



# WALLAROO MINES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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# SCHOOL INFORMATION BOOKLET



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development



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Active After-school  
Communities

Helping kids and communities get a move on

# Welcome to Wallaroo Mines Primary School

The Students, Staff, Governing Council members and school community welcome you and your children to our school.

This pack provides information that will assist you to help your child/children to both enjoy and gain the maximum possible benefit from your years at Wallaroo Mines Primary School.

When families and school work together children benefit! We believe school staff and parents share a similar aim – providing the best possible educational environment for children.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child's/children's years at Wallaroo Mines Primary School are both happy and rewarding.

Cheers

Wallaroo Mines Primary School  
School Community

## SCHOOL VALUES



During 2010 the staff, students and parents of Wallaroo Mines Primary School worked together to develop a set of school Values to help direct our future.

Our vision is to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment where children will be challenged to achieve their fullest potential, so that they can make their best contribution to their local and wider communities.

We celebrate success for all!

## General Philosophy

Wallaroo Mines Primary School aims to assist children to develop physically, emotionally, mentally, socially and morally so that they -

- ☆ Achieve the maximum measure of success according to their individual abilities.
- ☆ Grow into responsible adults, capable of understanding and contributing to society.

We believe that children need a solid foundation in basic literacy, numeracy and social skills. By developing these skills and a positive attitude towards learning, children are provided with a sound basis for later learning and for living.

### We encourage families to:

- ☆ Take an active interest in their child's development and school activities.
- ☆ Understand what we, (parent/staff) are in partnership in their child's learning.
- ☆ Communicate openly with teachers so that the child's successes as well as their needs are shared.

### At WMPS students will:

- ☆ Develop the necessary literacy, numeracy and information technology skills & attitudes to successfully use these in their everyday lives
- ☆ Strive for excellence
- ☆ Foster their imagination, creativity and resilience
- ☆ Reflect, respect, consider and display sensitivity towards the needs of other individuals and groups
- ☆ Develop a healthy self-concept
- ☆ Be given work, which challenges their abilities yet, at the same time, is achievable and allows them to experience success
- ☆ Have their efforts valued by all
- ☆ Be provided with clear, concise and reasonable guidelines for their behaviour and develop an understanding of the need for rules in society
- ☆ Be encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions
- ☆ Be encouraged to be physically fit, to acquire appropriate skills in a variety of sports and to be aware of the need for good nutrition.

## Active After Schools

This free program operates at least two nights a week for seven weeks a Term. Details and registration forms are included with newsletters early each Term.

## Attendance

Law requires regular attendance at school for students aged 6 years to 16 years unless they have a valid reason for absence (i.e. illness, appointment, family crisis). Consistent attendance is vital in ensuring your child makes the most of their time at school.

The school must be notified of all absences/lateness by the parent/carer. A student explanation is not sufficient. Unexplained absence and/or lateness will be followed up by classroom teachers

## Arrival & Departure

Children attending this school will be **supervised from 8:30am**. Parents are asked to ensure that children are not in the schoolyard before this time as it is not safe for students. At end of the school day, children should depart from school grounds and not play on the equipment.

If you are unable to collect your child at the arranged time, please contact the school. Children are to report to the teacher on duty if their parents have not arrived to collect them as arranged.

It is essential that all children are clearly aware of “after school” arrangements.

## Behaviour

Students, staff and parents work together to make school a safe place where we all can learn. The schools Learner Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy encourages students to be responsible for their own behaviour and at the same time support the rights of all to be and feel safe and cared for. The school anti bullying policy was developed in consultation with students, parents and staff. Extra copies are available in the front office or on our website.

## Car Park

Parking on the school side of Lipson Avenue is prohibited between 8:30 am and 4:00pm. The car park is the safest way of dropping off and collecting children from school. Please drive slowly and keep clear of the fenceline.

## School Uniform



The school does have a school uniform which all students are encouraged to wear. See pamphlet provided for further details

## Communication

We believe open communication between parents and school staff is crucial in establishing the best learning opportunities for your child (ren).

Most communication from the school comes in the form of a fortnightly newsletter that is sent home every Wednesday with the eldest child in each family.

Classes use different written communication methods ranging from communication (memo book style) to published diaries. Please check with your child each day for any messages.

You are welcome to communicate with the school as the need arises, if a longer interview time is required please make an appointment. The first point of contact for

most matters is the classroom teacher. Early contact with the school can ensure that small worries do not become major problems.

Teachers are available for incidental chats from 8.40am – 8.50am so if you need to speak specifically about your child this is a good time to catch the teacher to make a meeting time.

## Curriculum

At Wallaroo Mines Primary School we have a strong focus on achievement for all learners which is underpinned by rigorous literacy and numeracy programs.

