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13 December 2024

The Aquila Feed



School Expectations		
At Wentworth Point Public School we teach and model our school wide values and the behaviours that we expect to see as we are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and responsive learning environment for everyone.		
I care for myself	I care for others	I care for the environment
All settings <ul style="list-style-type: none">Be in the right place at the right timeBe an active participantBe a team playerShow pride in what you doBe enthusiastic and optimisticWork towards achieving my goalsAsk for assistance from a teacher if required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Be polite and use good mannersAccept differencesKeep your hands, feet and body to yourselfSpeak politely to everyoneLook at the person who is speakingRespect people's differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use school property correctlyPut rubbish in the bin
Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none">Walk inside the classroomAsk for permission to leave the roomEnter and leave the room quietly and safelyFinish eating before playingStay in the correct areaWear a hat or play under the COLAWalk on hard surfacesSit on seatsKeep pathways clear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Allow others to learnUse a quiet voiceRespect other people's propertyTake turnsFollow the rules of the gameShare the sports equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use classroom equipment and furniture correctlyTuck your chair in
Playground <ul style="list-style-type: none">Finish eating before enteringWalk in the positive playgroundSit on seatsWear a hat or play under the COLAAsk for permission to leave the areaUse the toilet before enteringLine up and wait quietly before enteringUse the toilet at break timesWash my handsClose the door behind meLeave the toilet when I am finished and return to the correct area promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Allow others to learnUse a quiet voiceLine up and wait quietly before entering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walk around the gardensReturn games and booksPut rubbish in the bin
Passive Playground <ul style="list-style-type: none">Finish eating before enteringWalk in the passive playgroundSit on seatsWear a hat or play under the COLAAsk for permission to leave the areaUse the toilet before enteringLine up and wait quietly before enteringUse the toilet at break timesWash my handsClose the door behind meLeave the toilet when I am finished and return to the correct area promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Respect the privacy of othersWait my turn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use the toilet paper, hand towel and soap correctlySave water by turning off taps after use
Toilets <ul style="list-style-type: none">Use the toilet at break timesWash my handsClose the door behind meLeave the toilet when I am finished and return to the correct area promptly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Respect the privacy of othersWait my turn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use the toilet paper, hand towel and soap correctlySave water by turning off taps after use
Canteen <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wait your turn to be servedBe preparedLine up correctlyUse your own moneyUse an inside voiceAsk for help	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Buy and eat your own food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Return the lunch baskets
Office <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wait your turn to be servedBe preparedLine up correctlyUse your own moneyUse an inside voiceAsk for help	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Be polite and use mannersFollow instructionsWalk on the leftUse a quiet voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Close doors after I leave
Transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Stay with the groupFollow teacher instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Be polite and use mannersFollow instructionsWalk on the leftUse a quiet voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stay on the walkways
Handful Moment <ul style="list-style-type: none">I can identify my feelings and emotions and take a mindful moment.I ask for help.I return to my learning when my teacher and I decide it is time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I am aware and give people time and space when they need it.I let the teacher know when I need a mindful moment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use equipment safelyI can be responsible by leaving the space tidy.

Messages from Jayne Muir, Principal

At Wentworth Point Public School:

I care for myself.

I care for others.

I care for the environment.

Kind hands. Kind legs. Kind words.
We model and teach Common Courtesies.
Say, 'Please' whenever you ask for something.
Say, 'Thank you' when someone gives you something or does something for you.
Say, 'Pardon' if you didn't hear what someone said.
Say, 'Excuse me' when you walk or lean in front of people.
When people speak to you, look at their face and listen to what they say.
Greet people when you see them.
Use the person's name when speaking to them.
Eg. 'Yes, Ms Manousaridis.'
Say, 'Please may I...' followed by your request.
Eg. 'Please may I leave the room?'
Knock before entering a room, walk in and stand where the teacher can see you. Wait quietly to be asked your business.
Be on time for the beginning of lessons and excuse yourself if you are late.



Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Year Message

This year has been filled with wonderful celebrations, achievements, and memorable moments that we will cherish. As we look forward to the upcoming year, let us carry forward this spirit of collaboration and positivity.

To our students, we are so proud of your achievements and growth this year! Your enthusiasm, curiosity,

and resilience have made our school a vibrant place to learn and grow. Each of you has contributed to our school community in unique ways, and we celebrate your successes, both big and small.

