



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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Term 1 Week 4 Communication – Friday 17 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. We thought a good place to start this week’s communication was with sharing the beautiful **Acknowledgement to Country** on our school website. 2022 Vice-Captain, **Troy Zoernleib**, was kind enough to record his personal acknowledgment and write the text for our school website before he graduated last year. If you get a moment, please take 30 seconds to [view](#) Troy’s acknowledgement. It is an acknowledgment from the heart, and it means a lot to us to have students lead in sharing and celebrating their culture.

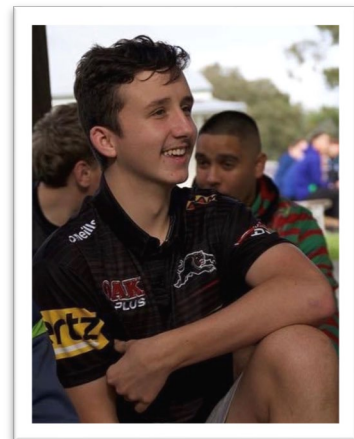


We would also like to congratulate **Lily Warren** (Year 9) for achieving a prestigious scholarship through the GO Foundation. This is a fantastic opportunity for Lily to participate in Cultural Connection Days and Leadership Days. The GO Foundation,

founded by Adam Goodes, Michael O’Laughlin and James Gallichan, is focused on empowering through education. To the left is a picture of Lily and Jay, from the GO foundation.



Year 12 student, **Ryder Stubbs** continues to work with a mentor from the NRL School to Work program. Congratulations to Ryder for his commitment to this program, which supports young



Indigenous Australians with work experience, mentoring and leadership opportunities. This is a terrific program, and we are proud of Ryder’s involvement.

School Musical Update – the cast was announced this week, and it is exciting! Congratulations to all students on their hard work so far. The lead characters are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Matilda Wormwood</i> | <i>Iris Hirst</i> |
| <i>Miss Agatha Trunchbull</i> | <i>Jackson Fitzgerald</i> |
| <i>Miss Honey</i> | <i>Eva Greenaway</i> |
| <i>Mr. Wormwood</i> | <i>Max Jackson</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Wormwood</i> | <i>Billie Papisotiriou</i> |
| <i>Michael Wormwood</i> | <i>William Cusack</i> |
| <i>Mrs Phelps</i> | <i>Lucinda Balogh</i> |



The full cast are listed on the Musical Noticeboard (it is a long list!). The Orchestra rehearsals start on Wednesday 22 February.



School Overseas Excursion - Europe trip

Mr Anslow spoke at assembly last week about the upcoming Europe trip for students. The response has been wonderfully overwhelming, with many expressions of interest forms returned and deposits paid. Due to staff/student ratios, at this time the trip is capped at 40 students. This means we will be working on a first in basis. If you do wish to attend, paying the deposit will secure a position. Don't forget there is a finance freeze, and online payments will be unavailable until 6am Tuesday 21 February. Due to only limited spaces left, we ask that you contact the front office before payment to ensure a position is available, as there are only a few spaces left. Mr Anslow will also send an email to the families who have submitted an EOI so they are aware of these details.

Gallipoli Mosque excursion – It was an excellent opportunity for our Year 12 Society & Culture students to visit the Gallipoli Mosque in Auburn this week. The excursion was part of their studies on the Belief Systems and Ideologies topic. Students were warmly welcomed and joined a fascinating tour of the Mosque and its surrounds. Our students learnt about the values that form the foundations of Islamic rituals such as prayer, fasting and pilgrimage.

Students and staff appreciated the generosity of their hosts, especially at this moment when many in the community are worried about loved ones who have been affected by the recent disastrous earthquake in Türkiye and Syria.



High School students recognised as the future of Science – Congratulations to **Holly Garrett** (Year 11) and **Sarah Yearsley** (Year 8) on being named winners of the Future of Science awards.



The awards are sponsored by the community science initiative, Science at the Local. Previous Young Australian of the Year, Corey Tutt shared a video personally congratulating Sarah and Holly on their achievements, which was incredibly generous!

Here is a small snippet from the article. The full article is available online through the [Blue Mountains Gazette](#).

