

WILEY MATTERS

WILEY PARK GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL





"Feet what do I have you for, when I have wings to fly"

FRIDA KAHLO



PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

We are WPGHS, We are Proud. We are Resilient.

As we entered our third year of teaching, learning and living through a pandemic, we have been faced with a new bunch of guidelines, a new bunch of challenges, and a new bunch of changes. In addition, we have faced unrelenting wet weather, and the additional challenge of wet weather breaks and flooded learning spaces impacting our day-to-day organisation. I am incredibly proud of how we have all worked together, to ensure that quality learning has remained a priority. Thank you to our incredible teachers, who have continued their dedication to deliver welcoming classrooms and highly engaging lessons amongst the changes. Thank you to our amazing support staff who have continued to go above and beyond, from creating welcome packs for our Year 7 students, preparing thousands of RAT kits for collection, to always responding to the various questions that come in when we have changes with such care and warmth. Our students have impressed us by remaining focussed on their learning despite the changes to timetables or rooming or being indoors for an entire day, day after day. Thank you for your cooperation and respect, and turning up with a smile (often behind a mask!) Many thanks also to our parents for your support, understanding and patience in working with us on the various changes, from staggered start and end times, to information on Rapid Antigen Testing, mask wearing or notifications of positive COVID-19 cases in the community.

Across the term we acknowledged a number of social justice themes. On Tuesday 8 March we acknowledged International Women's Day. To show the significance of this social justice theme at WPGHS, staff participated in a door design competition, with designs to reflect the themes of International Women's Day of "#Break the Bias" and "Equality today for a Sustainable Tomorrow". For my door design, I chose to represent the artist Frida Kahlo. I chose Kahlo as an inspirational woman who throughout her lifetime, art and civic actions, focused on pushing through boundaries of bias and inequality. I also chose Kahlo as an inspirational symbol of resilience – her life was faced with an extraordinary amount of challenges and she repeatedly overcame such adversity through determination, passion and unwavering faith and optimism. Her quote that I have shared on the previous page is an example of her positivity and growth mindset. It is an example of the resilience and determination I have witnessed in our girls this term, and which I look forward to seeing more of as the year progresses.

A new year, despite the challenges, is a new year of possibilities. I look forward to embracing these possibilities with you as a school community as we navigate the remainder of the year. Also with a new year we welcome new members to out WPGHS family. Wishing a very warm Wiley welcome to:

- Our new Year 7 students and families
- Ms Keren Derrick, teaching Music as part of the MAC faculty
- Mrs Jennifer Cashmore and Mrs Magda Ghali as part of the Science faculty
- Mr Liam Woods and Ms Nicholetta Zacharia as part of the PDHPE faculty
- Ms Isabella Crossman as part of school counselling service

Sadly, mid-term we farewelled Mr Alan Roberts, our terrific General Assistant. Alan is a very skilful and knowledgeable man who took great pride in our school buildings and environments. Our beautiful gardens and lawns reflect his skill and dedication. We will miss Alan and wish him all the very best as he enjoys his retirement with his family.

Enjoy the various reports in this newsletter that showcase exactly why, We are WPGHS, We are Proud. We are WPGHS, We are Resilient.

Take care!

Ms Kim Osborne

Harmony Week messages from our students at WPGHS



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS



Dear Parents and families,

It has been a great start to the year with our students back at school and involved in so many initiatives.

<u>STEM Initiatives are expanding:</u> Our STEM teachers have once again partnered our students with external agencies including the CSIRO, Edu Tech, Macquarie University and Canterbury Bankstown Council to apply their design thinking. Year 9 and Year 10 iSTEM classes are preparing to participate in the Universal Robotics Challenge

coming up later this year. The virtual ideas competition will require the girls to identify a problem within a given theme, use design thinking processes to develop a solution and then implement this solution by engineering, constructing, programming, and operating a custom robot. This program has been supported by \$15K of equipment and resources provided by the NSW Government's STEM grants program and is facilitated with help from EduTech Australia. Winners of the regional and national competition have an opportunity to travel to Japan to compete on the international stage. We will keep you posted!!! Congratulations to Mr Henstock and the STEM staff on supporting such inspirational initiatives for our girls!

