



# WARIALDA PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## 2021 Jelly Bean Cup





# NEWS FROM MR V'S DESK...

Thank you to all of our parents who have attended either the Athletic Carnival or Jelly Bean Cup over the past week and have done so adhering to our COVID-Safe requirements. I know that our team is always willing to go the 'extra mile' in running such events as we are so confident in the support that we receive from our school community.

Over the weekend, there were confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Armidale LGA. This news has had flow on effects for our community as many families and students have been in that particular area since the date issued as part of the Public Health Order. Ultimately, this situation has led to great confusion specifically around the wording of the Stay at Home Orders and how these apply to children. I wish to acknowledge that I have also found these somewhat confusing and have sought further clarification from the Department of Education. You may notice that I have increased quantities of grey hair! I can assure you though that the advice we have given to our school community is correct in that **students can attend school even if they were in the Armidale LGA**. However, they must not attend school if they are unwell in any way. For those parents who are still not comfortable in sending their children to school at this stage, please feel supported to make a decision that is right for your family. Make a decision that you are comfortable with and we'll support you! **Please also respect the rights of other families to do what they feel is correct. These are incredibly tricky times!**

Each fortnight, we conduct a comprehensive review of attendance data for the previous period and the year to date. Our main focus remains on lifting the attendance of students whose rate is less than 90%. Did you know that if your child has 20 days off in a school year, it is impossible to achieve a rate of 90% or better? 20 days is a huge amount of days away from learning and whilst there can be totally valid and acceptable reasons, too often there are not. It was extremely pleasing to see that in the last two-week period, eight students jumped above 90% with improved attendance.

On Friday, I shared a link via our school Facebook page asking for parents to update their email address and to provide some simple details around technology at home. The simple reason that we are undertaking this data collection is that in a worse case scenario where we need to shift back to a remote learning model, we want to be well and truly ahead of the game. Let's hope that we don't need to cross that bridge again.

Last week, our Year 6 students attended Warialda High School to participate in a transition event. Each of the students returned to school excited about the opportunities that await them at secondary school and I wish to thank the team at WHS for hosting such an important event.

On Wednesday, our Kinder students celebrated their 100th day of life at school. What an occasion! All of the students came dressed as their more senior self and had a memorable day participating in activities that focus on the number 100. The amount of work and effort that goes on behind the scenes to make an event like this happen is incredible and I wanted to acknowledge Naomi Cole and Peta Jeffree who put so much love and care into making these events possible.

Congratulations to the Warialda Warriors debating team who competed against Barraba Central School – arguing their way to an impressive victory last week. The Premier's Debating Competition is now completed for 2021 and I wish to thank the students involved and their teacher – Mrs Jody van Velthuisen for the commitment and effort to this activity.

On Friday, our 5, 6 & 7 year old students had a wonderful day at the Jelly Bean Cup. It was excellent to be able to have parents at this event - adhering to the COVID-Safe plan. The day was filled with smiles and laughter and could not have gone ahead without the huge efforts of our dedicated staff. Congratulations to all of the staff and students for making this such a memorable day.

Best wishes are extended to Cooper, Levi, Lucy, Annie, Archie and Roley who will complete the ICAS Digital Technologies Assessment this Thursday. These assessments are exceptionally challenging and provide an opportunity to test themselves against other students from across Australia. We look forward to sharing results as they come to hand.

Have an excellent week!

Dan van Velthuisen  
Principal



## Debate against Barraba Central Green

The Warialda Warriors (Roley van Velthuisen, Max Barwick, Charles Turnbull and Lucy Kelly) participated in the last round of the Premier's Debating Challenge on Thursday last week. The theme was 'Health and Fitness'.

They debated against Barraba Central School on the topic 'Scores should never be kept in games in Primary Schools'. The Warriors argued very well against this topic and were successful in winning their final debate.

It's been wonderful seeing both debating teams develop their skills during this debating season. They have been a fantastic group of students to work with.

Great job Warriors and Wombats!

Jody van Velthuisen  
Debating Coordinator



Congratulations to all these champions and runners-up from the Athletics Carnival. Well done to Cleal who won on the day...



# 100

# Days of Kindergarten...

