

## MESSAGE FROM MS CONNELL

Late last year I spoke to the Director Educational Leadership and advised her that the time had come for me to retire and that the final day of Term 1 2020 would see my 43 years of educational service conclude. There never seemed to be the right time to tell our students as Term 1 commenced with concerns caused by bushfires, then we had our usual floods but then COVID-19 just changed school as we know it in the blink of an eye.



So, instead of saying farewell in person I write this message of thanks to the staff, students, parents and wider community. I stayed at Wollumbin much longer than I intended and it is because of all of you. I am proud to be Principal of Wollumbin High School because public education matters.

Educating young people is not for the faint hearted and delivering the quality of education to meet the ever changing, global world we live in is a challenge the teachers at Wollumbin High School rise to. The students and I are privileged to have teachers who are so committed to their students.

Students bring a wealth of experiences and perspectives to their classrooms. They are the very reason I became a teacher many years ago and they are the very reason that my decision to retire was a difficult one. Students at Wollumbin High School make me proud to be their Principal. The reputation of the school reflects the quality of our students who are the future of our nation.

The School Administrative Officers, Student Learning and Support Officers, Technical Support Officer, canteen staff, cleaning team and grounds staff all go above and beyond for students. I could not have done my job without you. Thank you.

The value of the school, parents, volunteers and community working in partnership to support student learning is without question. I have really valued your support during my time as Principal. I especially want to thank the members of the P&C – you are an amazing team.

I leave Wollumbin with very mixed emotions but know it is time for the next phase of my journey to begin – there will be learning, new challenges and opportunities and more time for fun with my grandchildren.

I leave with many memories to cherish for the rest of my life and thank the WHS community for making my role as Principal so rewarding; it has been an honour and a privilege.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Ms Louise Stanley received her 20 Year Service Certificate for her outstanding contribution to NSW Public Education.



## STUDY SKILLS HANDBOOK NEWSLETTER TIP FOR APRIL

You will also find links to lots of online learning resources as well as resources for stress management, such as this great video from Human Connections: <https://humanconnections.com.au/blog/dealing-with-the-stress-and-anxiety-of-coronavirus/>

The login details for our school are  
User name: wollumbinhs  
Password: 48success

## TERM 2

We welcome Mr Guy Wright, who will be relieving as Principal for the remainder of the year. Mr Wright is an experienced Principal who is looking forward to joining our Wollumbin community.

**Term 2 commences as usual with a School Development Day on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, which is student free.**

Term 2 will then continue with students being involved in Learning from Home delivery. The Department of Education anticipates this being for most, if not all, of Term 2.

We ask all parents who are able to care for their children at home to please do so. Schools are classified as essential services and as such will remain open to help other essential service workers.

The canteen will not be open during Term 2.

Google classroom and physical packages will continue as our mode of delivery. On-line learning has been a big adjustment for all of us – students, staff and parents. We anticipate the intensity of information you have been receiving the past few weeks will reduce as we settle into a routine.

The Learning Activities provided at the end of Term 1 will be due for submission on 1<sup>st</sup> May, for all students, unless the classroom teacher has identified otherwise in their instructions to students. Our preference is that students persevere with Google Classroom as their learning mode. If your student needs a loan laptop to support their learning please phone the school as we are working with our parents to support as many students as possible.

If you wish to move your student to physical packages (after they have tried to give online learning a serious try) please contact the school to discuss. We now have our list of students for whom packages will be supplied. Printing of

packages is completed the Tuesday, prior to distribution, and hence requests for any new student additions to physical package compilation must be no later than the Monday prior to printing. e.g package distribution would be available on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - printing will be on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April - request for new student inclusion on package list would have to be no later than Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

The provision of learning units will cycle on a fortnightly basis until further notice (see the table below). It will be important the office staff know whether they need to post packages home or you will collect. We are allowing time for this to occur in our organisation processes but delay in collecting packages does not extend the due date for students. Date on posted packages should reflect the expected due date for return if not being dropped into school.

Phone calls and contact by staff has commenced. If 'private number' comes up on your phone it is likely a staff member calling you on their personal phone as our school lines have been in overload.

As parent updates are mostly by email it is important we know how to provide information to you if you cannot access emails at home. Is there someone who can share the information with you via their email address? Please let the school know if you haven't already done so. If we post an update, it could be well out of date before you receive the information.

We hope the resources enclosed in the package you have received with this Talkabout provide valuable information for you and your children.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We will continue to keep you updated as the need arises.

