



Dear Parents

Improvement and a sense of achievement in all that we do are common goals in life. Improvement is high on the agenda for Wagaman School in 2015. Items of focus:

Outdoor play area upgrade in early years. Preschool has new swings and our courtyard is *slowly* being transformed into a new space. Our palms have been removed (no more falling seeds and fronds.) and shadesails and softfall will be in place. We have new play equipment ordered and picnic benches for outdoor enjoyment. This is a School Council initiative. We are appreciative of the release of funds to give our facility a much needed 'makeover'. It was looking rather tired. The bad news is that the temporary fencing has to remain in place until the contractors have completed the project. It is fortunate that we have extensive acreage in our playground!

Attendance Our record for 2014 showed a 1% increase in average attendance however we were still hovering below the 90% which is our target. Schools are funded on effective enrolments and the per student amount is given dependent on attendance. Can I plead with families to notify us if your child is absent with illness or for an appointment. Can I also ask that families give consideration to taking holidays during the 12 x *non-school* weeks that children have each year. It is quite disruptive to their learning cycle to be removed for a month mid-term. Travel is a valuable 'learning for life' experience. It is just preferable to school if it occurs in the vacation period. (if only we could get the airlines to offer discounts at that time!?!)

Improved teaching and learning Staff will be working to improve in areas of numeracy and literacy throughout the year. Our Education system in the NT is looking at upskilling all our Top End staff in a research based approach, *Visible Learning*. Visible learning provides teachers with detailed explanations to prepare, teach and analyze lessons according to what works best. It opens teachers eyes to appreciate learning through the eyes of the student and the impact on their moving forward. (see *Dept of Education* article this page)

Michele Cody - Principal

Coming Events

6 February	Assembly 5/6 Renner
10 February	Meet the Teacher
13 February	Early Childhood Assembly 1/2 Vinu

1/2 Vinu



Professional Development

Teachers maintain professional learning to improve practice

More than 1500 teachers from schools across Schools North recently completed Visible Learning Foundation Day workshops in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Gunbalanya and Ramingining on the pupil-free days prior to the start of term.

Visible Learning is a professional development program for teachers and school leaders that explores how evidence can be used to create improvement in the learning environment.

It is focused on the principles of Visible Learning and Visible Teaching developed by Professor John Hattie, synthesising over 800 meta-analyses relating to achievement and what actually works best in schools to improve learning.

The introduction in Schools North follows the successful introduction in Schools South where there has been significant improvement in student outcomes.



Important reminders

Please contact the front office

- If your child is going to be late or absent
- If your child is late please make sure they sign in at the front office & get a late
- Medical certificates are required for absences of more than two days
- As soon as your contact details change
- Students are **NOT** permitted to bring skateboards or scooters to school. We do not have the facility to keep them secure.
- Parents are reminded that due to healthy eating policy students are **NOT** allowed to bring lollies or soft drinks to school.
- ALL students need water bottles and hats everyday.
- Children need a bag for library lessons, a simple pastic bag will do the trick if you don't want a store bought bag.



Meet the Teacher

Parents are the first educators of children and we at school are partners in furthering that process. We welcome sharing that process with families and our newsletters from the class teacher last week provided part of the information. Next Tuesday 10 February is an opportunity for you to meet face-to-face with your child's teachers in 2015. Please try to come up to the school for a few minutes at the end of the day.

Tuesday, 10 February

- 5.00 - 5.30 pm Early Childhood
- 5.30 - 6.00 pm Middle Primary
- 6.00 - 6.30 pm Upper Primary



Each session will start with Ms Michele Cody welcoming everyone and introducing her staff for 2015. Teachers and Parents will then move to classrooms for an informal chat and look at the great work produced so far using our Tribes resources in their Great Start Program.

- Great routines
- Valuing each other
- Reaching our own potential

We hope to see you there



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

NT Music School



IS YOUR CHILD INTERESTED IN LEARNING

A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?



The NT Music School is currently recruiting for our 2015 instrumental program. We have vacancies for the following instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion. If your child is interested in enrolling or you would like more information please contact the NT Music School on 8963 5550.



Term Planner and Skoolbag application

Today with your Newsletter you have received a copy of the term planner with some important dates for this term. We have included information about our Smart phone Skoolbag application on the back of the term planner. If you already have the Skoolbag app you only need to change your setting to this year's class or classes.

Oral Health Services

To arrange dental appointments for NT school children, Oral Health Services NT (OHSNT) have a single contact phone number for parents to call.



Parents are now able to choose a dental clinic and suitable time and book family members together at the same time by calling **89226466**.

Playgroup

Come along and meet some new friends

- When:** Fridays
- Where:** In the Parent room
- Time:** 9am to 11am



Please bring a piece of fruit to share

Cash for Cans

Cash for containers was a huge success in 2014 and will continue to run at Wagaman Primary. Funds raised go directly into resources for our students! All containers with any 10c symbol on them are eligible. So keep bringing them in! Thank you for your support.