To our parents and caregivers, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Your involvement in our school, whether through volunteering, attending events, or simply encouraging your children, has been invaluable. Together, we have created a nurturing environment that promotes learning and development.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment, passion, and creativity. Your hard work has made a significant difference in the lives of our students, inspiring them to reach their full potential and fostering a love for learning. I feel honoured to work alongside you.

End of Year Celebrations

Thank you for joining us at our End of Year Learning Celebrations during Week 9. As I shared in my principal address, it was truly meaningful for us to come together and celebrate the incredible growth of our students throughout the year.

A highlight of our celebrations was the Year 6 Graduation evening at Urbnsurf, a magical event where our students marked the conclusion of their primary school journey. The Year 6 class of 2024 holds special significance as the foundation students of our school, having been the very first Kindergarten cohort when we opened our doors in 2018. Interestingly, many of these students will also become the foundation Year 7 students at Wentworth Point High School when it opens in 2025.

We invite you to join us on the final day of 2024 for our school's 'Clap Out' as we bid farewell to the Class of 2024.

Staffing Update

As we approach the end of the term, I would like to take a moment to address some staffing changes that are a natural part of our school community's growth and evolution. At the conclusion of each year, some staff members move on for personal reasons, professional development, or to pursue new opportunities. While these transitions are part of the rhythm of school life, our commitment to providing the highest

quality education for our students remains unchanged.

Mrs Grace Lattuca has been the Relieving Deputy Principal throughout 2024 will be leaving WPPS at the end of this year. Ms Karosha Reddy, who is the substantive Deputy Principal of WPPS, will be returning to our school in 2025. Karosha was appointed, via an expression of interest, as the Relieving Principal at Whitton Murrumbidgee Public School for 2024.

Grace has been an integral part of our school community throughout 2024, and I want to take a moment to express our thanks. Grace has worked shoulder to shoulder with all staff and students K-6. In addition, Grace has led the EAL/D team and Learning and Support Team at WPPS. Her dedication to fostering a positive learning environment and supporting both staff and students has made an impact on our school community. She has a strong commitment to academic, social and emotional development of students and ensures that student wellbeing is at the forefront of her mind through creating an inclusive and supportive environment that fosters learning. As she moves on to new opportunities, we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

I am pleased to share that **Ms Sonja Schalo** has been successful in securing the position of Assistant Principal 3-6 at Melrose Park Public School for 2025, following a competitive Expression of Interest (EOI) process. Applying for any leadership position is a challenging task, and Sonja's commitment, focus, and determination throughout the process are truly commendable. Having served as our Acting Assistant Principal for the past two years, Sonja has made an invaluable contribution to our school community. As she embarks on this new chapter, we know that Sonja will carry forward the skills, experience, and knowledge she has developed during her time with us.

Ms Natalie Walsh has worked as a temporary teacher at WPPS for 18 months. She will be leaving us at the end of this term to embark on an exciting overseas adventure. Natalie has worked collaboratively with the Year 2 team of WPPS and inspired her students with her passion for teaching. As she sets off on this new journey, I want to take this opportunity to express our thanks for her dedication, hard work, and the positive energy she brought to our school every day. We are excited for her as she explores new cultures and experiences during this adventure.

Ms Cordelia Craigie has worked at WPPS as a temporary teacher for the last 18 months as a classroom teacher in Stage 2, most recently as the Meerkats teacher. She will be broadening her career in 2025 by working at other schools within the Department of Education, both locally and within NSW. We know that she will embrace this opportunity to build on her skills, knowledge and teaching experience.

As we bid farewell to these staff members, we wish all of them the very best as they embark on the next steps of their journeys.

Marina Square's Christmas Concert

Join us on Saturday, December 14, at approximately 5:00 PM for a wonderful evening of performances by some of our students at Town Centre Park, Wentworth Point. Celebrate with us as our students shine at this community event!

Performing groups include:

- Stage 1 Dance Group
- Stage 1 Choir
- Stage 2 Choir
- Senior Dance Group

.We look forward to seeing you there and sharing in the festivities!

Important Dates for 2025

All students K-6 will start school on Thursday 6 February 2025. Additional information regarding a staggered time start for Kindergarten 2025 will be shared later once enrolments have been confirmed. Please take note of the following key dates for students throughout 2025.

