



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Nolan St, Berkeley 2506

P.O. Box 56 Berkeley

Principal: Mr A. Attard

Wednesday 21 February, 2024



From The Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events School Email List

- Fri 23 Feb-** District swimming carnival– for all students who have progressed and qualified from our school swimming carnival
- Fri 1 Mar-** 2.15pm School assembly- Student Representative Council (SRC) induction assembly– all welcome!
- Wed 13 Mar–
Mon 25 Mar** 2024 NAPLAN assessments conducted for Years 3 & 5 at school
- Tues 19 Mar-** 9.15am P&F meeting in school community room– AGM– all welcome!
- Thurs 21 Mar-** 4pm Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) meeting– Kiama HS– all welcome
- Fri 22 Mar-** 2.30pm School assembly– all welcome!
- Thurs 28 Mar-** 12.20pm Easter Hat Parade– more details to come closer to event
- Fri 29 Mar-** Public holiday- Good Friday
- Mon 1 Apr-** Public holiday– Easter Monday

Principal's Award

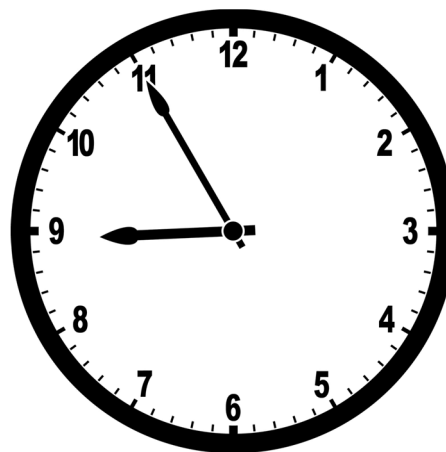
Congratulations to Evalina P for receiving the Principal's Award this week for being a most respectful, responsible and safe student at Berkeley West PS. As well as her certificate, Evalina will enjoy a \$4.00 food voucher to spend at the canteen. Terrific!!



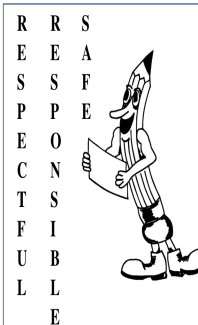
New Preschool for Berkeley West!

Our school has been selected for one of 100 new public preschools in NSW. It is expected that the new preschool will open by 2027, pending building and regulatory approvals.

Our school was considered for a new public preschool based on; child development and socioeconomic data, projected demand for preschool, an infrastructure analysis and valuable insights gained through local feedback. The department made decisions through a clear process with independent oversight.



**PLEASE RESPECT THE
HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF
OUR STUDENTS BY NOT
PACKING PEANUTS, EGGS
or PRODUCTS CONTAINING
PEANUTS IN YOUR CHILD'S
LUNCHBOX!**



A high-quality early childhood education helps give children the best start in life by providing important opportunities to learn and develop. Research shows a positive transition to school is important for a child's long-term academic, social and wellbeing outcomes. Having a public preschool on our school site will help children prepare for this change and help our school staff to support the individual needs of children as they move from the preschool to the Kindergarten classroom.

This is a long-term project, with the preschool due to be built by 2027, and we will provide further information as the project progresses.

For more information, please visit the department's website

NAPLAN 2024 parent and carer information

Each year the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is undertaken by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students will participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN 2024 will take place from Wednesday 13 March to Monday 25 March.

NAPLAN is just one part of our school learning assessment program. The tests assess literacy and numeracy skills your child is already learning at school.

In preparation for NAPLAN, our school will undertake activities to help students become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. These activities are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not required nor recommended.

The public demonstration site (<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>) is available to see the types of questions, tools and functions used in the NAPLAN tests.

Further information about NAPLAN is available on the NESA website (<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/understanding-the-curriculum/naplan/parent-information>).

If you have any questions about NAPLAN, please contact your child's teacher.

Cryptosporidiosis

NSW Health has advised of very high rates of cryptosporidiosis, a diarrhoeal disease, in the community.