<u>Harmony Week:</u> Every year WPGHS celebrates Harmony week promoting our school community as inclusive and respectful where everyone belongs. Once again students prepared Arabic and Greek cultural dance performances to promote how students at WPGHS come together and develop a deeper understanding of each other's cultures through these performances. Many thanks to our Year Advisors, Ms Godwin and Ms Ahmad for their promotion of Harmony Week and to Ms Tsabalas, Ms Kalogeras and Ms Maddick in preparing this dance to be showcased as a part of Warrior Day on April 7.

The Intensive Learning Support Program (ILSP): Literacy and Numeracy support across the school: The ILSP program has recommenced with selected Year 7 - 10 students working in small groups of 5 with a teacher tutor, to improve their Literacy and / or Numeracy skills. Parents of these students have been notified. Staff have used external and internal data including NAPLAN, Check-in, attendance and staff feedback to select the first cohort of students. These results have been discussed with the selected ILSP students to set goals and a learning profile has been developed for parents to sign. We presently have 80 students involved in this literacy/numeracy support program. Feedback from the tutors proves student motivation and confidence is growing, with students feeling well supported.

External testing, preparation, and care for students: Mr Rigby has been working alongside all our staff to prepare our students with external tests that include NAPLAN, VALID and Minimum Standard Testing. Thank you, Mr Rigby and all staff, supporting our students. During Week 9, Year 7 and 9 students were given the opportunity to practice NAPLAN style questions in our hall.

<u>Staff, Students and Families:</u> My very best wishes and good health to you all.

Ms Agapitos, Deputy Principal



FROM THE WELLBEING TEAM



Wiley girls are strong, resilient, kind and strong. This term has presented yet more uncertainty and obstacles to face, and our students have faced every one of these brilliantly! Our students are so lucky to have such caring and committed Year Advisers, and specialist staff including our Learning and Support Team, Student Support Officer, Attendance Officer, and our two School Psychologists. These staff members support the wellbeing of our students at every step of the way, and they have been instrumental in helping students during these uncertainties.

We applaud all the students who have been able to come to school regularly despite the many obstacles, and we were pleasantly surprised to see that the number of students with outstanding attendance has improved since Term 4.

We welcomed our Year 7 students to high school, and with a fantastic transition program led by Miss C. Saisanas, and supported by lovely Year Advisers, Ms Godwin and Ms Pham Year 7 have made a great start to their high school years.

We have also celebrated several social justice days this term including International Women's Day, The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, and Harmony Week. Each Stage was responsible for presenting a whole-school assembly to create awareness about important social justice issues in our community, and to celebrate people striving for change. Special thanks to the students in each stage who worked with their Year Advisers to present their assemblies.

Some highlights have included: the Year group noticeboards celebrating the achievements of women world-wide, and messages of kindness and inclusivity that students have been adding to our orange walls this week to celebrate Harmony Week.

We hope that Term 2 will present more stability and certainty, but we know that no matter what, Wiley Girls will face all challenges head on, and continue striving to be the best they can.

Miss Cervonaro, Relieving HT Wellbeing

FROM THE ENGLISH FACULTY

In English this term Year 7 explored the concept of *Travels in Time* and a close study of an Australian historical fiction. Students explored historical texts (both primary and secondary) about World War II and Australia's involvement. This allowed students to engage more with the historical fiction text *The Blue Cat* by Ursula Dubosarsky. This unit focused on enhancing student literacy, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

Students were given individual whiteboards to work on their tasks. This made correcting and editing work much easier before the final draft was written into their workbooks. Students were far more relaxed when writing as they knew that corrections could easily be wiped away and were more willing to explore new vocabulary. We hope to use these white boards for more fun activities in the future.

The photos are of 7ENY having fun in their wide reading class.

Ms Volcevska, Relieving Head Teacher, English





FROM THE SCIENCE FACULTY

The last few weeks have been exciting in the Science Faculty. Students in Years 7-10 have worked hard to demonstrate their practical science skills whilst those in Stage 6 studying Physics, Biology as well as our new courses Earth and Environmental Science and Investigating Science have excelled in their classroom practice.