- **Term 1:** Thursday 6 February to Friday 11 April
- **Term 2:** Wednesday 30 April to Friday 4 July
- **Term 3:** Tuesday 22 July to Friday 26 September
- **Term 4:** Tuesday 14 October to Friday 19 December

For more details, you can view the full 2025 school calendar on the NSW Department of Education website:

View the 2025 School Calendar

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/calendars/2025>

Office Hours end of 2024 and start of 2025

Below is an overview of WPPS office hours for enrolments during School Development Days 2024 & 2025

- Thursday 19 December 2024 - 9am to 12pm
- Friday 20 December 2024- 9am to 12pm
- Friday 31 January 2025- 10am to 1pm
- Monday 3 February 2025- 10am to 1pm
- Tuesday 4 February 2025- 10am to 1pm
- Wednesday 5 February- 10am to 1pm

For all other enquiries, please email the school wentworthp.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Class Formations 2025

The staff at Wentworth Point Public School have been planning classes for 2025. The NSW Department of Education provides guidelines about the number of staff and students in relation to the number of classes. We have received many new enrolments for 2025, and we have drafted class structures.

At the start of 2025, we will review our numbers and finalise class structures. For the start of school, all students will stay in their 2024 classes until enrolment for 2025 is finalised. All students in our Support Unit will meet their teachers in the Support Unit Playground where they will be placed into their 2025 classes.

Final Words

Wishing you all a restful and joyful break ahead! Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school community.

Kind regards,

Jayne Muir

Principal

Messages from Daniel Hall, Deputy Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

Helmets

It's fantastic to see a positive increase in the number of students wearing helmets over the past fortnight. A big thank you to families for reinforcing this

important safety message at home. A reminder to everyone that wearing a helmet while riding bikes and scooters is essential for safety and wellbeing.

OC and Selective High School

Applications are now open for 2026 OC and SHS. Applications will close on the 21 February 2025. Students who can apply for Year 5 placement in an opportunity class in 2026 are:

- currently at the end of Year 3 and
- will be at the beginning of Year 4 by the time applications close on 21 February 2025.

Students who can apply for Selective High School entry for 2026 are:

- currently at the end of Year 5 and
- will be at the beginning of Year 6 by the time applications close on 21 February 2025.

Parents and carers must apply during the application period as late applications will no longer be accepted. For more information, please see the link below. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools.html>

Graduation Assembly and Year 6 Clap Out

Next week, on Wednesday 18 December, we will celebrate our Year 6 students in a special way. As our foundation cohort, they hold a unique place in our school's history,

and this is an exciting milestone for them as they prepare to transition to high school. We invite parents and carers of Year 6 students to join us in the school hall for our Graduation Assembly and our 2024 Clap Out. The event will begin at 2:00pm and will conclude with the students walking through a guard of honour formed by their peers. We hope to see you there as we farewell and celebrate this wonderful group of students.

SRC Fundraiser - Monday 16 December

The Student Representative Council (SRC) will be hosting a special Make-A-Wish Fundraiser on Monday, December 16th. This event aims to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation in granting life-changing wishes for children facing critical illnesses.

As part of the event, students are encouraged to wear their comfiest pyjamas to school for a small donation. Any additional donations from parents and community members are warmly welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Every donation brings us closer to making a difference— the more we raise, the more children we can help make their wishes come true. Thank you for joining us in this meaningful cause.

Together, we can help make a difference in the lives of children who need it most.



Well Wishes for the Holiday Season

As we wrap up the year, I want to wish all our families a joyful and safe holiday season. To those who celebrate, Merry Christmas! To those who don't, I hope you have a restful and enjoyable break. Safe travels to everyone heading away, and I look forward to welcoming you back for another fantastic year of learning on Thursday 6th February 2025.

See you at the gate or in a learning space soon,

Mr Hall

Deputy Principal

Thank you and farewell,

Mrs Grace Lattuca

R/Deputy Principal

Messages from Grace Lattuca, Relieving Deputy Principal



Thank you and Farewell

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a year it has been!

As I pen this, my last Wentworth Point Public School newsletter, I cannot help but wonder where the year has gone. I have enjoyed being part of the WPPS school community and getting involved in the vast and various initiatives the school has introduced and run throughout 2024.

Working shoulder to shoulder as a member of the Senior Executive team with Mrs Muir and Mr Hall has been a delightful learning curve, and together we have accomplished much.

