From The Principal

We welcome Miss Bailey to Walters Road. Miss Bailey has been appointed permanently to our school and 2B have given her a very warm welcome. I know she is looking forward to meeting the parents of her class next week.

We continue to have problems with high school children coming into the school grounds. The same expectations are in place for this year. No high school students should be on the school premises prior to 3.10pm in the afternoon. At present, we are even considering locking the front gates until 3.10pm to avoid the problem. Unfortunately this would mean that parents would be prevented from entering the school as well. If the concerns continue, including the disrespectful comments to school staff and Walters Road parents, this will be our only option.

Children at Walters Road Public are expected to wear full school uniform including the school hat, black shoes and white socks. Please support us as we endeavour to enforce this expectation. With your support we will have all students in our correct school uniform. All children should be wearing a sport shirt as of this year, and on Sport day only. Please note 2014 was our phasing in year. They are available at Lowes at Westpoint and I believe they have stock in all sizes.

A reminder that we still have some families that have not purchased book packs for the 2015 year. We are now into our 4th week and children are using all the books. Over the next little while books may be sent home for covering. We request they be sent back immediately as children will be using them daily.

Regular attendance at school is vitally important for the educational well-being of our students. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents (including carers) ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend, school. Parents have a responsibility to explain the absence of their children from school promptly. If your child misses a day or two from school due to sickness, please ensure they bring a note to school on the day they return, explaining their absence. This note needs to explain the reason for the absence e.g. chicken pox – rather than just “sick”. The date of the absence needs to be on the note, and needs to be signed by the parent or caregiver.

Attendance and Student Absences – New and Revised Government Procedures

If your child has missed school, you are required by law to inform the school within 7 days of the child’s first day of absence. Ideally written notification is made to the class teacher however a phone call to the school office can also be satisfactory. If your child is sick, a medical certificate from the doctor would also suffice. The note must include your child’s name, class, date of absence and a justified reason for the absence. Absences for the following reasons cannot be justified absences and will most likely be recorded as unjustified.

- Shopping
- Sleeping in
- Working around the house
- Minding siblings
• Birthdays
• Haircuts
• Weather conditions (e.g. too hot, too wet)
• Airport visits for relatives
• Car trouble
• Other family members are sick
• Attending a school approved event with a sibling (not for themselves; e.g. to watch a sibling’s sporting event)

NB: Frequent partial absences (e.g., late arrivals) are now time cumulative and can add up to many full day unjustified absences. Justified reasons for absences may include:

• Sick or infectious diseases
• Religious holidays
• Unavoidable medical appointment (please try to make appointments outside of school hours)
• Urgent family situations (e.g. funeral....)

Children are not recorded as absent from school if they are:

• Representing the school (e.g. zone sport carnival)
• Attending Stewart House
• Attending an alternative school planned program

There have also been significant changes to applications for exemption from school. Previously, parents could apply for an approved exemption from school for travel and holidays.

• Travel and family holidays are no longer given an exemption from school attendance.
• The Principal cannot accept a reason for travel during the school term if it is not in the best interest of the student. Reasons must be specified on the application form and travel documentation such as an e-ticket or itinerary should be attached to the application.
• If the Principal approves the leave it will be recorded as Approved Leave and will be recorded against the child’s leave record.
• This type of leave is no longer an exemption from school attendance. If the Principal does not approve the leave it will be recorded as Unjustified Leave and will be recorded against the child’s leave record.
• A poor record of unjustified absences may result in referral to the Home School Liaison Officer.

A kindly reminder that no parents are to be driving into the school grounds to drop children off or even lodging lunch orders! Unfortunately, this has been the case. The Vella Crescent driveway must always be kept clear. Parents are allowed though to drive into the school grounds prior to 8am, if delivering children to our OSHC. After these hours children must be brought into the centre via the Vella Crescent entrance.

Have an enjoyable fortnight

Phil Harris
Principal

Walters Road Public School’s Vision
Through 2014 Walters Road Public School’s Community was working towards developing a vision statement for our school. Surveys were conducted and closely looked at and our thanks to the P&C working with us to have an endorsed vision for our school. Thank you to the families who sent very positive comments about our wonderful school.

