



WEST LEEDERVILLE
PRIMARY

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO END THE YEAR!

We have had an absolutely amazing week with a number of celebrations and events to conclude 2021.

On Tuesday, we farewelled our Year 6 students for 2021 at the Graduation Ceremony. This event surpassed all expectations and was a wonderful tribute to these students. I would like to wish them all the best in their future endeavours, they have been wonderful role models to our junior students and I know that they are going to be very successful in the next stage of the education journey. I would also like to acknowledge the Year 6 teachers, Mr Mitch Green, Mrs Judith Curtis and Mr Nic Savatovic – they have mentored these students throughout the year to ensure that it has been a year to remember. I would also like to acknowledge the education assistants who also supported them, Mr Patrick Stapleton and Mrs Michelle Dwyer.

On Wednesday night we had a Christmas Concert with a very special theme – the Giving Tree. This year, as a school community we focussed on giving to those less fortunate with donations to the Smith Family Community Appeal, and I would like to thank our parents, carers, grandparents and community members for giving so generously. The donations have been counted and is shown on page 4. The information will be posted on our Facebook page.

The students did an amazing job with their performances and showed so much enthusiasm and excitement. It was so lovely to see all the smiles. A highlight of the night was our Year 6 students who



received spontaneous applause throughout their performance from the younger students – it shows how much they are respected and loved across the school.

A huge thank you to Mrs Sally Gorey who proposed the concept and oversaw the organisation, to Sarah Darby and Rachel Ee who assisted teachers with the songs and actions, to Mr Phil Bambridge who hung the decorations, and Mr Michael McInerhoney and Ms Shelley Thompson who set up the sound and equipment. I would also like to acknowledge the P&C who hired the stage for the event. Our amazing teachers and education assistant did a fantastic job rehearsing the students and getting them ready for their performance. And finally Mrs Kira Slater who organised the staff item.

Yesterday we celebrated the end of year Book Awards. The ceremony acknowledges both academic, citizenship and endeavour awards and there were many worthy recipients. It was my pleasure to hear the citations of the many amazing students who were acknowledged today – we are truly blessed work beside these children each day.

In addition to the awards for the students, we were very excited to announce that two of our staff members were worthy recipients of the Director General's Making a Difference Award:

- Abdollah Mostafavipour – our school gardener, was acknowledged for his outstanding commitment to ensuring the students have the very best learning environment. Abdollah works tirelessly to maintain our school grounds, maintaining our buildings and facilities, and sweeping tonnes and tonnes of leaves that fall from our fig tree every day. Thank you Abdollah – we greatly appreciate your contribution to making our school great.

- Robyn Gilfillan – Robyn has a very long association with the school, with all three of her daughters attending here and being a member of the community. Robyn works as a school officer and she has an enormous role producing and updating all of our communication and publicity strategies. She is responsible for the support of many of the events you have seen this week. Robyn is also our librarian and is passionate about creating a space for the students that inspires and informs.

CLASS PLACEMENTS

Shortly you will receive notification of the class placements and teachers for 2022. Much thought has gone into these placements (and six months of work), as each child's social, emotional, academic and previous experience has been carefully considered in relation to their peers.

Often, there can be very strong emotions to class placements and teachers. As parents, we want the very best for our children and we can sometimes be very anxious about which classes our children are in and who the teacher is. At this time it is important to remember the following;

- Your reaction, as a trusted adult, will influence your child's reaction. Modelling optimism and excitement before each school year will help your child/children to become confident when dealing with change and resilient to adversity.

- A broad friendship group is highly beneficial to support your child when dealing with fluid relationships that can happen in primary and high school. The more friends your child has, the greater their support network and the more options they have to move towards positive relationships or away from negative ones.

- All classes have students with a broad range of abilities and skills. We do not stream, or form composite classes based on academic ability at West Leederville Primary. Research shows us that in any class you can have a range from 2 – 6 years difference in development and skills.

Our teachers assess, place your child against the curriculum and teach to their individual academic needs no matter what year group they are in.

- Multiple studies conclude it makes no difference to performance whether students are in a straight or composite class. Experts agree the most important factor in determining how well a student does is the quality of the teacher and providing a 'differentiated' curriculum caters to all children as individuals, according to their needs. Composite education is backed up by the theory of teaching by 'stages, not ages'. Whilst we are guided by the WA Curriculum as a mandatory teaching document, students are able to work to their own developmental level, rather than grade expectations. The quality of teaching, combined with student interest and engagement, are considered more important than class structure, whatever form it may take. Research, which has been predominantly conducted in primary schools, suggests there is no visible difference between composite and straight grade classrooms in terms of academic performance.

- All teachers at West Leederville Primary are great teachers who are passionate about their role and highly skilled. We are constantly striving to improve and build our capacity, and we work collaboratively to ensure that no matter what classroom.

