parents at the front counter.

**YEAR 6 TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL**
The Expression of Interest regarding high school enrolment is due FRIDAY 20 MARCH (the end of this week). Please note that your child is zoned for a local government school based on the permanent address that is registered with WSPS. You will need a rates notice or rental agreement when it comes time to enrol your child at their high school later this year. If you plan on enrolling your child at a non-government school, you only need to fill out sections A and D. Please read all instructions carefully and do not hesitate to contact me at the school should you have any queries - thea.osullivan@det.nsw.edu.au

Thea O’Sullivan

**YEAR 6 CANBERRA DEPOSITS**
We are now in the process of finalising our itinerary for the Year 6 Canberra Excursion to be held in Term 3. The dates are;
- **Monday 24 August to Thursday 27 August 2015**

Students will be attending the following places (to be confirmed);
- Parliament House

- The Mint
- Australian Institute of Sport
- Questacon
- National Art Gallery
- War Memorial
- National Geoscience Centre
- Tube Town at the snow
- Electoral Education (Old Parliament House)
- National Museum
- Embassy District
- Mt Ainslie Lookout

To assist us in our planning, we require accurate numbers of those attending the excursion before final costs are confirmed. Please return the note sent home last week with a $150 deposit to the office before Friday 24 April 2015 (first Friday back next term). Please do not make any further payments until we know the final cost. If your child will not be attending the excursion, please indicate on the note and return it to school. Should you be in need of financial assistance, please contact Ian Hamilton directly.

**Selective Sport High School for 2016**
For those children in Year 6 who are applying for selection to Hunter Sports High School for 2016 please be aware that a Talented Sports Program Application needs to be completed by May 1 2015.

All details and forms are available on the website [www.huntersports.com.au](http://www.huntersports.com.au) including trial dates.

Year 6 Teachers

**PSSA UPDATE**
Congratulations and best wishes to the following students who will represent WSPS and the Crossroads Zone at Hunter Region Trials in the next few weeks.
- Rugby League - Tye Donaldson
- Netball - Meghan Steele

Congratulations also to Harry Leo on his performance as the lone WSPS representative at Regional Swimming. Harry's 50m Freestyle time at the WSPS carnival was fast enough to see him qualify for 9 years boys 50m Freestyle at Regional. He came 1st in his heat and swam a PB in the final. Well done, Harry.

Congratulations and best wishes to Isaac Watts who has qualified to swim at the State PSSA Swimming Championships at Homebush on 25-26 March. Isaac's time at the WSPS carnival in the 50m Breaststroke was fast enough for him to qualify for the SB7 Breaststroke event for AWD swimmers. It's been a long time since we had a swimmer qualify for State and we are very proud of Isaac’s achievement. Good luck, Isaac!
Farmer Schulz's Ducks Book Review

Farmer Schulz’s Ducks is a novel by the Australian author Colin Thiele. It is an intriguing story about ducks that play a real-life version of Crossy Road to get to the river but have trouble completing their task. The ducks belong to a man named Farmer Schulz; he has a wife and a few grandchildren. Farmer Schulz is from Germany and resides beside the Onkaparinga River, South Australia. The heart and soul of the farm is Farmer Schulz’s abundance of ducks. Every day, the ducks attempt to cross the road to get to the river. Sometimes they succeed and sometimes they fail. Farmer Schulz was fed up and with the help of Anna, they make a “ducks crossing” sign. It fails. They try building a bridge over the road themselves for the ducks to cross. It fails once again. Farmer Schulz and his family then come up with another idea and it succeeds. What is the solution? Read “Farmer Schulz’s Ducks” to find out more.

Judgement

I really loved the book, particularly how the author uses figurative language, such as similes, metaphors and personification to keep the reader engaged in the storyline. I especially enjoyed how Thiele ties the beginning to the end by describing the farm and the secret solution during the four seasons at the beginning and the end of this book.

I would extremely recommend this book to all primary school students.

