



Walpole Primary School Newsletter

Nature Culture Future

*important
dates*

11 – 12 August – Indonesian Teacher Visit
 15 August – Staff Development Day {no students}
 19 August – Book Week Parade
 22 August – Winter Carnival Pemberton {Years 3 – 6}
 29 August – Room 2 Assembly
 3 September – Father's Day morning tea {Room 1}



AUTHOR DIANE WOLFER VISITS WPS

This week, Walpole Primary School was honoured to host Australian children's author Dianne Wolfer, an award-winning writer whose work spans picture books, middle-grade adventures, young adult novels, and historical fiction. Dianne, who lives on the south coast of Western Australia, has authored over twenty books and completed a PhD exploring the crafting of animal characters in children's literature. Her works often feature strong Australian themes, explore family and history, and are frequently recognised with notable literary awards.

During her visit, Dianne introduced the students to her beloved picture book *Nanna's Button Tin*, inspired by her own childhood memories of playing with her mother's and grandmother's button tins — tipping them upside down, sorting buttons by shape and colour, and cherishing those tied to special moments like a party dress or a bear-shaped cardigan button. The story celebrates the subtle yet meaningful ways family traditions preserve memory and togetherness.





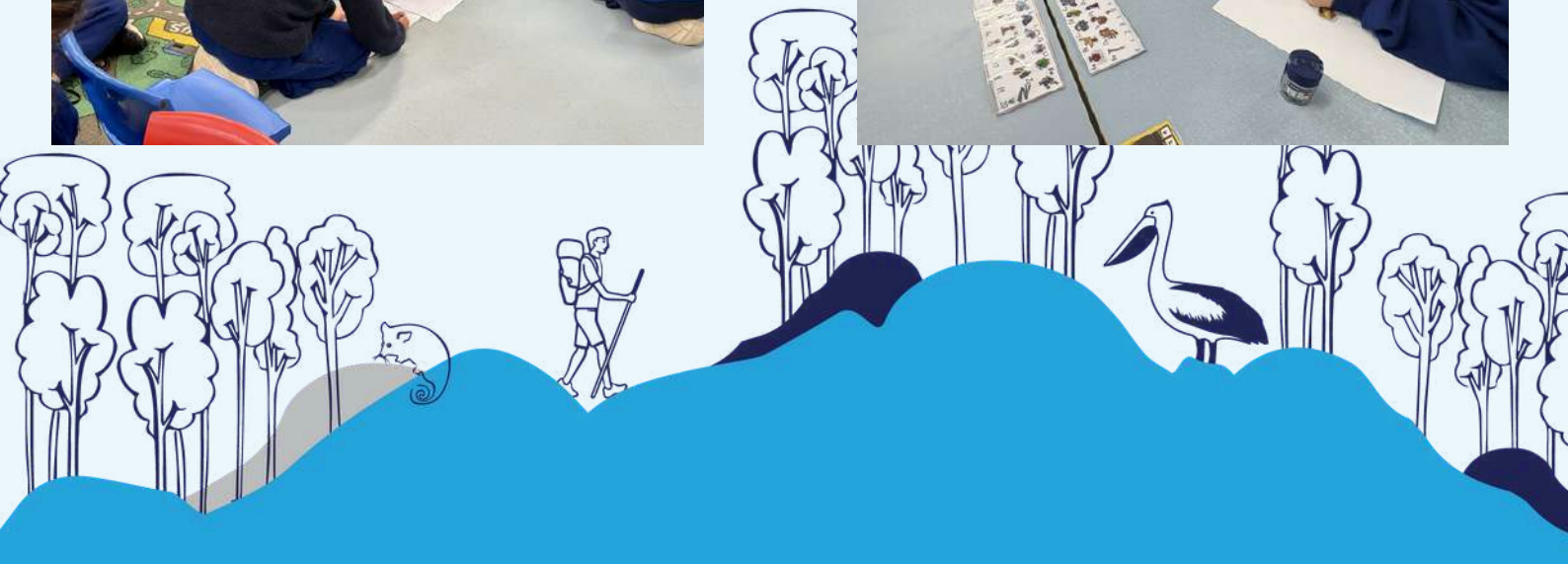
AUTHOR DIANE WOLFER VISITS WPS

She also shared insights into her historical-biographical middle-grade book *Soaring with the Sugarbird Lady*, which tells the story of Robin Miller — a pioneering nurse and pilot who delivered polio vaccines to remote communities using sugar-cube doses from the air. Robin's resilience, her ability to navigate both terrain and societal barriers, and Dianne's rich historical detail captivated students, painting a vivid picture of innovation, bravery, and compassion.