Our Vision Statement is: Walters Road Public School is a friendly, caring environment that provides dynamic and diverse teaching and learning opportunities to prepare students for life in the 21st century. Through positive relationships with the school community, we work collaboratively to produce well-rounded individuals who will be respectful, responsible citizens of the future.

Our 3 Strategic Directions for our three year plan are:
• Quality Teaching
Through student engagement, high expectations and student directed learning our school will continue to provide targeted, authentic teaching and learning experiences.
• Student Wellbeing
Our school provides a safe, secure, learning environment that fosters individual achievement and celebrates student success. Our focus on PBL supports students to reach their potential in social, academic, performance and sporting fields.
• Student Engagement and 21st Century Learning
Our school recognises the need for continual adaptation to the way we deliver learning opportunities to students, in order to involve them in 21st century learning and prepare for the future. A focus on an increased use of technology across all KLAs will support this endeavour and maximise student engagement in learning.

From the Deputy
Hi Everyone,

Thank you for a great start to our school year. The weeks are flying past! Our students have started their formal class programs, games and fun are the order of the day on our playgrounds and many excursions and school events are being planned. Other school events include the Dental checks which will be held on Thursday of this week for Kindergarten and Years 2, 4 and 6. Also Zone trials are being held and PSSA sport will start soon. Busy times for all at Walters Road!

Kindergarten students are learning about their school environment and exploring the school grounds. A visit to the administration building is always exciting with students admiring all the hard-working people and all the pieces of equipment – apparently big photocopiers and printers are very cool!

Phil Harris
Principal
PBL expectations are being taught and the constant reinforcement of visual signs in classrooms and around the school has been a great reminder for all our students.

Term One is quickly becoming my favourite time of the year. It has been my pleasure to visit classrooms and see the wonderful teaching and learning that occurs at Walters Road. Kindergarten sound work is going well, Year One are reading some funny stories, Year Two are listening to stories on the interactive whiteboard, Year Three are becoming sensational spellers, Year Four are becoming reading experts and Stage 3 are looking forward to Maths groups starting in the near future. Quality teaching and learning in a caring environment is the name of the game here at Walters Road Public School.

Mrs D. Walker
Deputy Principal

Stage Reports

Early Stage 1 News
On behalf of all the Kindergarten teachers I would like to extend a big thank you to the parents who’ve been following school procedures. This has greatly assisted with the smoothness with which students have settled into classroom and playground routines.

We have commenced handing out Positive Behaviour Learning (PBL) tokens to encourage positive behaviour in the class and playground. There are four tokens that students can receive. These are as follows:
- Be Safe (Yellow token)
- Be Responsible (Red token)
- Be Respectful (Blue token)
- Be a Learner (Green token)

Students are on their way to achieving their Bronze certificates for excellent behaviour and attitude. The assembly for this will be announced later in the term.

Kindergarten Parents Information Night is on Thursday 26th of February. We ask Kindergarten parents to firstly meet in KT at 6pm. This gives parents the opportunity to meet all the Kindergarten teachers for 2015. It also gives us an opportunity to discuss all our collaborative planning, school procedures and activities for the year. This will be followed by parents going to their child’s classroom to get know to their child’s teacher. During the night, all parents will receive an information sheet from their child’s classroom teacher outlining school procedures and individual class routines, such as Library and sport days.

I would like to thank Mrs Harris for showing Kindergarten the procedures for K-2 assembly. Our K-2 assemblies will commence in week 5, Thursday 26th of February. The assemblies will occur in the hall at 2:30pm on odd weeks only. During the assembly, merit and sport certificates, book award stickers and role-model stickers and certificates will be handed out to deserving students. Deserving classes can also receive a uniform and/or crunch and sip award. All students will learn a song to share with any attending parents and caregivers. A different class will be hosting the assembly each fortnight and they will be performing an item. Kindergarten classes do not host assemblies until Term 3.

Mrs Y. Theodorou
Assistant Principal - Early Stage 1

Stage 1 News

Parent Information Night
Next Wednesday we will be holding the Stage 1 Parent Information Night. We will be meeting in the hall first at 6.00pm, where school and Stage 1 information will be discussed. This will then be followed by time in classrooms with your child’s teacher, where he/she will go through information specific to the class.