By Elijah

Farmer Schulz’s Ducks Book Review

Farmer Schulz’s Ducks is an enlightening Australian novel by Colin Thiele. It is an adventurous story that gets your heart beating in a nail-biting marathon. It is about how ducks travel across the road in a fascinating, yet dangerous trip across to the Onkaparinga River. The proud German owner, Mr. Schulz, never wants to let his go of his ducks is on the move. He lives on his farm with his little ducks. They were all very happy until the local council rambunctiously put a road so cars can pass. “My ducks are not a joke,” he would say because now Crossy Road has come to life with ducks as they strive to get to the other side of the road. Farmer Schulz will never give up with his determination to get the ducks across to the river. The scene of this heartbreaking story has become a world-wide attraction as tourists and news reporters come and go. Will Farmer Schulz save his ducks or will he lose more? The ducks succeeded but how, find out and join the adventure. I really found this book enthralling and vivacious. I particularly enjoyed how the author used figurative language, such as similes, metaphors, personification and especially the descriptive language to keep the reader engaged in the text and story line. I especially enjoyed how Colin Thiele ties the beginning of the book back to the end by making the setting calm again with the willows, Onkaparinga river flowing and the successful journey. I also enjoyed how Mary Milton used such detail to match the description in her illustrations.

I would highly recommend this book for all primary students and adults for an adventurous good night of reading to share with their children.

By Emily Jones 4/5T

Our Excursion

Yesterday (on the tenth of March) year 4 went on an excursion to some of the places of worship in Newcastle. We went to the Mosque, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Christ Church Cathedral and the Jewish Synagogue.

The Mosque

The first place of worship we went to was the Mosque. It is a small place, where we had to take our shoes off. Everyone who goes to the Mosque has to take off their shoes to keep this place of worship clean. We all had to do that and the teachers had to wear a head scarf. Muslims worship Allah in the Mosque. In the Mosque there are two rooms, one for the women and one for the men. Muslims pray 5 times a day. The times are: 6am, 1:30pm, 5pm, 8pm and another one I’m not quite sure of.

Greek Orthodox Church

When you walk in the door of the Greek Orthodox Church the first thing you realise is the strong incense. It smelt like a flower of some description. It was also very foggy in there but I didn’t really mind. We called the priest Father Nickolas. He only answered our questions because he had a flyer ready made for us. The church had a lot of detailed decoration. It had heaps of lights and candles. It was amazing. The Greek Orthodox Church believes in the twelve disciples. This was the most interesting Church for me.

Christ Church Cathedral

This church was also a Christian church. It is the one near their harbour. Whoa, is it big. We only stayed half an hour because we got in a bit of trouble by the organ tuner. It had basically all the history of A.N.Z.A.C day. The Cathedral even had a statue of a dead body! It was a bit scary at the back of the church because it had a gun in reach. This church has heaps of detailed architecture that would have taken at least 100 years to build.

Jewish Synagogue

The last stop was the Jewish Synagogue. When we got there we were greeted by two lovely ladies, whose names were Ruth and Clair. They told us that they only believe in one god and that most religions branch out from the Jewish faith. They don’t worship their scroll but they don’t touch it. They use a pointer that sort of looks like a magic wand. We all got up on stage to have a look to the scroll up close. The ladies tried to make it very clear that they only believe in the Old Testament or everything that happened B.C (before Christ). This excursion was possibly my favourite excursion I’ve ever been on. It was amazing day learning all about the different religions. I could have been a bit better if we didn’t have to go on the bus so much. I loved this excursion so much I think I want to go tomorrow!

By Jade Wainwright 4S

Harmony Day and Cambodia

To celebrate Harmony Day, SRC has decided to do a twenty cent piece coin line for Cambodia. This will be held on the 20th of March. Please feel free to bring as many 20 cent pieces as you like. We would like to keep away from notes but if you can’t resist go ahead. Since Harmony Day is on a weekend, we will celebrate it on the Friday before. We will try and get as far as we can around the basketball court. Sorry for the short notice.

Jade for WPS SRC
LIBRARY NEWS
You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild
To pick up a book and read to a child
Dr Suess

BOOK CLUB UPDATE
Orders have now been finalised and items should be arriving within the next 2 weeks. Mrs Lovat will hand them out as soon as they arrive - thank you for your patience.

