



Mount Warrigal Public School

Kindness - Safety - Respect - Fairness

A quality school developing the individual in a caring community

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Jodi Niedermayer
Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Community

2021 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Congratulations to all Year 5 students who applied to become a School Leader for 2022. There was such a high standard of speeches, demonstrating the qualities of a leader in the way they conducted themselves, supported one another, the content of their speeches and the high standard of presentation. Their bravery, effort and commitment is to be commended. Our school certainly will be in great hands!

At our annual presentation day, our two Student Leaders and two Assistant Leaders were announced and inducted. Congratulations to Joseph T, Noah T our School Leaders, and to Yukup A and Amber B, our Assistant Leaders.



Congratulations also to our 2021 outgoing School Leaders – Brooklyn, Shae, Emily and Ruby. It has been extremely rewarding to see these students grow in confidence and lead our school with pride and maturity. Shae, Brooklyn, Emily and Ruby, you have represented our school extremely well, particularly through such a testing year, and should be proud of yourselves. Congratulations and thank you!!

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all our fabulous volunteers who have supported our school and our students throughout 2021.

Each week, we have parents volunteer in our canteen, volunteering to shop for and order supplies and spend hours each day making healthy lunches for our students. In addition, they put so much care and dedication into ensuring the menu meets the Health Canteen guidelines, and our canteen maintains compliance for safe food handling. This is all done in their own time, for no payment, for the good of our students and community – Thank you!

The Smith Family coordinate a number of programs for our community, including the Learning Club, which takes place (in non-COVID times) each week. After school, students who would like some additional support with their homework and learning stay back at school and are supported by volunteers. These wonderful people show kindness, patience and dedication to our students each and every week – Thank you!

For many years, volunteers from Baptist Care at Warilla have provided a free and healthy breakfast for our students. They go above and beyond to make sure our students leave with a full belly, ready to learn, as well as provide a warm, nurturing and supportive place for our students to start the day – Thank you!

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

It is with mixed emotions that we farewell some very loved and respected staff members.

Mrs Pomery has been successful in gaining a new permanent position at Figtree Public School. Mrs Pomery had her very first teaching day here 25 years ago. She has taught hundreds of children, implemented countless initiatives and has been instrumental in our whole school growth and development.

Here at Mount Warrigal we have some of the most talented and committed teachers, who are the finest example and role models of life-long learners. Mrs Pomery is by far, one of the most committed, knowledgeable and dedicated staff members I have had the privilege of working with. She has an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, is an outstanding teacher of both students and adults and is always focussed on our students, wanting to ensure they leave here with the skills and knowledge to be life-long learners. Our school is a much better place because of Mrs Pomery's leadership; her impact on students and staff is far and wide.



Mrs Pomery, your presence will be missed but you leave a legacy that will remain. On behalf of our staff, students and families, thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Mt Warrigal community and we wish you the very best of luck in your next chapter. The Figtree community are so lucky to have you!

Mrs McGarry will be returning to her permanent position, after we 'borrowed' her for the year from Austinmer PS. Mrs McGarry has taught 3/4M with passion and genuine care. She is another fine example of a life-long learner, completing her Masters in Inclusive Education this year. Thank you to Mrs McGarry for your commitment to our school throughout a really challenging year and we wish you the very best.

In addition, we thank Miss Mayo for her time here at MWPS as she gained a permanent teaching position at Nowra East Public School. Miss Mayo has shown such commitment and dedication to high expectations to her class and stage, as well as our whole school, coordinating many events, particularly in the areas of sport and student leadership. Thank you for your commitment and we wish you the best for your future career.

Ms Lesley Knowles, a School Learning Support Officer, who has worked in our office, preschool and Early Intervention Unit over this year. Lesley will be working at schools closer to her home throughout next year. Thank you for your commitment to our school and care for our children and we wish you all the best.

Thank you also to Miss Betts, Miss Pedroza and Mrs Ford for their hard work on their respective classes and roles. Your dedication to maintain strong teaching and learning programs, while supporting the individual needs in each class is recognised and greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you again in the new year.

P&C

I would like to thank the P&C executive committee of the last 12 months. I personally have appreciated working alongside the executive and members and thank you for your commitment to our school and our students. To take on a role within the P&C requires great commitment and not a lot in return, except for the knowledge that you are supporting our students and bringing our community together for a common cause.

Despite being in lockdown for 14 school weeks (almost 4 months), there have been so many achievements, including a disco for students and afternoon tea for parents; a number of fundraising events including Easter raffles and Mother's Day stall; and showbags for each student to welcome them back to school after Learn from Home.

Our final P&C meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM), took place last week. At the AGM, all Executive positions were declared vacant and voted on. Congratulations and thank you to the following community members:

- President – Melanie Stockfeld
- Vice-Presidents – Brenda Fletcher & Debbie Harris
- Secretary – Chantel Bryant
- Treasurer – Michelle Williams

UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop will be open the morning of the 2 school development days at the beginning of Term 1 – Friday 28 and Monday 31 January from 9-11am. Orders can also be placed by phoning the office and making payments over the phone.

