



K-12 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY AND SAFE STUDENTS

19 December 2019

NEWS AND VIEWS OF YOUR LOCAL CENTRAL SCHOOL



Presentation Day 2019



CANTEEN ROSTER - Week 1 Term 1 2020

27/1/2020	28/1/2020	29/1/2020	30/1/2020	31/1/2020
Australia Day Public Holiday	Staff development day			Larissa Wall

WALCHA CENTRAL SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL: Mr Mark Hall

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After almost five years as Principal at Walcha Central School, I will be leaving to take up a new position as Principal School Leadership, commencing January 2020.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Walcha Central School and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve as your principal. I will miss the day-to-day excitement of watching students grow and working with our wonderful staff to ensure every student is engaged and challenged to learn.

A Relieving Principal will be appointed for Term 1, 2020 with a permanent placement anticipated to commence at the beginning of Term 2, 2020.

2019 highlights

There have been many impressive achievements by our school in 2019. The highlights for me include:

- Innovative curriculum design and the increase in student engagement and learning; Investigative Learning K-2; Inquiry-based Learning Stage 3; Integrated Learning Stage 4; Boys to Work class Stage 5; and a fully Compressed Curriculum Stage 6.
- Evidence-based practice informing learning and teaching; appointment of Instructional Leader to support staff evaluation of data from their classroom; whole school focus on improving writing with planning for the 2020 focus on mathematics and numeracy; and a new teams approach to programming learning across each stage.
- Publication of our book *Aunty Sue's Story of the Dhulawang Girin* now catalogued in the Australian National Library; construction of the meeting place and sculpture.
- Wingham Beef Week and Scone Beef Bonanza and the proud representation of our students at these events.
- Exceptional student value-added results in both literacy and numeracy.
- Watching the library transform, complete with playtime lunch sessions.
- The win against Dorrigo.
- Student achievement at both state and national sporting events; primary debaters reach the state finals.
- P&C BBQs and fundraising efforts along with the generous support from our Walcha Community.
- Festival Friday and listening to Preston Campbell.



2020 staffing

There are several other changes for 2020 with regard to staffing at our school. Simon Warden obtained a merit selection placement with School Services for 12 months. I would like to thank Simon for his hard work and dedication to the school community and wish him all the very best in his new placement. Sonya Rogers has also received a merit selection position as Assistant Principal at Ben Venue Public School in Armidale. Sonya's innovative teaching practice has inspired us all and we wish her the very best.

New appointments at WCS in 2020

I am very pleased to announce that Ben Ussher was the successful candidate as Deputy Principal Relieving for 2020. Ben comes with a wealth of experience and the school is certainly in safe hands under his control.

Adam Hall has been appointed as Assistant Principal. Adam is a highly successful AP and is excited about his move to Walcha. Adam is currently completing his doctorate in student engagement and will be a sensational addition to the school leadership team.

Bonnie Brown has been appointed as Head Teacher Relieving commencing 2020. Bonnie is a true leader and we wish her the best in this exciting new role.

Finally, Adrian Wood has been appointed in the temporary position as primary Teacher 3/4 for 2020.

Thank you

I believe that schools are like families and Walcha Central has become family to me. Thank you to all my staff for your hard work and passion to make a difference in the lives of kids. To the students, I believe in each and every one of you. Most days I get to see firsthand the love and affection of our parents towards their child. Thank you for the care and concern you place on the importance of a great education. To the P&C, thank you for the mountain of support you extend to help improve the school and to the Walcha Community for being so inclusive in raising our children. I am certain that Walcha Central School will continue to prosper and grow under the new leadership in 2020 and beyond.

May you have a happy Christmas and prosperous new year in 2020.

*Mark Hall
Principal*

STOP PRESS: The school has just been informed that Mrs Amanda Cooper was the successful applicant for the position of Relieving Principal for Walcha Central School for Term 1 2020. I would like to congratulate Amanda and wish her every success in her new position.

TIP

STAY CYBER-AWARE OVER THE BREAK

As we draw to the **end of the year** and start the summer holidays, we are all likely to see **more phishing emails in our inboxes**. Everybody needs to know **how to spot a scam**. Your bank, or any authority won't email you with a link to sign in. Check who the sender is and what their email address is. Check where links go by hovering over them to see the real URL. Check the language used. Be vigilant and be safe. Learn to **be suspicious** of unsolicited email. **DON'T GET HOOKED.**



BE SUSPICIOUS:

Learn how to spot a phishing email! Unknown sender, poor spelling/grammar, strange URLs



REPORT PHISHING AND SPAM:

To help our mail filters, you can forward phishing and scam emails to: abuse@det.nsw.edu.au



DELETE IT:

DON'T open attachments, **DON'T** click on links. If it's suspicious, just delete it

FAR OUT SCIENCE

On the 7th of November 2019, 30 students in Years 5 and 6 attended Far Out Science in Armidale. The activities started with a video about brainstorming. It showed a man riding a backwards bike. The man had to adapt his brain to the backwards bike. When turning the bike handlebars left he turns right and when he turns them to the right it goes left.



