



THE GOORA GAZETTE



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educating hearts and minds

Term 2 and 3 2019

| W | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| 8 | 17 June | 18 June Resilient Kids Active Rural Kids | 19 June | 20 June Ngaya Girl's Program | 21 June Mr Young visit 1.15pm Tennis Yrs 3-6 | 22 June | 23 June |
| 9 | 24 June | 25 June Active Rural Kids | 26 June | 27 June Ngaya Girl's Program | 28 June Special Assembly 9.45am Tennis Yrs 3-6 | 29 June | 30 June |
| 10 | 1 July | 2 July Active Rural Kids | 3 July | 4 July Ngaya Girl's Program Reports home | 5 July NAIDOC Day | 6 July | 7 July |
| 1 | 22 July SDD Woolomin PS | 23 July Students return | 24 July School Photos | 25 July Ngaya - girl's program | 26 July Bective Athletics Carnival | 27 July | 28 July |
| 2 | 29 July | 30 July | 31 July | 1 August Ngaya - girl's program | 2 August Rural Fire Service K-2 | 3 August | 4 August |
| 3 | 5 August | 6 August | 7 August | 8 August | 9 August | 10 August | 11 August |
| 4 | 12 August | 13 August Small Schools' Spelling Bee | 14 August | 15 August | 16 August | 17 August | 18 August |

Ms Lacey's Message.....

Welcome to week 8!

During the past fortnight students have been completing diagnostic testing in class. Diagnostic testing is a form of testing used to determine students' individual strengths and weaknesses and knowledge. We carry out this testing every two terms to assist us in building the picture of the students' growth and to assist in guiding our lesson and curriculum planning. It has been very pleasing to see the growth in students. It is also important for parents to understand the ways that they can continue to help their children at home. Just by ensuring your child is completing their home reading, revising their sounds and learning their Magic Words at home will go a long way to assisting your child consolidate the skills they are learning at school.

This week will see our last week of the Resilient Kids Program which is delivered by Centrecare. This program has been all about building our skills to be able to 'Bounce Back', something that it is very important and helpful in life. We would like to thank Courtney from Centrecare who has spent every Tuesday with us delivering this program. The students have thoroughly enjoyed the program.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Kylie Lacey

Parents are reminded that should your child arrive any later than 9.30am they MUST be signed in at the office. Similarly, if they are leaving early, please ensure they are signed out. We thank you for working with us on this matter.



Behaviour of the Week Focus

I treat others with respect.

Growth Mindset Positive Affirmation of the Week

My brain is like a muscle. When I exercise it, it gets stronger.

Friday Lunches and SRC milos

Lunch this Friday will be apricot chicken with rice, a popper and a jelly for a cost of \$3.

There will NO SRC MILOS THIS WEEK.

Karen Henry is currently trying to organise a roster of parents to do the Friday lunches. If you are able to assist please see Karen. If we do not get parents to help, the Friday lunches will cease as staff are unable to do them.

P&C Pie Drive

Earlier this week an order form was sent home with all students for the P&C Pie Drive. This is a great fundraiser for the P&C and we encourage you all to have a look at the yummy list of goodies and consider ordering. There will be a prize for the student (or family of students) who have the most orders. Thank you to Leianna Kneipp for organising this great fundraiser. More order forms are available at the school office.



Noticeboard

Woolworths Earn & Learn is finishing soon!

The Earn & Learn Promotion will run until **next Tuesday, 25th June**, so please ensure that you return all of your tokens/sheets asap after this.



Extra token sheets are available from the office. You can deposit your token sheets into the collection box located in the lounge area of the administration building. Somerton PS also has a collection box inside the Woolworths store at Eastpoint, Tamworth.

Thank you for supporting Somerton Public School.

