



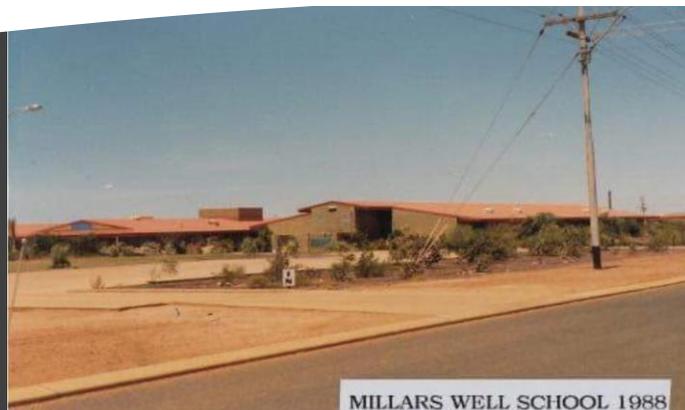
Community Newsletter

Issue No. 1

45 Gawthorne Drive,
Millars Well, Karratha 6714

Upcoming Events

- Earbus ,14 February
- Prefect Assembly, 15 February
- P&C AGM Meeting, Monday 19 February at 7pm school staffroom
- Prefect Assembly, 1 March
- Labour Day, 5 March



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Principal's Message

A warm Millars Well welcome to the new families beginning at our school and to our returning families.

Fence

You will have noticed that we are in the process of completing a new fence around our school. This will be finalised soon and will add to the safety and security for children and school facilities. Gates will be opened at the beginning of each day and closed shortly after the end of school.

Your Help

It has been amazing to see so many families at the beginning of each day help settle their child into class for the start of the day. Many teachers have already introduced themselves by letter to you and are planning an information session to increase your understanding of what occurs in their class.

It is important for children to see their parents and the school working together to help them feel safer, happier and supported at school.

Working together, families and schools foster positive attitudes, develop a safe and happy environment encourages open communication, understand acceptable behavior, provide consistent messages and use a common language when talking about behaviour at home and at school.

Communication

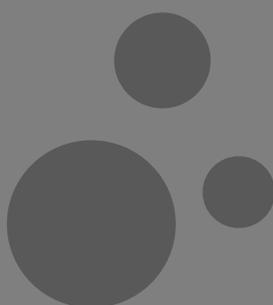
We have regular ways to communicate with our community and in the past our school newsletter has played an important part. However, our newsletter is produced every 3 weeks and there is often information we need to share that cannot wait for the newsletter.

We share important information through our SMS messaging system, email, direct phone, class notes, letters, and more often now on Facebook.

In the future we will not be relying upon a newsletter to update you. We will provide you with further information about our Facebook page in the near future.

P & C Donate Big Fan

This week we have seen the installation of our Big Fan in the covered assembly area. The fan costs have been covered by the generous work of our Parent and Citizens Association who have raised funds in excess of \$19,000. Our P&C is a great way for you to be positively involved in supporting our school and students. The first meeting will be held on Monday, 19 February and I strongly encourage you to come along and contribute to moving our school forward. The P&C provide the service for our Canteen and Uniform shop, directly supporting all students and families.



Uniforms, Hats and Footwear

Our students look great in school uniform and it is fantastic that so many take pride in wearing it. From our Kindy to Year 6 students, it seems the majority are wearing their school uniform.

You can purchase school uniforms each Thursday at 8.00am from the uniform shop located in the undercover area. On PE and Sport days we encourage wearing of the faction shirts also.

Closed in shoes are required for safety reasons and thongs, flip flops and other variations are strongly discouraged as they do not protect feet.

For many years we have been a Sun Smart School and this means all students wear a broad brim hat. Our P&C and school council endorse this and recommend the wearing of our school hat which is part of the school uniform.

Encouraging self-care and responsibility, children need to look after their own hat. We no longer have a supply of spare hats in our office. This process became unmanageable in the past with a regular flow of students relying upon the office to keep up their demand for hats. We need our students to have their own school hat with them at school.

Attendance

Attendance really does matter and remains a high priority not only for schools in the Pilbara but for all WA schools as outlined in our Department strategic plan. You will already know that this is very important to us. Our results are monitored against key performance indicators and are regularly reported upon to our Regional and Central Office. These audits require us to accurately report upon the frequency and types of absences in schools and the actions we take to improve attendance levels. Attendance is a legal requirement.

Research recently undertaken by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Student Attendance and Educational Outcomes: Every Day Counts, has found a clear link between student absences and achievement in school. Each day a child is absent from school has a direct impact on their educational outcomes. This is particularly evident in a child's first few years of schooling.

School Principals have received notification from the Director General indicating that family holidays should be categorised as unauthorised absences, except in exceptional circumstances. **It is therefore not school policy to encourage families to take holidays during term time.**

We will be rewarding and highlighting good attendance or improved attendance throughout the year with prizes, letters home and lucky draws. We want to positively recognise the efforts of those that come regularly – more than 90% is the Department target for regular attendance.

Warm regards
Weston Jackson

Voluntary Contributions

A contributions payment envelope has been sent home with this newsletter. Contributions are an important part of our school's revenue and assist the school to purchase resources to enhance learning outcomes for your children. Please place cash/cheque in the envelope provided or complete the EFT details and return the envelope to the front office.