For further information about class placements, please see Class Placement Policy <https://wlps.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Class-Placement-Policy-2021.pdf>

NAMING CONVENTIONS

In 2022, our class naming conventions will change. Instead of using colours we will be using the alphabet. This is because the colours had no association to rooms or teachers, and it was often difficult to identify which was which.

Our classes will be named, for example, 3A, 3B and 3C, based on their location. Please do not confuse this with any sort of classification or streaming based on academic ability, it is simply an administration exercise to identify rooms and locations.

GOODBYE, GOOD LUCK AND WELCOME

As we come to the end of the school year we say goodbye to some of our staff who are moving onto new adventures and we thank them for their hard work this year. I would like to wish John McInerheney, Jacqui McGininity, Cassie Walsh, Rachel Ee and Kristyn Oldfield all the best as they venture to new schools and new opportunities.

I would also like to wish Mrs Lisa Wade and Mrs Michelle Moyes the best of luck as they continue in their acting roles at Woodvale Primary School as Principal and Duncraig Primary School as Associate Principal, respectively.

I would like to welcome back Jacinta Tremayne (Music Specialist), Katie Samsa (Music Specialist), Sinead O'Connor (ECE DOTT teacher), and Jo Sheppard (PE Specialist) who are all returning from maternity leave.

I would like to welcome Rachel Yee, Emily Grainger and Jennifer Toms to our school as they join our teaching team for the first time in 2022. We are excited to have these new staff members on our team as they bring a wealth of skills and expertise which will add value to our students education.

PLEASE LOOK AFTER OUR SCHOOL OVER THE HOLIDAYS

As we move into the holiday period, many public schools experience some damage due to graffiti, misuse or abuse of facilities and damage to playgrounds. We are asking for your help over the Christmas period to keep an eye on our school and report any suspicious behaviour.

Unfortunately, a group of skateboarders have taken a liking to the steps beside our basketball courts. They have done a considerable amount of damage, removing the metal blocks and

marking both the steps with black rubber and damaging the basketball court surface. We have been made aware that our school is being targeted and is known within skateboarding groups as a great place to skate and film. We are asking for our community to support us by phoning school security if they observe or hear skateboarders in our school grounds, on 9264 4632.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT

I would like to conclude 2021 by thanking our community for their ongoing support and cooperation. You have welcomed me as the new principal, and your kind words and positive feedback throughout the past couple of weeks has kept us going in a very busy time.

It is my pleasure to be part of this community and I look forward to an exciting and eventful 2022

Warm regards,
Sheri Evans

Retirement of Canteen Manager



After 14 years of service to our school and community Barbara Keeling, our canteen manager will be retiring at the end of this year. The P&C and on behalf of the community, would like to thank Barb for all of her years of dedication and hard work making sure our canteen provided a variety of foods for our children. The children presented her with flowers, gifts and three cheers on Wednesday, her last day. We would like to wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

Smith Family Appeal



Tied in with our Christmas Concert this year was an opportunity for our families to donate money to The Smith Family. Organised by our wonderful Art teacher, Mrs Sally Gorey, West Leederville Primary's amazing fundraising result was \$2,307! Tis is an absolutely fantastic result and is enough to ensure 77 children in need receive a gift under their tree this Christmas. Wow! That's incredible!

We extend our thanks to our very generous WLPS community.

Our fundraising page can see here: <https://events.thesmithfamily.com.au/fundraisers/sallygorey>

Graduation gift



Traditionally, each year the graduating class of students fundraise to present a gift to the school. This year the Year 6 students a sign to go in the undercover areas which featured the PBS cygnets showing the five values of PBS.

Dates for your Diary

16 December 2021

Last day of school year

24 January 2022

School office opens

27 January 2022

Uniform shop opens between 9am and 12pm in school hall.

27 & 28 January 2022

School Development Days-students do not attend

31 January 2022

Term 1 of 2022 school year commences.

Please check the West Leederville Primary School Website or Mobile App for regular updates to the school planner.

P&C Update

This was a year of firsts for the P&C; we had our first ever Colour Run and first ever Comedy Night. The comedy night was great with excellent comedians and a decent crowd. The colour run was an amazing success with everyone who took part having an absolutely fantastic time and raised \$20,000.

Other events organised by the P&C were the movie night, the welcome to West Leederville Primary School BBQ and the PBS BBQ. We also carried on with Crazy Camel and a big shout out to all the teachers who provided the classroom time to do the artwork. The uniform shop and canteen are an integral part of the school and without the volunteers who run them we would be in a pickle! We have also delivered a mission statement and strategy to help guide the P&C in the future.

The school has benefitted from all these events, whether from a community, social or financial perspective. The P&C has provided significant funds to the school this year, which have been for curriculum support funding, purchasing new library books, help with the PBS launch, and other smaller projects.

