

DWELLINGUP CRIER



Produced by Dwellingup Primary School

Feb 17th 2023

Established 1911

"Choose Respect"

Dates to Remember:

Wed 22nd Feb: Year 6 Leadership Day Waroona

Wed 1st Mar: P & C A.G.M.

Mon 6th Mar: Labour Day Holiday

Wed 8th Mar: "Sculpture by the Sea" Years 4/5/6

Thurs 9th Mar: Hockey Clinic (rescheduled)

Mon 13th – Fri 17th Mar: Harmony Week

Sun 19th Mar: Black Dog Ride – P & C

Tues 14th – Thurs 23rd Mar: NAPLAN

Mon 3rd – Thurs 6th Apr: Swimming Week

Thurs 6th Apr: Last day of term.

Sat 8th Apr: Giant Pumpkin Fete

Mon 24th Apr: Term 2 commences

Tues 25th Apr: ANZAC Holiday

www.mathletics.com.au

www.studyladder.com.au

www.mylexile.com.au

Miss Fisher

We extend our sympathy to **Miss Stephanie Fisher** who is having on-going issues with her sprained foot / ankle. We are anticipating her return to school this Thursday. We have welcomed **Mrs Linda Spicer** who has proved to be a popular relief teacher with us all. Thank you to **Stephanie** for sending in detailed lesson plans and to **Mrs Jude Wagenaar** and **Mrs Laine Vanelst** for their competence, dedication and commitment in setting up the class routines. It is wonderful seeing the students settled and working productively.

In Term Swimming

Mon 3rd – Thurs 6th April

Costing is still being finalised, but for your budgeting purposes, the cost will be around \$60 per student. You will be advised as to the final cost on **March 3rd**.



Wear Red / Orange or Yellow for the Volunteer Fire Brigade

Thank you to all of the parents who supported the students wearing of warm colours on Friday. A total of **\$52.00** was raised. This will be forwarded to the **Dwellingup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade** along with a thank you card. Once again, thank you to all of our amazing volunteers.



Above: Students in years 1-6 looking very bright. Mrs Kinal tried to get a photo of the K/PP students but a march fly attack put paid to her plans. They were very busy afterwards!

Voluntary Contributions

Contributions are \$50.00 per student. Thank you to the parents who have already paid these. Funds collected are used for learning resources for your child.

School Web Page / Newsletter

Our web address is:

<https://www.dwellingupps.wa.edu.au/>

If you need to receive a hard copy of the newsletter please contact the front office.

Recycling / Charities

Please bring in obsolete mobile phones (recycling); batteries (safe disposal); stamps (Rotary sell them for charity and have raised \$90 000 in 23 years); toothpaste tubes and old toothbrushes. There are collection bins in the passage.



Students who bring in items receive a raffle ticket which goes into a weekly draw for a milkshake. Recipient is as follows:

Week 3: Alby Hughes

Milkshakes are kindly donated by Longriders' Café.

Recycling

In 2021 **Mr Warren** commenced an educational and very worthwhile sustainability project with our students. For many students, this activity was the highlight of their week. Old electrical items were disassembled, metals were identified, sorted and sold for scrap instead of ending up in Landfill. Please contact **Colleen Sing 0488 225 888** if you have any items to donate.

School Improvements

Mr Carter and the year 4/5/6 students had a fresh start to the year as their classroom was painted. In addition, everyone would have noticed the wonderful 'lift' our hall has received. Initially it was decided to paint the area outside the year 4/5/6 room but of course, that showed up the rest of the passage, so we decided to keep going. Then we needed to do the little passage going up the lunch area...now we need to do the pin-up boards. I'm sure anyone out there who has done home improvements is familiar with this scenario!

Thank You Todd Hersey & Kim Birmingham

We extend a huge thank you to **Todd Hersey** for his generosity in donating and delivering logs to the school for **Mr Warren's** latest grounds installation. Thank you also to **Kim Birmingham** for removing stumps and completing general earth-works to prepare the site. Thanks to **John Laird** for arriving with his chain-saw and following **Mr Warren's** complicated instructions. (Afterwards he got roped in to coming up to the Playgroup room and covering a pin-up board with paper ~ what versatility!) We are extremely grateful to all of the support we get from our community and can't wait to see this project finished.



