Term 1 2022 has been a busy term. The remainder of the term is jam-packed with a wide range of exciting activities and learning opportunities for our school community. We’re on the countdown to the end of term 1.

Tuesday 29 March, School Captains Taylah Reid and Kallie-Lea Daley travelled to Sydney to participate in a Leadership Program held at Government House and Parliament House. They met with Her Excellency Margaret Beasley to discuss her role as the Governor of NSW, and tour the grounds of the historic Government House. They then went to Parliament House where they met with their local member of Parliament Roy Butler to discuss important issues and understand the importance of leadership at every level. Both girls thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and the day in Sydney! Thank you Miss Martin for taking Taylah and Kallie-Lea.
## 2022 - Term 1/2

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<td>Cross Country - 1pm</td>
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**Last Day of Term 1 is Friday 8 April. Thank you to our students and staff for a productive Term 1. We wish all the students and their families a happy holiday break.**
Secondary have two new tennis tables in the playground to play at recess and lunch time. Thank you to Mr Hawkes, Mr Mackay and secondary boys for helping to put them together.

World’s Greatest Shave 2022

Today, another 35 Australians will be told they have a blood cancer. The student representative council once again decided to support the Leukaemia Foundation to help and assist fellow Aussies. When presented with this initiative 4 years ago, I was more than happy to help and join more than 20,000 Australians in 2018 in the World’s greatest Shave campaign and I am delighted to have seen so many students and staff since then support a very worthy cause. A big thank you to the students and staff who participated this year and a special mention to our hairdresser Mary Kennedy who graciously donated her time. This year marks the 24th anniversary of the ‘shave’ with more than 2 million Australians having taken part over the last 2 decades to shave, cut, wax banish beards and trim top knots. This year, WCS raised over $500 - this is enough to give a rural family a place to stay in the city close to treatment for more at least a week. I am extremely proud of our school who continually demonstrate their commitment to community and compassion to people they do not even personally know.

K-6 Easter Hat Parade

On Friday 8th April we will be celebrating our annual Easter Hat parade. All students every year are very excited to participate in lots of fun on the day. I am looking forward to seeing hats galore. This year, it will be tremendous to see parents and carers sharing a picnic with your children and supporting our Easter festivities.

P&C

A hard-working and committed P&C is looking to support the school and your children with a variety of events throughout the year. I would encourage you to join the P&C if you have a few hours here and there to assist in either the organisation or running of these events. The P&C make a valuable contribution to the school every year – providing resources for student learning. Please contact Mrs Amy Hall P&C President for more information.

Extra-Curricular Activities

With covid restrictions easing, it has been wonderful to see so many outdoor learning activities and sporting opportunities that students can once again participate in. We look forward to students being able to enjoy a number of opportunities outside the classroom this year.

Table Tennis Tables

Finally, our two new outdoor table tennis tables have arrived in the high school and have been very popular during break times. With mobile phones banned at school, we are looking at extending what options are available to students to play during break times. Seeing students interacting and playing sports or just chatting during break times is in stark difference to the situation we were in a few years ago with all students constantly on their phones, looking down and interacting in a very limited way.

Some good news stories from around the world....

The WHO (World Health Organisation) has just released new data on humanity’s efforts to eliminate one of the world’s leading causes of death for newborns, maternal and neonatal tetanus. Between 2000 and 2020, 52 out of the WHO’s 59 priority countries achieved elimination – global cases decreased by 88% and deaths decreased by 92%.

Mr Lovelock
Principal
This term has gone past so quickly, with SRC hosting 2 major events all in 1 week. The World’s Greatest Shave was held on Wednesday 16 March. Members of the SRC coloured students and teachers’ hair at recess and lunch for a gold coin donation. After lunch we had the shave. A special thank you to Rachael George, Lloyd O’Brien, Mr Armstrong, Mr Marshall and Mr Murphy for shaving their heads. Thanks also to hairdresser, Mary Kennedy for assisting. You are all amazing!

SRC also ran a crazy hair competition for primary and secondary. The winner from primary was Tiffany Conrads and runner up was Natasha Wilde, for secondary the winner was Peyton Callaghan and the runner up was Billie Brien. It was a very successful day. We donated over $500 to the Leukemia Foundation.