I would like to thank all the P&C members, the Exec. committee and the school admin for all their help and support over the last year, it has been nice to see quite a few new members join the P&C and volunteer to help out on events. Over the last 12 to 18 months I think the whole school community has become closer which has been amazing to see and be a part of, hopefully this will continue because we have a wonderful school and community.

Next year, 2022, is shaping up to be a big year with a return of the quiz night, a cocktail evening, and potentially the fete making a long awaited return.

Cheers

Andrew Faragher

WLPS P&C President

Graduation 2021



At the conclusion of each school year we celebrate the final year of primary school for our Year 6 students at Graduation. This year 71 students took part in the graduation ceremony in front of their family and friends. In attendance at the ceremony to present awards were Mr Geoff Baker MLA; Chair of the WLPS Board, Ms Derry Joyce; P&C President Mr Andrew Faragher, and from the Cambridge Musicians who sponsored the Instrumental music award, Mr Tom Eyres. The students reflected on their time at WLPS and presented their gift to the school, which was a new PBS sign for the undercover area.

In keeping with tradition each graduating student received their Graduation Certificate from the Principal and took turns to ring the original school bell which hangs in the hall, this being the only time that the bell is rung. The students joined their families and staff in the library for a morning tea hosted by the Year 5 parents, and then set off for a day of fun at the Outback Splash.

The recipients of the Graduation Prizes were as follows:

Academic award - Anu Sathe

Citizenship award - Molly Baker & Joshua Faragher

Endeavour award - Ella O'Sullivan

Commitment to Excellence - Isabel Greenwood

English award - Ruby Mizen

Mathematics award - William Griffiths

Science award - Dylan Clark

Technology award - Kai Fradd

Instrumental Music award - Yizen Ng

Music award - Mia Clark

Sport award- Maebh Dhepnorrarat

Drama award - Brigitte Keyser

Art award - Madeleine McAlpine

Languages award - Rupert Decent

Our congratulations go to these students and all of our 2020 graduates. The staff and students of WLPS hope that your career at secondary school and thereafter will be happy and rewarding.

Book Award Assembly

At the conclusion of the school year, we acknowledge students for exceptional effort and achievement. From each class a student was chosen to receive an Endeavour award and a Citizenship award. Each specialist teacher presented an award and an Academic award was presented to a girl and boy from Year 3 to 5. Congratulations to the following students who received awards at today's assembly:

Pre-primary White Citizenship award - Zoe De Vries

Endeavour award - Isabelle Place

Pre-primary Red Citizenship award - Leo Dempsey

Endeavour award - Esther Turner

Pre-primary Blue Citizenship award - Harry Watts

Endeavour award - Gwyneth Samanta

Year 1 White Citizenship award- Elliot Hayles-Leith

Endeavour award- Georgia Saunt

Year 1 Blue Citizenship award- Theo Vallelonga

Endeavour award- Georgia Nelson

Year 1 Black Citizenship award- Freya Anderson

Endeavour award- Charlie Stewart

Year 1/2 Citizenship award- Saskia Smart

Endeavour award- Jadelynn Nguyen

Year 2 White Citizenship award- Zachary Kobulniczky

Endeavour award- Lucca Radavelli-Bagatini

Year 2 Red Citizenship award- Oscar Ravine

Endeavour award- Abbie Divola

Year 2 Blue Citizenship award- Alexandra Trilling - Kirkwood

Endeavour award- Eve Corcoran

Year 3 White Citizenship award- Evelyn Keyser

Endeavour award- Akein Nawarathna

Year 3 Blue Citizenship award- Kay Li Chong

Endeavour award- Eloise Casswell

Year 3 Black Citizenship award- Zarah Zhou

Endeavour award- Clancy O'Donnell

Year 3/4 Citizenship award- Isla Tan

Endeavour award- Scarlett Brown

Year 4 Red Citizenship award- Frankie Simpson

Endeavour award- Amy Li

Year 4 White Citizenship award- Winnie Devitt

Endeavour award- Harrison Stinton

Year 4/5 Citizenship award- Priyanshi Ramola

Endeavour award- Isla Starcevich

Year 5 Citizenship award- Marion Turner

Endeavour award- Lachlan Ladyman

Year 5/6 Citizenship award- Declan Wong

Endeavour award- Andrea Joice)

Service to School award - William Hayes

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Year 3- Lourdes Samosir

Nikitha Balram

Year 5- Hugo Webb

Zechariah Navea

Year 5- Aurora Pontre-Gibson

James Sommerfield

SPECIALIST SUBJECT AWARDS

Art award- Scarlett Brown

Drama award- Elsie Brodie-Hall

Mandarin award- Indee Marr

Sport award- Sam Mitchell

Music award- Andrea Joice

'Ringing the bell' in PP



On Monday, the students from Pre-primary took turns to ring the original school bell to signify the end of the first year of their compulsory school years. We hope to see most of these students ringing the large bell in the school hall at their graduation in Year 6 in 2027.