Wool needed
Please send in balls of red wool and black wool to Ms. Diehl as 5D and 5M are going to attempt to crochet Anzac Day poppies to help commemorate the 100 year anniversary. Stay tuned and wish us luck!

Parents... FREE activities for your kids
Stories, craft and games plus FREE lunch.
Sunday 29 March at Wallsend South
Public School from 10:30am. To 12:30pm

The day of new beginnings
Kids... Come along and join in the fun.
To find out more, contact Barry
At Church CFC 0414 454 594

SCHOOL HOLIDAY NETBALL DEVELOPMENT CLINIC
- Registrations NOW OPEN -

FOR CHILDREN TURNING 8-13 YEARS IN 2015

Are you a passionate Junior netballer who would like to build confidence, develop teamwork and further enhance your skills?
Pivot Netball Academy can assist you.

ALSO OFFERING AFTER SCHOOL JUNIOR NETBALL PROGRAM IN 2015
- REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN -
For children turning 8-13 in 2016
(only 10 positions available per age group)

GRA-HAM-ES TAE KWON DO

Tae Kwon Do classes are held in our school hall.
When: Monday and Thursday Nights.
Time: 6p.m. - 7 p.m.
BEGINNERS ALWAYS WELCOME.
CONTACT GRAHAM ON 0422 782 186
School Cross Country

Our school cross country will be held this Thursday 19th March. All students from Years 2 – 6 will be encouraged to participate to the best of their ability. Students compete for themselves, to earn points for their House and the opportunity to represent their school at the Crossroads Zone Cross Country Carnival. Zone representatives and Junior & Senior Champion ribbons are based on race times. Students have been practising for the cross country during school sport as part of our fitness program though we encourage training at home too.

On the day, please apply some sunscreen and mosquito repellent in the morning prior to sending your children to school. A hat, water bottle and appropriate running shoes are essential items. If your child carries personal medical supplies (such as preventive asthma puffers), please ensure they have them on the day. Sufficient fruit, recess and lunch is required as the children are often hungry after the race. Students are also encouraged to wear a t-shirt in their House colours to support their team (coloured hairspray or zinc are not permitted). If your child is unable to compete on the day due to injury, they must bring a note to give to their class teacher.

As always, family members are very welcome to come along on Thursday morning, watch the cross country and cheer on all our children. The spectator area is on our back oval with races commencing at 9:20am. A race schedule is included below. A child competes in their age race according to the age they turn in 2015 (e.g. a child turning 10 will compete in the 10 Years age race). Please note that for safety and supervision, students will be expected to sit in their House Areas when not racing. If you have further questions, please see Mr Johnston or your child’s teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Division</th>
<th>Laps</th>
<th>Est. Start Time</th>
<th>Est. Finish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Years Girls</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9:20am</td>
<td>9:35am</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Years Boys</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9:25am</td>
<td>9:40am</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Years Girls</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9:40am</td>
<td>9:55am</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9:45am</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Years Girls</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Years Boys</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>11 Years Boys</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10:20am</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Years Girls</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Years Boys</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10:40am</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
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School Disco - Wednesday 1st April

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Discos are kindly organised by the P & C and inside the hall is gratefully supervised by the wonderful Teaching Staff. The P & C however are calling on volunteers, to give up a small amount of their time to help with ticket collection, supervision and the end of night clean up for our next disco. If you are able to help in any way, please complete the slip below and return to the office as soon as possible.

The P & C will contact you with your allocated time slot by Tuesday 31st March.

All help is gratefully accepted!

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School Disco Volunteers

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<tr>
<th>Parent Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Number:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childs Name:</td>
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| Disco Time:    | Junior 5.30 – 7                     |
|               | Senior 7-8.30                       |
| (Circle Applicable) |                          |

| I can assist with: | Ticket Collection               |
|                   | Supervision                      |
| (Circle Applicable) | End of Night Clean Up          |

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<tr>
<th>Preferable time I can assist is:</th>
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<td>_______ pm to _______ pm</td>
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