



29 January 2019

Welcome Letter – Term 1, 2019

Dear Families of Wollongong West,

It is with great anticipation and excitement that we commence the 2019 school year. 2019 promises to be a fun, enriching and exciting year.

This year, we continue our work towards achieving our strategic directions in our school plan for 2018-2020. Our school vision is:

At Wollongong West Public School, we will learn, teach and lead for excellence. We will empower students to be successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens of today and for tomorrow.

We will be working towards the following three strategic directions as identified in our School Plan 2018-2020.

- * *Excellence in Literacy and Numeracy*
- * *Learning for Today and Tomorrow*
- * *Quality Teachers and Leaders*

Our School Plan 2018-2020 can be viewed on our school website.

This year, our children will continue to thrive academically, socially, emotionally, spiritually and physically with many wonderful initiatives being undertaken.

- Our Instructional Leadership program, led by Mrs Heritage, will continue in 2019. All children will have their progress regularly tracked in the areas of literacy and numeracy and all children will be actively working towards personalised learning goals. Teachers will meet regularly to plan differentiated learning pathways in literacy and numeracy for every child at our school.
- Our teachers will continue to fine tune our implementation of formative assessment strategies to strengthen the literacy and numeracy programs across our school. Daily assessment of student learning will ensure tomorrow's lessons target each child's individual need.
- Mathematics will be a priority for teacher professional learning in 2019, as we work towards further strengthening our teacher practice in this area.
- Integrated units of work will be implemented across stage groups that ensure quality inquiry based learning in the key learning areas of History, Geography, Science and Technology, Personal Development and Health. Termly units of work will culminate in a rich task where

students will showcase their learning and consider future implications of their learning in the real world.

- Mrs Kandilas-Feld will be in the role of Teacher Mentor in 2019, supporting teachers across our school in the expert integration of digital technologies into daily classroom practice.
- In 2019, flexible learning spaces will be introduced into our library and some classrooms. These modern learning environments will support our children in developing their skills in collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and communication as we launch our inquiry-based units of work.
- All children in Years K-6 will participate in weekly specialist mathematics lessons with Miss Bormann. These lessons will have a strong focus on the areas of Measurement, Geometry Statistics and Probability. All students in Years 4-6 will further participate in a spatial reasoning program in Terms 2-4. This exciting initiative will be in partnership with professors from the University of Canberra.
- Weekly creative arts classes will be provided for every child under the expertise of Mrs Morrissey. Each term will see a different focus in the areas of Visual Arts, Drama, Dance and Music. These specialist classes will allow children to grow, shine and thrive in these different areas. In addition, children will have opportunities to perform in extra-curricular groups, such as dance troupes and choirs.
- Student wellbeing will continue to be a priority as all classes school wide will be engaging in explicit lessons to support positive social skills and relationships, emotional regulation and behaviour expectations. Mrs Pezzutto will be leading this important teaching K-6 in 2019.
- In 2019, we will also be launching the *Got It!* Program at our school. This program is fully funded through NSW Health. Families, children and teachers in K-2 will be able to access support from clinical psychologists, occupational therapists and paediatricians to ensure sustainable early intervention for students in the early years of school.
- This year also sees the establishment of a Refugee Student Support Leader position at our school. Mr Cameron Ling was successful in applying for this position. While Mr Ling will be supporting refugee programs across all schools in the Wollongong network, we are thrilled to have this valuable resource at our school. He will strengthen and bring valuable expertise to the exciting programs we have in place to support our students and families from a refugee background.
- Our school will continue to provide weekly swimming lessons for every child during Terms 1 and 4. Lessons will commence next week. Please ensure that you have returned your child's permission note to participate in these classes. Mrs Hickey will continue to lead the sporting programs at our school, applying for grants to ensure our children are accessing expert instruction in a wide variety of sports.
- Our Community Hub will continue operating this year. The hub will provide additional support for all families, particularly those families from a refugee background. Increased community events will promote engagement and connectedness between all families in our

school community. More information regarding our hub will be distributed to families soon.

What an exciting year it will be!

In staffing news, Mrs Jan Renwick, our hard working library assistant, retired at the end of 2018. We wish her much happiness in her retirement.

Mrs Holly Degotardi, who has worked at our school in a temporary capacity for eight years has been successful in her application for permanent appointment within the catholic education system. We wish her much success in her new position.

I also thank Mr Wayne Norington for his service to our school in 2018 as a School Learning Support Officer. We farewell Mr Norington as he pursues other career opportunities.

This year, we welcome some new members to our staff team. We also see some existing staff members taking on new roles at our school. Below is a list of our staffing line-up to start 2019.

Class Teachers

KF	Mrs Nadine Farmer
K/1C	Miss Elena Carling
1/2H	Miss Kristy Horner
2B	Mrs Kristy Bennis
3/4M	Mrs Rebecca McCabe
4/5H	Mrs Jenine Hickey
5/6B	Mr Matthew Bell
5/6H	Mrs Stephanie Hopper

Specialist Teachers

Mrs Janet Pezzutto
Mrs Jo-anne Morrissey
Miss Olivia Bormann
Mrs Nadine Risi
Mrs Natasha Kandilas-Feld
Mr Scott Thornton

Instructional Leader

Mrs Elizabeth Heritage

School Learning Support Officers

Miss Hayley Smith-Little
Mrs Caroline Kettlewell
Mrs Michelle Greer
Mr Burhan Zangara

School Psychologist

Mrs Olivia Blackmore

Community Hub Leader

Mrs Maree Szalla

Refugee Student Support Leader

Mr Cameron Ling

Administration

Mrs Tess Trigg
Mrs Alison Kirk

School Learning Support Officers

Michelle Greer
Caroline Kettlewell
Hayley Smith-Little

General Assistants

Mr Andrew Beattie
Mr John Lochhead

Our children will be placed in their anticipated classes for 2019 when they return to school on Wednesday 30 January. Please note that class structures may be changed in the first few weeks as our numbers fluctuate with new enrolments.

On Thursday 31 January, our Kindergarten children will enjoy their first day at “big” school. I warmly welcome our new families of children in Kindergarten and also from the higher grades to our school.

Our main means of communication between our school and families will continue to be through the Skoolbag app. I ask that all families visit the app store on your phone or tablet, search Wollongong West Public School, and download the app at no cost. This will help families stay informed about what is happening at our school. Our school website, school facebook account and P & C facebook account are other important ways to keep informed.

Our P & C generally meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm in our staffroom. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend these meetings.

Here are some important dates to add to your diaries to start the school year.

Wednesday 30 January	School resumes for children in Years 1-6
Thursday 31 January	School starts for children in Kindergarten
Thursday 7 February	P & C Meeting 7pm
Friday 1 February	School swimming carnival (Students 8 years and older)
Friday 8 February	Swimming Trials (Students 8 years and older)
Tuesday 12 February	SRC Induction Assembly 2:30pm
Friday 15 February	P & C Welcome BBQ and Camp-out
Thursday 20 February	Life Education visit
Thursday 14 March	Selective High School test (for nominated students in year 6)
Thursday 14 March	Inter-relate evening presentation
Wednesday 27 March	Student Led Conferences 3:15pm-5:30pm
Friday 12 April	Last Day for Term One

I warmly invite any parent or carer to contact me by phone on 4229 2096 or by email on michelle.deebank@det.nsw.edu.au to discuss any concerns or to acquire further information.

I am very much looking forward to an exciting 2019 at Wollongong West Public School.

Kind Regards,
Michelle Barnes
Principal