<u>iSTEM:</u> Our girls in STEM have been honing their skills recently in design thinking and problem solving. This week they joined over 3000 students from across Australia and took part in a



Aiman J, Hania A, Nebula N, Dana A

Cyber Live challenge where they were required to solve a number of computer-based problems to stop a simulated cyber-attack on Sydney and other parts of the world. These problem-solving experiences are preparing them for their major project beginning shortly where they will be collaborating with EduTech in preparation for the Universal Robotics Virtual Ideas Challenge where they will be given a theme and from this will need to design, build, program and operate a new robot and present their work to a panel of industry experts with a chance to then represent Australia overseas in Japan.

<u>Investigating Science:</u> Students in Investigating Science have spent the last few weeks engaged in a depth study of their choice. Topics of investigation have included:

- How blood types differ between people and factors that can cause a change in blood type
- Utilising Rorschach Ink Blot Tests to explore if adults and youth perceive things differently based on background experience and interests
- Measuring Beta brain waves of adults and youth to determine if there is a difference in neurophysiological function whilst performing memory related tasks.

• Exploring celestial bodies in our solar system to determine the best candidate for future human habitation

- Exploring the impact of three different cleaning agents on bacterial growth in a time of COVID Cleaning.
- Exploring the function and strength of Velcro and determining optimum shapes and surface areas.

Students are also collaborating with the Japanese Space Agency and One Giant Leap Australia growing wattle and sweet basil seeds that have been to the international space station and back to determine the impact of space radiation on growth.

Mr Henstock, Head Teacher Science



Eman Z, Ketsha T, Laiba U working on their depth study velcro project.



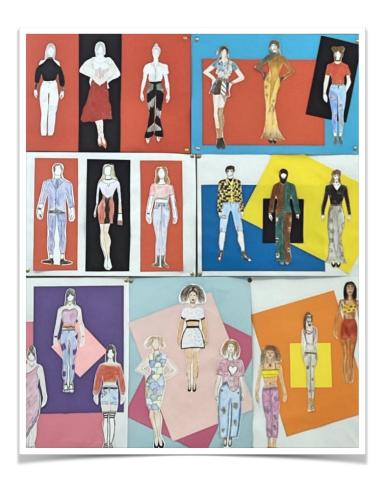
Year 7 Students preparing for Bubble Art Experiment

FROM THE TAS FACULTY

Term 1 has been a very busy term for the TAS department as all practical classes have resumed. Please remember that your daughter can not complete practical activities in TAS if they are not wearing the correct footwear. Please make sure that your daughter has enclosed leather shoes for ALL practical lessons. Here are some highlights from Year 7-10 and Stage 6 subjects throughout term 1.

Year 7 Technology Mandatory - Engineered Systems: This term Year 7 students have been investigating famous engineers. Also, they had to research why boomerangs are curved? These beautifully designed and decorated boomerangs were made in Mrs Moxey's class.

Year 8 Technology Mandatory- Material (Textiles Technology): The Rags to bags unit is based on sustainable up-cycled fashion designs. Year 8 had to research famous sustainable fashion designs this term. They love the design aspect of this unit and have come up with fantastic fashion drawings.



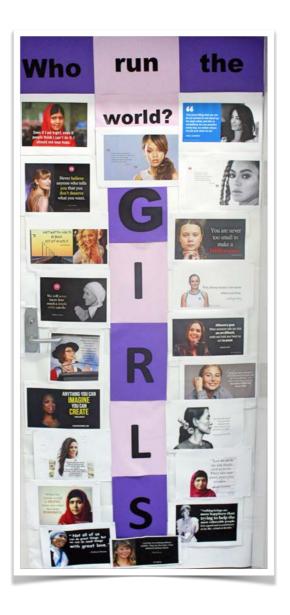






Year 8 Technology Mandatory - Digital Technologies: In Mrs Issa's Technology class students in Year 8 have been learning how to code throughout Term 1. The "Crack the Code" topic has introduced the students to the world of programming and micro-controllers. Every student has experienced how to be a programmer by writing a code into a software program we use called Arduino IDE. Once the code has been typed into the program students are able to connect their thinker shields to the computer using a USB cable. The students then upload their code to the thinker-shield and they are able to see the output results of their code. Many of the students have shown great interest and enthusiasm to gain understanding of how coding works. This is a great opportunity for students to increase their technical skills as we are living in a constantly changing technological world.

