

FEBRUARY, 2021 (TERM 1)



WINMALEE HIGH

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME TO 2021

A message from the relieving Principal

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to the 2021 school year and a very warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined us this year. Our first newsletter for the year includes some important information as all students commence school and as COVID-19 restrictions ease once again.

This year our communication will continue to occur through email, text messages for absences, newsletters and Facebook posts. Very soon we will be launching our Parent Portal, where you will be able to access attendance information, permission notes and student Academic Reports. This will replace the Skoolbag app. We will share specific details about the Parent Portal soon.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT CONT.

New staff

- **Mrs Chris Della Libera** has again joined our terrific Front Office team after a period of leave. We are excited to have her back at Winmalee High.
- We welcome school counsellor, **Ms Alison Rhodes** to our team. Alison joins our wonderful team at Winmalee High to support students.
- **Mr Ben Chenoweth** has returned to Winmalee and is now a permanent member of the HSIE faculty. Congratulations to Ben on gaining this position through merit selection.
- **Ms Dominika Offner** will be teaching temporarily in the TAS, Applied Technology faculty. Congratulations to Dominika for graduating and joining our teaching staff after being a proud graduate of Winmalee High as a former student and an SLSO working within the school's Learning Hub.

COVID-19 Restrictions

- Hygiene, hand washing and regular sanitising will continue to be a part of our daily practice at school.
- Advice remains the same for students and staff to stay at home if they are unwell and have any flu-like symptoms.
- Parents and carers may visit the school to drop off and pick up students, attend the uniform shop or meet with staff after an appointment has been made. All visitors coming into the school will need to sign in via the front office and complete the External Visitors to the School Site Form as well as check in via the Service NSW QR code for Winmalee High School. Please contact the school to make an appointment if you need to meet with a staff member at the school. Please note, parents and carers who are only dropping off and picking up students do not need to sign in.
- Masks are not required when visiting the school site. However, masks remain compulsory on public transport for staff and students in Greater Sydney. All staff and students in the Greater Sydney area must wear masks when travelling to and from school or when travelling for school activities using public transport or charter bus services. Students must have their own mask for these activities (unless the student has a health exemption). We will provide instructions and reminders to students if this is needed.
- As of last Friday, easing of restrictions will allow school events to occur for up to 50 people outdoors and 30 people indoors. As we start to plan for various events, we will keep you informed about what will be possible.

Strategic Improvement Plan

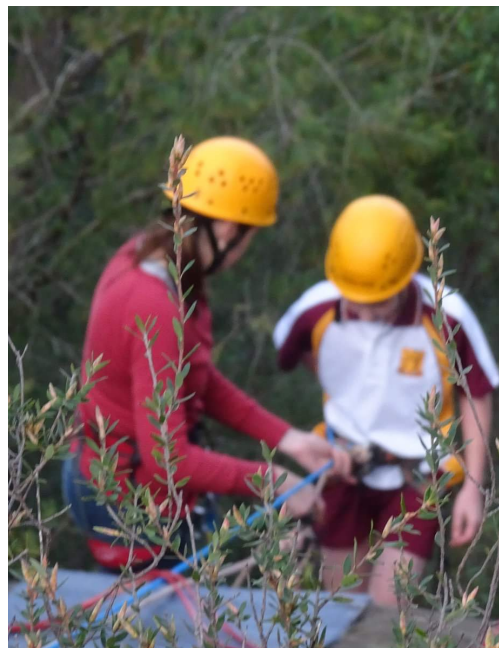
A huge thank you to those who provided really specific and helpful feedback on the initial work on our new plan. This term we will be completing our Strategic Improvement Plan for implementation from Term 2. We look forward to consulting with the school community further as we take our next steps in the planning process.

Voula Facas, relieving Principal

Settling into High School

Thank you to Ms Doyle and student Peer Support Leaders for organising and leading a spectacular transition program for Year 7. Participation from Year 7 was outstanding and we are happy to have heard positive feedback about how much Year 7 have enjoyed their first few days of high school.

As part of our Settling into High School program, we hold a Year 7 Meet the Teachers event. This event will look very different this year, due to restrictions. We will communicate with Year 7 parents in the coming weeks to share information about the event.