Back to school

January 25, 2022 - office staff return to school.

January 27, 2022 - teachers return (professional development days).

January 27, 2022 - uniform shop open, 9am to 12pm, Heritage building.

January 31, 2021 - Students commence school year.



Uniform shop



Due to the high demand for uniforms at the beginning of the new school year the uniform shop will open before school commences in 2021.

We will open:

Thursday 27 January from 9am - 12pm.

On this day parents can collect any online orders from 9am and directly from the shop from 10am onwards.

Student reports



The 2021 Semester 2 formal student reports were made available via Connect last Friday 10 December. Please use your parent access to Connect to login and view your children's reports

A quick guide to Connect for parents can be found at the following link : [Connect for Parents](#)

Booklists

Stationery requirements for the students in 2022 were emailed out to parents at the end of Term 3.

Students will require all of the items listed, although many items can be carried over from the previous year. Please ensure that your child commences the year with a complete list of their stationery

requirements to ensure a smooth start to their learning. Some consumable items may need to be topped up during the year.

Booklists are available on our School Stream app and website: <https://wlps.wa.edu.au/pages/booklists/>



Lost property



Please take the time to look through the Lost Property at the back of the hall if you are missing items of your child's uniform. All unclaimed

pieces will be disposed of at the end of the school year.

Dental van

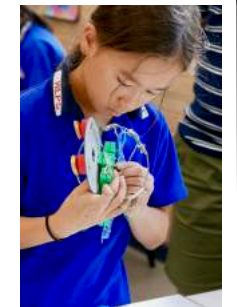


In the case of an emergency, please contact mobile 0408 926 794.

2021 in pictures









INSIGHTS

Technology holiday guide for parents



As holidays approach, the role that screens and devices will play becomes an increasing concern for parents. Days when kids are usually tied up with school and activities make way for many an idle hour and, as such, parents fear those hours will be spent largely engaged with a screen or gaming console. While there is certainly no harm in some well-balanced screen time and developmentally appropriate online activities, we must remember that, as parents, we have an important role in helping our kids manage and balance that screen time. Here are a few things we can do:

Understand the battle

It is important parents know the beast they are dealing with. It is easy to shout from another room to get off a screen or whinge to our friends that 'kids of today' are all addicted to their phones, but we need to recognise the pull that many of these devices have. The social networks are designed to keep us liking, commenting and sharing. The games cajole us into having 'just one more' turn at being the last man standing. These technologies tempt us to reach just one more level, or to scroll for just a few minutes more. Our brains experience a dopamine release and a sense of insufficiency when we use a device. There is always something else to do or something else to scroll through, or one more YouTube video to watch. So our kids are up against it when trying to control their time on a device. We need to help them with that.

Get outside

We can complain that kids never go outside and play anymore, but sometimes we have to physically get out there with them or offer opportunities in which being outside and active play are appealing. We have to work a little harder at this today because we are competing with a device that answers many of our kids' perceived needs. We need them to know that their needs are greater and more varied than what their screens can offer.

Have some rules

Despite their apparent dislike of rules around technology, kids will (one day) appreciate having boundaries to help them manage their screen time. Rules can be established regarding time limits, devices in bedrooms, device-free meal times, etc. Whatever you decide is important, be sure that you have those discussions with your kids. And any discussion around rules or consequences should happen away from the screens so they are clear on the expectations. (Talking about their screen-time habits while they are just about to be the last man standing on Fortnite is probably not going to make for engaging conversation.)

One console on one television...outside the bedroom

Having only one television that is connected to a gaming console or to Netflix is a good way of ensuring that the device gets shared and one child doesn't monopolise the screen. And leave consoles out of bedrooms where the appeal of just one more quick game can very quickly rob them of important sleep time.

Role model

Make sure you are showing your kids how you want them to be. Have times when the devices are put away and you give full attention to the people around you. Don't answer calls or emails at the dinner table. Don't fall asleep with a device landing on your forehead. Take time to get outside and do things active and in nature. Don't ever use a phone while driving. Use the Screen Time feature on iOS products to monitor just how you are using your technology and whether you could be making some changes. Kids learn more from what we do than what we say.

parenting * ideas

We know the technology isn't going anywhere, and we know there are many wonderful benefits that screens provide. But ensure that holidays and downtime hours can be filled with many different experiences and in ways that leave your kids in control, even if you have to work a little harder to give them that.



Martine Oglethorpe

Martine is a parent educator and a youth and family counsellor who speaks, writes and consults on the challenges faced by families in the modern world. Martine has a Masters in Counselling and a background in secondary education. Through her personal and professional work with families raising children, she recognises the important role technology plays in the social and emotional wellbeing of young people. Martine is an accredited speaker with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.