Welcome back to another year at Wallaville State School!!
We trust that you all had a fabulous break with your families and all students are back, prepared for the term ahead.

Because of the large number of year 6 & 7 students who have left for high school, our school has dropped to 3 classrooms this year. Numbers will be submitted to the Department on day 8 and classes will be finalised. At this point we are just over the threshold to keep our 3 teachers.

This year we see Mrs Green taking on the Prep/1/2 class along with Mrs Day. We welcome Mrs Day to staff. Mrs Green will be teaching this class each Monday and Tuesday, while Mrs Day will be on class each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I would like to allay any concerns that parents may have about teachers sharing a class, as in my experience this only means that each teacher brings their absolute best on those days. You have heard the adage of two heads are better than one, and this is evident here, as teachers bounce ideas and discuss solutions to each students’ individual problem areas. Between these teachers there is 30 years of experience in the classroom.

Our year 3 / 4 class will be taught by Mr Murphy this year and students have already settled in to their routines for the term.

The Year 5/6 class this year will be taught by myself and Miss Varley, who is also our Japanese teacher. This does not add to the number of teachers which this class see in a week as Japanese has been factored in as a part of each Tuesday and Wednesday that Miss Varley is at our school, as year 5s now take Japanese as a subject.

Classroom meetings (meet the teacher) will be held next Wednesday afternoon in each of our classrooms. Tea and coffee will be available from 3pm so this is a great opportunity to come along and meet other parents at our school.
The classroom meeting times are as follows:
• 3:10pm – P/1/2 room
• 3:30pm – 3 / 4 room
• 3:50pm – 5/6 room.
At each of these meetings teachers will discuss classroom expectations, homework expectations and general information relevant to that room. Come along and meet your child’s teachers.

Office hours
A reminder that our administration office hours are as follows:
• Monday – Closed
• Tuesday – 8:30am till 3:30 pm
• Wednesday – 8:30am till 11:00 am
• Thursday – 8:30am till 3:30pm
• Friday 8:30am till 3:30pm alternate Fridays beginning next week.

Mrs Inskip’s office hours
Times which I am available for meetings vary from day to day as I am on class for the majority of the time. Please phone or see me to arrange for a suitable meeting time.
Election Cake Stall
A note went home yesterday regarding a planned cake and produce stall during the Election day at Wallaville State School. All donations need to be delivered to school on Friday or alternatively on Saturday morning. We appreciate your help with this matter as it is part of our fundraising efforts for the year.

Working Bee
Thank you to those families who gave of their time last Sunday in order to get our school tidied up and ready for the students to return. We appreciate your efforts. A big thank you also goes out to the Smith family for their efforts above and beyond in keeping our lawns mowed over the 6 week holiday break. Your help is much appreciated.

Prep Entry Age Extension
The Queensland Government has extended the entry age for Prep. If you have a child (or know of a child) who will be turning 5 years of age before or on July 31st, 2015, they would be eligible to begin Prep at Wallaville State School. Please contact the office on 4133 6333 for further details.

Electronic Payment of Invoices
For those parents who would prefer to EFT payment for school activities, diaries, etc, payments can be made to the following account:
Bank Account Name: Wallaville State School General
BSB:   064-403
Account No: 00090619
Reference: Surname and reason for payment (eg: sport bus).
Part payments can be made during the year, for example if you wish to start paying off the end of year camp costs.

Second Hand Uniform Sale
Second Hand uniforms will be on sale for $2.00 a piece at from 2.45pm Monday, February 2nd after the conclusion of parade.

Reading and Writing focus
Once again this year our school will be focussing explicitly on Reading Comprehension Strategies and Writing Strategies. Across the whole of school, each classroom will focus in on one comprehension strategy per week and one writing strategy per fortnight. With explicit teaching of these strategies along with modelled, shared and guided lessons, we hope to see further improvements with our students’ skills.