On Friday 18 March, WCS participated in the NDA- National day of Action against Bullying and Violence (anti-bullying day). We all wore blue in remembrance of Dolly Everett and made a gold coin donation to Dolly’s Dream Foundation. The day was again very successful.
Boys to the Bush (BttB)

BttB is a wonderful mentoring program which has allowed 8 of our students to build life skills while experiencing more of the bush in our local area. Thank you to the Mildner/Walker family for sponsoring this program. There are only 3 more mentoring days remaining and the boys wish it could go on forever. Well done to Charlie Gale, Jerome Amatto-Shepherd, Marley Mackay, Makai Ebsworth, Malaki Nelson, Roman Kentwell and Declan Caton for participating so positively and making the most of this opportunity.

Recording a Promotional Video for the WOW Centre

Our Place: Wayilwan choir and rock band have been invited to perform for an audio recording for a local promotional video of Wayilwan Country and the marshes. Kim Goldsmith, soundscape artist, will record the students singing the Burraalga Gurrung-da Waga-ya (Brolga will be dancing in the grass) song for RiverSmart’s/Warren’s WOW Centre’s second promotional video. Rock band students will provide a little instrumental backing. Thank you to the WOW centre for inviting us to participate in the video and to Mrs Evans for providing some last minute professional music tips. The video will be played at the Warren Visitors Information Centre and the Macquarie Marshes/Maliyan-ga Nguura Visitors Information Centre. Well done to the newly formed Our Place choir and the Our Place rock band!

Mrs Irving
Head Teacher, Transition and Engagement, Learning and Engagement
Swimming
It was very exciting that four of our junior boys will compete in Sydney at the PSSA State swimming carnival on Monday 4 April. Congratulations to Paddy, Roger, George and Harlem. Paddy will swim in the 10yr boys breaststroke and all the boys will come together to swim the junior boys 50m freestyle relay. We congratulate them on this achievement and wish them the very best of luck.

Absences
Parents or caregivers must advise the school if their child is away from school. A note before any planned absence or a quick phone call to the school office in the morning is sufficient. This way your child is not marked as an unexplained absence. Every day counts, as regular attendance helps students to:
- develop a sense of belonging
- develop and maintain friendships
- be more engaged at school
- progress with their learning
- be more aware of career and life options.

If a student has multiple days unexplained absent, consecutive or not, the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) will advise the school as to what actions to take to assist your child in getting to school more regularly.

The role of the HSLO team is to:
- support attendance of compulsory school age students, between six and 17 years
- monitor attendance registers, suggesting areas for development with school based procedures and identifying emerging issues or concerns
- support schools with the development and implementation of school based strategies and school plans to improve attendance
- collaborate with School Service staff in the resolution of attendance issues
- provide advice to School Services and school staff on matters related to attendance; this may include information about attendance professional learning available to department staff
- liaise with community, government and non-government agencies.

Netball
Five of our senior girls attended the Gobondery/NARRAF netball tryouts held in Tullamore on 15 March. Congratulations to Hollie Higgins and Scarlett Ray who will now be attending the Western trials in Dubbo on 28 April. Good luck girls.

Science Challenge
Year 6 students are looking forward to traveling to Dubbo for the Western Science and Engineering Challenge on Thursday 7 April. The Science and Engineering Challenge is a national program, running Discovery Days (for primary school students) across every state and territory in Australia. Through the provision of meaningful, hands-on experiences the challenge aims to inspire more young people to make a difference in the world by choosing a career in Science and Engineering.
Year 7 Technology Mandatory have been busy in the kitchen learning loads of new culinary skills and whipping up some tasty dishes. Lately their favourite food to cook have included, cheesy risotto, mini sausage rolls and home-made pizza.

9/10 Food Technology have completed their Term 1 assessment of creating a food truck. They also had to research, design, and prepare a meal that could be served from a food truck. The kitchen was busy with meals that included, banana split, Oreo ice-cream, pizza pockets and chicken and beef doner kebabs. All students are to be commended on their magnificent efforts.