School Swimming Carnival



Thank you to students who attended the annual swimming carnival on Tuesday. The weather held out and it was a fantastic day. Thank you to Miss Niven for her brilliant organisation and planning for the event. The top 3 male and female high achievers at the carnival were:

Girls: Lacey Bowman (13s), Ellen Henderson (15s) and Hayley Moir (17+)

Boys: Liam Moir (14s), Marley Henderson (14s) and Oliver Carr (16s)



Year 12 students in their fantastic costumes at the swimming carnival.

School Uniform

The uniform shop continues to be open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week from 8am-11am. There has been a delay in the arrival of the maroon girls' uniform shorts. These are expected to be restocked by 18 February. Whilst the shop is waiting on the delivery of girls shorts, students may wear sports shorts as daily school uniform. Maroon girls' trousers arrived at the end of the year and are available for purchase.

The Years 7-12 Alpine jacket (puffer jacket) is anticipated to be available by the end of Term 1, ready for the cooler weather. A reminder that if students purchase non-school uniform jumpers they must be plain maroon for juniors or plain black for seniors, with no logos. Students may also wear a plain grey or white undershirt under their school polo. Hooded jumpers under school polo shirts are not part of the school uniform.

With support of the P&C and in consultation with the SRC, every day school track pants are being explored with our uniform supplier. A reminder that at this time, tracksuit pants are not a part of our school uniform and should not be worn to school. Should students need a warmer option before the winter months set in and until we have an endorsed school every day tracksuit pant, they may wear the school uniform sports pants.

Requirements for school shoes remain the same, as an enclosed leather, predominantly black shoe or sneaker. It is important that students wear shoes that allow them to participate fully in the curriculum safely and meet the school's dress code.

If any students need any support with uniform, please do not hesitate to ask. We have a range of second hand uniform available and we can provide student assistance also. Thank you for supporting school uniform, which promotes equality, our reputation in the community, safety and unity.



A reminder to all students to make sure that they use their Opal Cards to tap on and off for each school bus trip they do. This supports the bus company to get accurate data on the number of students needing transport for each route.

Year 7 students who have not done so already will need to apply for a new Opal Card as they move into high school. Their Opal Card from primary school does not roll over. New cards can be applied for [online](#).

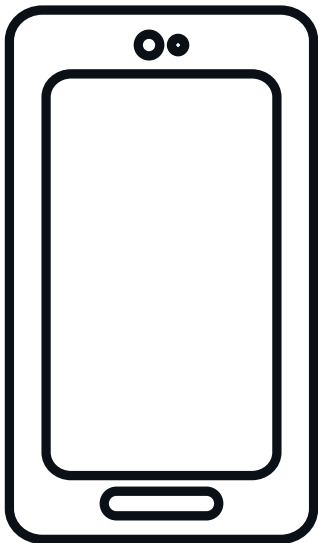
Roll Call commences at 8.30am each day for all year groups. Roll call is the designated roll marking period and students who arrive after this time are marked as late. It is important that students arrive on time each day, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Roll Call is an important start to the school day and important messages are shared at this time. If any students do have extenuating circumstances that do prevent being on time every day, we encourage students to speak to their roll call teacher so we understand the situation and can provide support.

If students are late parents and carers can provide an explanation with a note, an email or a phone call to the school.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY



Mobile Phones at school



Last year we updated our electronic devices policy. The new policy can be found on our [school website](#). Our P&C provided valuable feedback on this policy and it has been revised in line with the Department's Student Use of Digital Devices and Online Services Policy and Procedures.

Over the term, we will take the opportunity to speak to students and remind them of their responsibilities around following the policy and related procedures. Whilst students are permitted to bring their mobile phones to school, they must always seek permission from their teacher to use phones in class. Learning to use mobile phones responsibly, reducing distractions to learning and increasing focus in the classroom, as well as using them to enhance wellbeing is at the heart of the policy. Thank you to all members of the community who provided feedback on this policy last year.

Student Diaries

Last year, we began using a school diary for students in Year 7 and 11 to promote organisational skills as part of our focus on Positive Education. This initiative continues this year with diaries having now been issued to students in years 7, 8, 11 and 12.