Students' learning program ensures they develop skills, knowledge and a positive attitude towards

- ☆ English (reading, writing, viewing, listening and speaking)
- ☆ Mathematics
- ☆ Science
- ☆ Health & Physical activity
- ☆ Design and Technology
- ☆ Society and Environment
- ☆ The Arts (music, drama & visual arts)

Detailed information is available from the websites [www.sacsa.sa.gov.au](http://www.sacsa.sa.gov.au) or <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home>

## Daily Needs

Each day your child needs:

- ☆ Named water bottle (the school has a refrigerated drink fountain for use during breaks)
- ☆ Tissues or a handkerchief
- ☆ Suitable footwear/uniform clothing
- ☆ Their reading diary and books read the previous night
- ☆ Homework (if set)

## Dental Clinic

A school Dental Service is situated adjacent to the Wallaroo Hospital. An appointment notice is sent home from time to time. It is the responsibility of parents/caregivers to take children to the Clinic for their appointments.

## Excursions/Camps/Performances

Excursions, performances and camps complement the school-learning program. Parents are given notice of these events as soon as possible through letters of consent if required or through the school newsletter.

## Food/Lunch orders

Healthy eating and drinking is encouraged at school in accordance with Department guidelines and the DECD Right Bite Strategy <http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/eatwellsa>. Lunch orders are available Wednesday to Friday. A price list is included with this pack. Please place lunch orders in the bag provided in each classroom.

We use the Lunch/Recess approach with the main eating of the day (includes lunch orders) Lunch occurring at 11.00am. At 1.15pm Recess is eaten. (This is the smaller portion of the lunch box). To ensure a successful afternoon we recommend 2 healthy snacks for this break. Students are encouraged to drink water during the day and we ask that water bottles only contain water.

Each classroom has a small fridge for students to store perishable foods during warmer months.

Suggests list for healthy lunch and recess boxes including:

- ☆ Wholemeal wrap with light cream cheese, tuna, lettuces, grated carrot, fresh or sundried tomato.
- ☆ Boiled egg, ham or cooked lean bacon, low fat mayo, lettuce and cucumber roll.
- ☆ Dips with crackers or veggie sticks.
- ☆ Container of grapes, berries, and bite sized melon pieces.
- ☆ Fresh or tinned fruit.
- ☆ Fruit juice.
- ☆ Hot tip: Add a surprise to the box-like a sticker, message or a joke.

## Governing Council

Council meets twice a Term, their role includes:

- ☆ Providing advice and support to the Principal
- ☆ Keeping a general oversight on the well-being of the school
- ☆ Improving school facilities

Council membership is as follows:

- ☆ Parent members are elected at the Annual General Meeting
- ☆ A staff representative
- ☆ The school Principal

The Governing Council may elect sub-committees to advise, plan or implement decisions, e.g. Finance Committee, Playground Committee.

## Health

Children attending school should be sufficiently fit to take part in all school activities, including physical education.



Your child's teacher should be made aware of any health problems that may affect your child at school. As part of the Eat Well, Be Active Strategy each week all students participate in a variety of activities designed to increase fitness levels.

If a child is genuinely ill then we encourage parents to keep them home to rest until they are well enough to participate in daily school activities.

## Homework

As a general rule homework is set as follows:

- ☆ Reception - Year 1 reading and preparation for spelling test.
- ☆ Years - 2, 3, 4 & 5 - A maximum of 20 minutes per day.
- ☆ Year 6 & 7 – a maximum of 40 minutes per day.

All students are expected to read a minimum of four nights per week and some work may finishing class work due to slow work habits or wasting time.

Work set will involve tasks introduced in class that students can do independently. If a child has made a genuine effort to complete homework and has spent more than the time indicated above, parents may choose to stop their children and a note should be sent to the teacher explaining this.

## Information Technology

At Wallaroo Mines Primary School we are committed to providing rich learning experiences supported by a variety of technology tools. We believe access to technology should enhance student learning and be available as it is needed. Wallaroo Mines Primary School has:

- ☆ A trolley of Macbooks
- ☆ A trolley of iPads
- ☆ networked computers in all classrooms
- ☆ interactive whiteboards in all classrooms and library
- ☆ complete wireless networking



Guidelines for appropriate use are outlined in the IT Resources Agreement which is signed by students and parents.

## Learner Intervention

Classroom teachers support students requiring extra assistance with an individualised program to facilitate progress. School service officers (SSO'S) work in conjunction with class teachers on individualised/group programs for students.

We have many literacy and numeracy focussed, targeted intervention programs to support all learners and school staff are happy to discuss the individual needs of your child.

## Library

We encourage children to use the library by borrowing up to five books (and keeping them for a two week maximum). Parents are welcome to use the library and we especially welcome parents with pre-school children to make use of this facility. Children are encouraged to use library bags.

