School Review

The school has now completed its self-evaluation. A copy of this document will be available for download from the school’s website by tomorrow. I encourage you to read it. A summary of recommendations to come from the report is included in today's newsletter. An independent review of the school will also take place on October 26. This will be led by Neil Pryor (former principal of Chiltern and Yarrunga primary schools) and will also include Bernie Boulton (senior advisor from the Department of Education) and Bianca Wiedermann (Regional manager of health, wellbeing and engagement from the Department of Education). The three members of the review panel have been chosen by the school for their expertise and experience, especially in working with smaller schools. The review will focus on the four areas of achievement, wellbeing, engagement and productivity by providing the school with feedback and recommendations for future improvement. School Council, along with parent input, have identified the following areas for improvement throughout the next strategic plan:

- Communication between school and home about student progress.
- The quality of teaching and learning in the classrooms, including higher expectations for student learning and achievement
- The way the school deals with student behaviour.
- The teaching of social skills and resilience.

Parents and community members will be asked more about what these goals mean to them next term, so please begin to think about it. In particular, we want to hear your ideas on how the school in improve in these four areas.

Woolworths Earn and Learn

This promotion has now stopped but if you still have stickers laying about, we would love to have them. Thank you to everyone for supporting our school during this promotion. The school will be able to use the points earned to purchase a range of education materials. We will show you what we bought when it arrives.

Wahgunyah Primary School
Elizabeth Street, Wahgunyah
Phone 02 60331 265
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Dates to Remember

<table>
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<tr>
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| Fri. Sept. 11 | Bike Ride to Rutherglen  
Positive Parenting Program, 2-4pm |
| Fri. Sept. 18 | Last day of term  
Footy Colours Day (gold coin donation)  
Hot Lunch |
| Mon. Oct. 6  | School Council, 6pm |
| Wed. Oct. 7  | Corowa High School Year 6 Transition 1.45-3pm |
| Fri. Oct. 9  | Division Athletics |
| Tue. Oct. 13 | CFA Mobile Visit |
| Wed. Oct. 14 | Corowa High School Year 6 Transition 1.45-3pm |
| Thur. Oct. 15 | Bring Your Family to School Day, 4-6pm |
| Wed. Oct. 21 | Corowa High School Year 6 Transition 1.45-3pm |

The Wahgunyah Way

We are focussing on: keeping bookwork and work areas tidy

MIGHTY MURRAY

Congratulations to Murray House for taking home the trophy at last Friday’s athletics’ carnival. Thanks to all the parents and carers for coming along, and to Mr Sexton for organising at great day!

FOOTY COLOURS DAY

Next Friday — gold coin donation

HOT LUNCH

Our next hot lunch is next Friday.  
PIZZA $3.50

Our assembly helpers next Friday are: Mia Grantham and Kane Palmer
Are You Man Enough to Come on Camp?

We are looking for a male parent helper to come on the 3/4 camp to 15 Mile Creek. The camp is from Monday, October 26 to Wednesday, October 28. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending.

Bike Ride to Rutherglen

This is taking place tomorrow. Riders will leave the school at 11.00am not 11.30am as advertised in the last newsletter. The ride is for students in Years 2-6. We are happy for younger students to ride along but they must be with a parent or carer. Bikes need to be in good condition. Younger students not taking part in the ride will travel by bus and meet us for a sausage sizzle lunch in Rutherglen. Lunch will be at approximately 12 noon. The ride is open to mums, dads, grandparents and other carers, so it would be great to see as many riders as possible.

Positive Parenting Program

This is taking place tomorrow, 2-4pm and is presented by Gateway Community Health. The program focuses on resilience, positive relationships and strategies to help encourage open communication between parents and children. To help parents attend this program, the school will be providing free childcare during the program.

Year 6 Group Day

The Year 6 Group Day was held on Tuesday and was a great success. Thanks to Sharni for organising this unique day which brought together Year 6 children from many of our local schools on both sides of the border. The aim of the day was to help our (and other schools’ students) to form friendships as the continue they transition to high school in term 4.