Kitchen/Garden

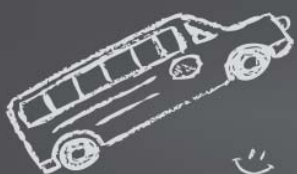
Students participate in Kitchen/Garden lessons each week. The cost of this is \$10 per term, per child. This assists us with buying ingredients and equipment to be able to facilitate these lessons. Money can be paid to Miss McNiven in the office. Thank you.

Friday SRC Fundraiser

At afternoon tea each Friday the SRC will be selling warm Milos served with marshmallows or a choc chip biscuit.

Please place your order with Blake *before* school on Friday.

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Warm Milo | \$1 |
| Marshmallows | 50c |
| Choc Chip biscuit | 50c |



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From the classrooms....

Pelicans

As always there has been lots of hard work occurring in the Pelicans room. Students have blown Ms Lacey away with their Diagnostic Tests that they have completed. Students are demonstrating their learning by being able to apply their knowledge of sounds when spelling. Students are not afraid to have a go and are making excellent attempts when writing new words.

With the delivery of our new room, which will be our library, the Pelicans no longer have to share a classroom with the library. For us this is very exciting as we now have lots more space! We have now been able to create an imaginary play area for students. This area contains a shop and a café as well as an area to build and play with farm animals and dinosaurs. Our students love imaginary play and we feel that it is important to be able to provide the spaces for them to be able to do this. Imaginative play is essentially when children are role playing and are acting out various experiences they may have had or something that is of some interest to them. They are experimenting with decision making on how to behave and are also practising their social skills. Children learn from experience: from what happens around them, from what they see, hear, smell, taste and touch. To absorb those experiences and make sense of the world, they need to be engaged in imaginary play. We as adults can often under value imaginative play. Play is a child's way of engaging and making sense of the world. Role play may appear to be a very simple activity, yet within it, children learn practical life skills.

Don't forget to be practising your Magic Words each week. Every Monday students are tested and when they are able to read and spell all the words from their current level they will move up a level. The words they are concentrating on in this program make up for 80% of the words they use every day in their reading and writing.



From the classrooms....

Kookaburras

Last week students read about an inspirational and resilient young woman named May Wirth. The picture book *So She Did* by Simi Genziuk and Renee Tremi tells the story of May Wirth, a young Australian girl, who in the early 1900s became the world's greatest bareback horse rider. After being inspired by her achievements and challenges, students wrote acrostic poems about her and tried to capture her true spirit and resilience.

So She Did By Braxton

Shining star

Outstanding

Stunt rider

Horse rider

Extraordinary

Determined

"I didn't listen to the clown"

Did it!

May Wirth By Indigo

Magnificent

Amazing

Yay! She did it!

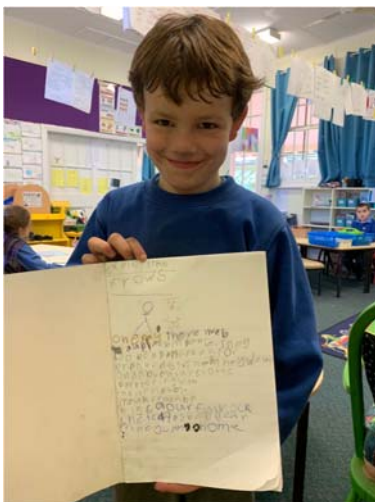
Wanted to be the first female stunt rider

"I can do it!"

Resilient

There was no point stopping her

Horse rider



From the classrooms....

Eagles

The Eagles have been super busy as always, in the classroom and on the sporting field! We love having Craig come out on Fridays for professional tennis coaching. He is incredibly patient and great at teaching us new skills. We were also lucky enough to have Sarah from AFL NSW come out and teach us about all about the game last week.