LAST DAY FOR 2021

The **last day for students will be Thursday 16 December**. The following day is a School Development Day for staff only.

FIRST DAY BACK FOR 2022

All students from Years 1-6 return to school on Tuesday 1 February 2022. Kindergarten students (except support unit students) will attend an individual Best Start Assessment time before officially starting on Friday 4 February. Preschool children will begin at individual times as informed at orientation.

If you know your child will not be returning on their first day, please phone the office so we can ensure all students are accounted for.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I know our hard working and dedicated staff members are all looking forward to the upcoming break and I am sure you are as well. I wish you all a happy festive season and a safe and relaxing holiday with those dear to you. We look forward to seeing you in the new year and look forward to a successful 2022.

Kind regards
Jodi Niedermayer
Principal

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

Crimestoppers 1800 333 000

Dates for Your Calendar

16th December	Last day for students for 2021
17th December	School closed from 12pm
1st February	Year 1-6 Students return

A message from Mrs Pomery

To the beautiful staff, students and families at MWPS,

What an amazing journey I have had over the last 25 years at this wonderful school. My first casual teaching day ever was here in mid-1996 and, besides spending 4 years teaching overseas in England and Japan, Mount Warrigal has been my second home for all of my adult life. Making the decision to leave was incredibly difficult as I simply love turning up each day to work alongside the staff in educating our beautiful students. Next year I will start as the new Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Principal at Figtree Public School. Although I will miss this place immensely, I knew if I didn't make a move now I probably never would. Taking a leap towards change and moving into the unknown can be scary but if you always stick with what's comfortable in life you run the risk of missing out on so many opportunities.

As I've been walking around the school these last couple of weeks I have been reflecting on some of the things I have led or instigated over the years to support our students. In the early days, I was heavily involved in sport and organised all the school carnivals along with lots of PSSA and State sporting events. This included coaching many teams and being the South Coast PSSA secretary for ten years. To complement this, I also led a 'healthy lunchbox campaign' for about 10 years where, with community support, every student in the school got to try a variety of healthy foods and fill their lunchbox with healthy goods. At the time, this campaign received recognition in parliament in Canberra as a leading educational initiative.

Throughout the years I have maintained my passion for beautifying the school so that it continues to be an inviting, bright and welcoming space for our learners. With the financial support of principals, this has included the painting and the murals in the Senior COLA, the floor art and murals in the JNR Cola, much needed flexible and innovative classroom furniture, the creation of our beloved Aboriginal Culture Room and more recently, all the new window murals. When reflecting on what I am most proud of during my time I would have to say the changes our school has made in the last few years around ensuring Aboriginal Education is authentically delivered across the curriculum. Although there is still room for growth, the connections we have made with our Aboriginal families, community and Elders have enriched the learning experiences for all our students as we continue to explore and celebrate our shared history together. I look forward to seeing the completion of the Aboriginal Mosaic Yarning Circle in the coming months, an initiative dream of mine that was delayed due to COVID interruptions.

I know Jodi has made reference to the quality of our staff many times, however, I would also like to acknowledge them today. Over my time I have seen many principals, teachers, office staff and SLSOs come and go but one thing has remained constant - and that's the sheer dedication and love they have for what they do and the commitment they put in each and every day. What a privilege it is to work with such a dedicated team who wholeheartedly believe Mount Warrigal students deserve the best that public education has to offer.

To any parents and carers watching today, thank you for your support and friendship. It's been an honour to be part of so many children's education over the years and it's always a thrill when we hear of previous student successes as they progress through high school and into adulthood. Being a part of a school community for so long certainly has its advantages. Last Thursday night at the Y6 farewell I got to chat with a group of parents with who I have had a long association, having taught many of their older kids - in fact, I taught one of the parents when they were in year 6 many moons ago. Besides making me feel really old, I've always enjoyed catching up with ex-students and their families as, although I often forget names, I never forget the face or memories we shared.

And to the students who are the sole reason why we turn up each day. Every one of you is essential to our school community. Your smiles, kind words, effort and resilience make every day special and I will miss you all immensely.

I'm not sure there could be a more rewarding occupation than seeing how young people like you learn and grow. I am constantly in awe of what you can do when you set your mind to something and persist. Keep aiming high and keep pushing through even when things seem tough. Life is not always easy but it is always worth living for - the world has amazing sights and opportunities and is available to each and every one of you with hard work and determination. Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you imagine. I wish you all the very best as you move forward with your schooling and look forward to hearing about how you're going when I catch up with teachers.

One of the quotes up in the teacher toilet by a lady named Maya Angelou is 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel'. To my beautiful Mount Warrigal Community - thank you for making me feel appreciated, thank you for making me feel valued and thank you for making me feel like part of the jigsaw that makes this school the success it is. I will miss you all beyond what words can say and Mt Warrigal will always hold a special place in my heart.

Mrs Kristen Pomery