Above: **Mr Warren** 'beavering' away at the front of our school. We can't wait to see the finished result.

Thank You Cockatoos



Left: In our school we have a Marri tree with beautiful pink blossom right up at the top. The K/PP students noticed that the cockatoos 'picked' some for them. They collected the blossoms from the ground and arranged them.



Playgroup News

On Friday the school held a **Playgroup Open Day**. We are delighted that we have new families in town. The parents and children had the chance to meet each other and mums who already have children here. Playgroup is run at the school under the “**Enhanced Transition to Schools Project**”. Information about this project is attached to this newsletter. Also attached to the newsletter is information about early years brain development.



Above: Mum Renee with Ivy.

We are a friendly group and we welcome pre-kindergarten aged children and anyone who has the care of them.

The children who attended enjoyed exploring the new surroundings, meeting some new friends, painting pink pigs and sticking yellow ‘feathers’ on paper ducks. They also enjoyed squishing and moulding play dough and then finished off with some outdoor fun in the sand-pit.

This week **Renae**, who is employed by the **Department of Education** to facilitate this program in schools is meeting with us.

I sincerely thank **Lainee Vanelst** for spending hours setting up after school on Thursday and for coming in so early on Friday morning to get things ready. Thank you also **Lainee** for being so welcoming and friendly to the new parents and children and for cooking the delicious scones! Thank you to **Wendy & Nola** for their support.



Left: Riley's mum Emma indicated that Riley is interested in 'everything'. She is looking very excited about venturing into the sand pit..



Left: Quinn exploring her new surroundings.



Above: Sophie with Lachlan and Tash with Elayna and son Billy.

Aboriginal Season ~ Bunuru

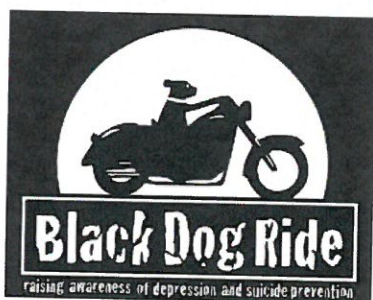
During February and March, the dry conditions and hot northerly winds meant that Noongars moved to the coast and estuaries, as the mainland suffered from a shortage of fresh, clean water. Fish, mussels and crabs made up a large portion of the diet as they moved from the ocean to the lake system. Fish such as tailor and mullet were easily trapped in shallow water and marron, gilgies and turtles were collected from wetlands. A special type of bulb was collected and used as a spice and wattle, banksia blossom and various roots were also collected.



P & C News

Helpers are required for the following events planned for this term. Please contact the school if you are available to help.

Sunday 9th March "Black Dog Ride". This is an event that raises awareness of depression and suicide. The P & C will be serving food from the canteen.



Saturday 8th April Giant Pumpkin Fete
Flyer coming out soon.



AGM

Wednesday 1st March

- Principal's P & C report attached to this newsletter.

Times Tables

Knowing the times tables (and their associated division facts) supports mathematical learning and understanding and children who have a strong grasp of them tend to be more self-assured when learning new concepts. Constant repetition to embed tables in long term memory is essential for mastery. Students learn tables at school but practice at home supports retention.

We are very happy to see the tables 'stars' in Room 2 who are already proficient with some of their tables.



Virtue: Responsibility:

"I am responsible. I give my best to all that I do and keep my agreements. I learn from my mistakes. I am willing to say sorry."

You are practising **responsibility** when you:

- Take agreements seriously.
- Respond ably by doing things to the best of your ability.
- Are willing to do your part and not leave everything to other people.
- Admit mistakes without making excuse
- Are willing to make amends.
- Give your best to whatever you do



Parent Meetings / Queries / Concerns / Feedback

I strongly encourage any parent to contact their child's teacher or myself if you have any queries or concerns **at any time**. The school number is **9538 5100**; my mobile number is **0488 225 888**.