Ms Lavite, Head Teacher TAS



FROM THE PDHPE FACULTY

<u>Swimming Carnival:</u> The 2022 school swimming carnival was held at Roseland's Aquatic Centre. It was a competitor's only event due to COVID 19 restrictions. Although the carnival was a small-scale event, all our fabulous swimmers put in a great effort.

Our new Year 7 students were not afraid to show off their swimming skills at their first WPGHS carnival. We surely have some future champions in our midst. Our senior swimmers demonstrated excellent swimming ability and sportsmanship, as always. Year 8 had the most competitors of the day, and they excelled in their events. A wonderful day was had by all.

Congratulations to the following students who were the age champions for this year.

17+ years: Nour E
16 years: Isabella A
15 years: Intssar E
14 years: Priyashar K
13 years: Ayaat K
12 years: Sarah E

Congratulations to Isabella A for achieving School Swimming Champion for 2022.

<u>House Captains and Vice Captains 2022:</u> Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who were selected as House Captains and Vice Captains for 2022.

Cuthbert Isabella A - Captain Marya C - Vice Captain

Fraser Nora E - Captain Aminah E - Vice Captain

Goolagong Jenan H - Captain Phoenix M - Vice Captain

MacKay Noor-Afita N- Captain Meliame P - Vice Captain



<u>Sporting Schools Grant:</u> During Term 1 Wiley Park Girls High School was successful in receiving a grant from Sporting Schools Australia. The grant meant we could access some specific training for teaching Athletics and Badminton. Year 7 and 8 were our target groups. The PDHPE teachers ran special lessons with a focus on Badminton or Athletics with their classes. Year 7 and 8 enjoyed these new lessons and, it seems, we have a lot of Year 7 and 8 students that have a new appreciation of Badminton.

<u>Special Congratulations</u>: Congratulations to Emmelyse T for her effort and skills demonstrated in the Zone Athletics Carnival in 2021. She was awarded the 13 years Runner Up trophy for the St George SSSA Zone Athletics. This is a great achievement. Well done!

Ms Begetis, Head Teacher PDHPE





FROM THE LIBRARY

Library Magic in Term 1

Our Library is a place where magic happens. Our Year 7 students had their first taste of this on Day 1, during their "Introduction to the Library" lessons. Ms D. Saisanas, Teacher Librarian and resident book nerd led our newest students through a series of activities to get to know them, and to allow them to get to know our library. The fact that she was dressed as a Hogwarts Professor especially for these lessons is something that our more senior students are entirely used to. It was the perfect start to the year, and meant that our Year 7 students felt instantly at ease in our library - which is exactly how we'd like them to feel!



Our Library entrance was decorated to look like Platform 9 ¾ from Harry Potter – after all, it's a portal to a magical place!



Eva, Zaynab, Aisha and co. with their blind date books

We also celebrated Library Lovers' Day on February 14th, staging our now-infamous "Blind Date with a Book". Over 90 students participated, with at least 20 more signing up for the online edition. Students also wrote love letters to our Library, the most notable saying that "the first time I stepped in, I really felt a sense of warmth and belonging". We love that our students love their library, and couldn't be more proud of them for it.

As we round off the term, our Library remains closed due to some flood damage. Luckily, Wiley Park girls are resilient, and have been appreciating the use of the Learning Centre during recess and lunch. Hopefully we'll be back home in the Library soon, and making magic more explosively then ever!

Miss Saisanas, Librarian

FROM THE HSIE / LANGUAGES FACULTY

Welcome to 2022 from the HSIE/Languages Faculty. It is great to see all our students back at school and in enjoying their classes with their teachers and wish them a great 2022.

All the classes have been working hard and producing some great work. Our Greek language classes have been learning Greek dances and will perform for our community. Thank you to their teachers, Ms Kalogeras and Mrs Tsabalas for their wonderful work.