School Mural

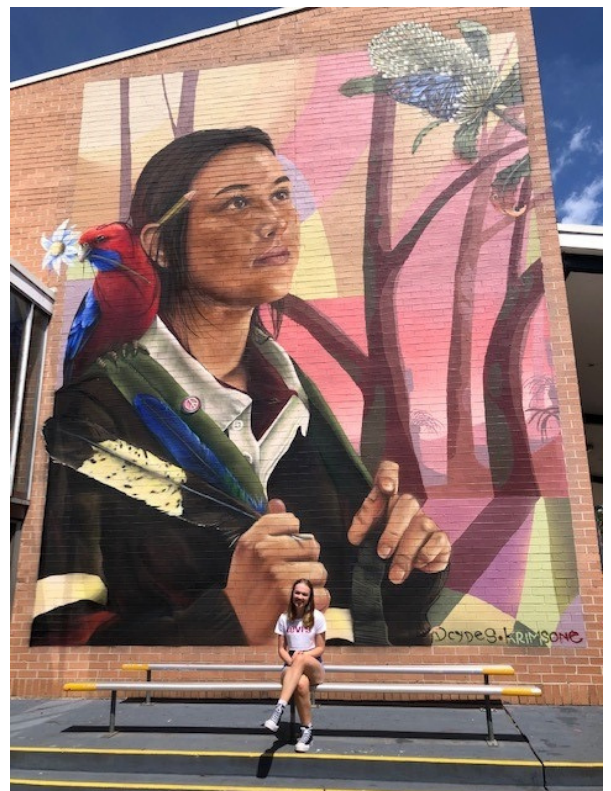
Over the school holidays, two former students, Daniel Cydes and Jahn Birkner, completed a mural at the school. The mural is on the back wall of our school hall and is accessible for all visitors to the school to view. The artwork is nothing short of amazing!

We are so proud that this artwork was designed and completed by former students of Winmalee High School. Daniel and Jahn were incredibly generous in completing this work. As professional mural artists, we are truly honoured to have their work grace our school walls. As seen in the image, the artwork is about our students. The idea was initially inspired by Lily Patterson, former student and 2020 Graduating School Captain – her vision was to commission a mural which symbolised the strength of our school community.

After initial meetings with Lily, Daniel Cydes, Peter Smith (our amazing General Assistant) and myself, the idea quickly turned into a formal submission to the Department.

The artwork represents Year 12, 2020 and their incredible resilience, but it also represents all students of our school, past present and the future. The student depicted, wears a back pack and a senior jersey and they are looking forward, symbolising optimism and pushing through challenge. The pencil behind the ear represents hard work, relentless effort and achievement. The native flora and fauna represent the unique and stunning natural environment around us, care for the environment and regeneration after bushfires. The feathers and the butterfly also symbolise students whom we have lost over the years.

We hope this mural brings joy and inspiration to students and staff for years to come. Thank you to Daniel and Jahn for their work and look forward to a time in the near future when they can visit a school assembly and share their experiences as professional mural artists with our students.



Students in the Spotlight

2020 HSC Results

We would like to acknowledge all Year 12, 2020 students for completing their HSC last year. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication shown. We would like to share with you the list of students who made it on the Distinguished Achievers List:

Ada Baran – Mathematics Standard 2 and Polish

Madeline Barrett – Mathematics Standard 2

Emma Begeng – English Extension 1 and Visual Arts

Alanna Dutton – Community and Family Studies and Visual Arts

Elena Goudis – Food Technology

Caleb Hamwood – Music 1

Michaela O'Brien – Drama

Lily Patterson – Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Ethan Powell – Music Extension

Rose Skinner – Ancient History, Modern History and English Extension 1

Aaron Stubbs – Music

Lachlan Thorburn – Visual Arts

Congratulations to these students for these outstanding results.