No matter is ever considered too trivial and we are here to listen and respond. Your feedback / opinions / ideas are welcomed and are extremely helpful.



Community News

Log Chop ~ “The Spirit of the Axeman”

Dwellingup was settled because of the timber industry and orchardists. The “Log Chop” is a link to the past and in this sense is an “iconic” Dwellingup event. It serves as an occasion for old timers to ‘catch up’ and the whole town to have a great day out. As well as the log chop, there were stalls, car displays, community displays and as usual, the **Volunteer Fire Brigade Sausage Sizzle**. This was extremely successful ~ 500 sausage sizzles were sold.



Above: Logan, Tyler, Kaiden and Nate

Thank you to **Renae Armstrong, Joanne Moore** and their helpers for organising this event.

Bike Riding Skills With Harley

Last year **Harley Hanstrum** ran a very successful bike skills session. The many children and parents who attended learned a variety of skills that enhanced their safety and technique when bike riding. I can highly recommend the session as I attended and Harley proved that you can ‘teach an old dog new tricks’. The **Bike Riding Skill** sessions are back. They commence today.

Place: Cricket nets on the oval.

Day: Monday

Time: 3.30 pm – 4.30

Please make sure your child has a water bottle, helmet and that bikes are in good working condition, ~ especially brakes!



Thank you to **Harley** for your commitment to promoting healthy, active lifestyles and bike safety. These sessions lead into the Saturday morning bike riding group in Term 2 that culminates in the children’s participation in the **Dwellingup “100”** event. Harley runs these sessions also. We thank Susan for her support.

As you have all no doubt heard, this year promises to be extra exciting as it will be an international event.

Below: The bike riding Hanstrum family.



Connecting playgroup and school

Playgroups provide a place for children to have new experiences and opportunities to play, socialise and discover their world.

What is the Enhanced Transition to Schools Project?

The Enhanced Transition to Schools Project is a partnership between the Department of Education, Playgroup WA, the Department of Local Government and Communities and non-government school sectors.

The Project supports setting up community based playgroups on or near a school site to help families become familiar with the school environment and build relationships with staff. This provides benefits for both families and the school.

What is playgroup?

A playgroup is a group of parents, caregivers and extended family who meet together with their babies and young children for interaction, socialisation, support and shared learning through play.

Most sessions run for 1-2 hours, with parents and caregivers staying with children as part of the group throughout the session.

What are the benefits of playgroup?

Playgroups provide a place for children to have new experiences and opportunities to play, socialise and discover their world.

Research shows that child's relationships and experiences in the years leading up to when they start school, lays the foundation for all future learning, development and function.

What are the benefits of playgroup for school communities?

There are many benefits to local families, schools and communities when playgroups are co-located at school or have strong links with their local school.

Playgroups connected with a school provide an opportunity for your family to build a sense of belonging, identity, social inclusion, and commitment to the school prior to your children formally starting at the school.

Attending playgroup at a school allows parents and children to become familiar with the school prior to transition to formal schooling.

How do I go about setting up a playgroup at my school?

Details on how to start a playgroup at your school can be found on the [Playgroup WA](#) webs

Early years brain development

Why the early years count

In the first years of a child's life, their brain development will create the foundations for all learning and development later in life. While genetics provide the initial 'map' for development, it is everyday experiences and relationships that shape a child's brain.

A baby's brain begins developing before birth and, in the early years, significant 'wiring' occurs within the brain, effectively programming the child's development. Between 2 to 6 months a baby will learn

about emotions through watching how you react to them when they coo, cry, smile or yell.



Making important connections

- In the first 9 months, a baby's brain is forming connections between what they see, hear, taste and feel.
- From 9 months to 12 months, a baby will become increasingly vocal, as their understanding of emotions develops.
- By the age of 3, a child has around 1,000 trillion brain connections (synapses), the most they will ever have in their life, as these are 'pruned' in later development.

