Welcome back to the new year at Wamberal Public School. I trust that your holidays were both enjoyable and relaxing. We are looking forward to another rewarding year and trust that your support will again be generous and enthusiastic.

A special welcome to all the new pupils and families to our school. I expect that your time and association with Wamberal Public School will be both enriching and enjoyable. Know that the staff and parent community of this school value a strong home/school partnership. We believe our school offers the best "value for money" and educational opportunities for your child. 2013 promises to be another stimulating and exciting year with many well established and innovative programs being planned. We are committed to supporting and offering our students quality education. With your ongoing support and encouragement I know that this year will be another outstanding one in the life of Wamberal Public School. I have an open-door policy and encourage you to visit the school to discuss any concerns you may have in respect to the educational and welfare needs of your child.

An agreed appointment would be appreciated.

G. Crowther—Principal

Core Purpose of Our School

OUR CORE PURPOSE IS TO TEACH CHILDREN

In the business of today's world, which is reflected in the daily life of any school, one must continually come back to the core purpose of a school's existence. The school exists to teach students! The diversity of today's curriculum means teaching must cover a large spectrum of procedures and topics if it is to be relevant to the life of a modern child. Where possible, your child's first session of each day will largely focus on teaching and learning literacy or numeracy skills. It is not possible to contain literacy to a single lesson as it is the foundation for all learning. Teaching and practice goes on all day as student and teacher continue to communicate and learn.

Students will be grouped accordingly to ability for these groups to teach literacy and numeracy within the class structure.

What Makes WPS Unique? - Wamberal Public School's Core Values.

Following consultation with representatives from the parents, staff and students the following Core Values underpin the Wamberal Public School identity. We value:

- Friendship
- Fairness
- Harmony
- Citizenship

These values are fundamental to our Code of Conduct

Students, staff & parents are encouraged & expected to:

1. Take responsibility for their own actions.
2. Give a best effort always.
3. Respect self, others and property.
4. Care for the environment.

Our values and code give Wamberal P.S. a frame of reference in which to operate. I strongly recommend this to you and to your children. Wamberal P.S. has a well-established set of traditions, ceremonies and achievements. Our school is a proud example of traditional Australian values set in an evolving contemporary western culture. The school attracts a high set of community expectation.

School Structure/School Organisation

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this demanding, yet exciting, time of the year.

Unfortunately, we are not able to avoid the dilemma of uncertain enrolments, which are directly affected by circumstances beyond our prior knowledge and control. We need to firstly establish and confirm our enrolment numbers in an attempt to avoid having to make unnecessary changes later. We have endeavoured to be sensitive, supportive and constructive when making all student placements. Our priority is to create learning conditions that are the best possible for EVERYONE! We anticipate a school enrolment close to 600 students in 2013.
Our decisions have been based on educational grounds and are not restricted to personal demands.

Teacher recommendations have been extremely important during this process and staff have assisted in developing the new classes. During the course of the next fortnight, a publication of staff and class structures across the school will be distributed to all families.

N.B: All Kindergarten students commence full time lessons on Monday 4/2/13. It is always a privilege to see and meet these special new school citizens.

Welcome Kindy 2013!

As in any year, if the enrolment of the school unexpectedly grows allowing the employment of an extra teacher, alternative structures may have to be implemented to accommodate this development.

WHAT ARE OUR INITIAL PLANS?

In 2013 you can expect!

Initial enrolments allow for 24 classes.

1. Kindergarten classes to approximate the target of 20 pupils per class.
2. Yr: 1 classes to approximate the target of 22 pupils per class.
3. Yr: 2 classes to approximate the target of 24 pupils per class.
4. Parallel classes—are being created. Stage classes will be limited to Stage:3. The school has no choice when implementing the required primary syllabus. Our syllabus is structured in Stages and every stage, except Early Stage: 1. (Kindergarten) is over a 2-year period.

To maximise the equitable use of resources and personnel, many of our programs are based on a 2 year cycle.

5. Composite classes are unavoidable

These should never be viewed as a "poor choice". All classes, irrespective of composition, have a range in student abilities. Primary schools are staffed on different formulae to high schools. Where possible we will try to avoid forming composite classes across different curriculum stages. If this is unavoidable the class established may be one with students selected because of common abilities and talents.