Our first strategy of focus is Activating Prior Knowledge
Proficient learners build on and activate their background knowledge before reading, writing, speaking, or listening: poor learners begin without thinking—Irvin et al. (1996)
During class, teachers will be working with the students to enable them to effectively activate their prior knowledge on a subject or text topic. Parents can help their children at home when they are reading by asking questions and using language such as:

- What do I already know about this topic?
- What have I read that seems similar to this text?
- Do I recognise the author’s name?
- What type of text/genre is this text – article, narrative, letter, poem?
- What sort of language features would I expect to find in this text?
- Based on my prior knowledge of ____________, my question/s is/are ___________.
- When I hear the word (or phrase) ____________, it makes me think about ___________.
- The words and pictures remind me of something else that I have read/seen/experienced.
- The illustrations tell me ______________ about the text.

By explicitly focussing on this strategy, we hope to improve our students’ ability to comprehend what they are reading. Any help you could give your child at home can only benefit them.

The next strategy for reading will be **Self Monitoring**

 Unless students are self-monitoring while they are reading, they cannot truly comprehend the text. Self-monitoring relates to the concept of “meta-cognitive awareness,” which is ‘knowing when what one is reading makes sense by monitoring and controlling one’s own comprehension’. Harris & Hodges. (1995) p. 153

During class, teachers will be working with the students to enable them to effectively self-monitor their comprehension when reading. Parents can help their children at home when they are reading by encouraging their children’s ability to:

- Be aware when meaning breaks down
- Identify what it is they don’t understand (word, sentence, paragraph)
- Use appropriate strategies to restore meaning

Students can use a fix up strategy such as reading on, stop and think, visualising or adjusting their reading rate.

By explicitly focussing on this strategy, we hope to improve our students’ ability to comprehend what they are reading. Any help you could give your child at home can only benefit them.

Classroom News!!!

**P/1/2 classroom**

What a fantastic group of Prep, Year 1 and Year 2’s we have been blessed with this year!

We hope you can make it to our parent meeting next Wednesday afternoon at 3:10 in the classroom. We will be running through our rotations and expectations, including homework.

Can’t wait to meet you all!

Larisa and Kate.

**3/4 classroom**

A BIG hello from Year 3/4 and Mr Murphy. It has been a fantastic start to 2015 with everyone arriving fully equipped and ready to go. So far we have been doing a lot of diagnostic testing and setting in place systems that we will be following throughout the year. It has been fantastic to have a 100% attendance rate in our 3/4 classroom, thank you parents and students!!! The students have been putting in a wonderful effort and I expect great things from them this year.

Conrad Murphy
5/6 classroom  
Youkoso – Welcome  
The year 5/6 classroom is up and running with a big focus being on Reading Comprehension & Writing Strategies this Semester. Our classroom will work more as a team teaching environment on the days that Miss Varley is in (Tuesdays & Wednesdays) therefore lots of small group Literacy and Numeracy work can occur.
Timetables will be given out next week at our classroom meeting at 3:50 on Wednesday. More information then. Hope to see you all there.
Miss Varley & Mrs Inskip.

P&C ROSTERS AND GENERAL NOTICES

P&C  
Next meeting is set for Monday, February 23rd at 7:45 am. If you have never been a member of our P&C and are interested in coming along, please feel welcome. Your input will be appreciated.

Tuckshop Roster

Friday 30th January
Volunteers: Tara Thompson, Donald Thompson

Friday 6th February
Volunteers: Sonia Wochnik, Lynette MacKinnon

Donations:
Lettuce: Brendan Boon
Cheese: Amanda Knight
Tomatoes: Tara Thompson
Muffins: Lilly Pugh
Boiled Eggs: Beth Jensen

Tuesday 3rd February
Volunteers: Beth Jensen, Therese May

Tuesday 10th February
Volunteers: Melissa MacLennan, Leesa Wentworth

WEEKLY SCHOOL ROUTINES

Tuckshop—Tuesdays and Fridays  
PARADE—Monday afternoons @2.30pm  
PE & Music-Mondays  
RE-Wednesdays  
Instrumental music-Friday  
DATE CLAIMERS  
Wed Feb 4: Classroom meetings  
Tues Feb 17: Grip Leadership excursion