9/10 Marine studies have had many exciting adventures. They all had an amazing time in the mighty Macquarie fishing, paddling, and swimming. Marine also ended up in the kitchen this week making fresh ‘Murray Cod’ fish and chips. The students experimented with making tempura, battered and crumbed fish. The kayaks will be back in the water again soon to hopefully catch some more local delicacies.

11/12 Hospitality have been busy completing their cluster packages in the theory classroom. In the practical classroom they have made ‘Hamburger with a twist’ which included home made sweet chilli jam and caramelised leek. They have also made ‘Gnocchi carbonara’ which was very time consuming but well worth the effort.

Rugby League/Netball Gala Day

Students have nominated to attend the Netball NSW Schools Cup and rugby league Russel Richardson/David Peachey gala day in Coonamble on 5 April. Permission notes have been sent home and should have been returned.

We have been unable, in the past, to compete in this wonderful day due to a lack of numbers and expensive travel options. It is fantastic that our students, once again, have the opportunity to be involved. Students will be travelling by school buses (now we have two) or private car. If you are available to transport your child to Coonamble on the day, we encourage you to do so.

All students are looking forward to the day and are very excited to have another opportunity to represent the school at another gala day.

Easter Hat Parade

An invitation has been sent home to all primary school parents and caregivers inviting them to join their children for a picnic lunch, followed by the annual Easter hat parade and an egg hunt on Friday 8 April. We hope that you are able to come and join us for this celebration of Easter.

Grip leadership

Primary captains and prefects will travel to Dubbo on 27 April for the GRIP Leadership Conference. GRIP Leadership is an independent organisation that exists to train and develop leaders with a special focus on school students and the educational sector. GRIP Leadership programs are fresh, practical, interactive and enjoyed by tens of thousands of students each year.

This year’s theme is ‘Raising the Standards’ and students will be involved in four sessions which are interactive and informative.

Year 6 polos

Year 6 polo shirts have been ordered and we hope will be here early next term.
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Kindergarten

It has been a very busy first term in Kindergarten. We have been learning new sounds and how to write sentences. We have done some gardening for our ‘living things’ Science unit and are really enjoying our Moriarty sessions. Kindergarten has even been doing some detective work trying to figure out who the mysterious SH is that decorated our room with beautiful messages of kindness. We have had so much fun making friends and learning at school and can’t wait to do it all again next term. I am one incredibly proud teacher, what a wonderful start to school our little learners have had!

Miss Squires

Monday 28 March, Mac travelled to Parkes for trials in the Western Regions Opens Rugby League School Team. Congratulations to Mac who was successful in being selected for the Western Regions Open Rugby League Team for 2022 position 8.

The NSW PSSA carnival will be held at Kiama from Monday 20 June 2022 to Friday 25 June 2022. Congratulations Mac.

Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 March, Mrs Harries organised an excursion for Stage 4 and Stage 5 students to visit the Tiger Bay Wetlands area, based at the Warren Tourist Information Centre.

Warren students were the first school to participate in the Centre’s ecological program for schools. Shona and two other leaders took the students through ecological activities which supported the Science topics being studied in Term 1. Students were given cards with information about organisms and students used those cards to create a real-life model of a food web. The web allowed students to easily see the connection between living things in the wetlands area. Students learned that if populations are disturbed then other organism populations will be affected.

Students then formed two groups. One group went for a nature walk to observe the wildlife, and to read from information boards about the activities of the indigenous people of the district. The other group practised skimming for invertebrates in the wetland water. They took their water samples back to the Centre and extracted small fish, shrimp, insects and larvae, which were examined under magnifying glasses and microscopes.

A great day was had by all.

Mrs Harries
Science
A calculator is a very important tool in the Maths classroom. They can be purchased through the School Office at $27.00 per calculator. The school office will also engrave the students name on the calculator. All students need a calculator for class activities, homework, and tests.

Mrs Harries | Science

Year 8 Taronga-Western Plains Zoo Excursion

Tuesday 29 March a bus load of Year 8 students visited the Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo. The forecast for the day was rain, however, it held off until we successfully discovered all the enclosures and exhibits.

