**SCHOOL PURPOSE**
To provide a learning environment in which students are given the opportunity to develop their individual potential and to acquire skills, attitudes and knowledge to enable them to become responsible members of a changing society.

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**IMPORTANT DATES!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>6 Feb</td>
<td><em>Edu-Dance classes commence</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11 Feb</td>
<td><em>Parent / Class Information Meetings</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>16 Feb</td>
<td><em>School Council Meeting—6pm</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>P&amp;C Meeting—7pm</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td><em>Assembly - Student Councillors—2pm</em></td>
</tr>
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Wirrabirra School is an **ALLERGY FRIENDLY SCHOOL**. What does this mean? It means that we will respect the individual needs of students who have identified allergies (with care plans) to such products as nuts, kiwi fruit, milk and eggs to name a few. In particular, food products that have nuts or are made from nuts should **NOT** come to school - ie: peanut paste, Nutella and nut bars. Our canteen is “nut free” and “kiwi fruit free” to accommodate individual students with special needs.

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**FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK**

Dear Parents and Carers

**★ WELCOME TO THE 2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

The school year has started very smoothly with a number of new enrolments bringing our student total to 400 Kindergarten to Year Six. This is the first year in my time at Wirrabirra that we have not welcomed any new staff. As a result, all staff are very familiar with the programs, processes and students in our school allowing us to hit the ground running. Staff have spent the time prior to students returning working through operational plans and data analysis to make sure we address all student needs and provide targeted and engaging learning.

Welcome to those new to our school and a very special welcome to our Kindergarten students who join us for the first time on the main school site. We hope you have a very positive transition from your old school and from home to the education system. If at any stage you need clarification on any aspect of school life or have a concern, please contact your child’s teacher or if you feel more comfortable, myself or one of our Deputy Principals for assistance.

This year we are operating fourteen Pre-Primary to Year Six classes in addition to our two Kindergarten groups. See the full list of classes and staff on page 3).

**★ EDU-DANCE**

This year is our first experience with Edu-Dance and if it is half as good as my colleagues tell me, our students and families are in for a treat with a dance performance in the final week of the term. From the note home, you will see that trained dance teachers will be instructing in a creative hip-hop dance and exercise program. All students will receive dance instruction each week to culminate in two concerts in the last week of term.

One of the outcomes of the program is that students work as a team and form part of that team when showcasing their new dance skills. I acknowledge that families with more than one child are being asked for money early in the year but nine lessons for $30 is great value. If you need to make the payment in more than one instalment, please discuss this with the class teacher, the front office staff or myself. Those who have earned passport points can also pay using these. We will do our very best to make sure your child doesn’t miss this great opportunity and I look forward to seeing you at the final concerts.

**★ CLASS MEETINGS**

Next Wednesday evening (11 February) teachers will be available to talk with parents and carers in their classrooms to outline programs of work and the procedures used in their classes. This is an important meeting to not only meet teachers but to discuss programs of work, timetables, events coming up, camp, excursions, Good Standing and anything you might like to find out more about. In addition, it gives you the opportunity to view your child’s work area and
learning environment. The timetable below lists times each teacher will be available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent / Class Information Meetings</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 February 2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5pm to 5.30pm</td>
<td>D1, D2, A2, A3, A5, A6, B3, C5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30pm to 6pm</td>
<td>A4, B2, C6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm to 6.30pm</td>
<td>C1, C2, C3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

★★ STUDENT COUNCILLORS★★

Congratulations once again to our Student Councillors who were announced at the Presentation Assembly last year. We have Councillors from Years 3 to 6 who will be led by Head Girl Syahidah Sumadi and Head Boy Xavier Davis. The rest of the Councillor team is made up by Joshua Bellette, Cody Madaus, Tyson Panos, Evie O’Farrell, Shelbee Brown, Charleigh Knight, Sherveer Nibber, Tyler Houston, Tyson de Rozario, Charli Ryan, Jordan Davies and Jorja Cameron. Mrs Melvin will be the mentor for our Councillors and guide them through the year in their duties and the responsibilities that await them and will set a date for parents to come in for morning tea to talk about Councillor roles.

Congratulations again for being selected as school leaders and I look forward to working with you.

★★ UNIFORMS AND CANTEEN★★

It is really pleasing to see students in full uniform and wearing the approved sun safe hat. Special thanks to Denise Lyons who has made herself available in the Clothing Pool and with the help of Rebecca McBride and has traded over $7000 in sales to ensure all students are fully prepared for the start of the year. Thanks so much for the support you have given parents and the school as a dedicated volunteer.

Thanks to Ange Bull and also Rebecca McBride who have been working with Gloria in the Canteen to make sure operations began on day one. This involved shopping trips, food preparation and business with suppliers and equipment. Again, the level of commitment from these parents to make sure services are provided for your children is outstanding.

When you see them, please acknowledge the work they do with a thanks and kind words.

★★ Term Calendar of Events★★

Coming home with this newsletter is a First Term calendar to assist with planning and information. Please keep and display this at home and watch each newsletter for changes and new events in the Coming Events section on the first page of all newsletters.

Regards, Steve Richards, Principal

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back everyone. I would like to welcome our new families to the centre: Welcome to Montell Heketa (TLC) and the Heketa family; Jaimie Hayes (B1) and the Hayes family; Nirvana Burns (B4) and the Burns Family; Brodie Savage (B4) and the Savage family; Lukie Guo (B4) and the Guo family and Sabrina Chia (B5) and the Chia Family.

Welcome back to Mrs Sarah Thomas who took extended leave last year. Sarah will be working on Tuesday and Wednesday this year in TLC and B5

It’s been a fabulous start to the year and very pleasing to see all students settled, learning their new routines and right back into working hard. Teachers will be contacting parents in the next week or so to organise semester one IEP meetings.

Edu-Dance notes went home to students. Please send payment of $30.00 to school if you would like your child to participate in this integrated activity. There will be a concert at the end of the term where you and family members can come along and watch your child perform the dance they have learnt. It is a wonderful program and we encourage all children to participate.

Once again, welcome back and please don’t hesitate to contact the school or pop in and see us should you have any questions or concerns. Our door is always open and we are happy to help. We look forward to working with our wonderful families throughout the year.

Julie Dawson
Principal
Wirrabirra Education Support Centre

2015

Term 1 Monday 2 February - Thursday 2 April
Term 2 Tuesday 21 April - Friday 3 July
Term 3 Tuesday 21 July - Friday 25 September
Term 4 Tuesday 13 October - Thursday 17 December

2015 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to those families who have paid their school voluntary contributions.

Voluntary contributions are $60.00 per child and can be paid at the school office.