6. Wednesdays have again been targeted as our “Variation Day”. Where possible, assemblies, visiting performances and Stage/Grade meetings will be conducted on this day. This allows 2 sets of 2 days for non-interrupted ability/group teaching.

7. Who will be the teachers? There will be some changes - details when confirmed.

8. Room Changes: It can be expected that some teachers will be moving to different rooms in 2013.

9. School Times in 2013 To maximise the effective use of optimal teaching and learning times in 2013, the school’s internal times will be adjusted accordingly. It is expected to be as follows:

   9.00 Supervised duty starts.
   9.25 Warning Bell.
   9.30 -10.30: Teaching Session.
   10.30 Approx.: Fruit Break with teacher in class
   10.30-11.30: Teaching Session
   11.30-11.45: LUNCH (Eating)
   11.45-12.10: Play
   12.10-1.55: Teaching Session
   1.55-2.05: AFTERNOON RECESS (Eating)
   2.05-2.30: Play
   2.30-3.30: Teaching Session

(Students under teacher supervision move to bus waiting area—Aldinga Drive).

This timetable allows a greater and more balanced distribution of learning and play throughout the day.

Teaching time is expected to be more effective as students will be more adequately catered for and more settled for learning.

Note: Students should avoid being at school prior to 9.00 am.

If this is unavoidable, "early arrivers" MUST SIT under the COLA until the supervising teacher indicates to them that the 9.00 am duty has commenced.

Can you expect high standards? - Yes!

Our dedicated staff supported by such an informed, articulate and interested community combine to maximise the learning opportunities for our great kids. 2013 has all the early indicators that promise to lead to success. I am confident it will be another year of great overall achievements across all aspects of school life.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

1. Prepare your child with the appropriate and necessary classroom/school requirements. (A specific class list of material will be distributed by this year’s teacher) e.g. pencils, pencil case, coloured pencils, pens, etc. Mark all with the child’s name.

2. Talk positively to your child about the new school year. You may wish to highlight some of the new experiences that can be expected with any new year.

3. Read and discuss a shared book experience with your child. Encourage reading for everyone. Read to your child irrespective of age!

4. Establish a realistic “before and after school” routine for you and your child. This should include some time for fun and entertainment and some time for school revision (homework).

   Remember: The most effective learning comes when it is not considered a chore. It should always be interesting so your child can experience success.

5. School uniforms are a school community requirement. A school hat is a part of this requirement for all students especially for seniors. Please see me if this is a problem. Wearing full and correct school uniform speaks loudly about our school pride, respect and responsibility. The service provided by our highly valued Uniform Shop is outstanding.

   Thank you everyone—the students look FANTASTIC!

Canteen and Uniform Shop Helpers
The P&C operates these two facilities with the support of volunteer help.

If you can assist, please let us know via the front office.

Band News
Our School Band begins again this week with Concert Band meeting on Friday morning at 8 am and then Training Band 8am Thursday morning. All Tutorials start Thursday morning at 9 am except Concert Band. Brass which will meet Friday morning at 9 am. New students are invited to join the Training Band. Please see Ms Ford if you are interested in joining the band.

Helen Ford
Did You Know?

Australia is the largest island nation on earth, and the 6th largest country by land mass (after Russia, Canada, China, USA and Brazil). It is 12 times largest than Europe’s largest country (France), and larger than these 25 countries combined.

Australia is big not just geographically, but also demographically. Australia is growing at 1.6% per year, which not only exceeds every other OECD member nation, but it is above the world average of 1.1%, and above countries such as Indonesia, India, and Malaysia. At 23 million, our population is ranked 52 out of the world’s 242 countries, and as evident in this graphic, larger than these 21 countries combined.

The author of this research summary:
Mark McCrindle is a social analyst with an international renown for tracking emerging issues, researching social trends and analysing customer segments.
This week we celebrated **Australia Day** - a time to celebrate and reflect on all things Australian. From Tassie to Straddie, from Freo to the Gong, there’s one language we all share. Loved by the Sandgropers, used by the Crow eaters, embraced by the Banana benders and spoken by the Coackroaches and the Mexicans, from the Territorians to the Taswegians the language we know and love is Stralyan. So, Happy Australia Day (and that’s Australia with two, or if you like three syllables, but not four!)