Your early attention to this is appreciated. A Contributions and Charges Schedule was sent home at the end of last year and is available from the office. Please note that costs quoted in the area of optional activities are set at a maximum level and many of the programme costs will be less than the quoted amount.

Term Planner

An outline of significant school dates is being sent home with this newsletter and is also available on our school website. We endeavour to provide as much forewarning as possible regarding important dates; however, from time to time these dates are subject to change.

Parent & Citizens AGM

The P&C plays a significant role in the school. Their support and fundraising goes a long way to provide valuable resources and infrastructure to further enhance MWPS and improve opportunities for our student clientele.

The AGM is planned for **Monday, 19th February at 7pm** in the school staff room. We would really appreciate parents coming along in order to confirm office bearers and commence various initiatives for the school community.

Uniform Shop

A huge thanks to Kylie Bayliss and Tash Regan who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure families have been able to purchase new uniforms. The uniform shop is open every Thursday from 8.00 – 8.30am.

Canteen

A reminder our school canteen operates every day except Wednesdays. New menus were sent home last week. Orders can be placed by logging onto the website: www.QuickCliq.com.au

Library News

Welcome back to school and a special welcome to our new families! We have had really busy start to the year in the library stocking up with some fantastic new books!

A bit of housekeeping for new families and a reminder for others:

- Students must have a library bag to be able to borrow books.
- Parents and carers accept full responsibility for borrowed items.
- Please ensure borrowed items are returned on time, i.e. 1 week.
- Students are unable to continue borrowing if books are outstanding.

Please continue to search for overdue items from 2017 as there are still several outstanding.

Issue 1 of Book club will be in your child's bag in week 3!

Karen Roach, Library Officer

Introducing our New Staff Denise Westberg

Hi, my name is Denise Westberg and I have recently moved to Karratha from Pannawonica, but am originally from Kalgoorlie-Boulder. I have lived in the Pilbara for 16months and love all that it has to offer; the scenery, the camping and even the heat.



I enjoy volunteering and learning new skills, which saw me last year joining the Fire and Rescue Services. I'm looking forward to working with the students, parents and staff at Millars Well Primary School this year.

Deirdre Patterson



Hi, my name is Deirdre Patterson and I am teaching Kindergarten this year in PP2. This will be my third year of teaching. I moved up to Karratha in 2016 but I have lived here before with my parents when I was in primary school. After school and on the weekends I enjoy working on my CrossFit skills. I also love being outdoors, camping and exploring with my dog Lacey. I have had a great start to the year at Millars Well and I look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Sue-Ann de Vries

My name is Sue-Ann de Vries and I have the pleasure of teaching Performing Arts (Music, Dance and Drama) this year at Millars Well Primary Year 1 – Year 6. I moved to Karratha three years ago from South Australia with my three children who attend schools here in Karratha.



I grew up in a small community in the Mid- North and have taught at various schools across S.A, I even did a year teaching in London. Last year I taught Integrated Arts at Tambrey Primary School and found the programme extremely rewarding and highly engaging for the students.

I am hoping to involve the students as much as possible by introducing a regular new school song /dance, school choir and some performances.

Sometimes I need to use Youtube and clips from movies to show lyrics, songs and dance moves. If you have any questions or concerns please make a time to come and see me.

After school if your child would like to show you the music room please call in and introduce yourself.

Jess Alexander

Hi, my name is Jess Alexander and I am extremely happy to have returned to Millars Well this year, after completing my post graduate early childhood internship in PP1 last year. I am the DOTT teacher for the Kindy and Pre-primary classes this year and you may also see me relief teaching in the primary school as required.



My family and I have lived in Karratha for three years and we love exploring all of the beautiful areas of the Pilbara when camping and boating. I look forward to getting to know more of the wonderful Millars Well families this year.

School Dental Therapy

Karratha Dental Therapy Centre is located at Karratha Primary School. It is staffed by a Dental Therapist and a Dental Clinic Assistant. There is an Area Dental Officer who is head of the clinical team. The Dentist maintains a periodic surveillance over all enrolled children at The Dental Clinics within the area. She will examine the growth and development of each child's teeth and jaw and if necessary, refer the children to a specialist, e.g. Orthodontist. A referral letter will be sent home if this is required.

Our Dentist from Port Hedland, Dr Eloise Host, and The Karratha School Dental Therapy Staff, Kaitlyn and Carol, will be at your School on Tuesday 13th March. The aim of the visit is to screen all students in Pre-Primary, Years 3 and 6, all new students and any child who has missed these visits. Children who are consent refused or consent withdrawn will not be seen.

If you do not wish for your child to participate or you have any queries, please call 91431666.

Kristy and Carol



First Week of School Insights

*The first week of year one has been so much fun.
We were so excited to get our own desk.
We have done lots of drawing and tricky maths.
We played on the big playground and have been busy
making lots of new friends.
We wrote about our feelings on the first day, some people
were nervous and some were very excited.
We have been to Japanese to learn to count to ten.
We went to science to ask lots of questions.
Everyone is looking forward to the year ahead.*

From the super star students in TA9 Year one.