It would be very helpful if all parents were able to attend as we discuss many important items that will help make your child’s journey through Year 1 or Year 2 a more productive one. Often, issues arise throughout the year due to confusion over our policies or practices. In many cases this information was discussed at Parent Information Night and the situation could have been avoided.

Stage 1 teachers are looking forward to seeing you on the night and I’d like to thank you in advance for your attendance. We understand family time is valuable. Thank you to the Stage 1 teachers and support staff who will also be giving up family time to be there on the night.

Assembly Leaders
Last Thursday we had a practice assembly so the Kindergarten students could see how assembly works. I would like to congratulate everyone on their listening manners and wonderful singing. It was a wonderful start to the year. I am pleased to announce the Assembly Leaders for next week’s assembly will be Millie and William, both in 2B. I know they will make fantastic leaders. Next week’s assembly will be hosted by 2M and will start at 2.30pm.

Mrs T. Harris
Assistant Principal – Stage 1

Stage 2 News
The last fortnight has certainly sped by way too quickly. The Stage Two students are now busy working in their permanent classes and it is so great to see the students using their new book packs. Thank you parents for assisting with this process, I understand and appreciate that it is an expensive time of year.

We are very much looking forward to meeting our parents and families at the Parent Information Night this coming Monday (Week 5) at 6pm in the hall. At this time we will advise about the upcoming camp and excursions as well as other information pertinent to the Stage/Grade.

This Thursday (19th) is the first of our 3-6 Assemblies starting at 2pm and we welcome all families to the event. 4/5G will be hosting the assembly in Week 6 – Thursday 5th March.

Students have been exploring the concept of courage and the many forms that this can be represented in. If you have some time as a family, try to have discussions with your child with regards to some situations or examples of courage that is demonstrated in our community.

Homework has commenced and we encourage all students to take the time to invest in the revision of Spelling and Maths concepts. At Walters Road Public School we would love to see an overall improvement in the automatic recall of times tables.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday evening.

Mrs G .Grant
Assistant Principal - Stage 2

Stage 3 News

Parent Information Night
The Stage 3 Parent Information Night takes place next Tuesday 24th February beginning at 6pm. All Stage 3 parents will meet in the hall. After this, parents will then visit their child’s classroom, where their child’s teacher will discuss issues specific to their class. We look forward to your attendance and encourage all parents to attend this informative evening.

High School Applications
Application forms for Year 6 students entering Year 7 in 2016 will be going out to families by 9th March 2015. Further details about completing this form will be discussed at the Parent Information evening. Forms must be returned to school by Friday 20th March 2015.

Road Safety and Wheelchair Basketball Program
Our Stage 3 students and teachers had a great time when Wheelchair Sports NSW conducted a road safety and wheelchair basketball program last Wednesday. It was a highly informative presentation and the students thoroughly enjoyed playing wheelchair basketball.

Year 6 Farewell Meeting
The first Year 6 Farewell meeting will be held this Friday, 20th February at 3.30pm in 5/6D. During this meeting, we will discuss the following:

- the P&C’s contribution to the farewell.
- what the P&C contribution can be used for
- procedures for purchasing items – orders and/or reimbursements
- helpful tips from previous farewell committees

We also give an overview of the night and begin discussions on fundraising possibilities, gift bags, etc.

As always, events such as this take a lot of planning, effort and teamwork to make it a success. It is our responsibility to continue the fine Walters Road tradition of providing our students with a night to remember for many years to come. We look forward to seeing many Year 6 parents at the meeting.

500 Schools Planting
On Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th March, our Year 6 students have been invited to participate in the 500 Schools Planting Program, an initiative of Western Sydney Parklands. The students will be provided with sunscreen, gloves and a free “Bringing Back the Bush” t-shirt, as well as free transportation by bus to and from the venue. Further details, such as specific venues, dates and times for each class will be in the permission note that will go home soon.

Mr M. Dyer
Assistant Principal - Stage 3

Office News

Pupil Information Form 2015
Thank you to the parents who have already returned their child’s blue pupil information form. It is very important for us to have all your information correct just in case your child is sick and we need to contact you urgently. If you have not returned the form could you please do so or if you have mislaid the form please call at the office to collect another. Alternatively just ask your child to pop into the office, there are plenty of spares.
Payment Information

Our office is open from 8.50am to 3.20pm. Completed payment envelopes can be placed directly into the payment chute throughout the day. EFTPOS payments can only be taken up until 9.45am. Our banking is done each morning and collected by a security guard.