The main symptom of cryptosporidiosis is watery diarrhoea and stomach cramps. Fever, vomiting and loss of appetite occur less commonly. Most healthy people will recover within 3-7 days, although symptoms can persist for up to 30 days.

Pools are of significant concern because they are a potential source of outbreaks affecting many people. Cryptosporidium is not easily destroyed by chlorine at the normal operating concentrations found in pools.

To mitigate transmission risk at our upcoming school swimming carnivals, students experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhea within 2 weeks prior to the event will not be allowed in the water.

Parents/carers are to:

- inform the school if your child is experiencing, or have experienced in 2 weeks prior to the carnival, gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhoea

Students are reminded to wash hands regularly with soap and water and avoid swallowing pool water to further reduce transmission risk. More information on cryptosporidiosis can be found here: Cryptosporidiosis fact sheet – NSW Health

Everyone Deserves to Be Safe at School

This term, you will notice new posters around the school that aim to help support a safe and respectful culture at our school.

These posters are part of an initiative to remind everybody to treat our hard-working school staff with kindness and respect. Every school community around the state is very different. While most schools are respectful and harmonious, violence and unsafe behaviour in any form is not acceptable in schools. School staff and students have the right to learn and work in safe and respectful learning environments.

With that in mind, I encourage you to join everyone at our school in getting behind this important work to make a positive change.

We value our partnerships with you to support our students to learn, grow, and belong. It is up to us – the school and the parent-body - to be good respectful role models to our students. Together, we can create a safe and harmonious environment for our students and staff.

I hope you will support this initiative. What do you need to do? It is easy: Please treat our students and staff with kindness and respect, at all times. We are here to help you.

Please contact Mr Attard if you have any questions.

Children and Learning

At the very centre of the school's work is the individual child. We know a lot about children and how they learn. Through this knowledge, teachers plan for your child's educational needs and development. We know:

Children are special: Children truly have a marvellous variety of abilities, interests and characteristics that make each one special. This uniqueness deserves the respect of every parent and teacher.

Children need time to be children: We should not hurry childhood. Too many pressures, too much emphasis on using every minute productively, on achieving maximum results, can rob children of their right to live fully as children.

Children pass through stages: As each year passes, they develop new ways of thinking and solving problems; they are able to manage their feelings and their social skills are developing. Children reach these stages at different times. In any one class teachers have to make allowances for a wide range of maturity levels, interests and readiness to tackle new challenges.

Children want to know: Children are naturally active, curious, creative, searching individuals. They are born learners; learning is what they do best. By the time they start school they have learnt a language and that is a fantastic accomplishment!

Children have needs: Children need love, acceptance, limits on their behaviour, challenge and success. These all help them to grow and develop their abilities to the full.

Children need expectations: Children tend to live up, or down, to the expectations of important people in their lives. They thrive on high expectations and as long as they are supported through their mistakes, they learn that successful learning often requires considerable risk-taking.

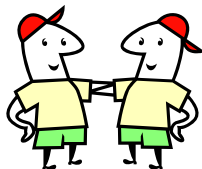
Children need to play: Play is a child's natural way of learning about the world and their place in it. Through informal play, they create meaning, stretch their imagination, practice social skills, try out ideas and learn how to cope with problems.

Hats

A reminder that students are required to wear a hat all year during recess and lunch. Students without a hat will be asked to stay in the shaded areas during playtime. Put simply, no hat, no play!

Parent/Teacher Information Sessions

If you haven't already been advised, by your class teacher, you soon will be in regard to brief upcoming parent information sessions where you get to come up to school and hear from your child's teacher about class routines, expectations and any other specific news relating to the class timetable. You will get the opportunity to ask some general questions to your child's teacher but this is not a time to discuss individual students. Parent/Teacher interviews will be scheduled for this purpose in Term 2.



School Email List

If you are not currently on the school's email list, and would like to be, please go to-

<https://forms.gle/Nbg55R2qvwC18rqCA>

and add your name and email address. Your details will not be shared with anyone else and will only be used by the school for school business.

You will receive emails from time to time with additional reminders, upcoming events and the school newsletter sent home each fortnight in electronic form. Very handy!

Maths Tip!