I have relished the opportunity to lead my teams; EAL/D, Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2 and the Support Unit, and working alongside Assistant Principals to ensure every student is provided with rich learning experiences at their point of need. We have made great gains this year and I am proud of all we have collectively achieved.

I would like to thank you, the community, for the kindness with which you have embraced me and made me feel welcome. Your niceties have not gone unnoticed and they have positively impacted my time at WPPS.

But most of all I will miss our extraordinary students who have reminded me each and every day why I do what I do. Their smiles, warm greetings and respectful demeanors have ensured my time here has been a pleasant one.

I wish each of you who celebrate Xmas a very Merry Xmas, and to those who don't may you enjoy a restful, safe, and healthy break.

Messages from P&C Association

P&C Association is a group of volunteers who are parents at the school and members of the local community who want to support the school. The group is committed to supporting and working with the principal and staff to improve the learning experiences of all children. P&C holds meetings once every term of school. It is an informal gathering of parents, citizens, and some staff members where current and future plans for the school are discussed, and how P&C can work together to support and drive common interests related to the school. Members of the P&C committee provide updates and discuss ways to develop and build on a sense of belonging and connection.

- email: info@wpps-pca.org.au
- website: wpps-pca.org.au
- facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wppspca>

P&C Membership

Scan the below QR code or click this [link](#) to fill out the P&C membership form.



P&C Second-Hand Uniform Shop

P&C opens a second-hand uniform shop every first Thursday of the month during the school term. Uniforms are from donations or lost property and are priced at approximately one-third of the retail cost. Shop earnings contribute to the P&C, which in turn funds the school for the benefit of our children.



End of Year Learning Celebration Stage 1

On Tuesday, 10th December, Stage 1 celebrated their year of success. We reflected on the different subjects they have learned and the growth they have achieved. Miss An and Ms Schalo, along with other teachers, were applauded for their dedication and hard work. The day focused on the students and how much they have progressed over the year. Stage 1 teachers are incredibly proud of every single student and their achievements. Year 2 students did a fantastic job dancing to "Strip the Willow," while Year 1 students performed wonderfully to the song "Happy." The choir and the K-2 dance group also gave amazing performances. Stage 1 teachers would like to congratulate every student on completing another year at Wentworth Point Public School and wish them all the best in the year ahead.



Strolling The Block

In Geography, Stage 1 were lucky enough to take a walk around the community. They were identifying community spaces and what they are used for. After being postponed due to weather, the students braved the heat and visited

the ferry, the library and had a trip through Marina Square. They had a great time and were very excited to be outside of school and share their experiences.

Ramp Inventors

This term, the Hammerheads have been diving into the fascinating world of forces in Science, exploring how they make things move. This week's lesson was all about **gravity**—a force that keeps us grounded!

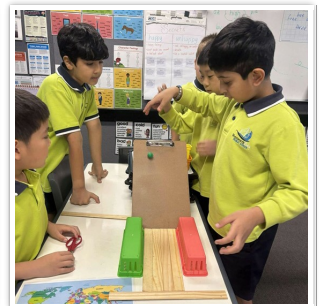
We pondered some big questions:

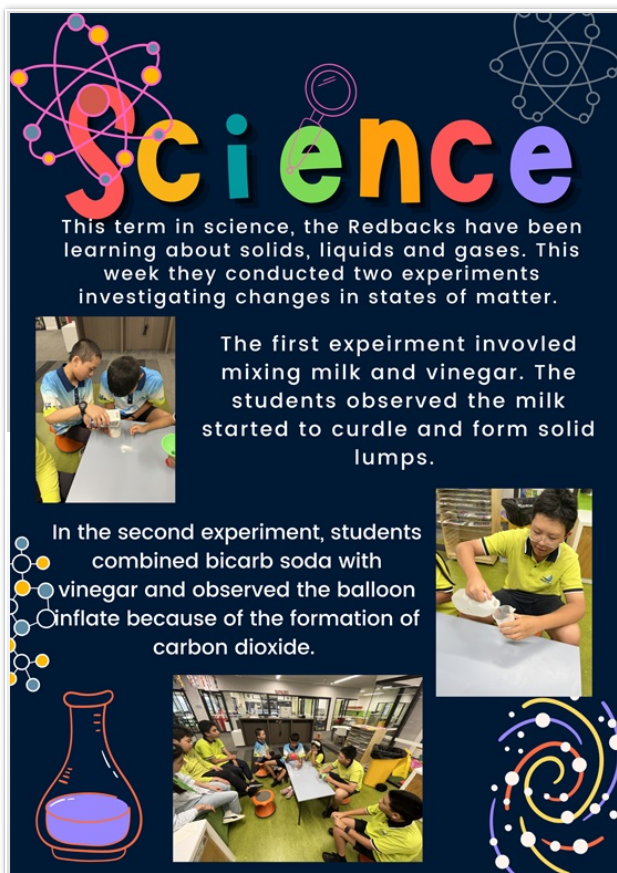
- How does gravity affect objects on Earth?
- Why do we stay upright?
- What happens when we jump, and why do we always come back down?