Corowa RSL Members

Thanks to those parents and other community members who provided their membership numbers. The school now has enough to complete its application.

Last Day of Term

Next Friday is the last day of term 3. Students will be dismissed at 2.30pm. There will be an assembly at 2.15pm. The school will also be hosting a ‘Footy Colours Day’ where students are encouraged to wear the colours of any sporting team (doesn’t have to be football). If participating, children should also bring along a gold coin donation. I hope that everyone has a enjoyable holiday.

Brendan Hogan
Principal

Hats On

Now that the sun is out and about it’s time to start wearing hats again. In line with the school’s Sunsmart Policy, students are required to wear a stiff, broad-brimmed hat during the months of September and April. As of the beginning of term 4, staff will enforce the ‘no hat, no play’ mantra.

Talk Homework and Big Write

Every Wednesday all students receive their ‘talk homework’ for our Big Write session. The purpose of the talk homework is for children to spend some time at home, with their families, preparing themselves for the writing session the following day. Most of the kids worked really hard on their Big Write today. Teachers are sending home a copy of what your child produced today. It’s worth noting that this is a raw sample, warts and all. Students spend time on Friday proof-reading and editing their work. Please feel free to help them with this at home too. We will regularly send home samples of your child’s Big Write work for you to see your child’s improvement over time. Hopefully, you’ll also see the discussions you have with your child at home, coming through their work.

Bring Your Whole Family to School Day

Just a heads up about an event taking place in the second week of term 2. On Thursday, October 15, we want students to bring their whole family to school! The afternoon will run from 4-6pm and everyone (mum, dad, grandma, grandpa etc.) will get to be a student for the afternoon and experience what it’s like to be a kid at Wahgunyah Primary School. Alongside our usual students, they might get to do some French, science, Blueearth, art, and might even get a Principal’s Award!

Attendance and Student Absences

Please take the time to read the information titled ‘Every Day Counts’ included with today’s newsletter. It outlines the importance of school attendance and the possible consequences from a departmental level if children regularly miss school.
Term 3 has been busy! The Grade 5’s went to Canberra and had the opportunity to meet MP Cathy McGowan at Parliament House, play games at the AIS, enrol at Questacon and learn how elections and politics works in Australia.

When we first got to Canberra we went to Questacon and it was snowing! I had never seen snow before. I liked Parliament House, it took so long to get through security but we got to see where laws are made. A new law is called a bill. When we went to see the Prime Minister he wasn’t there! Tyson

At the CSIRO in Canberra I learnt that Wifi is an Australian invention. Chelsea Po

My favourite thing we did in Canberra was rock climbing. I learnt that there is a lot of stages in an election. Amy

At the AIS was the best thing in Canberra, the modified netball was the best! Chelsea Po

I loved Canberra I found the photobooth at Questacon to be creepy as it always came out with your shadow behind you. Hayley

Canberra was awesome I learnt lots at Parliament House, way too much to put on paper! May favourite fact was learning about the different stages in Parliament. Ebony

This term we have introduced Big Write and Talk Homework that the students have been taking home each Wednesday night. The students have been developing their writing ideas at home and starting to create thoughtful and funny works of art! We are starting to send home their Big Write story for them to share with you. The story might not have been edited just yet but you will get a good indication of what they are doing. On the Friday after Big Write the students edit their work and one students piece of work will be chosen for the Big Writer of the Week!

