



# WAGIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

*Providing an empowering environment for life-long learning*



## Newsletter, 5 February 2020

Welcome everyone to the new school year.

Walking around Monday morning it was terrific to hear the students so enthusiastic about being back at school. Thank you to all our families for supporting your child to have a great start to the year. It was wonderful to see so many students in uniform and prepared for the term.

We welcome several new families to our school and community and give a warm welcome to our Kindy students and their families. It is a very exciting time for all of these families.

Wagin District High School staff are looking forward to providing an empowering learning environment to support your child's life-long learning journey. Our motto of AIM HIGH is more than just academics - it is also about providing the students with the confidence and skills to challenge themselves and have a 'give it a go' attitude.

Staff had two very positive, productive days before students returned. The Thursday focused on how our school operates, what we at Wagin DHS value and how we can best support your child to be the best they can be. Friday staff spent a collaborative day in Katanning with other staff from the Great Southern Network. The day was hosted by Luke George and focused on their own wellbeing and strategies for maintaining a positive work/life balance.

We all feel refreshed and ready for a productive and enjoyable 2020!

Kind regards  
Tracy Pickering  
Principal  
[Tracy.Pickering@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Tracy.Pickering@education.wa.edu.au)



## Staff & Structure

2020 is here and is going to be stupendous! The entire Wagin DHS staff are looking forward to providing an empowering learning environment to support your child's life-long learning journey. Keep reading for staffing and class structure.

We welcome a few new staff members this year.

**Miss Shelby Upson** has joined the Early Childhood team in the Year 1/2 room. As a graduate teacher her energy and enthusiasm has already been warmly embraced.

**Mr Mark Traynor** is an experienced Maths teacher who is joining us for the first half of this term while we run a process for a long term Maths/Phys Ed teacher. Mr Traynor is travelling around Australia so we are happy for him to impart his expertise whilst here.

**Mr Sam Morgan** is joining us from Thursday, 6 February and will be supporting in Science and Phys Ed for Term 1.

### Our class structures for 2020 are:

Kindy with Mrs Little

Pre-Primary with Mrs Spooner

Year 1 with Ms Child

Year 1/2 with Miss Upson

Year 2/3 with Ms Bennett

Year 3/4 with Mrs Pangler

Year 4 with Mrs Gannaway & Mrs Pederick

Year 5/6 with Miss Smith

Year 5/6 with Mrs Ward & Mrs Kellow

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9/10

Secondary staff include Ms Bickers, Mrs King, Mrs Pieterse, Miss van Leeuwen, Mr Parker, Mr Traynor and Mr Morgan.

Our awesome classroom and student support staff include:

**Education Assistants:** Mrs Montgomery, Mrs Quinn, Mrs Diver, Mrs Hancock, Mrs Hall, Mrs Reed, Mrs Eckersley and Mrs Johnson

**AIEO:** Emmaline Winmar continues this year as AIEO. At this stage she is in 2 days per week, Monday and Wednesday. Families will be notified via letter next Monday of the new arrangements and how that may affect their children.

**Chaplain:** Jill Pilkington will be available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.

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## Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons are tentatively due to start on Monday, 17 February and will run for 2 weeks. (Staffing is yet to be confirmed). It will then be followed by our Swimming Carnival on Wednesday, 4 March.

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## Communication

It is essential that the school & parents work harmoniously to support your child by ensuring strong communication. Emails, the school newsletter & website, classroom diaries & face-to-face are key forms of communication. Please ensure your child's teacher knows your preferred communication method.

**Classroom meetings:** These will occur over the next 2 weeks. Staff are looking forward to meeting with you and outlining their classroom processes.

**Term outlines:** Please note that all classroom/Learning Area outlines will be found on the school website after next Wednesday. You may also receive a hard copy at the classroom meetings.

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## Positive Behaviour Culture

A lot of changes were implemented last year to support improved behaviour and engagement across the school. This has included reviewing a number of policies. Students have risen to the increased expectations and the tone across the school this week has been positive and engaging.

**EMUS:** We continue to use our positive reinforcers, EMUS, to help all school members - students, staff, parents and community - to be Engaged, use our Manners, show Understanding and Strive. Each newsletter we will include the focus for the fortnight so that parents are able to use the language to reinforce the positive expectations at home as well as school.

**Mobile Phones:** As has been noted in various media, the most significant change is the introduction of a new Mobile Phone in Public Schools policy. This is a Department initiative and thus is mandated within all public schools. Mobile phone use is no longer permitted at school between school hours inclusive of recess and lunch. Please contact the office if you require clarification.