Sarah and Holly won awards for science communication and perseverance. According to nominating teacher Kylie Macqueen: "The pandemic, climate crisis, and concerns of AI technologies continue to underscore the importance of science communication. Over the past year, Sarah has submitted incredible pieces of science communication driven by a strong personal interest. Similarly, Holly's tenacity, collegiality and commitment to build her knowledge continues to inspire both her peers and her teachers."



Year 11 Fundraising BBQ – last week at the swimming carnival, Ms Mather (Year 11 Adviser) had the challenge of leading the annual fundraising barbeque at the carnival. This is a tradition for Year 11 students each year, and the BBQ helps raise funds for their year group as they save for their Year 12 formal. Ms Mather has asked us to say a huge shoutout to staff



member, Karen Van Den Brink, and Year 11 students **Otto Timmins** and **Oliver Dickens** for

helping for the entire day. They were in charge of cooking, led clean up and sacrificed their own time on the day to support their year adviser and year group. Huge thanks also go to **Lucas Bustamante-Lopez, Dylan Howard & Jacob Danks** who were great helpers on the day, prepping, serving students & taking orders for the teachers. She could not have done it without these students.



The Arts Unit Instrumental Ensembles - Jasper Musgrave (Year 11), **Lili Baran, Eva Greenaway** and **Louie O'Connell** (Year 12) have all been successful in gaining a position in the NSW Public Schools Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Each Monday evening, they travel to the Arts Unit in Lewisham for rehearsals and will be involved in prestigious performances at the Opera House, Conservatorium and Sydney Town Hall this year. Congratulations to these students for their ongoing commitment to excellence in music.



Duke of Edinburgh Snowy Expedition - 2022 was an interesting year regarding weather and

December remained true to form. The first proposed Snowy trip was postponed because of excessive snow and sub-zero temperatures. We are pleased to report that this year's weather effort was far more satisfactory!



For the recent Duke of Ed expedition held last week, despite damp predictions, the group avoided wet weather and were treated with fantastic walking conditions and predominantly clear nights. The group



covered nearly 40km with over 1700m of vertical ascent. They were treated with a memorable sunset on Friday night from the top of Mt Kosciuszko and returned to camp under torch and moon light. Saturday morning saw the whole team rise at 6.00am to ensure Zoe got to the wedding on time. Everyone marched solidly in wind chill of 2°C, arriving at Charlotte Pass weary and relieved. Despite some discomfort a great effort was made all round. Well done Year 12, 2023. Please see more spectacular photos in our **website album**.



Meet the Music – last night, senior Music students, along with Mrs Clifford, attended the Sydney Opera House for the Meet the Music concert. This is the first time in over 2 years that this opportunity has been available, and we were thrilled to have the chance to attend. The students were in awe of the talent on display. Viewing live performances further enhances their own music education and growth.



Flag Project – Last term, a group of students collaborated with art teacher, Mrs Douglas, to design and make a flag artwork which combines a range of LGBTQI Pride flags. There are 32 flags in total which tell the story of the individuals they represent. This project's purpose focused on several elements. The students wanted to create a visual symbol of inclusivity, acceptance and belonging. They wanted other students to know there was support within our school, even if they were struggling to get that support from those around them. The students also felt it was an opportunity to learn; they found that their own knowledge and understanding increased significantly and as they worked on this project over time, their peers were curious, asked questions and were

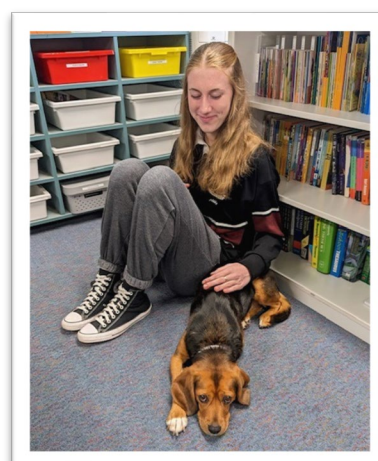
genuinely interested in the artwork's meaning and purpose.