After that, all the schools were sent off with their mentors and supervising teachers to the first activity which for us was aquatic ecology. We got the opportunity to use a microscope to observe some river bugs that had been preserved in vinegar and then to draw and label them.

Then we made our way down to the chemistry lab, and were split into three groups. We all took turns in going in a rotation

to activities. These included: slime making, rainbow coloured chemicals and using a Bunsen burner to burn different elements to make different coloured flames. We also made cold packs and hot packs and compared the temperature for fun.

Then we had a lunch break in the courtyard when everyone got to see friends from other schools.

After lunch we went down to the DNA lab. Liam McDonnell did a DNA sample and we observed it through the microscope. Next, we crushed a strawberry and mixed it with a specific solution including detergent, salt and other ingredients. Then we drained the liquid into a beaker and then another solution was added. We waited about 2 minutes until the DNA broke from the cells and floated to the top. Mary (the teacher) came up to us and took a single piece of DNA and placed it into a tube that was filled with a special dye. Each table was sorted into a group and then taken into what Mary called the dark room. Everyone put their tube onto UV light machine to test if we collected it correctly.



We then walked down to another small room to study living latin. The teacher asked us to create a small creature and form a name for it in latin. Students made animals such as unicorns, snails, sausages, birds and many more. We then went back up to Lazenby Hall to collect our things and got on the bus to go home!



That was the end of our very exciting day!

By Lucile Thomson and Kayleigh Hobbs

WCS YEARS 5 & 6 DEBATING TEAM

923 teams entered into the NSW Yr 5 & 6 Premiers Debating Championship this year. This number reveals the extraordinary feat of our school team in being placed in the top 10 in the state by becoming New England Regional Champions.

Normally the team would have spent a week in Wollongong competing against the other regional champions, however, the bushfires put a stop to this opportunity. Undeterred, the competition continued over the internet with Walcha winning 1 debate and losing 2 resulting in them being placed equal 5th along with 4 other teams. After each debate, the students received quality feedback on how to improve their debating techniques and all students were acknowledged for their mature arguments and growth throughout the state championships.

Congratulations to the 6 team members; Ali Kealey, Harriet Crawford, Emily Blake, Jemma Warden, Samuel Swain and Jazz Hayton (not pictured) and to all the parents and community members who have cheered and supported these students throughout this competition. Every encouraging word helped these students achieve their best.

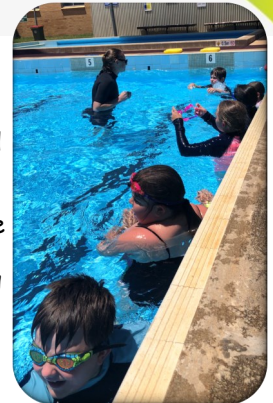


MAKING A SPLASH!

Primary School Swimming Scheme

On Monday 2 December primary students in Years 2-6 commenced the 10 day intensive school swimming lessons. These lessons range from beginners learning the basics through to stronger swimmers doing drills and working on stroke correction.

Students are enjoying their time in the water and building confidence each day.



Secondary Sports Report



During term 3, students had the opportunity to participate in sport outside of the school. They were able to partake in walking which was more

than just a stroll. They were expected to raise their heart rates and break a sweat whilst visiting different places around town. The students enjoyed their visit to the Walcha Lookout in particular, as many were not aware it even existed. On alternate weeks they played tennis; we really appreciate having access to such great facilities around Walcha, especially when they are within walking distance.

When given the opportunity, we encourage all students to participate in sport outside of school. These may include; indoor hockey, lawn bowls, squash, swimming, golf, tennis and walking. We love being able to provide the best possible sporting experiences for all Walcha Central students so as to encourage lifelong participation in sport.

Leadership through Sport

For a period of six weeks our Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS) class were teaching primary students during their sport time. This is a part of the Premiers Sporting Challenge Sport Leadership program that the students are involved in.

Year 9 and 10 students spent a considerable amount of time planning lessons that were fun, inclusive and developed fundamental movement skills. They were assessed on their collaborative, organisational and presentation skills. They recognised the importance of being punctual, well prepared and energetic in promoting sport and physical activity.



Hopefully this experience leads to further coaching and officiating roles within our community. The learning of various game skills and the social/emotional development involved in team cooperation are considered worthwhile educational experiences for our primary students.