You can help your child at home by involving them in mathematical activities and talking to them about maths and its everyday use.

Keep the Calendar Up-To-Date

Mark any special events on the calendar, e.g. family and friends' birthdays, outings, holidays, etc. Look for patterns in the number squares. Encourage children to make their own calendars.

Student Assistance

If you require assistance meeting expenses related to your child's education you are welcome to call the school and ask to speak with the Principal Mr Attard.

Making Friends

Friendships are a very important part of life. Making friends and keeping friends can be a very difficult 'job' for many people. Children especially, may find the issue of friendship difficult and it is in fact one of the major issues that teachers deal with in your child's social education. Some children, like adults, just have the 'knack' for easily making and developing strong friendships. However, for other children it can be a nightmare and they need to be taught the skills of making and keeping friends.

Often children will tell me that they have no friends. My experience tells me that in most cases, this is not the fact, but more often it is a case of a particular social situation that has resulted in them 'falling out' of a particular friendship grouping. Children are extremely sensitive to the dynamics of friendships and often struggle to understand how, in some cases, their actions or the actions of others, have contributed to a temporary 'falling out' with friends.

While there is no 'magic recipe' for making and keeping friends, the following are some helpful points:

- Friendships are like planting flower seeds. You

need to nurture and care for them in order that they blossom.

- Sometimes, despite all your best efforts, a friend might just remain as *someone you know*.
- Finding and becoming *best friends* takes time, don't be in a hurry to move from *someone you know* to *regular friend* and then *best friend*.
- What makes a good friend? Talk to someone about this and list all the things that other people do to become good friends.
- Look for groups who seem to have interests which you share or know something about.
- Helping others is a good way to make friends, but remember to be kind, not bossy.
- Be a good listener so others can tell that you are really interested in what they are saying.
- Be a positive person. Talk about other people in a positive way.

Junk Food at School

Parents are asked to monitor the food that their children are bringing to school. It's unfortunate to see students eating high sugar food and drink like lollies, chocolate bars and soft drink when we have one of the healthiest canteens available. If your child is not having a healthy breakfast and is eating junk food (some are doing this in the morning on the way to school/stopping at the local shops) they are ill-prepared to perform in the classroom and learn effectively. There also tends to be a high correlation between poor diet and poor behaviour.

Back to School Asthma Spike

The first few weeks back to school can be a dangerous time for children with asthma. Each year, to coincide with the beginning of the school year, emergency departments experience an increase in children attending due to asthma. The spike usually lasts for the first two to four weeks of the school term, peaking in mid to late February.

This spike occurs in both school and pre-school aged children and occurs due to a number of different factors. Read more about asthma at:

www.asthma.org.au

Anti-Racism School Contact Person

As part of the Department of Education's commitment to anti-racism, each school in NSW has an Anti-racism Contact Officer (ARCO). Mrs Moore is trained as our Anti-racism Contact Officers at Berkeley West Public School. She is also available to discuss any concerns you or your child may have about racism. Students may approach Mrs Moore at any time or parents can make an appointment to speak with her if they have a suggestion in countering racism or have observed or experienced racism in the school.

Attendance Cup!

Congratulations to all the students who seem very determined at the moment to take out the Berkeley West Public School Attendance Cup. Well done 1/2NW and 5/6Me who have been our first two winners of the Attendance



Cup in 2024!. Can your class win the cup next week?
Do your bit, be at school every day!

Have you had a SunSmart week?

Tick the SunSmart boxes:

- I **slipped** on my sun protective clothing
- I **slapped** on my hat with a brim
- I **slopped** on 30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen
- I found **shade** to eat my lunch or sit and talk
- I wore my **sunglasses** (optional)

Go to the Cancer Council website to find out more:

www.cancercouncil.com.au/primary

Birth and Immunisation Certificates

We have a small number of parents of kindergarten students yet to present an immunisation or birth certificate. Student enrolment can only be finalised when parents provide the school with documentation such as a birth certificate or passport to verify their child's age.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 requires parents to provide documented evidence of a child's immunisation status on enrolment in schools, pre-schools and child care centres.

Parents have the right of not having their children immunised. However, under the Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, unimmunised children will be required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak.