Lost Property

Already we have uniform items in lost property. If your child has lost any item of clothing please check the lost property box in the Year 1 block.

Thanking you.

Mrs K. Wright
School Administrative Manager

P & C News

We would like to thank our P&C committee for 2014. This group of parents dedicated their time and effort last year in organising events for fundraising such as;

- Easter & Christmas Raffles
- Mother’s Day Stall & Raffle
- Sausage sizzles for K-2 & 3-6 Athletics Carnivals
- Father’s Day Stall & Raffle
- BBQ for Performance Night
- 4 Mufti Days
- Funded Yr 6 Farewell Dinner
- Funded School Awards for Presentation Assemblies

We would like to thank Sharon, Jenny, Michael, Vicki, Faten and all of our other parent volunteers that helped during these events. Sadly, Sharon and Jenny who have been working on the committee for many years will be moving on to other ventures. We wish them the very best of luck for the future. Please be advised that our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5th March. New parents are encouraged to attend the meeting as all board positions are declared vacant at the start of every year. We look forward to seeing some new faces. Thank you.

SWIM SCHOOL REMINDER !!!

We only have a few limited spaces available – payments must be in by next Tuesday 24th February. If you have misplaced your permission note, please pick one up from the front office. This is a wonderful opportunity for all students in Years 2-6 who are learning to swim.
PCYC SPARTANS WANT YOU
Blacktown Police Citizens Youth Club Rugby League

We are seeking players 9 and 10 years of age

Girls welcome too

- We offer Junior Rugby League to the community and pride ourselves on INCLUSION.
- Registration includes:
  - SHORTS, JERSEY, CLUB PÄL, HAT, TEAM PHOTO & PCYC Membership
- Take advantage of PCYC activities (Boxing, Basketball, Martial Arts... Wrights Gym 10 years and over) in the Blacktown Club at a 50% discounted rate as soon as you register! Tell your family and friends that it’s time to become a Spartan on the pitch or in the gym!

New players will need a Birth Certificate or Passport and are required by the club to be registered. 

Listening players can register online by following the link on our Sportcanope page or our Facebook page which are listed below.

Alternatively you can call PCYC Blacktown (02) 9620 4500 Monday to Friday for assistance with all registrations. Our friendly staff will assist you to complete your registration.

PCYC Nations of Origin U10s Aboriginal Boys and Girls 7 a side tackle Tournament.
PCYC host the Junior NSW Rugby League Representative Teams along with
PCYC Respect League 7’s tackle and League 7’s Girls tag in the off season.

COACHES, MANAGERS & TRAINERS ALL ENQUIRIES 64387958

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BlacktownPCYCSpa
Contact mobile: 041833998
email: info@pcycblacktown.org.au

Goshin-Ryu Karate
Self Defence & Safety Awareness Program
Established 30 years, Government Accredited Instructors

Only $10 per week
Family Rates Available.
Special classes for Adults, Children and Families Near You!

Feel free to contact us:
Ph: 02 9977 0814
Mob: 0418 419 396
www.goshinryu.com

Nutrition Snippet

Choose these simple, tasty & healthy snack ideas to give your kids an after-school energy boost.

- Swap full fat ice-cream for reduced-fat yogurt with fresh fruit pieces
- Swap a tin of fruit in syrup for a tin of fruit in natural juice
- Swap flavoured milk for a reduced-fat fruit smoothie (try bananas or frozen berries)
- Swap a chocolate muffin for a fruit muffin

For more information visit www.eattobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eattobeatit

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well & School Program.

Health Western Sydney Local Health District
Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

From 2010, all New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:

1. in school or registered for home schooling, or
2. in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
3. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and training.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified.

For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

If Principals don’t consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

It is important to understand that the New South Wales Department of Education and Training may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

Must I send my child every day?

**YES.** It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child’s hair regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.

Translated information about head lice and how to treat them can be found at [https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/headlice/infosheet.htm](https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/headlice/infosheet.htm)

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Head lice, is not a valid reason for prolonged absences from school.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children.

If your child doesn’t learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.