William O'Connell exhibits work in local exhibition



Congratulations to William O'Connell for having his artwork selected for an exhibition currently on display at the Cultural Centre in Katoomba. Will was selected along with 50 other artists to exhibit his work. The exhibition is called 'Blue Mountains Portraits 2021' and is on exhibition from 23 Jan – 7 Mar 2021 at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre. It is an annual exhibition "of the local community and its diverse members. The exhibiting artists portray the unique people that make up the cultural fabric of the Blue Mountains and tell the stories behind the person." Will's drawing was one of fifty artworks selected and is of his friend Anya who is also in Year 8.

Zoe Wiessner to compete in the NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association Regatta

Congratulations to Zoe who has been selected to compete in the Combined Schools Regatta. Zoe will be representing Winmalee High on 12 February in the Regatta. She is in the single scull, double and quad. Zoe also teaches students in an octo. We look forward to sharing more after the event. Best of luck Zoe!

Students in the Spotlight cntd..

Kari/Optus Scholarship Program

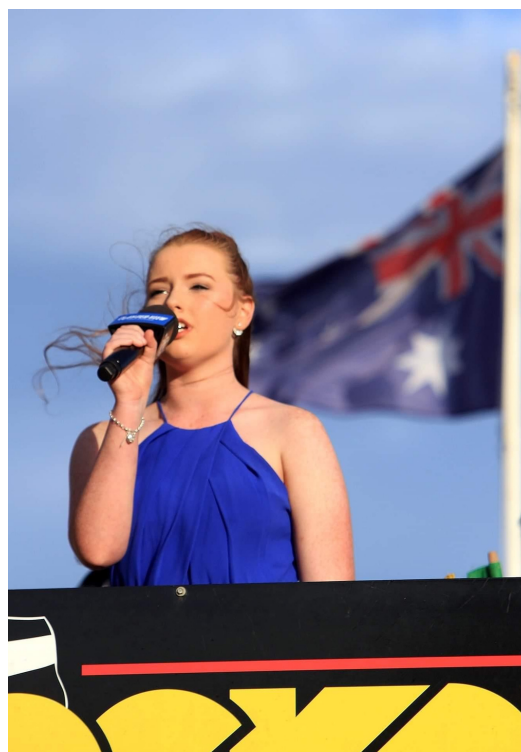
Congratulations to Year 10 students **Britney Dorman and Shanelle White** on being awarded KARI scholarships for 2021. As proud Aboriginal students, they applied for this scholarship with the support of mentor and teacher, Ms Kristie Robson. Thank you to Ms Robson for supporting Britney and Shanelle with their applications.



Lacey Bowman – Starlight Superswim

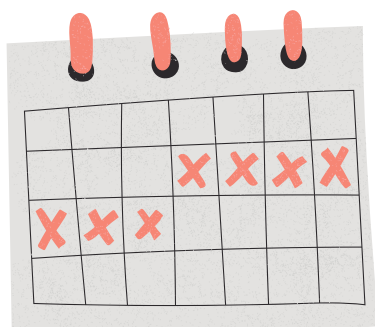
One of our year 8 students, Lacey Bowman, has signed herself up for the Starlight Superswim. She has pledged to swim 50km between 26th Jan-24th Feb to raise money for the Starlight Foundation. If you could/would like to help her and support such a fantastic charity please go to superswim.org.au click on donate in the menu and search Lacey Bowman.

Cassidy Roberts - Congratulations to Cassidy on her selection to participate in the Year 12 NRL School to Work program. Cassidy's aspirations to join the Academy of Country Music have been realised. Through her completion of a Career Development Plan with her project officer, Cassidy has been successful in receiving the Indigenous Scholarship to attend the Academy. We look forward to sharing more news about Cassidy's journey. Congratulations, Cassidy!



Strive to Achieve

Upcoming Dates for the calendar



- Parent session by Elevate for Year 11 parents – Wednesday February 17, 7pm
- Year 11 Senior Orientation Program – Thursday 18 and Friday 19 February (All day)
- School Photos – Years 7, 10 and 11 Thursday 25 March, Years 8, 9 and 12 Friday 26 March (Sibling and family photos Thursday 4 March)

Other Information

Community Removal Day – visit the [Graffiti Removal website](#) to learn more, volunteer or nominate a site for clean-up.

See the photos from our school swimming carnival on the [Winmalee High School Official Facebook page](#)