It was fabulous to see such great participation and sportsmanship at the Athletics Carnival on Friday. It was a great time to try new things and develop our sporting skills. Congratulations everyone and good luck to those off to the next level! The high jump was fun as I could jump higher than last year! Thomas

I was scared in the 800m run because it seemed so far and I came 3rd! Bailey

I had a great time at the Athletics carnival, after it I was so tired! Eden

At the athletics carnival my favourite event was the discuss. I won a third ribbon and everyone was surprised for some reason. I wonder why? Cayla

The Athletics Carnival was cool! But scary too, especially the high jump and 200m race. I still did it and tried my best. Ebony-Rose

I did not like the high jump! The first time I tried and nearly made it, but I didn’t! Amy

The Athletics was so fun, my favourite was the discuss. When I threw it it went flying through the air like a bird and I came first! Charli

Last Friday at the athletics carnival my favourite thing was doing the running and high jump. It was fun just enjoying the game. Jo
This term in Numeracy, we have had a focus on addition and subtraction with students developing their skills to accurately complete sums fluently. They have also continued to add and subtract fractions, find equivalent fractions and locate them on number lines.

This week they will budget money and in small groups organise a birthday party. They will need to keep track of what they are spending to ensure they don’t blow the budget!

Can you solve this problem with your family?

Brad, Tony, and Ronald collected baseball cards. Brad had 234, Tony had 316, and Ronald had 481.

How many more cards did Ronald have than Brad?

We have been looking at Asia and have been investigating Japanese Animals and seeing how similar they are to Australian animals.

We are about to start looking at Chinese Folktales and see the important role the dragon plays in Chinese story telling.
School Review Self-Evaluation
Summary of Recommendations

Based on the self-evaluation, the school has identified the following key recommendations and areas for improvement which should be considered when developing the next strategic plan.

Achievement
* The school could adopt a more integrated platform for collecting and analysing performance data to better inform student progress for both staff and parents. The analysis of data should feature more consistently at staff and PLT meetings, especially in terms of individual student growth.

* The school could improve how it communicates and reports progress to parents and carers beyond the mid and end of year reports and annual parent teacher interviews. While the school currently employs email and a phone app to regularly inform families about school events, the school should investigate the viability of an online platform, such as Compass, to more regularly update parents on student progress and the learning taking place in the classroom. This platform can also be used by staff to analyse data, provide behaviour and wellbeing tracking, as well as hosting Individual Learning Plans.

* The school could improve the quality of teaching in the classroom by developing and implementing a whole-school instructional model, based on explicit teaching and a culture of high expectations. This model should be reflected in more uniform unit and lesson planning, in line with the school curriculum documents. The model should also compliment the school-wide use of programs such as VCOP Big Write, Words Their Way, and NFA. Peer and principal observation and feedback should play an integral role in the implementation of this model.

Engagement
* The school could review its current Attendance Policy to formalise procedures on when, how, and how often to contact parents regarding absenteeism. This could include a more targeted reward system to increase attendance. The school could continue to promote Every Day Counts and other resources from the Attendance Toolkit. The school could move roll-marking to an online platform to see trends and develop alerts for attendance issues. The school could review elements of teacher practice and timetabling to provide more engaging learning activities to foster a love of learning and being at school.

* The school could continue to implement the behaviour expectations of the Wahgunyah Way to establish a positive learning community.

* The school could continue to strengthen its ties with Corowa and Rutherglen high schools, as well as foster a stronger and reciprocal relationship with our local child care provider, Country Buddies.

* The school could seek to strengthen ties with the local community through strategic and formalised relationships with community partners and groups such as Wahgunyah Progress Association. This could include drawing on community expertise and knowledge to regularly assist in the school.

Wellbeing
* The school could continue to use the KidsMatter framework as a tool for prevention and early intervention for children at risk of developing mental health issues.

* The school could improve the teaching of resilience and social skills by implementing the recommendations from the Building Resilience in School Communities Project. The school could continue to embed its Social and Emotional Learning curriculum.
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

**Why it’s important**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

**Getting in early**

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

**“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)
FISHING COMPETITION

IS ON AGAIN!!!!

DATE: FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2015
TIME: 4.00PM
PLACE: COROWA SWIMMING POOL
BRING: YOUR FISHING RODS & TACKLE BOXES
PRICE: $5 PER PERSON

BBQ & DRINKS FOR SALE
THE GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COROWA ANGLERS CLUB AND BALL PARK CARAVAN PARK FOR THEIR SUPPORT!!!!!