Belonging and acceptance is an important part of life, and the students said that in a world filled with much tension and at times hatred, these small acts of inclusion can have a positive impact and help others who are feeling lost or alone. They said that this flag is a visual symbol of support, and they hope it promotes curiosity, and understanding. It is also a spectacular artwork which adds colour and light in our school. Congratulations to Year 10 students, **Claudia Thomas, , Abbie-Rose Whale, Zoe Nicolle Anya Thomson, Tully McGrouther and Evie Bullock** on their involvement on this important piece of art.





Harley the Hub Support Dog – students and staff alike have been enjoying the company of Harley this week. He has diligently signed on for duty and has brought calm and happiness to countless people. Below are a few pics to share some of this joy with you all. We are working on ways to share more pictures of both Harley and Benny in action at school – watch this space!



Our **Year 7 2024 Expo Day** is fast approaching. We look forward to hosting Year 6 students on **Tuesday 28 February** to introduce our school. Please share this information with any family or friends who this might apply to.
(Year 7 parents, it feels like only a short time ago that you were here for this last year!)

Year 7 Meet the Teacher – on **Tuesday 7 March from 5.30-6.30 pm**, we will have our annual Year 7 Meet the Teachers evening. This is an opportunity for our current Year 7 parents to meet with teachers. On the following page is a flyer with more details. We will issue a paper copy to Year 7 students a week before as a reminder. We hope you can make it.

1985 WINMALEE HS STRIVE TO ACHIEVE

Year 7 2024 STUDENT EXPO DAY

Tuesday 28 February 2023
10.00am - 12.30pm

Year 7 2024
Information Evening for Parents & Carers
Tuesday 28 February 2023
6.30pm in the School Hall

For more information please contact the school office
4754 2822

Opal cards – a reminder that all students need to have a current Opal Card to be able to travel on school buses. Tapping on creates important data for the bus companies to ensure that the services are meeting needs. If your child does catch the bus to and from school, please remind them to bring it to school and have it out ready as they board the bus.




Attendance and Absences – on the following page we have included a guide on the ways that absences and lateness can be explained. Having all absences explained is a focus for our school, and if we do not get a response to text messages, the school will email or call to follow up. Thank you for working with us to ensure that every absence is explained promptly.

That's all for this week. We wish you all a restful weekend. It's going to be a hot one!

Best wishes,

Winmalee High School



Winmalee High School

Year 7

Meet the Teachers




WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR SCHOOL
AND LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU FACE TO FACE

TUESDAY, 7 MARCH 2023
5:30pm - 6:30pm

About this event:

- This event will take place at school in the Central Quad - located behind the school canteen.
- A copy of your child's timetable will be available showing their subjects and teachers' names.
- A complimentary BBQ will be provided from 5:00pm in the canteen area.
- Coffee/tea will also be available.

Please Note: This is not a Parent/Teacher interview event. The purpose of the evening is to put a 'face to a name' and speak generally about how your child is settling into high school. We look forward to seeing you on the night!





A GUIDE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES

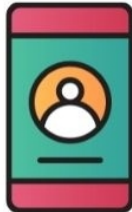
Text Messages



SENT DAILY AFTER 10.30 AM

If your child is absent and an explanation is not provided in advance, the school will send a text message to notify you of the absence. A reply text, explaining the absence, can be sent from the original text message.

Sentral Parent Portal



ACCESS ANYTIME

Attendance information can be accessed in the Parent Portal, under the Student Info Tab > Student Details. Parents can view information on the overall attendance percentage, days absent, and unexplained absences. Absences can be explained through the portal.

Explaining Absences & Lateness



JUSTIFYING ABSENCES

Parents/carers must provide an explanation for absences within 7 days of the absence. Where the explanation is provided after the 7 day period, the absence will be recorded as Unjustified (*the explanation will be noted against the absence). If a reason of 'Late' is provided for a partial absence, it will be recorded as unjustified, as an explanation is required.

Ongoing Unexplained Absences



CALLS AND EMAILS

If absences remain unexplained, the school will call or email parents to inform them of the unexplained absences for their child and seek an explanation. This occurs on a weekly basis.

Leaving Early



EARLY LEAVER PASS

If a student needs to leave early for an arranged appointment, parents can write a note, call or email the school. Students must see student services in the morning to arrange the early leaver pass. We cannot accept a phone call for early leavers as we are relinquishing duty of care; the advice must be in writing unless there are extenuating or urgent circumstances and the senior executive have given approval.