Ms D. Ahmad's UTP class have developed their skills as archaeologists as can be seen below:

Year 9 Unlocking the Past (Elective History) did this fun activity as part of their archaeology unit this term. It gave our young historians a chance to explore the principles of archaeology while helping them to understand how important it is to be careful while excavating fragile artefacts (the choc chips). It was a super fun and super delicious lesson. Our girls will use their skills to explore topics like Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece and the Ottomans throughout the year.

Ms Gemisi, Head Teacher HSIE



FROM THE SUPPORT UNIT

The Support Unit has had a colourful and creative start to Term 1.



Blue, Yellow and Pink Class - Visual Art: Students have been exploring portraiture with Ms Kidman. They have focussed on self portraits using 2D and 3D forms such as painting, collage techniques, ceramics and stencilmaking and have made their own artworks inspired by artists such as Andy Warhol and Frida Khalo.

With Ms Lee, Pink class is learning about different art styles and movements, exploring key features of art movements such as Pointillism, Impressionism and Cubism.

<u>Pink and Red Class - Technology:</u> In Ms Sood's Technology classes, students are meeting outcomes in Design and Technology by exploring the history of scrapbooking, identifying the elements of scrapbooking as a design and how to develop and present a scrapbook using scrapbooking techniques.

It has been wonderful to observe students being productive and engaged as they proudly prepare and present their work. Teachers acknowledge our student's efforts by taking great care to showcase their work on the walls and doors of their classrooms, making our learning spaces a positive and colourful place to be!

Ms Dalrymple, Head Teacher Support



2022 WISE UP PROGRAM



This term, a selected group of Year 10 students participated in the Wise Up program run by Lighthouse Community. The 8-week program is a leadership and mentoring program which provides young people with the confidence and ability to develop the strength and courage to set and achieve positive goals/pathways and outcomes. The students selected to take part where students who we identified as having a desire to take on leadership roles and to enable them to recognise their full potential. The students' workshops ranged from workshops on Identity and Well-Being to Road and Safety issues. Our students also had the opportunity to partake in cooking classes hosted by Canterbury leagues.

Overall, the students had a great experience and benefited greatly from the program. Our Student Support officer Amanda, held a weekly debrief to reinforce any messages and skills from each weeks sessions. We thank Lighthouse Community, Gandhi Sinyan for this amazing opportunity.

I want to commend them for participating and giving it their all.

Ms Ahmad



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNSEL (SRC)

On Friday March 11th we held the SRC induction ceremony. It was wonderful to have a 'regular' aspect of school in introducing our school leaders, issuing them with their badge and reciting the pledge. Congratulations to our Captain, Vice Captains and our SRC.

We look forward to seeing these impressive young women lead and inspire our school throughout 2022.



Captain: Fabbiha C

Vice Captains: Noura H and Aayusha S

Year 7 Sarah E, Reyhan A, Oula A

Year 8 Zeinab R, Jana Z, Rayann H

Year 9 Aya E, Mariam I, Hania K

Year 10 Aya E, Loriane A, Battoul H

Year 11 Zainab A, Jenan H, Ashlynn N

2021 HSC RESULTS

Congratulations to the following students for their exemplary results in achieving a Band 6 in the 2021 HSC.





FROM OUR SRC

Harmony Week =

"Kindness, accepting each other and feeling a sense of belonging."

KHADRA F Y12

"Is welcoming!"

REYHAN A Y7

"Means peace.

Be kind; everyone is struggling & experiencing adversity. Being kind to someone can make their bad day a good day. "

AAYUSHA S Y12

"No matter our differences, we are all connected in some way."

JENNAN H Y11

"To celebrate our differences."

"To celebrate peace and justice."

"Everyone belongs."

"Kindness."

OULA A Y7

"No matter who you are or the colour of your skin, we must all show respect. We give up? No, No, we grow! Your culture is what makes you, you."

BATTOUL H Y10

"United as one. "

LORIANE A Y10

Belonging, kindness and respect
Do something kind for someone every day. Trust
me, its worth it!

HANIA K V9

COMMUNITY MESSAGES:



