



# Wagaman News

ISSUE #2 | 11 February 2016

Dear Parents

Yesterday, we opened our classroom doors for families to hear of the planned programs for 2016

It was great to see many families arrive early for our 'Parent Yarn' which focused on anxiety. It is only natural for children to be hesitant about moving into a new class / new school. Despite the best efforts of parents to encourage their child 'to be positive' and allay their fears, we still have tears or children refusing to get out of bed to come to school.

Sue Hyde gave our families a few Tips to consider (see attached KidsMatter hints )Our partnership with **the Smith Family agency** enables us to offer parent workshops throughout the year. Please tell us what issues you wish to learn more about at school. A survey is available in the front foyer.

**Student free day:** Last week I spoke of the ongoing learning that staff undertake during their career to improve their professional practice.

Our numeracy learning journey is starting to impact as we observe a renewed enthusiasm from the children at Maths time.

**Reading** is joining our improvement targets in 2016. Reading is a key lifeskill and we wish to see improvement in the number of children achieving highly in this literacy area.

**Friday, 11 March** has been approved as a student free day for teachers to attend a training course in First Steps Reading. The whole day course will be followed by four weeks of after hour workshops to complete the training. We trust that with advance notice families will be able to make arrangements for the care of their child that Friday. Brat Pack is open to provide childcare if families wish to make a booking for the day. Ph: 89272546

**School Council** will be looking for new members in 2016. If you wish to be part of the decision making at Wagaman please come along to the upcoming meetings.

Michele Cody  
Principal

## Coming Events

**12 February** Early Childhood Assembly

**22 February** School Council meeting

**7 March** School Council AGM

**11 March** Student Free day

## Parent Yarns Workshop



Sue Hyde workshop

## Clontarf



Clontarf at Wagaman

Yesterday saw the revisit of another of our partners, the Clontarf boys from Casuarina Senior College. The Year 11 boys act as peer tutors to our Year 6 boys and they develop solid social and school habits. Each year Wagaman offers part time employment to an indigenous graduate of the C.S.C. Clontarf. It is a pathway of potential.

## Library News

### Gong Xi Fa Cai! Kung Hei Fatt Choy!

Wishing everyone a Happy & Prosperous Year of the Monkey!

In Library, classes have been learning about Chinese New Year. Chinese lion dancing is an important tradition in the Chinese New Year celebrations.

For interested families, the Chung Wah Society Lion Dance Troupe will be blessing shops at:

- Casuarina Square on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 5:30pm.
- Darwin City Centre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February in the morning.

### Reminders

- Students in Early Childhood and Middle primary MUST have a library bag for borrowing.
- Volunteers are always needed for book covering. See Miss Angie or myself if you have a little time to spare.

Verna Wong  
Librarian

## Circus Skills

### Help your children to learn, develop and grow

Circus skills are often very physical, and require high levels of dexterity, energy and stamina.

Learning circus skills help to develop: - 

- Hand-Eye Coordination
- Balance
- Cardio-Vascular Fitness

Learning circus skills gives children a great sense of accomplishment, and helps to develop the child's ability to persist and keep trying. An essential element of becoming a successful learner.

**Six week course on Tuesdays after school,**  
3-4 pm (afternoon Tea provided)  
16 & 23 February and 1, 8, 15 & 22 March  
The Blue Room

Cost: \$100 (Or use your sport voucher)

For more information:

Meet the Corrugated Iron Crew for sign on after School on Monday 15 February

Or call Corrugated Iron

Ph: 89 483 200



Every Child, Every Day - improving student enrolment, attendance and participation is everybody's responsibility and everyone's business.

## Oral Health Services

### Your Child's first dental Visit

First dental visit should be around 12 months of age.

- It's important that this is a positive experience;
- Try to limit the use of negative words such as hurt, needle or drill around your child.
- Try not to convey anxiety around dental visits.

Practice going to the dentist at home; play "dentist" at home, count teeth and lift lips.

Ph: 08 89226011



## City of Darwin Libraries



**CODE CLUB**

For 9 - 12 year olds.

- FUN
- CREATIVITY
- LEARNING

Register with Library staff.

Code Club gives your child the chance to learn to code. Coding is an important skill in the digital age. Learning to code also strengthens problem solving skills and logical thinking and supports academic subjects such as science and maths.

**CITY OF DARWIN LIBRARIES**

City Library | Wednesdays | 3.30-4.30pm  
Casuarina Library | Thursdays | 3.30-4.30pm



## Helping children to cope with separation distress



**Parents and carers and staff can help children manage their separation distress by:**

### **Working together**

Share information about what is going on in your child's home and early childhood service or school.

Develop a positive goodbye routine together (eg sharing a 'high-five', a special goodbye hug, or some funny or loving gestures such as 'bear hugs').

Connect your child with staff members the family knows well and are available to greet them.

### **Building trust**

Always say 'goodbye' to your child and let them know when you will be back.

Always respond to a child's distress.

Try to be reliable and on time when you return to your child.

### **Building safety**

Be calm, warm and friendly.

Avoid lengthy goodbyes as they may increase separation distress.

Support the child to become engaged in an enjoyable experience before leaving.

Have routines so children feel safe and are able to predict when their parents and carers will return.

### **Preparing your child**

Visit the new early childhood service or school with your child.

Find out about and engage in the service's orientation activities and processes.

Gradually build up your child's experiences of separation so that they feel safe and reassured.

For young children, shorten the first few days at the early childhood service.

Talk with your child on the way to the service or school about what will happen and reassure them you will be back.

### **Reconnecting and providing continuity**

Spend extra time with your child when you reunite to reconnect again.

Allow children to express their distress, acknowledge the child's feelings and avoid labelling or criticising.

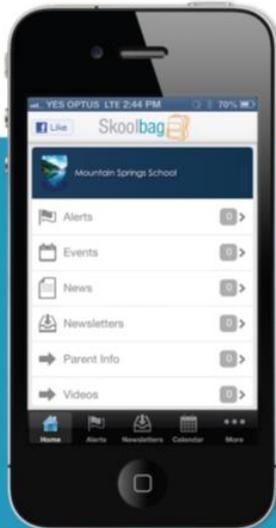
Talk with your child about what you can do when you see each other again.

Increase the child's feelings of safety and connectedness by bringing a familiar toy or photo from home.

Talk with your child about their day and what they enjoyed.

Children's mental health and wellbeing is supported when staff and families work together to enable children to have positive goodbyes.





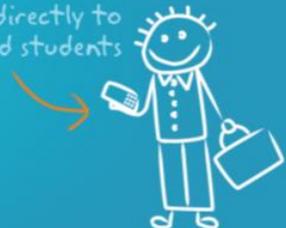
## Skoolbag

Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- > School, free push notification alerts
- > School events
- > School newsletters
- > School documents
- > School RSS feeds
- > School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students



## How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

### iPhone & iPad Users

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps"; your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



### Android Users

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook! 

Find out more at [www.skoolbag.com.au](http://www.skoolbag.com.au)

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