## Mobile Phones

Wallaroo Mines Primary School does not encourage the student's use of mobile telephones on school grounds or school excursions/camps due to possibility of damage or loss. If it is necessary for a student to have a mobile telephone in his/her possession at school (i.e. for after school arrangements) or on excursions/camps, the following conditions will apply:

- ☆ It will be turned off at all times during the school day & handed in to either the class teacher or front office staff for safe keeping
- ☆ The schools is not responsible for the phone
- ☆ It will not be accessed in the school grounds during the school day ie 8.50am – 3.00pm

Students need to be vigilant and keep phones secure. Inappropriate use of mobile telephones will result in their confiscation until the end of the school day/excursion. Phones are brought to school at the family's own risk and the school will not take responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged property. The principal may refuse to allow a child to bring his/her phone to school if it is deemed to be interfering with a student's behaviour at school.

If a staff member suspects that a student's mobile phone has been used inappropriately or contains inappropriate material the principal will take possession of the phone and hand it to the police.

## Open Classrooms

This event is held mid Term 1 and takes the form of an after work tour by your child of the school. Many parents take the opportunity to visit their child's classroom, meet their teachers and look around the school. The Governing Council Annual General meeting is held as part of the evening.

We also hold a Family Morning each term to showcase various aspects of our learning programs.

## Policies

The school has a range of policies that are available for reading on our school website.



## School Hours

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8:30am          | Teacher on duty, Children may enter grounds |
| 8.30am - 8.50am | Teachers available in classrooms            |
| 8:50am          | School Learning begins                      |
| 11:00am         | Lunch – eating time                         |
| 11:10am         | Lunch playtime begins                       |
| 11:40am         | Learning continues                          |
| 1:15pm          | Recess begins                               |
| 1:30pm          | Learning continues                          |
| 3:00pm          | Children Dismissed                          |

One teacher is on duty at 3.00pm and is responsible for ensuring all bus students board the bus for ensuring all students leave the school yard in a safe manner. After school yard duty teacher is not responsible for supervising students on the play equipment.

## School Card & Fees

The School Card scheme is administered by the Department and provides financial assistance towards the cost of educational expenses for full-time school students of low-income families. Information is available from the school front office.

Fees are set by the Finance Committee, Governing Council and submitted to Central Office for approval.

These include: Printed electronic materials related to the educational program, Initial Stationery Items, Student consumables (School Hat and water bottle), Performances and Library use.

Parents are informed in the newsletter when fees may be paid. These can be paid in full or part payments as negotiated with the school. Children beginning during the year pay a pro rata amount.

## Sending Money to School

At times during the school year (we hope not too often!) there is a need to send money to school. You can help us greatly by following these simple steps: -

- ☆ Placing money in an envelope with the child's name and classroom teacher clearly written on the outside and what the money is for.
- ☆ Only sending (or bringing) money to school in the morning – not at lunchtime or after school.
- ☆ All money brought to school should be paid at the front office between 8.30 and 9.00 am. Receipts will be issued.
- ☆ The canteen is open Wednesday to Friday, Students look after the money for this purpose.

## Shuttle Bus

A shuttle bus operates from the rear of Kadina Memorial School to Wallaroo Mines Primary School in the morning and the reverse in the afternoon. All students who use this service will be required to have an Agreement Form signed by their parents outlining expected behaviours and appropriate consequences.

## SAPSASA

This organisation arranges sporting opportunities for various sports for students in year 6 and 7. The NYP SAPSASA district supports the following sports:

- Ⓢ Athletics
- Ⓢ Cricket
- Ⓢ Cross Country
- Ⓢ Football (Aussie Rules)
- Ⓢ Hockey (boys and girls)
- Ⓢ Netball
- Ⓢ Softball
- Ⓢ Swimming
- Ⓢ Tennis

## Sports Day

Sports Day at Wallaroo Mines Primary School is held every year. The teams for sports day are Wandita (green), Mantu (blue) and Kurilla (red). The major emphasis during this day is on children participating and trying to improve their own performances through a range of events. We encourage as many parents, care givers, family members and friends to come along and support the children and enjoy the picnic atmosphere.

On Sports Day we ask that children wear a t-shirt in their house colour if possible, shorts or track pants, socks and appropriate footwear.



## SRC

The role of the SRC (Student Representative Council) is to:

- ☆ Help make our school better for everyone
- ☆ Play an active part in making decisions on school matters for a safe and happy school
- ☆ Represent the ideas and opinions of their peers

SRC and committee members are elected each year from each class.

## **Stationery**

Children are supplied with their initial stationery on the first day of the new school year as part of their school fees. Extra stationery can be supplied from home. Individual teachers have different preferences for the items that can be used in the classroom. Please check with your child's class teacher about the sorts of items that can be supplied.

## **Swimming**

Qualified instructors early in Term 1 conduct swimming lessons at the Wallaroo beach. Consent and medical forms are sent home at the beginning of each year. Participation in swimming lessons is expected as it is part of our Health & PE curriculum. Children need their own towel, bathers, thongs, and goggles if they use them.