



Wadja Wadja High School Newsletter

Term 1, 2023
Issue 5
Ph: 4935 0158
E. admin@wadja.qld.edu.au

Principal's Pen Mr Daniel Hoepner

Welcome back to all our returning students and families, and a warm welcome to our newest members of our community, both staff and students for the 2023 school year.

We have some changes and new programs for this year at Wadja. The administration has now moved into the new building and a weekly lunch program has been implemented.

This term, we have had two whole school excursions for our students. In week 3, we went to Columboola Environmental Education Centre near Miles for 5 days, and in Week 6, we went to the Konomie Island Environmental Education Centre on North Keppel Island for 3 days.

Our commitment in 2023 is to provide meals each week for our students, breakfast, morning tea and lunch. Thus far attendance rates have improved and Brenda has provided a terrific menu.

A warm welcome to the following new staff:

- Teachers**
- Natasha Puddle
 - Alysse Beattie
- Teacher Aides**
- Rhondeen Doyle
 - Pauline Nelson

UNIFORMS ARE COMPULSORY AND TO BE WORN WITH PRIDE

Newsletter articles

- Principal's Pen
- Community notice board
- Social media outlets
- Student birthdays
- Classroom renovation's
- Welcome new staff members
- Fabulous Friday - Physical education
- Dymocks children charities
- Elder - Culture class
- PCYC session
- School camps
- Online awareness
- Date claimers
- 2023 School calendar

Community notice board

- Tuckshop is open to community for catering purposes.

Social media outlets

  Wadja Wadja High school

  <https://www.wadja.com.au/>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Student birthdays



JAN	FEB	MAR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kahzia • Damien • K'Sharna • Renee • Zonnetta • Gallene • Patrick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia • Liam • Shakiah • Yurung • Peter • Yolanda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leatisha • Miriam • Carol • Rebis • Lance • Nicole



CLASSROOM RENOVATION'S

CLASSROOM TO ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

End of the school year in 2022, the new administration office is excitingly up and running. We still have more garden work to be done, thanks to Peter known as Willie for your great work! Soon to have new flagpoles and school signage.

- Access is via the gravel driveway located on the right of the old school building.
- To keep updated on everything happening at the school please follow our Facebook page and our website.



VET KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT

By Term 3, 2023, We will be undertaking new renovations to one of our pre-existing classrooms. This is to introduce the Year 10,11 and 12's a VET Certificate II in Cookery qualification. (ongoing)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Miscellaneous painting across the high school
- Routine building and maintenance
- Gardening

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Miss Alysse Beattie

Hello, my name is Miss Alysse Beattie and I am teaching Grade 7 and 8. I have travelled from Cairns where I taught for nine years. I am very excited to be working in Woorabinda and have enjoyed my time so far. My desire is to create a classroom environment in which my students feel safe, supported and are excited to learn. It has been an absolute pleasure meeting the students and working within the community. I look forward to building relationships with my students and the wider community as the year progresses.

Mrs Natasha Puddle

Hi, my name is Natasha Puddle - but the children all call me Mrs Tash. I have recently moved down to teach Year 9 & 10, from the very sunny town of Cairns. I have 2 gorgeous children (aged 17 & 14) and a husband back in Cairns. Teaching in an Indigenous community is something I have always aspired to do. The timing seemed right in my teaching career, so here I am! I absolutely love teaching! It is something I have wanted to do since I was very young, and I feel very blessed to come and teach so many wonderful and spirited children here at Wadja Wadja High. I look forward to getting to know them even more and cheering them on as we learn and grow together.



Fabulous Friday - Physical education

Wadja Wadja High School has partnered with PCYC to enable the high school students to participate in PE every Friday. These sessions are held on Fridays at Kangaroo Stadium from 10am. There is a range of sports offered to the Wadja Wadja High School students with great participation from all students. There has been four sessions to date, and there has been positive feedback from the students and teachers.

Also in the partnership are staff from Qld Reds, Darumbal and Community Spirit Foundation.



Dymocks Children Charities

Early this term we received an invitation to apply for a grant for library books from Dymocks Children's Charities. The school put in an application, and we are really excited to announce that Wadja Wadja High School received funding for \$7000 from the grant pool. The generous grant came from **The Iwasaki Foundation** to provide a Library Regeneration program to schools in Queensland. The school thanks Dymocks and the Iwasaki Foundation for choosing us. We should start to see our books arriving by the end of term 1.



Elder - Culture class

Elder Aunty Dianne Evans has been coming up to the school to take students bush walking. This has been teaching the students by showing them all different variety's of bush tucker including berries, wild passionfruit and a tree that the leaves can be used as cleaning soap. There will be more lessons to come. Thank you, Aunty Dianne Evans!