Inviting students into her creative process, Dianne challenged them to imagine a story rooted in a single button. With pencils at the ready, students planned their own narratives, exploring what memories or adventures a simple button could symbolise. The room buzzed with inventiveness and laughter as each child brought their button-inspired tale to life.

To close the incursion, Dianne guided students through the stages of illustrating and publishing a book. From early sketches and storyboarding to collaborating with illustrators and final editing, students gained a valuable understanding of the publishing world and a newfound appreciation for what goes into bringing a story from idea to printed page.

Our warm thanks go to the Shire of Manjimup, whose generous support made this enriching author visit possible. Inspired by Dianne's visit, our students now carry with them not only memories of a creative day but also a powerful message: that stories — whether sparked by buttons or brave pioneers — have the power to connect, to educate, and to soar beyond our imaginations.



From the Principal

by Stuart Klose

Kaya, parents and community members of Walpole Primary School,

It has been a very positive start to the term, with students showing enthusiasm, focus, and a genuine commitment to their learning. Classrooms have been filled with energy and a strong sense of purpose, and it has been wonderful to see students supporting each other to achieve their best.

One highlight has been the collaborative effort of a group of students who worked together to design and build an incredible cubby. This project demonstrated not only creativity and problem-solving skills, but also the value of teamwork and perseverance. The pride and sense of accomplishment they have shown is a great example of what can be achieved when students work together towards a shared goal.

On Friday 8 August, we were fortunate to host prominent children's author Diane Wolfer, who delivered a workshop on planning and writing a novel or storybook. Diane shared how she draws inspiration for her novels, the lengthy process of developing a manuscript, and the steps involved in working with illustrators and publishers. Students then had the opportunity to plan their own story, using a single button as the inspiration for their plot. Many left the session eager to bring their ideas to life on paper, and it was inspiring to see their creativity sparked by Diane's visit.

On Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 August, we welcomed the team from the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) for an interactive experience of Indonesian culture. This was a wonderful opportunity for our Year 1–6 students to meet their Indonesian teacher in person. Students enjoyed tasting Indonesian snacks, playing traditional games, and trying on traditional clothing. The Year 4–6 students also had the chance to cook an Indonesian dish, which was a highlight for many. The visit provided a rich, hands-on cultural learning experience that students will remember for years to come.

Looking ahead, the next couple of weeks are shaping up to be just as exciting. Students will be taking part in a variety of Book Week activities, including our much-loved Book Week Parade. Staff have planned a week full of engaging experiences that celebrate and promote a love of reading. In addition, our Years 3–6 students will be heading to Pemberton to compete in the annual Winter Carnival against schools from the Warren–Blackwood region in hockey, netball, and soccer. This year, thanks to Mr Nisbett's organisation, we are delighted to be fielding three teams.



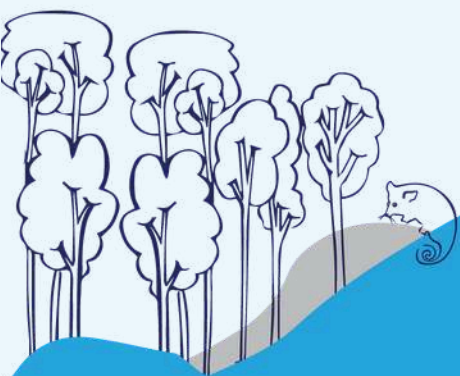
From the Principal

by Stuart Klose

I would also like to congratulate our parents and students on achieving a positive attendance rate for Semester One. We recorded a regular attendance rate — the percentage of students attending 90% or more — of 70.5%. Research from the Western Australian Telethon Kids Institute shows that every day at school counts towards a student's learning. Students who attend regularly generally do better at school and in life. Our goal is to improve on this result by the end of the year, and I thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day possible.

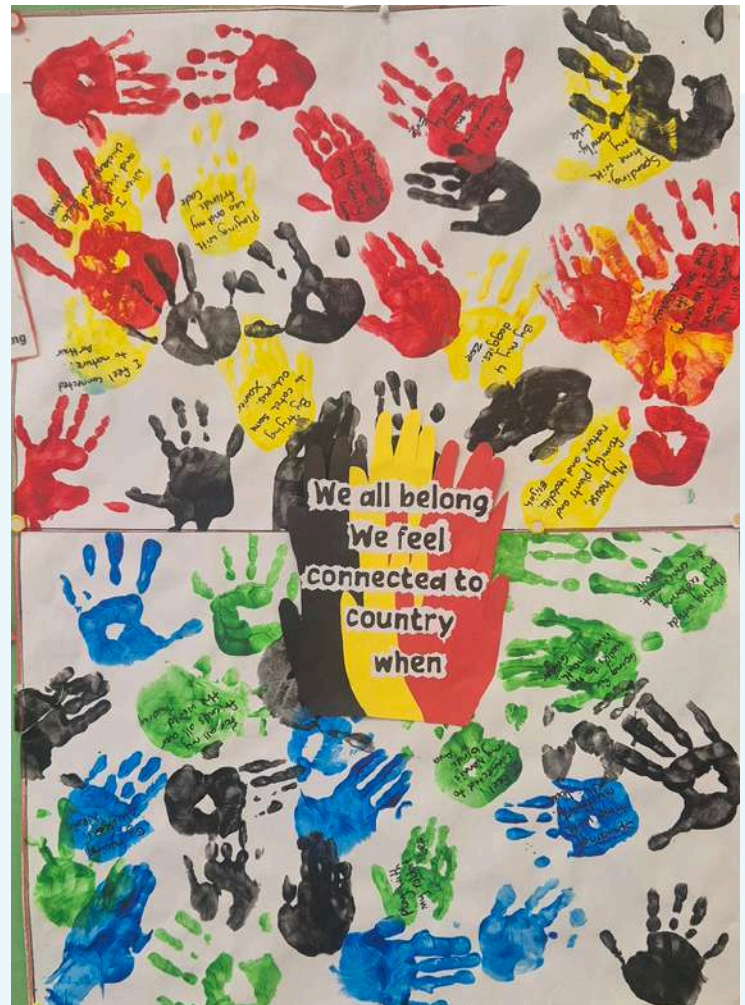
It has been a wonderful start to the term, filled with creativity, cultural exploration, and a strong focus on learning. I look forward to seeing our students continue to embrace opportunities with curiosity, enthusiasm, and a collaborative spirit.

Warm regards,
Stuart Klose



NEWS ROOM 1

In Room 1 we have been learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture for NAIDOC Week. We read books called *You and Me: Our place and Country* tells us when. We discussed where is special to us and how we feel connected to those places. We talked about being connected to country and shared how we connected to country and why.





Gratitude's the right attitude! Room 2 students have heard this phrase a lot. Practicing gratitude and regularly reflecting on the things that we are grateful for helps us to be happier people. By shifting our focus on what we have rather than what we want is a useful habit for our students to develop that will benefit them throughout their lives; at home, school and beyond.

