



WILLIAM STIMSON PUBLIC SCHOOL



Weekly Newsletter

Newsletter: 1312

Friday 31 January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to the start of the 2020 school year! Already there is lots of enthusiasm and positive energy about the plans we have for 2020. At the moment, we are running 20 mainstream classes and 7 Support Unit classes, however, should the number of students enrolled in our school change, then the class organisation may need to change also.

I would like to introduce a few new staff members to our WSPS team. Ms Adriana Cortellazzi is joining our Kindergarten team and Ms Shams Shakarchy is joining our Stage One team. We are also fortunate to have Ms Natalie Liddell and Mr Bernie O'Sullivan joining the teaching team in our Support Unit. Ms Anela Bradd, another School Counsellor, will be working in our school too. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them all warmly to our WSPS family.

Welcome

Welcome to our new **Kindergarten** students and their families who joined our Learning Community this week. I was able to greet many of them as



they waited so excitedly in the office area for their meetings with Ms Redshaw, Miss Yildirim and Mrs Favotto. Our fantastic team of Kindergarten teachers and support staff have done a brilliant job settling the students and ensuring their schooling journey has started positively.

Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Mrs Slavuljica, Ms Anderson, Mrs Gigliotti, Mr Rasera and Mrs Simmons for the organisation and smooth running of the Swimming Carnival. Thank you to our parents and friends who supported the children and provided encouragement and dry towels throughout the day. It was wonderful to hear about the effort and determination of many of our students who tried their best, and in some instances, beat their personal best times!



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Update on Novel Coronavirus

This has been a complicated issue to communicate about as there have been many people confused about who has the potential to be affected by this virus. The information I have shared and will continue to share is directed by the **NSW Department of Education** and has been informed by the **NSW Ministry of Health**.

Current advice from the Australian Government Department of Health for parents and affected staff is:

- People who have been in contact with any confirmed Novel Coronavirus cases must be isolated in their home for 14 days following exposure;
- Returned travellers who have been in Hubei Province of China must be isolated in their home for 14 days after leaving Hubei Province, other than for seeking individual medical care.

Students and staff currently excluded from school are those who:

- over the last 14 days has visited the province of Hubei in central China. They should not return to school or child care services for a period of 14 days after leaving China, as the coronavirus' incubation period can be as long as two weeks or
- are under medical assessment or
- have been diagnosed with the Novel Coronavirus or
- have had close contact with a confirmed case of the Novel Coronavirus. The Ministry of Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia.

In addition The NSW Ministry of Health and NSW Department of Education have recommended that:

- Any student or staff member who was in China, including Hong Kong but excluding the province of Hubei over the past 14 days is recommended not attend school or child care services for a period of 14 days after leaving Hubei Province, as the Novel Coronavirus' incubation period can be as long as two weeks.

Students who returned to Australia more than 14 days ago and have shown no symptoms are able to return to school this week.

In accordance with normal protocols staff and children who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. Schools should continue to follow the Infection Control guidelines which are available on the website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/inside-the-department/health-and-safety/risk-management/infection-control>

The school should report any suspected or confirmed cases of Novel Coronavirus to the **Incident Report and Support Hotline** on **1800 811 523** and contact the local **Public Health Unit** on **1300 066 055** to provide details so that the Public Health Unit can follow up as necessary.

Getting to School on Time!



I'd like to say, 'well done!' to you all on making a huge effort to be on time for school for the first week back. Last year we had a big focus on improving this behaviour and it seems that we are carrying

this into the new school year! Students are expected to prepare themselves for an enjoyable day of learning by making sure they are at school on time. Students must remember to order their lunch (if they need to) and make their way to their class lines by the time the assembly bell has sounded. **NO ONE** should be making their way to the canteen to order their lunch or buy breakfast once the assembly has begun. **REMEMBER - We gather for an assembly on Monday and Thursday mornings ONLY so you will have to be extra organised for the start of your school day each Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.** If you are late to school, you must go to the office to collect a **LATE NOTE**. If you turn up at your classroom door without a late note, then your teacher will ask you to go back to the office to collect one.