Attendance Matters!

The start of a new school year provides parents with an excellent opportunity to develop great attendance habits in their children. Most of our students already have these well established. The following information is provided as a reminder of obligations if a child is absent from school.

Parent/s or caregivers are required by law to provide a written or verbal explanation to the school within seven days of any absence as to why their child was not at school.

It is important that the school receives a written or verbal explanation because:

- (1) It is a parent's legal obligation to explain their child's absence within seven days
- (2) It is a requirement that the school investigate all unexplained absences
- (3) It avoids the school and the School Attendance Officer from making unnecessary investigations
- (4) It is the way the school knows that your child was legitimately absent and not truanting from school

The note of explanation or a quick phone call to the school should contain:

1. Child's name;
2. Days/dates the child was absent from school;

3. The reason the child was absent;

4. The signature of the child's parent or caregiver (if a note).

A note should be brought to school on the first day the student returns to school after an absence. You could also ring us on 4271 1478 on the day your child is away. If you download our free school app, you can even send in an absence notification electronically! Our school is required to investigate all unexplained absences (where a child has been absent and no explanation has been received) within two days.

The Principal will only grant leave for the following instances:

- Sickness – where the absence is satisfactorily explained as being due to illness
- misadventure or unforeseen event
- participation in special events not related to the school (....not birthdays!!!!)
- domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member
- attendance at funerals
- recognised religious festivals or ceremonial occasions.

If you have any questions regarding your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Meet the 2024 Captains and Prefects

Congratulations go to our new student leadership group who were officially inducted last week as captains and prefects. They are– Cailyn S-S (Captain), Amelia M (Vice-Captain), Nixon D (Prefect), Savannah S (Prefect), Aseel A (Prefect) and Tori W (Prefect).



What is anaphylaxis?

Allergic reactions are common. They happen when the immune system reacts to something in the environment that is normally harmless: e.g. food proteins, pollens or dust mites. It can be triggered by an allergen coming

into contact with the skin, eyes, nose, eyes, lungs or the stomach/bowel.

Many allergic reactions are mild, but some can be severe and even life threatening.

The most common causes of allergy in children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, cow's milk, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish. Other causes are bee or other insect bites (wasp, jumper jack ant), some medications (antibiotics, anaesthetics) and latex (rubber).

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of an allergic reaction and is life threatening. Rates of anaphylaxis are not well documented, but are estimated at approximately 10 in every 1000 school children.

A reaction can develop within minutes of exposure to the allergen, but with planning and training, a reaction can be treated effectively by using an adrenaline injection. An important aspect of anaphylaxis management is prevention and avoidance of the cause.

We ask all parents to keep peanuts, peanut products and eggs out of their children's lunchboxes. In an attempt to minimise the risks to our students, our canteen managers have removed peanut based products and eggs from our menu.

If you would like more information regarding anaphylaxis and the significant consequences a reaction brings, please contact Mr Attard.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/tell-them-from-me/information-for-parents-and-carers/your-childs-participation>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 40 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please complete and return the non-consent note to school before **Monday 14 March**. You can download and print the non-consent form here-

<https://berkeleyw->

p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doi/sws/schools/b/berkeleyw-p/download-box/TTFM_parent_non_consent_BWPS.pdf

Auditions Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts

A direct link to audition information for interested Year 6 students-

<https://sway.office.com/QV7zS1WDQRc3z5tL?ref=Link>

Special Religious Education/ Scripture

A feature of the public education system in NSW is the opportunity to provide time in class for education in ethics, faith and morality from a religious or non-religious perspective at the choice of parents.

The school website- <https://berkeleyw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>, provides information on these options to support parent/carer choice.

A parent/carer may at any time notify the school in writing that they wish to change their decision. Students will continue the same arrangement as the previous year, unless a parent/carer has requested a change in writing.

For more information about Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE), including the list of approved providers, please visit: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics>

If your preferred SRE option is not available please contact the approved provider. Students not attending SRE are given supervised alternative meaningful activities.