** pics of gratitude tree, on wall and with students





NEWS ROOM 4

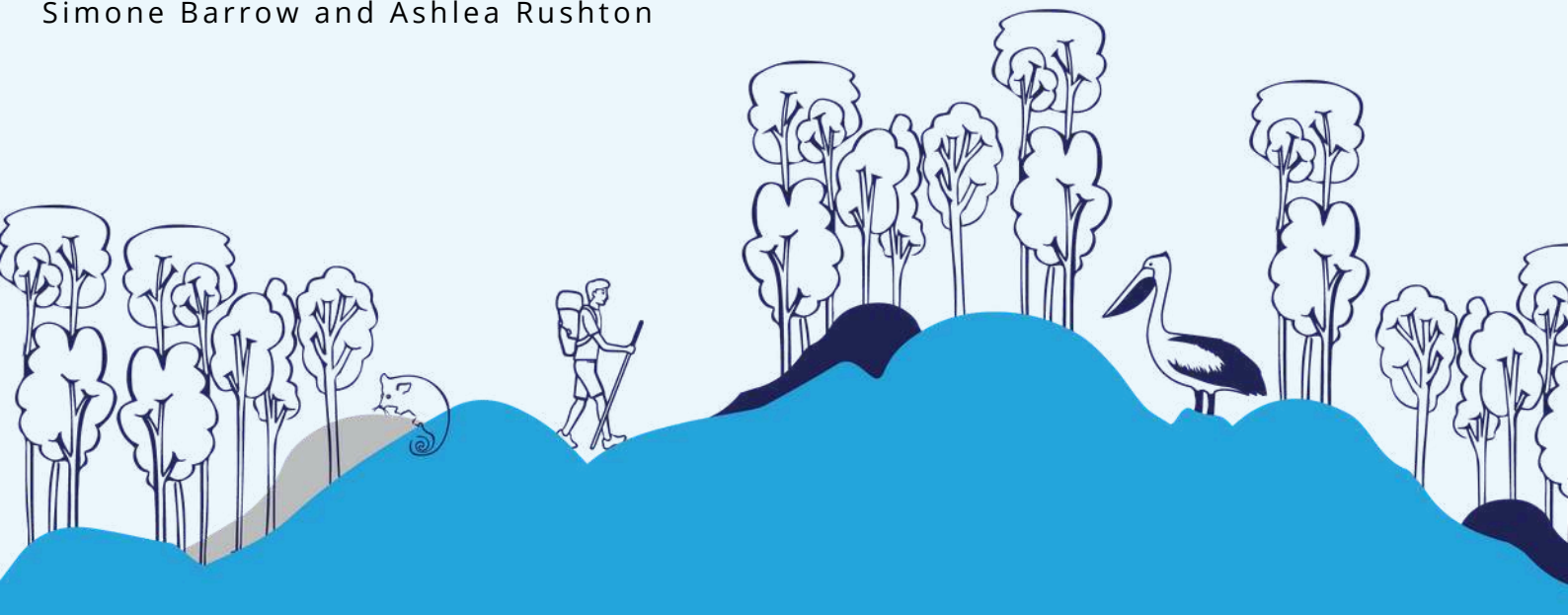
This Semester, Room 4 is being taught by Mrs Ashlea Rushton from Monday to Wednesday and myself, Mrs Simone Barrow on Thursday and Friday. While we all miss Mrs Walker, the students are to be commended for their positivity and enthusiasm, which has resulted in an excellent start to the term. Both Ashlea and I are very happy to be working with the wonderful students in Room 4 and we have been enjoying getting to know them better during the past few weeks. Our class theme for the term is the environment, climate and sustainability, and we will be focusing on this topic across a number of learning areas including English, HASS and Science, as well as in the specialist subject Design and Technology. The students have been sharing their wealth of knowledge on the topic, and we are looking forward to seeing where it takes us as the term progresses.

This term we also have an exciting opportunity for the students to participate in the Speak Up Public Speaking Competition organised by East Manjimup Primary School. We are currently writing speeches and will begin rehearsing in the coming weeks. During Week 7, three students (from years 5 or 6) will travel to Manjimup to present their speech at an interschool competition. With the many interschool sports competitions, it is fantastic to be able to provide another opportunity for students to represent their school at an interschool event.

Room 4 are also very excited to share some egg-citing news—our class will be hatching chicks this term! This hands-on project will allow Room 4 students the rare opportunity to witness the life cycle of a chicken from egg to chick, right in our classroom. This experience ties in perfectly with our integrated program this term where we are focusing on understanding and respecting the natural world around us. By caring for the eggs and observing their development, students will gain a deeper appreciation for how life begins, how delicate nature is, and how living things depend on us for care and protection.

Throughout the process, Room 4 students will be journaling their observations, asking questions, and learning to care for the chicks with love and respect. It's a perfect blend of science, compassion, and environmental awareness. We are all so excited!

Simone Barrow and Ashlea Rushton



NEWS ROOM 4





TECHNOLOGY NEWS

During Semester Two, Design and Technology will be taught on Tuesdays, and it is great to report that all three classes have made an enthusiastic start to the term. After last term's focus on wind as part of the UR Walpole program, this term we are changing tack (pardon the pun) with both Rooms 1 and 4 exploring materials and Room 2 investigating food and food production from different times and cultures.

The students from Room 1, including the Kindy students, who are joining Design and Technology for the first time this term, have been identifying and comparing manmade and natural materials, and looking at the different natural materials Indigenous Australians used to make tools and shelters.

In Room 4, the focus has been on comparing different building materials, describing their advantages and disadvantages, and identifying which materials would be best suited in specific locations or climates.