School Uniform

I would like to congratulate our families for their efforts in ensuring our students are dressed in school uniform. A special mention must be made about the effort from students in wearing black school shoes, great job! Our message has been that by wearing our William Stimson uniform we proudly represent one Learning

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Community. I took this photo of our Stage One students as they waited to find out their classes for 2020. How amazing does their footwear look!



Voluntary Contributions

Voluntary contributions in 2020 will increase to **\$45.00**. There may be several grades that will require the students to purchase a Handwriting Book for individual use however these will be purchased separately and have not been factored into the voluntary contributions. Notes regarding the details for voluntary contributions will be sent home early next week. In the meantime, all children need to be equipped with the general stationery items required for school such as pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, scissors, glue sticks, etc.

P & C - Annual General Meeting

Please note that the **P & C Annual General Meeting** will be held in the Special Programs room in H Block on **Wednesday 5 February** at 9.00am. All parents are welcome. \$2 ensures financial membership so parents can vote for the Executive Committee. Please join us, all welcome!

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

Homework Centre

The **Homework Centre** will begin on **Monday 17 February** for students in Years 2-6 only. A permission note will be sent home next week. Students attending the Homework Centre do not receive individual tutoring. Students can ask questions about the content of their homework, but the main emphasis is on supervision of independent workers.

Swimming Scheme - 2020

Please ensure your child has secured their place in the 'Learn to Swim Program' by having them bring in the signed permission note and money.



The program will run from **Monday 17 Feb** until **Friday 28 Feb**. Instruction will take place at the **Fin Aquatic & Recreational Centre** in Smithfield.

The cost of Learn to Swim Program is:

\$80 - Grades 2-6

\$50 - Support Unit students

Students who have not reached a satisfactory standard of water safety and survival skills and are unable to swim 25m confidently unaided in deep water, are eligible to participate in the School Swimming Scheme. The Scheme focuses on weak swimmers in Year 2 and 3 but provides for weak swimmers in Years 4 to 6 as well as students with special needs such as new arrivals in Australia and students with disabilities.

Parent Information Afternoons

(Meet the Teacher)

These meetings will be held on **Wednesday February 26**. The timetable for each grade will be advertised on the Skoolbag App. All parents are encouraged to attend these meetings to gain information about the programs and events for the year ahead.

Updated Canteen Menu

Our canteen is under new management! The ladies are working tirelessly to deliver fresh and tasty food options. A copy of the updated Canteen



Menu has been uploaded on our WSPS Skoolbag app. There are lots of delicious items for our students to choose from. Another new option is to order online through Flexischools. You will need to register first and then follow the prompts on organising an account and placing an order. This is a really simple process ... I just created my own account, uploaded some money and placed my order for a yummy chicken caesar salad for tomorrow!

Stay Connected

Remember you can keep updated with **everything** that is happening at William Stimson PS through accessing our **WSPS Skoolbag app** or following us on **Facebook** or **Twitter**. Our addresses are as follows:

www.facebook.com/WilliamStimsonPublicSchool

Twitter handle - **@OurSchoolWSPS**

Melissa Vallorani

CALENDAR DATES - 2020

- 3 Feb** Kindy students commence their school year
- 4 Feb** Dance Fever MultiSports - Mind & Body Wellbeing Program (School funded)
- 5 Feb** PSSA Summer Teams try outs
P & C - AGM
- 6 Feb** PSSA Summer Teams try outs
- 11 Feb** Dance Fever MultiSports - Mind & Body Wellbeing Program (School funded)
- 13 Feb** Student Leadership Induction
- 14 Feb** PSSA Summer Round 1
- 17 Feb** Swimming School commences today - 2 weeks
Homework Centre opens for 2020
- 18 Feb** Dance Fever MultiSports - Mind & Body & Wellbeing Program (School funded)
- 21 Feb** PSSA Summer Round 2
- 25 Feb** Dance Fever MultiSports - Mind & Body & Wellbeing Program (School funded)
- 26 Feb** Meet the Teacher Sessions
- 28 Feb** PSSA Summer Round 3
- 2 Mar** Horsley Zone Swimming Carnival
- 3 Mar** Dance Fever MultiSports - Mind & Body & Wellbeing Program (School funded)
- 6 Mar** PSSA Summer Round 4