The following options are available at Berkeley West Public School and will commence next week-

SRE Options

Option 1: Catholic

Option 2: Protestant

Students continue in the same arrangement each year, unless a parent/caregiver has requested a change in writing. At any time, you have the right to change your SRE nomination or to withdraw your child from the nominated lessons. A note to the Principal will affect this change.

PUT IT IN THE DROP BOX!

Our school has a secure drop box built into the front office wall in which you can now place all notes, money etc coming to school. Obviously, make sure any envelopes containing notes or money have your child's name and class written on it, along with what the payment is for.

So no money to the class teacher please, simply stop in at the office as you get to school in the morning and "CHUCK IT IN THE DROP BOX!"

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KR	Diesel Sak	For his insightful contributions to class discussions in Maths.
K/1J	Aleena Reynolds	For a settled start to Kindergarten and her new classroom.
1/2B	Leah Baker	For being a cooperative and respectful class member.
1/2NW	Ollie Chapman	For being a respectful and responsible class leader.
3/4H	Mason Drysdale	For his commitment to learning, sharing his ideas and working well in small groups.
4/5B	Rylan Jackson	For challenging himself with his learning in all areas.
5/6Me	Braxton Cook	For his persistence and positive attitude across all areas of learning.
5/6Mi	Hunter Robinson	For his positive application to all areas of his learning.

Bounce Dentistry

The school dentist will be visiting our school in week 5 (26/2/24-1/3/24). If you would like your child to have a check up with the dentist, please complete the consent form sent home on 7/2/24 and return it to the school drop box before Monday 26 February. Spare notes are available at the school office. Alternatively use the QR code to complete the consent form digitally.



SCAN ME

PLAYSTRONG PLAYGROUP BERKELEY WEST

for children birth – 5

FREE

Fridays, 9.00am - 11.00am
(During school term)

Located at Berkeley West Public School community room

Please bring a hat and healthy morning tea

For more information contact – 0439 648 778



Play Craft Stories
Outdoor activities
Puzzles Music

Our Playstrong program is supported by friendly experienced and trained staff. Playgroup provides a variety of activities to promote and enhance the early learning and wellbeing of our children. Parents and carers have the opportunity to meet other adults in a welcoming and relaxed setting.



Berkeley West Public School Breakfast Program

This year we will continue to serve breakfast each day to students in the community room. It will be served as usual from 8.30 to 8.50am. All children are welcome to come and have breakfast.