Student Learning Units Overview					
	Google Classroom -upload of learning activities for students	Due date for student completion on line		Print packages available from school on Wednesdays	Due date for return of student learning activities to school
Unit 1		1 <sup>st</sup> May			1st May
Unit 2	4 <sup>th</sup> May	15 <sup>th</sup> May		29 <sup>th</sup> April	15 <sup>th</sup> May
Unit 3	18 <sup>th</sup> May	29 <sup>th</sup> May		13 <sup>th</sup> May	29 <sup>th</sup> May
Unit 4	1 <sup>st</sup> June	12 <sup>th</sup> June		27 <sup>th</sup> May	12 <sup>th</sup> June
Unit 5	15 <sup>th</sup> June	26 <sup>th</sup> June		10 <sup>th</sup> June	26 <sup>th</sup> June

## TERM 1 : THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Term 1 concludes on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. It's been an amazing few weeks by any measure. To start with I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who is connected with our school – students, parents, staff, community and businesses have all been superb during this challenging time. We are all living with layers of anxiety and uncertainty at present. We are all wondering when life will return to what we once knew?

Thank you for what you are doing to respect the social distancing and hygiene measures. It is helping to keep our community safe. As hard as it may be, please keep this up.

I wanted to thank our parents and carers for the amazing job they are doing helping students with their 'at home' learning, especially those who are also trying to work from home or get to work each day. It's a juggling act, it's unfamiliar territory but it's being done well. I am particularly grateful for how you are interacting with staff and your messages of support and thanks.

To our valued students, thank you. We know many of you are working very hard to keep your school work moving forward. It's not a perfect world at the moment, but many of you are doing your best with your school work. Well done. Please be assured you can ask questions. The teachers are here to help. Please ask for help or talk to your teacher about challenges you face.

To our phenomenal staff. Wow. What a team. In the space of a few short days the teachers transitioned much of the face-to-face learning to a Learning from Home model supported by the School Administrative Officers and the School Learning Support Officers. There was a significant shift in the nature of learning and I acknowledge: the work involved, the quality of that work prepared, the adjustments to learning programs, the printing, the preparation of USB resources, the learning of new technologies, the adjustments to routines and the contact with parents and students. This all occurred within the change staff have experienced in their daily lives within the context of the layers of COVID-19 experienced by everyone in the community. You are part of an amazing team and our community is so fortunate to have you working at Wollumbin.

As most of the routines we have put in place were done with knowledge held at the time, and as times progress, things change and so we continue to reflect on our practices. I ask you to understand we will make refinements and adjustments to how we are doing things to ensure the best outcomes for our students and families.

The Department of Education has a great website established to support 'at home' learning. Go to

[www.education.nsw.gov.au](http://www.education.nsw.gov.au) and click on the red "Access Our Resources" button.

I thank everyone for your support. Just as you and your children are doing your best, so are staff at Wollumbin High School. We are all in this together.

Karen Connell

## POSTPONED OR CANCELLED

Matilda the Musical scheduled for the end of Term 2 will be postponed until later in the year. Message from Mr Collett and Mr Glasby : "Keep singing, keep rehearsing Your lines and use this time to really work on your Musical theatre skills!"

Cross Country (15<sup>th</sup> May) has been cancelled.

Athletics Carnival (11<sup>th</sup> June) has been cancelled.

Quality Portfolios will be cancelled for this year – we feel students have enough on their plate.

Snow Trip – has now been cancelled. We are in the process of seeking refunds from the vendors. Parents will receive a full refund even if the school has to wear some of the cost due to cancellation. It is likely to be mid - May (taking into account the school holidays) before we have the refund process in place **and we will contact you** when we can activate this process. Please don't phone or email asking for an instant refund as this will not happen and just increase the workload for the Administration staff.

P&C Meetings are suspended until further notice.

NAPLAN has been cancelled.

Parent/Teacher on 17<sup>th</sup> May has been postponed

10 into 11 Subject Selection Expo scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> has been postponed.

## AN INTERESTING SITE

Something for the whole family to enjoy. Explore the world from the comfort of your home. Visit galleries, museums, parks, gardens, libraries, zoos, aquariums and even the Opera House. Newy for kids (a website based in Newcastle) has compiled a list of virtual tours you can take at <https://newywithkids.com.au/best-virtual-tours-australia/> (Shared with permission from the owner of the website).