Room 2 students have completed a 'Farm to Fridge' comparison of milk production in the past to present day, identifying which processes, equipment and jobs are the same or different. This week, we moved onto the different foods people ate and how they prepared them in the 1950s and 1960s, using snippets from the ABC program "Back in Time for Dinner" as an excellent resource. I apologise if anyone requested Tripe in White Sauce for dinner this week.





Our positive behaviour support (PBS) school values of **Respect, Resilience and Responsibility** are what we link our fortnightly behaviour foci to. Each behaviour is taught explicitly by classroom teachers, practiced, reinforced and discussed at our Monday morning mini assembly. The PBS methodology is that appropriate and positive behaviours need to be taught and this approach reduces most low-level undesirable behaviours that can impact student's experiences of school, both in the classroom and the wider school community.

We focus on two positive behaviours at a time, whilst reinforcing the previously taught behaviours. For weeks three and four, our behaviours are to contribute to classroom discussions and school activities, which is in our **Resilient** value; and to enter and exit doorways respectfully, which is in our **Respect** value. Students demonstrating these behaviours are acknowledged by receiving a Dojo point and students are working towards 50 individual points to receive their first PBS wristband. Students are working towards reaching a whole-school reward towards the end of Term 3 and suggestions have been coming in from our Year 6 leadership team for possible rewards.

It is encouraging to see students embrace PBS and remind their peers of different behaviour foci. Part of the PBS ethos is that language is positive, so a focus on what to do as opposed to telling students what not to do. This simple change can be quite powerful in effecting positive change. Reminding a student that we show **Responsibility** by walking along the verandah, rather than telling them to not run on the verandah is an effective approach and the students are developing this skill of framing their reminders to their peers by using positive language.

By the time you're reading our next newsletter the first wristbands will have been awarded to students with 50 Dojo points and a whole-school reward decided upon. Stay tuned!





LIBRARY NEWS



BOOK WEEK 2025 - it's nearly here!!

To celebrate CBCA's 2025 Book Week, our **BOOK PARADE** here at Walpole Primary is set for **Tuesday 19 August**.

We're looking forward to seeing lots of creative fun for our dress ups!

Our Year 6 leaders had a great time this week checking out our lovely selection of **NEW BOOKS** that have just arrived at school - thanks to a grant from our Walpole Community OP SHOP.

We'll be joining book lovers all over Australia to find out the winners of the 2025 Book Awards, and we'll spend Book Week exploring all the amazing books we are celebrating.

Can't wait to see you here!





COMMUNITY NEWS



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

Hey kids! We need your help.

We have created a new page just for kids to go on our website.

Before it goes live, we need your ideas to make it better.
If you're under 18, we want to hear from you.



Take our survey

It's fun, easy and helps us make the page the best it can be.



Tell us what you think

What do you love? What could be better? What would you add?

Scan the QR code to get started



Get in touch

WA Country Health Service
Population Health

Email:

wachsconsumerengagement@health.wa.gov.au

www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au



The artwork in this publication is the work of Leonora Kelly-Pedersen



COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • QUALITY • INTEGRITY • EQUITY • CURIOSITY



CONTRIBUTIONS 2025

Contributions have been set at \$60.00 per child for 2025. Payment of these enables the school to support your child's education by providing materials, services and facilities such as:

- cooking ingredients
- materials for arts and crafts, design and technology, and science activities
- class sets of resources
- access to educational software systems such as Mathletics.

This equates to \$1.50 per week or \$15.00 per term. The school is very happy to support families wishing to set up a payment plan, please contact the office and organise to meet with the Manager Corporate Services.



BUS NOTIFICATION

To assist the smooth departure of the school buses, **could you please contact the office via phone or email before 2pm** if there is to be a change in plans for children getting home. Please also contact the office regarding ongoing changes such as participation in after-school sport on Wednesdays (when running).



FEELING UNWELL

Families are reminded that if your child is unwell with flu like symptoms that they stay home until their symptoms resolve.

To ensure the safety of our students, parents please make sure that the office has the most up to date medical details for your child.





*email your
newsletter
items to:*

walpole.ps@education.wa.edu.au or dropped off at
the office by 3pm Monday of newsletter week.
Newsletters this term will be made available from
our website on Friday of Week 3, 7 and 10.



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