During literacy for the next couple of weeks we are focusing on poetry. We have been revising and learning new figurative language devices that help make our writing more exciting to read. Here are some fantastic personification sentences we came up with earlier this week:

The spoon danced around the cereal dish. - Ryan

The texta licks the paper when I draw pictures with it. – Jye

The thunder shouted with anger when the lightening exclaimed that he was better. The old house cried of dismay when a loud storm was going on. - Jacinta

The wind whistled through the trees at night. –Mia





Helping Mr Rudd and Walgett Community College

This week we have been collecting grocery items to take out to Walgett to assist the students and their families at Walgett Community College after their only supermarket burnt down.

Mr Rudd who is now their Principal was previously at The Entrance. We met Mr Rudd when The Entrance Public School gave so generously to us last year. When we heard of Walgett's only supermarket burning down we decided that now was our time to give back.

On Sunday night we put a call out on our school Facebook page and since then we have been inundated with generosity from the community.

Our students and their families have generously donated lots and lots of groceries and we have also had grocery donations from people from Tamworth and Gunnedah. We have had some very generous monetary donations (totalling \$900) made from Therese McIntyre from Willow Tree, Simon Warden from Walcha, Col Joyce, a former student of Somerton, Pauline Aparnte, our former school patron, Mark Young, our Director, Diane McDougall and The Nundle District Lions Club. This money was then spent on a variety of grocery items to stock pantries as well as cleaning and toiletry items. The Nundle District Lions Club also made a donation of 15 fruit cakes which will be distributed amongst the local elders in Walgett. Labour Co (organised by Adam Daly) has also generously donated a tank of diesel to assist in getting the goods out to Walgett.

Ms Lacey and Miss Warden will be taking the ute and trailer load to Walgett on Friday afternoon.



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

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.

Principals 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.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning website*

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 8244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

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Camp 1 | 8/7/19 - 11/7/19 (4 Day Camp) \$90
Camp 2 | 15/7/19 - 18/7/19 (4 Day Camp) \$90
or \$25 Per Day! (Eftpos Available)

8.30 am - 11.30 am Daily

Tamworth Tennis Club

Family Discounts Available

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4 - 16 Years Catered For

northwesttennisacademy@hotmail.com



Somerton War Memorial Hall

If you would like to hire this great facility please contact:

Ph: 0427 697 566

Somerton Hotel

Come join us for the Friday night weekly raffle at 7:30pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Ph: 6769 7683

Somerton CWA

The CWA meet on the second Tuesday of each month. All interested ladies are welcome.

Please contact Carol Bank (President) on 6760 6250 or Judi Swain (Secretary) on 6743 1701 for more information.



EVERY DAY COUNTS...

A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

| When your child misses just... | that equals... | which is... | and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is... | This means that the best your child can achieve is... |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| 1 day each fortnight | 20 days per year | 4 weeks per year | Nearly 1 ½ a years of school | Equal to finishing Year 11 |
| 1 day a week | 40 days per year | 8 weeks per year | Over 2 ½ years of school | Equal to finishing Year 10 |
| 2 days a week | 80 days per year | 16 weeks per year | Over 5 years of learning | Equal to finishing Year 7 |
| 3 days a week | 120 days per year | 24 weeks per year | Nearly 8 years of learning | Equal to finishing Year 4 |

*Give your child every
chance to succeed...*

Every day counts!



Once again Somerton PS will celebrate NAIDOC Day by inviting the schools of the Winanga-li Learning Alliance to join us. This will take place on the last day of term, Friday 5th July. Parents and family are also invited to join us for the day.

**VOICE
TREATY
TRUTH**

NAIDOC Week 2019

NAIDOC Week 2019 invites you to walk in a movement for a better future. For generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have sought recognition of our unique place in Australian history and society today as the oldest continuing culture on the planet.

Early dawn light rises over Uluru, symbolising our continued spiritual and unbroken connection to the land. Our message, developed through generations, is echoed throughout the land: hear our voice and recognise our truth.

Amarrk. Asken by Charmaine Mambulla

**VOICE
TREATY
TRUTH** 07-14
JULY 2019
Let's work together for a shared future.
naidoc.org.au

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