Arriving early we were lucky enough to see most of the animals out and about, and feeding near the viewing platforms. The animals were quite animated, probably knowing it was going to rain later in the afternoon. Among the star entertainers were the Siamang gibbons. Their call and dance was a favourite and they went all out giving us a real performance with their spinning and swinging. Even the Galapagos giant tortoise was active in its slow and steady way.

In the native enclosure a Koala was spotted sleeping in a tree while emus and wallabies were in abundance. In other sections we saw lions and tigers walking the fence line, giraffes, elephants, zebras, lemurs and meerkats, just to name a few.

The Zoo had new sections to explore with more Asian and African animals and complementary art installations to showcase the area and give a more inclusive feel to the enclosures.

The excursion was well worth the travel for a fresh experience.
Countdown Poetry
In response to reading Lynne Cherry's picture story book, The Great Kapok Tree, Year 3 students used adjectives, nouns, verbs, and adverbs to write some poetry. Here are 3 samples of their work.

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**The Great Kapok Tree**
*By Olivia Bell*

Ten furry, ferocious jaguars creeping quietly towards the man
Nine smooth, savage boa-constrictors slithering quickly down the branches
Eight sleepy, lazy sloths climbing slowly towards the kapok tree
Seven fluffy, cute monkeys winging carefully through the forest
Five tiny, vicious bees buzzing fiercely around the man
Four sweet, rainbow macaws showing off beautifully to the girl
Three beautiful, feathery toucans flying peacefully to their nests
Two orange, annoying cock-of-the-rocks squawking dangerously near the jaguars
One short, quiet boy laying happily on the soft, long grass

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**The Great Kapok Tree**
*By Mason Counsel*

Ten orange, spotty jaguars creeping lowly around the kapok tree
Nine slimy, slippery frogs hopping carefully through the leaves
Eight scaly, green snakes slithering quickly along the kapok tree
Seven black and yellow bees buzzing quietly in the man's ear
Six cute, colourful macaws flying excitedly around the rainforest
Four smooth, happy anteaters snacking quietly on some creeping ants
Three feathery, annoying cock-of-the-rocks squawking loudly above the kapok tree
Two spiky, calm porcupines eating savagely under the ground
One wet, quiet boy singing happily with the animals

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**The Great Kapok Tree**
*By Christopher Ley*

Ten scaly, ferocious boa-constrictors slithering calmly along the branches
Nine hairy, hungry jaguars running dangerously towards the tree
Eight wet, calm anteaters snacking delightfully on delicious ants
Seven wet, calm anteaters snacking delightfully on delicious ants
Six smooth, annoying bees sitting quietly in the trees
Five pink and orange cock-of-the-rocks squawking savagely at the jaguars
Four feathery blue toucans flying gently around the trees
Three slimy, fun frogs leaping in squishy, squashy, oozy mud
Two stripy, noisy monkeys swinging crazily from tree to tree
One spotty, quiet butterfly sleeping peacefully on the ground

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**What's new?**

Primary and Secondary have new bag hooks. They were installed in the school holidays and have been completed in the last week.

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The Secondary department has been very busy over the past few weeks and will be until the end of term. Mrs Harries, the Science teacher, has organised Wetlands excursions for both stages 4 and 5, to study ecology. She has also arranged the year 8 Science Excursion to the Taronga Western Plains Zoo. Miss Martin has taken school captains Taylah Reid and Kallie-Lea Daley to Sydney for 'Meet the Governor’ Leadership Program. Miss Martin has also organised the Rainbow Secondary Acknowledgement day for 38 students, to Dubbo Ten Pin Bowling. This day is in recognition of secondary students being Respectful Responsible Learners. Currently all student years 7 and 9 are completing two online tests preparing them for NAPLAN testing early term 2. Year 8 are completing check-in assessments, which are on line tests in numeracy and reading.

Mrs Hamilton
SMAP Head Teacher

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Visual Design students are in the process of making a reverse Perspex painting.

Andy Harrison designed and painted an artwork to encourage positivity which will be hung up in the senior study.