These initial brain connections are formed as a result of the everyday experiences, relationships and care a child receives in their early years, and will provide the foundations for further brain development later in life.

What you can do

Parents, caregivers and family members play an important role in the ongoing development of a child. Providing a safe and caring environment for your child and engaging with them through talking, reading and playtime has a great influence on their early development.

Community and learning environments can also play a key role in supporting optimal development through providing support, learning opportunities and social experiences.

Brain development from birth

Essential brain development occurs in the first years of a child's life. When you look at the years in which the main brain development is made and the effect this development has in schooling and later years, the importance of positive experiences in the early years is clear.



As a parent or guardian, you can support your child's early development by providing a safe and nurturing environment with learning opportunities and minimal stress.

Ante-natal

Your child's brain has already started developing. All 5 senses begin to function before birth. During this time, prenatal sensory experiences help shape the brain and nervous system.

2–6 months

Significant 'wiring' of the brain occurs in the first years of a child's life and your baby's brain is developing as a result of the experiences and relationships they are exposed to each day. Babies learn emotions through observing their parents and caregivers, and how they react to various movements and sounds such as crying, yelling, smiling and cooing.

6–9 months

By 9 months your child's brain has already undergone a rapid growth spurt that helps form connections between what they see, hear, feel and taste. Playtime and interactions with parents and family members provides key learning opportunities for early development.

3 years

By 3 years of age a child's brain has around 1,000 trillion brain connections (synapses). The early years are a rapid period of brain development which can be fostered by positive relationships with parents and optimal community environments for families and children. Engaging with your child and providing a safe environment and physical care to your child has a significant impact on your child's development.

3–5 years

By school, a child's brain development is built upon the now solid foundation created in the first 5 years. It is more difficult for children to take advantage of learning environments, such as school, if they have not had optimal early learning experiences or a nurturing home environment.

Adolescence

When adolescence is reached, brain synapses will number around 500 trillion, a figure that remains relatively steady into adulthood. The brain development prioritises the connections used most often, resulting in 'pruning' of the brain networks and circuits.

Source: Queensland Government

DWELLINGUP PRIMARY SCHOOL

P&C MEETING

Principal's Report

Wednesday 15th February 2023

STAFFING Staffing continuity has been an issue at our school over the last few years. There have been many reasons for this including COVID, personal circumstances and system requirements. The 2022 Annual Report is due at the end of this term but I can report that data indicates that students are performing as expected or better than expected compared to "Like Schools". We have far fewer students in the lower bands which indicates that our tracking and intervention is successful. Acknowledgement must be given to our Education Assistants who have provided consistency, continuity and high levels of support to new teachers and to all of the students.

P & C / SCHOOL COUNCIL WELCOME OPEN DAY I applaud Lucy, Shani and others on their initiative in planning the Open day on Tuesday 31st January. I was non compos mentis due to COVID so they got little help. It was a great success in many respects. I feel it is an endorsement of our school that all parents new to the town reported that they had heard extremely positive things about the school.

SCHOOL PROMOTION In conjunction with the above, Shani has been very proactive in promoting the school. We cannot 'advertise' out of the area but these positive articles and the photos / display outside the shop achieve the same aim. However, nothing can beat student achievement and a safe learning / playground environment.

PLAYGROUP It is wonderful that several young families have managed to find housing and move to the area. The school is restarting the "Early Transition to Schooling" program AKA as Playgroup. This program is run by Playgroup W.A. but is a DOE initiative due to the awareness of the huge importance of the early years where 80% of brain development occurs. The other advantage of an on-site Playgroup is that it is hoped parents like the school and send their children here.

YEAR 6 LEADERSHIP I am very impressed that the Murray Shire organised a youth forum last Friday that involved representation from all schools in the Shire. It is amazing that young people have been given a "voice" in regard to planning for the future. Next week a Student Leadership day will be held in Waroona. I received feedback from other principal's that our students spoke with confidence and raised pertinent issues including housing.

LUNCH ORDERS In the interests of student health and staff well-being, lunch orders have been reduced to Thursdays and Fridays only.