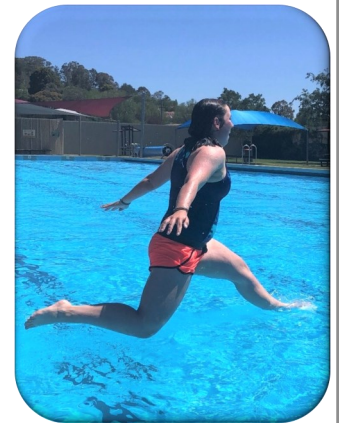
worthwhile educational experiences for our primary students.



Life Saving

- This term saw us kick off our life saving program, which is a comprehensive swimming and water safety initiative of Royal Life Saving that seeks to increase the swimming and water safety skills of all Australian children in order to prevent drowning and increase participation in safe aquatic activity. The initiative ensures that the essential components of personal survival and water safety are provided, in addition to a process of developing strong and effective swimming technique.
- Many of our students are completing Bronze Medallion levels or higher, which is the benchmark for lifesavers all over the world. The 'Bronze' builds knowledge and skills in rescue, personal survival and emergency care and is awarded in recognition of the ability to perform aquatic rescues in a safe and efficient manner. Earning the Bronze Medallion is a real achievement, and our students will achieve an international lifesaving standard and develop a skill set that is highly sought after in the community, by employers, and which is either recommended or mandatory for many careers such as teaching, emergency services, outdoor education and the aquatics industry.
- Life Saving is completed on Wednesdays during sport and will run right up to the end of Term 1 2020 when the pool closes.

Bonnie Brown



Stage 2 and 3 History Project Presentation day



Parents and students were treated to an array of amazing projects that demonstrated the creative talents and deep application to learning by Walcha Central students in Stage 2 and Stage 3.

Students were charged with the task of visibly informing the Walcha Community of significant Australian historical events and personalities.

Projects ranged from pop-up books, websites creations, posters, gameboards, minecraft virtual worlds, dioramas, calendars, cartoons, 3D models, musical raps, cooking videos and documentaries to

name a few. Historical content ranged from explorers, indigenous content and the reasons for settlement patterns during early Australia such as the discovery of gold.

Well done to the student presenters who shared their work with enthusiasm and in such detail. This was the final activity in an across stage historical unit that saw students participate in shared excursions, Hook day activities, classroom learning and library research.

Thank you to parents who also supported their child in their learning.



Brenda Watkins



Festival Friday was held on Friday 6 December at Walcha Central School. Hundreds of people both young and old flooded the Walcha levee banks for the colour run and then stayed into the evening to enjoy the food, activities and entertainment.

Preston Campbell shared stories about his journey from growing up in a small country town to becoming a professional NRL player, and his own personal experiences navigating difficult times, disappointment and learning how to look after your own mental health and those around you. We thank the Walcha community for their support of this event.





CALENDAR

See website for more details

<http://www.walcha-c.schools.nsw.gov.au>

18/12/2019	Last day of Term 4 for students
28/1/2020	Staff Development day
29/1/2020	First day of Term 1 for Years 1 - 12
3/2/2020	Kinder start
3/2/2020	Welcome to Kindergarten breakfast for new Kinder students and parents
6/2/2020	K-12 Swimming Carnival
7/2/2020	Walcha Races 1/2 day public holiday
17/2/2020 - 18/2/2020	First Aid /Oxy resus course
19/2/2020	White Card training
20/2/2020	PSSA District Swimming Carnival for qualifying students

School Canteen

Sorry We're CLOSED

Walcha Central School canteen **WILL NOT** be operating on the following dates:

- * **Thursday 6 February 2020** due to the K-12 Swimming Carnival
- * **Friday 7 February 2020** due to the Walcha Races.

Sue Fortescue

Coming up at Walcha Central this week

For all the latest updates and information follow us on Facebook.

Find us on: **facebook**

Good for Kids good for life

Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner

8 tips to keep on top of your child's screen time

- Plan screen-free time, like outdoor play, music and sport.
- Lead by example – reduce your own screen time.
- Agree on daily screen time limits. It's not punishment, it's about keeping a balance.
- Be involved – watch TV and play games together.
- Start with small reductions to help lessen any resistance.
- Use tech tools to manage access, such as parental controls.
- Resist giving mobile devices to children when going out – take books or toys instead.
- Set tech-free zones and times at home – e.g. all screens off in bedrooms after a specified time.

esafety.gov.au/iparent

NSW GOVERNMENT

PHONE 49246499

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Walcha Central School has been contacted by a school on the Central Coast offering the opportunity for our Year 5 and 6 students to participate in an overnight excursion to the Central Coast with all travel costs donated by the students of the school.

The Central Coast school thought of this initiative to support rural families, especially those affected by drought and fires and they chose Walcha Central School.

The excursion is planned for March. More details of this exciting support and opportunity will be sent to all families early in Term 1 next year.