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## Support/Volunteering

Parent support is always welcomed at WDHS. Whether it be as a classroom helper in the morning supporting the reading program, canteen helper or carnival support, help is always welcomed. We have an incredibly proactive and supportive P & C who would love to hear from you.

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## School Council Parent Nomination

Wagin DHS has a proactive and supportive School Council. This year there will be one parent position and one staff member position available. The role of a School Council Representative is to be the voice of the parent body.

We meet twice a term on a Tuesday afternoon 5.30-7.30pm. The role is ideally for a 3 year tenure 2020 - 2022. Next newsletter there will be a link to an online nomination form with a submission date of Friday, 28 February. The elected parent will be notified by 5 March and invited to attend a School Council Training session the following week. Any queries please contact Tracy Pickering or Anita Longmuir via school on 9861 3200.

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## Student Leadership

Students will again this year have the opportunity to run for Student Council and Faction Captains. The Student Council will look slightly differently this year so please



keep reading to find out more.

**Faction Captains:** The nomination forms for Student Council will be available to students this Friday. A primary and secondary representative from each Faction is required.

**Student Councillors:** The nomination forms for Student Council will be available to students this Friday. Positions will be as follow: 2 x Year 6, 2 x Year 7, 2 x Year 8, 2 x Year 9, 2 x Year 10, 1 x Captain, 1 x Vice Captain. The nomination paperwork will require students to answer a few key questions and have a person over the age of 18 be an advocate for them. This is so that time out of class is acknowledged. The timeline will be as follows:

**Week 1 Friday** – nominations go out. Ms Pickering to speak to Year 6-10 students about expectations.

**Week 2 Friday** – nominations due in (no extensions).

**Week 3** – Eligible nominees will present their speeches to their year group. Candidates for Captain will speak in front of the student body.

**Week 4** – Elections to be held (Date yet to be confirmed)

**Week 5/6** – Elected Factions Captains and Student Councillors to help at Swimming Carnival and Assemblies respectively.

**Week 9** – Student Leaders Camp to Camp Kulin Monday, 30 March to Wednesday, 1 April. (A cost will be associated with this).

Students may apply for both positions. In the event that they win both Student Councillor and Faction Captain they will be asked to make a decision. The demands of each role will require students to be out of class at different times therefore holding two positions is not in a child's best interests academically. It also allows for wider spread student leadership.

The beginning of the year is an exciting time but you may have additional questions so if at any time you have queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us on 9861 3200.



## Uniform Shop

A reminder that the uniform shop is open every Friday between 8.30–10.00am. It is located at the front of the school near the staff carpark in the demountable. Secondhand uniforms are available from \$5.



## What did you do at school today?

**Moving beyond asking, "What did you do at school?"** by Michael Grose. Ever found yourself asking your child the same bland question about school? "So, how was your day? What did you do at school today? What did you learn?"

If these are your default questions the chances are that you'll get a one or two word reply along the lines, "Fine!" "Good!" "Okay" "Nothing much."

These answers don't really tell you a lot. On the other hand, these types of questions don't ask a great deal. So how can you move beyond the mundane when you talk with kids about their school days?

The questions you ask to prompt a conversation will often say a great deal about you and what you value. If you focus only on academic or learning questions, then it indicates that's what you value. It helps to take conversations and your questions in different directions to get a multi-faceted window into your child's school life but also an indication of your child's interests, social skills and welfare. Here are some examples of question starters that may prompt different responses from kids about their time at school:

1. Tell me what made you laugh today?
2. Who did you play with at recess today?
3. Did you do anything that was brave?
4. If I spoke to your teacher, what would she tell me about you?
5. What did your teacher talk about today?
6. Is there anyone in your class who needs to be in time out?
7. Where's the best place to hang out/play at school?
8. Tell me one good thing that happened to you today?
9. Who were you nice/kind/friendly to today?
10. Did anyone push your buttons today?
11. What did you do that you were proud of/happy with today?
12. What's something you learned with a friend today?
13. What's your teacher's most important rule?
14. If today was a musical instrument what would it be? Why?
15. If you were a teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class



## Canteen

Our canteen is back up and running and still has the amazing Christine Lunt managing it. The menu has not changed from last year and the new roster is out. Both can be found [here](#) on our website.

### Event Quick View

Mon 17th February to Fri 28th February

[Swimming Lessons](#)

Mon 2nd March

[Labour Day](#)

Wed 4th March

[Swimming Carnival](#)

Fri 6th March

[Staff Development Day](#)

Fri 6th March to Sat 7th March

[Woolorama](#)

[Click here to go to our Events Calendar](#)