



Newsletter – 28 July, 2024

Dear Wakakirri families,

The team has been working very hard and the item is looking great. In our last rehearsal we practised setting and clearing the stage (which has to be done in 2 minutes without adult assistance). We were hoping to use the large wooden tree from the 2023 concert but it is too big and heavy for students to manage. My husband (Mark Westwood) is kindly making us a smaller version to use.

The students are to be commended for their team work and dedication. Performing is not just about what happens on the stage. Students have to be organised and fast to get in and out of costumes, get props ready and follow directions.

Did you know that there are 26 events with over 150 schools all around Australia involved in Wakakirri Story Dance 2024?

Reminder - Foundation to school (all students). In a named zip lock bag. Leave at the office or bring Thursday or Friday.

Tickets went on sale in June, if you have not bought yours - I suggest you do so asap as there are only limited tickets left.

Costumes were sent home on Friday. Please try them on and take a photo.

NO EATING IN COSTUMES

It would be advantageous to have your child practise getting in and out of costumes quickly. The dressing room at Wakakirri is a large room with all schools together.

Students will not be changing in the toilets so please help your child to get in and out of costumes while protecting their privacy.

Suggestion

Get costumes ready. Be quick.

For girls – take off tracksuit pants and leave top over underwear. Put tights on. Put dress on over tights and lift up to cover the body before removing top.

For boys to as above with pants. I suggest boys wear a singlet top under their costume.

We have 2 performances for families. This is great practise for all our students, gives family and friends the opportunity to see the show and also gives our 2 students who are away for the event, the chance to perform. Please invite anyone you would like.

At the Sunday performance we are doing full hair and make-up. I will put up a backdrop for students to pose in front of. Parents I encourage you to take photos and would love you to email copies to me.

Final after school rehearsal this week until 4.30.

Collect from community centre at 4.30 or come and watch

Send me a text message to **0416 040 120** with your name and your child's name and I will save your number in my phone to make contacting you quicker.

Footwear

Boys

- runners (birthday)

- magic and detention (school shoes)

Girls

Jazz or ballet shoes (I have tried to fit most girls with second hand shoes)
or as above for boys

Hair styles:

Children: bun (with blue hat on right side of head)

Girls -

Magic: Pony tail (Witches hat)

Birthdays: Pony tail or pig tails (pink sequin headband with feather)

Detention: Pony tail or pig tails (black / silver sequin head band)

Boys -

Magic: Cape with hood

Birthdays: Blue Hat

Detention: Hat



Show Date – Friday 23 August

Frankston Arts Centre: 7.15pm – 9 (approx.)

Dismissal – 9-9.30 from the dressing rooms

Our Story: The Magic Faraway Tree

Children visit the Magic Faraway Tree. The Land of Magic and Birthdays are both fun but in the Land of Detention they are thrown in the school jail. How will they escape?

1. Children visit lands above the Magic Faraway Tree
2. The Land of Magic
3. The Land of Birthdays
4. The Land of Detention
5. Children are thrown into the school jail
6. The Great Escape
7. Celebration

Key Message: Your imagination can open up many worlds

Behind the scenes stories: This is the first time that St Leonard's primary school have entered. The team have been very excited to perform for the school, the families and even the preps for 2025.

Festival Motif – Belonging: St Leonard's used the "Belonging" motif to our rehearsals. Our students all belong to the team. As such, they help, support and care for each other. Students have taken on the teaching of dances to other students and appreciated the unique gifts and talents that each member brings to the team.

Why this story: St Leonard's primary school performed "The Magic Faraway Tree" for our 2024 concert. We picked our favourite lands and re-told a different version of the story. We want to remind everyone of the importance of story telling, reading and using your imagination.

Puppet Play: To encourage the students at St Leonard's to improve their story telling abilities and tap into their imagination, the Wakakirri team are offering "Puppet Play" twice a week for any interested students.

Rehearsals and performances

Term 3

Week 3: Friday 2 August 1.30 – 5.00

Extra rehearsal with Ms Ellis & Miss Campli 3.15 – 4.30 (Function rooms)

Families welcome

Week 4: Performances for school and families

Sunday 4 August: Sports Hall - 2.00 - 5.00

Costumes, hair, make-up

Wear your costume with a dressing gown or jacket over the top

Long hair in pony tail, pig tails or bun (as per your group)

Wear shoes and bring dance shoes

Bring:

- Brush
- Costume bag with hair accessories
- Change of clothes (we will leave costumes at school ready for Friday's performances)
- Water bottle

Thank you to the parents who have offered to help with hair and make-up helpers

Make-up instructions:

Basic stage make-up

Foundation

Lipstick – red

Eyeshadow – blue

Eyeliner – black

Glitter

Dragons – green stripes

Bunnies – nose and whiskers

2.00: Arrive in costume with a jacket / dressing gown, clothes to change into

2.00 - 3.00: Hair, make-up and costumes

3.00 - 3.30: Rehearsal

3.30 - 4.00: Performance for families (all friends and family welcome)

4.00 - 5.00: Change out of costumes, Pack up - everything back to the Performing Arts room. Costumes remain at school.

At least one parent of each child must remain in attendance from 2.00 - 5.00 and be responsible for any medical issues that may arise. Please have asthma puffers, epipens and any medications, as required.

Friday 9 August: Sports Hall (costumes but no make-up)

(Costumes will be at school)

11.00 - 11.30: Eat lunch

11.30 - 12.30: Get into costumes and rehearse

1.00 – 1.30: Performance for school

1.30 - 2.00: Rest, Eat

Bring a dressing gown if you want to eat with your costumes on

2.00 – 2.30: Performance for Prep 2025

2.30 – 3.15: Rest, Eat (dressing gown over costume)

3.15 - 4.30: Ms Ellis & Miss Sammut

3.15 - 3.30: Prepare

3.30 - 4.00: Performance for families. All family, friends and school community are invited to watch this performance.

4.00 - 4.30: Change out of costumes, Costumes and Props back to the Performing Arts room.

Costumes remain at school

Week 5: Friday 16 August 1.30 – 3.15. – Function rooms NOT AVAILABLE

Week 6: Wakakirri Story Dance at Frankston Arts Centre

See extended timetable for more details

Friday 23 August:

9am – 11am: Function rooms

11am – 12pm: Bus trip

12pm – 9.30pm: Frankston Arts Centre

Week 7: Wakakirri Party (more details to come)

What happens on Friday 23 August?

Costume bags will be at school

Wear: Sports uniform and runners

Long hair: Pony tail, pig tails or bun (as per your group)

Bring:

- Dance shoes if not in costume bag
- Hair brush and hair tie (long hair)
- Deodorant
- Moisturiser and face wipes (if needed)
- Book to read for quiet time
- Food and drinks (as below)
- A warm jacket
- Bag (does not need to be a school bag)
- Medication

Food and drinks:

- 2 water bottles
- Morning tea
- Lunch
- Afternoon tea
- Snacks

(Food needs to be easy to eat and please provide more than they will need)

Staff: Cathy Ellis, Anthony Adaman, Bianca Campli

Parent helpers: Tina Sasso, Melanie Harper

Lighting: Justin Harper

Transport (after the event): All available (I will be in touch with details)

8.45am: Students go to their classroom for morning attendance

9am: Meet in the function rooms (community centre)

9.00 – 10.30: Rehearse

10.30 – 11.00: Eat

Bus will arrive at 11am

Load the bus and drive to Frankston Arts Centre

Arrival at Frankston about 11.45

Unload props

Meet with Wakakirri Staff

Eat Lunch

Get into costumes (no make-up)

1.15 – 1.45: Rehearsal on stage

2 rehearsals with lighting and all props

During this time, the judges will watch and offer suggestions

1.45 – 4.00: Get out of costumes and back into sports uniforms, Watch other schools rehearse, Rest time, Eat

4.00 – 5.00 – Hair, make-up and costumes

5.00 – 7.00: Professional Photos (these can be purchased)

Students read and rest

7.00: Pack up and be ready for the show

7.15: The Show begins

We will find out the order of the show late afternoon. I will send a text message to families when we are notified.

9.00pm (approx.): Show ends

9.00 – 9.30: Students get out of costumes, pack up

Parents collect from dressing rooms and go home.

It is always really busy while all parents are trying to collect their children. We will wait 10 - 15 minutes to avoid the congestion. Parents – don't rush. We will just relax backstage and enjoy the last part of the evening.

Parents helpers to transport props. Please take them home and bring to school when convenient and leave in the Performing Arts room.

Schools performing: Clyde Secondary College, Hallam Primary School, Keysborough Secondary College, Mount Dandenong Primary School, Somerville Primary School, St Leonard's School

Other Information -

Supervision: St Leonard's staff will assist Cathy Ellis to supervision after school sessions. Parents need to supervise their own children on the Sunday rehearsal and performance.

Permission: Parents will need to give permission for any out of school hours activities, travelling on the bus and attending the event at Frankston Arts Centre. A permission note including availability of students to attend out of school hours rehearsals and performances has been completed by families.

Contacting Cathy Ellis: It is not normal practice for teachers to give mobile phone numbers, but my situation is different as I run my own Performing Arts school and my number is readily available. I can be contacted either through the school email or on this number via text message.

Cathy Ellis – 0416 040 120 – Text Messages only

Many thanks,
Cathy Ellis

WAKAKIRRI

*The
Magic
Faraway
Tree*

SUNDAY 4 AUGUST: 3.30PM

FRIDAY 9 AUGUST: 3.30PM

ST LEONARD'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cathy Ellis: 0416 040 120

cathy.ellis@

leonardsgwav.catholic.edu.au