PCYC Session

Week 2 of Term 1. Jerry Doyle held a boys session with students to have a curriculum goal-setting class. This was so the students can put things into perspective and see how learning is an important key.

SCHOOL CAMPS

CUMBOOLA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Well, when we say adventure, I can't go past the Miles camp. We arrived in Miles after a long bus trip. The students were eager to settle in and sort out who was in which tent. To be honest, it was at that moment I was very grateful that none of us had to set up tents.

We started the activities, boy was there a lot! Activities included team building games, tying knots, orienteering, night walks, planet and star gazing through a telescope, build catapults, learn about some creepy crawlies, made rafts and tested them (some were successful and others not so much), canoeing, swimming and had the opportunity to complete low ropes and high ropes courses.

Over the course of the week, those who were reluctant to start embraced the opportunities given to them and had a go, and they totally shone! You, as their parents and carers, would have been so very proud of them – we definitely were.

As teachers, we felt so very lucky to get to know the children a little bit more. We got to laugh with them, go walking, canoe alongside them and even go swimming. We watched your children embrace challenges and show that even when something can be a bit new or scary; they overcame their fears and pushed through.



KONOMIE ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

On the 27th of February, the students set sail to Keppel Island for a three-day camp. The students had a great time snorkelling, swimming in the ocean, catching ghost crabs, fishing at night, hiking and learning about the traditional owners of the island. The students demonstrated great resilience as they undertook a difficult hike up Bald Hill. They were rewarded with spectacular views and a sense of pride and achievement in what they had accomplished. Throughout the camp, the students demonstrated a high level of respect towards each other, the land and the camp leaders. They should feel immensely proud of how they carried themselves. We had a wonderful time and hope to return.



ONLINE AWARENESS



Students' invisible digital behaviours:

How to find them



The iceberg effect

Offline signs you can see

Digital signs you can't see



Changes in behaviour
Requests for help

Injuries/bruises
Absenteeism

Deterioration in academic performance

Bullying/violence
Overly-abusive language
Self-generated sexual content
Gaming addiction
Chatroom conversations with inappropriate adults

Body dysmorphia
Online conversations about drugs, extremism, being harmed/intention to harm
Social media addiction
Searches for risk-based content e.g. suicide, self-harm

Digital self-harm
Feelings and emotions typed in a document (even if deleted)

We're seeing a significant increase in schools struggling to identify gaps in their digital safety strategy. A 'lack of visibility' in students' digital wellbeing is often a reason for this.

While there are physical indications of how a child is feeling, there are numerous other 'invisible' or hard to access cues that exist within the child's digital world. For example, mental health issues or self-harm thoughts are often discussed with friends in online forums or emotions are expressed in documents that can be quickly deleted. Without prompt intervention these behaviours can escalate into serious problems.

The iceberg effect is where only a portion of the child's holistic wellbeing is visible i.e. the things kids do and share and more importantly, the things they don't - representing a significant blind spot that can impede student outcomes.



Term 2, 2023 Date Claimers

Monday 17 th of April	Term 2 Commences
Wednesday 19 th – 21 st of April	Community Spirit Foundation – Year 10 – 12 Yeppoon camp
Tuesday 25 th of April	Public Holiday – ANZAC Day
Monday 1 st of May	Public Holiday – Labour Day
Sunday 14 th of May	Mother's Day
Friday 26 th of May	National Sorry Day
Saturday 27 th of May – Saturday 3 rd of June	National Reconciliation Week
Saturday 3 rd of June	Mabo Day
21 st of June – Week 10	Student NAIDOC celebration day
Thursday 15 th of June	Public Holiday – Rockhampton show
Friday 16 th of June	Student Free Day / Professional Development
Friday 23 rd of June	Last day – Term 2

Term Dates for 2023






Term 1	23 rd of January – 31 st of March
Term 2	17 th of April – 23 rd of June
Term 3	10 th of July – 15 th of September
Term 4	3 rd of October – 24 th of November

2023

School calendar

Queensland state schools

DECEMBER 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	APRIL S M T W T F S 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
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 School terms	 School holidays	 Public holidays	 Staff professional development/student free days
 Part public holiday after 6 pm			

There are 195 school days in 2023.

Semester 1, 2023 commences for teachers on 19 January and for students on 23 January 2023.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Staff professional development days for teachers are 19 and 20 January, 13 and 14 April and 1 September 2023. Schools are able to decide when they undertake the required hours for professional development for the flexible days, as long as they are on the flexible days, in the school holidays or out of school hours.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Queensland public holidays are set by the Industrial Relations Minister.

Public holidays for local show days are not shown due to diversity of dates across the state.

FINAL DATES FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE

17 November is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. 24 November is the final date for student attendance in Years 10 and 11.

Some schools in regional, rural and remote areas will close for the summer holidays on 1 December.

The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change.

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit

www.education.qld.gov.au



Queensland
Government