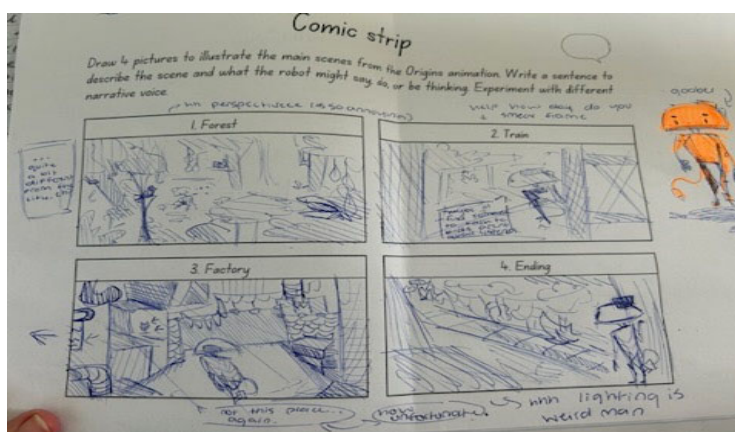
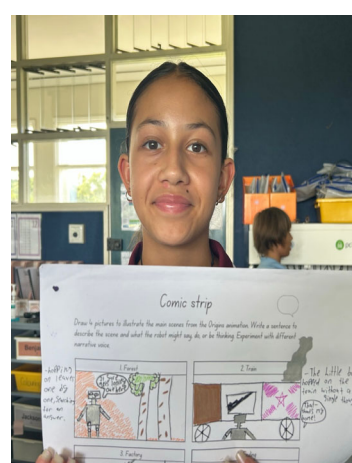
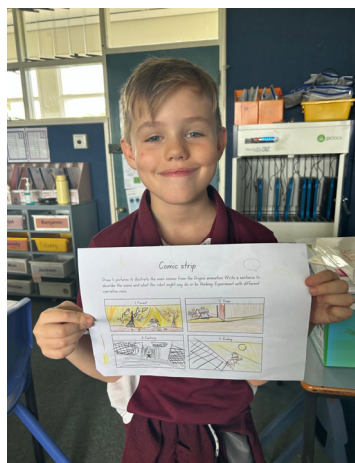
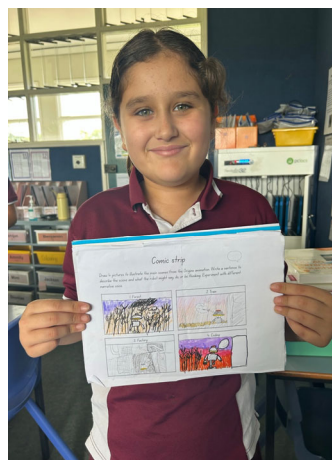
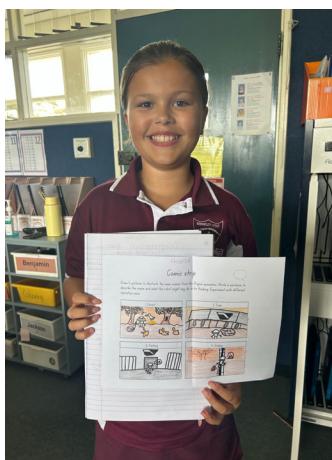
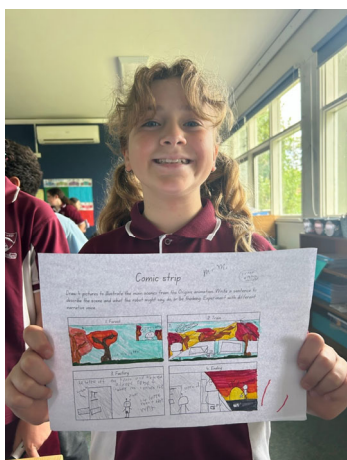
I would like to invite all parents, grandparents and carers to volunteer to serve breakfast in the community room. It is a great way to meet other parents and the children enjoy interacting with each other as well as other adults. If you are free any day of the week from 8.30am - 9.00am we would love to see you.

If you would like to be included in the Breakfast Club roster **please fill out the form located at the school office by Friday, 23rd February Week 4.**

Thank you,
Miss Midgley

What's Happening in 5/6Me

What a busy start to the year it's been! It has been so lovely to see our wonderful Stage 3 students settle in beautifully and engage in many learning opportunities over the past few weeks. 5/6Me has been learning about 'narrative' in our first five week English Unit. We have explored many concepts through the text 'The Wild Robot' and the animation 'Origins'. This past week we have explored the use of first person, second person and third person voice when writing narratives. Our students, inspired by the short film 'Origins' created their own comic strip inspired by four key scenes in the short film experimenting with character voice. They designed their own backdrops and inserted their own dialogue to explain what was occurring in each scene. They were so creative completing this task and I appreciated how each student's interpretation was unique and different from each other. Here are some of their wonderful finished products! We are now working towards applying students' knowledge of narrative conventions to create their own science-fiction novels later this term. I am so proud of our students for their effort and application! Well done 5/6Me! What a great start to the year!



DON'T FORGET!



SCHOLASTIC Book Club

orders are due:

23/02/2024



WOLLONGONG
HIGH SCHOOL
OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

OPEN NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH



Year 6 Parents &
Students are invited
to attend WHSPA's
Open Night.

BOOK YOUR TOUR

In Area Students

5.00pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDH>)

6.00pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDN>)

Auditioned Students

5.30pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDO>)

6.30pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDS>)

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - EXCELLENCE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS



WHSPA
ONLINE
OPEN
NIGHT

THURSDAY 24TH FEB 7PM

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL VIA
WOLLONGONG-H.SCHOOL@DET.NSW.EDU.AU TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

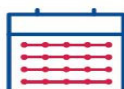
and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

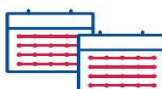
Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed