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Wallaroo Mines Primary School

School Information Booklet



Government of South Australia
 Department for Education



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Welcome to Wallaroo Mines Primary School

Our students, staff, Governing Council Members and school community welcome you and your child/children to our school.

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

When families and the school work together, children benefit! We believe school staff and parents share a similar aim and that is to provide the best possible educational environment for children to develop both academically and socially in.

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.

School Values

Relationships

Understanding

Communication

Trust

Collaboration

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 that we, (parents/staff) are in partnership with 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 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



Communication

We believe open communication and quality partnerships with families are a key ingredient in students' learning success. Given this, as a school, we are committed to a range of ways of communicating with families, which include:

- The newsletter, which is produced twice a term and is emailed out. This can also be found on the school's website or a hard copy can be sent home if requested
- Facebook updates and reminders
- ClassDojo
- Class circulars for events, excursions and camps
- Text messages as a quick way of keeping all informed
- Phone calls as required

It is critical we have families' up to date phone numbers, email and home addresses to ensure that when we need to contact you we can do so quickly.

Classes use different written communication methods ranging from communication (memo book style) to published diaries or online apps (ClassDojo). Please check the different styles of communication each day for any messages.

We encourage you to communicate with the school as the need arises. The first point of contact for most matters is the classroom teacher, who you can usually catch before or after school. If a longer interview time is required please request to make an appointment with them. Early contact with the school can ensure that small worries do not become major problems.

Curriculum

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

Students' learning programs ensure they develop skills, knowledge and a positive attitude towards:

- English (Language, Literature and Literacy)
- Mathematics (Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability)
- Science (Biological, Chemical, Physical and Earth and Space)
- Health and Physical Education
- Design and Technology / Digital Technologies
- HASS (History, Geography, Business and Economics and Civics and Citizenship)
- The Arts (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music and Visual Arts)
- Languages (Auslan and Nharungga)

Detailed information is available from the website <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home>

Health

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

Homework

As a general rule, homework is set as follows:

- Reception and Years 1 & 2: Reading
- Years 3, 4 & 5: Reading, as well as a maximum of 20 minutes per day
- Years 6 & 7: Reading, as well as a maximum of 40 minutes per day

All students are expected to read a minimum of four nights per week. Work set will involve tasks introduced in class that students can complete independently at home. 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.

Learner Intervention

Classroom teachers support students requiring extra assistance with an individualised program to facilitate progress. School Service Officers (SSOs) work in conjunction with classroom teachers on these individualised programs with students and/or small groups. We have many literacy and numeracy focused targeted intervention programs to support all learners and school staff are happy to discuss the individual needs of your child with you.

Information Technology

At WMPS 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. The school has:

- Macbooks available in the upper primary classes
- iPads available in the junior primary classes
- Televisions in all classrooms with capabilities to share student work
- Complete wireless networking
- Guidelines for the appropriate use of technology are outlined in the IT Resources Agreement, which is signed by students and parents

Library

We encourage children to use the library by borrowing up to five books (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 to safely transport books between school and home.



Nharungga Program

Each class participates in Nharungga lessons once a week, for one term each year. These lessons focus on the culture, history and language of the of Nharungga People.

Excursions/Camps/Performances

Excursions, performances and camps compliment the school-learning program. Parents are given notice of these events as soon as possible through letters of consent (if required) or through individual class communication channels.

Swimming

Early in Term 1 qualified instructors 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 & P.E. curriculum. Children need their own towel, bathers, thongs and goggles if they use them.

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 members are elected every year from each class by their peers



Sports Day

Sports Day at Wallaroo Mines Primary School is held every year. The teams for sports day are:

Wandita (green)

Mantu (blue)

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, 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.

We also have an annual Cross Country event that we invite parents to come in and assist us with.

SAPSASA

This organisation arranges various sporting opportunities for students in the upper primary years. The NYP SAPSASA district supports the following sports:

- Athletics
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Football (Aussie Rules)
- Hockey
- Netball
- Softball
- Swimming
- Tennis

School Times

8:30am	Teacher on duty, children may enter grounds
8:45am	School learning begins
11:00am	Lunch – playtime
11:30am	Lunch – eating time
11:40am	Learning continues
1:10pm	Recess – playtime
1:25pm	Recess – eating time
1:30pm	Learning continues
3:00pm	Children dismissed

Teachers are on duty at 3.00pm and are responsible for ensuring all bus students board the bus and that all other students leave the school yard in a safe manner. The after school yard duty teacher is not responsible for supervising students on the play equipment.

Arrival and Departure

Children attending WMPS 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 unsupervised.

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 their 'after school' arrangements.

Car Park

The car park is the safest way of dropping off and collecting children from school. Please drive slowly and keep clear of the fence line.

The Kiss and Drop off zone at the front of the school is available for drop offs and quick pick ups. Do not park in the Kiss and Drop zone please.

Parking on the school side of Lipson Avenue is prohibited between 8:30am and 4:00pm.

Attendance

Laws require regular attendance at school for all school aged children 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 and lateness by the parent/carer. A student explanation is not sufficient. Unexplained absence and/or lateness will be followed up by classroom teachers. Please sign students that are late or that need to leave early in/out at the front office.

Behaviour

Students, staff and parents work together to make school a safe place where we can all learn. The school's 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's Anti Bullying Policy was developed in consultation with students, parents and staff. Extra copies are available in the front office or on our website.

Daily Needs

Each day your child needs:

- A named water bottle (the school has a refrigerated drink fountain for use during breaks)
- A lunchbox containing a healthy snack, lunch and recess
- To be wearing full school uniform, including suitable footwear
- Their reading diary and books read the previous night
- Homework (if set)

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.

Uniform

WMPS has a school uniform, which all students are required to wear. You are able to purchase uniforms from the front office or on the Qkr! app under the uniforms tab.

Food/Lunch Orders

Healthy eating and drinking is encouraged at school in accordance with department guidelines and the DECD Right Bite Strategy. Lunch orders are available on Fridays. Lunch orders are placed online through the Qkr! App. We use the lunch/recess approach with the main eating of the day (including lunch orders) occurring at 11.30am. At 1.25pm 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 in during warmer months.

Breakfast Club

We have a breakfast club in the morning that provides students with a great start to the day. Breakfast Club runs from 8:30am until 8:45am.

Mobile Phones

Wallaroo Mines Primary School does not encourage students to use mobile telephones on school grounds or on 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 and handed into either the class teacher or front office staff for safe keeping
- The school is not responsible for the phone
- It will not be accessed within the school grounds during the school day
- 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/camp

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.

Policies

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

Shuttle Bus

A shuttle bus operates from the rear of the Kadina Community Library 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.

Qkr!

You are able to place orders and we encourage you to pay on the Qkr app for:

- Book Club
- Canteen
- School payments
- School uniforms



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, performances and library use.

Fees 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 correct money in an envelope with the child's name and classroom teacher clearly written on the outside, as well as what the money is for
- Only sending (or bringing) money to school in the morning
- All money brought to school should be paid at the front office between 8.30 – 9.00 am. Receipts will be issued
- The canteen is open on Friday. Parents/students can place money in a lunch order bag

Governing Council

Governing 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

Governing Council membership is as follows:

- Parent members are elected at the Annual General Meeting
- A staff representative
- The school Principal
- Governing Council may elect sub-committees to advise, plan or implement decisions, e.g. Finance Committee, Playground Committee



