

# CREEKSIDE NEWS

December 16 , 2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### STAFF

#### DEVELOPMENT

#### DAYS (No Students)

28/01/2022

31/02/2022

#### Students Back

1/02/2022

Years 1-6

#### KINDY BEST START

1/02/2022

2/02/2022

## Thanks to all and Enjoy the Break

Well, the final newsletter for the year is here and we are all wondering just where the year has gone. What started off as a very promising start, and a welcome relief from the events of 2020, sadly escalated once again, during term 3, into the learning from home situation that we were previously faced with. Nevertheless, even though we did not return until term 4, and because we had done it all before, in an amazing effort, our students, staff and community adjusted admirably to the “new normal” and we were still able to generate some tremendous growth over the course of the year. In particular, we had a small vocabulary and comprehension blitz from around Week 6 until Week 9 of term 4 and, as a result, were blessed with some outstanding achievements for our students. Well done! Thanks also to you, our families, for your ongoing support of your children and their Dora Creek education. We cannot thank you enough for your efforts.

On a personal note, I would like to thank each and every one of our staff, students, and community for the way in which you have gone about things during an exceedingly difficult year, which unfortunately does not seem to be finishing on the high note we had all hoped for. Despite this, this week we have been able to fit in our presentation, albeit in a bit of a different form, and it seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming our departing Year 6 students into the school in 2015 to begin what was expected to be a very exciting period of education at Dora Creek Public School for them. On Tuesday night, these amazing kids had a fantastic time at the annual Year 6 Farewell, where they had the pleasure of a meal with their families, and some dancing, games, and silly photos. We trust that they all had a wonderful time, and we will sincerely miss them as they leave our gates for the last time as Dora Creek students. I have had the pleasure of watching these students grow into the fantastic young individuals that they are today, all the way from kindergarten; and also, some of them who have not been with us as long but have been very welcome additions to our school. We would like to wish them all the best as they enter high school, and we trust that Dora Creek Public School will always hold a special place in their heart for a long time.

In terms of moving on, I would like to absolutely send our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Clark and Ms Bretreger, who are farewelling our school at the end of this year. Both have been highly valued members of our staff, and each of them has brought something extremely valuable to our Dora Creek school community. And, not only this, these fantastic practitioners have had such a highly positive impact on our students. As mentioned at the presentation assembly yesterday, Mrs Clark is heading into a different role for a variety of schools next year, at a different teacher level and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the positive changes she has brought to our school in such a brief time. She has been responsible for providing a range of great opportunities for our students, not only in the classroom but also through her efforts in establishing an SRC and also tuning our kids into a whole range of other extracurricular activities. For those of you unaware, Ms Bretreger will be leaving us to take up a new role at Blackalls Park Public School in 2022, which means that she will be finishing her time at Dora Creek at the end of 2021. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to her for the support she has displayed for our school over a lengthy period, and also for the impact she has had upon our students. We also wish the best of luck to Mrs Michalak and Mrs Harris, as they take some time to make the most of the opportunity to welcome and bond with new additions to their family. We cannot wait to see them back in our school later in 2022.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my thanks to our extremely dedicated staff and also to you, our wonderful community, for a challenging, but extremely rewarding, 2021. I also cannot thank our P and C volunteers enough for their efforts in supporting our school and I am very appreciative of the efforts that they have made to re-establish several great initiatives that our students used to be used to. Our P and C's success in bringing back some great fundraising ideas, along with opportunities to participate in muftis, discos, and cookbook projects, along with some pretty awesome special meal days at the canteen, has been an amazing sight to see. Well done, P and C!!! To you, our families, thank you for your ongoing dedication to getting your child(ren) to school each day, ready to learn and prepared to work tirelessly with our teachers and other staff to be the best version of themselves they can possibly be. Have a safe and happy Christmas, make the most of your time with your families, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in 2022.

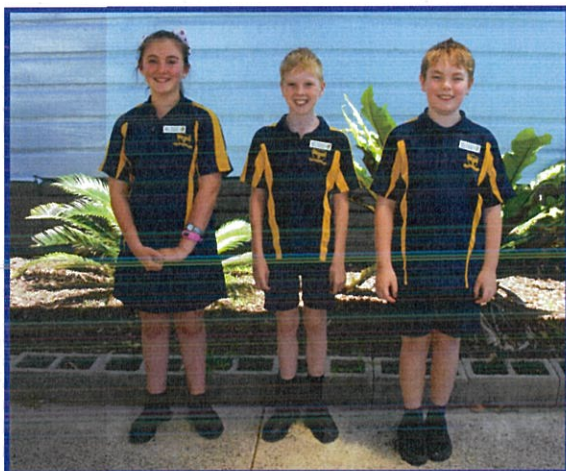
## 2022 Changes

As we are all aware, staff departures and/or sabbaticals, along with new staffing appointments must also result in a change to some of the faces in our school. Next year, we will welcome several new teachers to Dora Creek and every single one of them brings some pretty special and unique skills to our school, particularly around STEM, Sport and the Creative and Performing Arts. We will be extremely excited to introduce these teachers to you all at the beginning of next year when the new school year begins. Rest assured; your children will be in incredibly capable hands.

Finally, as mentioned on School Stream and on our Facebook page, I will be taking up a relieving principal role at Wyong Public School for the first half of next year and this means that we will be welcoming a relieving principal into our school. To this effect, a merit selection EOI process was completed earlier this week and, from that process, our Director of Educational Leadership, Dr Fiona Walsh, and a panel of staff members from our school have offered the position to Mrs Claire Bradshaw, which she has accepted. Mrs Bradshaw is a highly skilled teacher and executive and we are confident that she will do an outstanding job in my absence. So, as I step out for a brief time, again I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of our school; it is a pleasure to come to school each and every day and I will miss each and every one of you during my time at Wyong. Best wishes and may 2022 bring us a more normal, stable, and fulfilling school year.

## Presentation Day

Tuesday 14th December saw our school come together for our 2021 Presentation Assembly, which, this year, was once again conducted in a vastly different manner. Whilst this was the case, it is always a pleasure to interact with our students and celebrate their achievements in the fresh air and under open skies. I wish to congratulate all award recipients, along with every student who attended. Our students were enthusiastic, polite and well-mannered, and displayed genuine support for their peers for the duration of the event. Not only this, we also had the pleasure of watching a Kindergarten performance item, along with performances by our junior and senior dance groups, who earlier this year may have had little, if any, experience of performing in front of an audience. These acts, along with the achievements of our students, were certainly a highlight of the day and it was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and dedication towards the opportunities our school has provided for our students in 2021. Well done! Well done, also, to our newly elected Captains and Leaders for 2022, who, after a VERY closely run election process, were also announced at the assembly. Congratulations to Matilda and Flynn, who are our new School Captains; and also to Thomas, who is our new School Leader. I look forward to working with them all when I return later in 2022 and we are all sure they will do an outstanding job !





CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