To investigate, the Hammerheads worked collaboratively in small groups to design ramps using classroom materials. Their mission: to demonstrate how gravity works and observe how the steepness of a ramp influences an object's speed and distance.

It was an exciting hands-on experiment! The students discovered that **steeper ramps increase the force of gravity on an object, causing it to accelerate faster**. Flatter ramps resulted in slower movement because less gravitational force acted on the object. When traveling uphill, objects had to work against gravity to move in the opposite direction.

The key takeaway? *What goes up must come down!* The Hammerheads loved testing their ideas and seeing science in action!





Science

This term in science, the Redbacks have been learning about solids, liquids and gases. This week they conducted two experiments investigating changes in states of matter.

The first experiment involved mixing milk and vinegar. The students observed the milk started to curdle and form solid lumps.

In the second experiment, students combined bicarb soda with vinegar and observed the balloon inflate because of the formation of carbon dioxide.

It has been a great year of PSSA for all teams. This year was the first time WPPS participated in cricket, and we will continue in 2025. Even though we did not have any teams make it to the grand finals, we would like to congratulate all PSSA students in their efforts and determination in their sport. All students should feel proud of themselves as they demonstrated sportsmanship on and off the field.

A big thank you to all the Summer PSSA coaches.

- **Miss Yeung** - Cricket (Junior and Senior)
- **Miss Craigie** - T-Ball
- **Mr LaMacchia** - Softball
- **Mrs Kollias** - AFL (Junior)
- **Mr Vinnik** - AFL (Senior)

PSSA in 2025

Summer PSSA will commence on Friday 21st of February 2025. There will be trials for AFL, Cricket, T-Ball and Softball from Week 2 2025. All students who would like to try out must be at school during the trial dates. More information with the dates will be shared with parents/carers soon.

Swimming Carnival 2025

WPPS 3-6 Swimming carnival will be held in Week 4 Monday 17th of February 2025 (TBC). There will be more information shared soon about the exact date, venue, cost and how to provide permission and payment for students in Year 3-6.

Thank you everyone for a successful year of sport.

Miss Ching and Mrs Kollias
Sport Coordinators

EAL/D Network Meeting Sparks Insightful Discussion on the Role of Talk in Learning

Over 30 specialist teachers from the Strathfield teaching

network gathered for the latest EAL/D (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) Network meeting, hosted by Wentworth Point Public School. This key event provided an invaluable opportunity for teachers to network, share resources, and engage in reflective practice while participating in professional development.

The highlight of the meeting was a thought-provoking presentation by Margaret Turnbull, a Doctoral student at the University of Wollongong. Turnbull, an expert in the field of language and learning, shared her insights into the critical role of talk in the learning process. Drawing on foundational theories in education, she emphasised how language acquisition is intrinsically linked to the broader process of learning itself.

Margaret explained that much of the learning process happens through interaction, particularly through talk. Her presentation underscored the idea that talk is fundamental to both cognitive and social development, helping individuals make sense of their environments.

The session encouraged teachers to reflect on their own practices and how they might better support EAL/D learners by creating rich, interactive learning environments where talk is central to the educational experience. Teachers were also invited to share their own strategies and experiences, making the session a dynamic forum for professional exchange.



P&C Bake Sale



TeamKids

Join TeamKids for the BIGGEST & BEST summer holidays ever!

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- New experiences and activities every day
- Qualified and remarkable Educators
- Healthy and yummy snacks
- CCS-approved care

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Secure your Spot

<https://downloads.teamkids.com.au/wentworth-point-public.pdf>

