

What's on in the West

Wangaratta West Primary School Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday 15th - Friday 19th
March**
WOW Week

**Tuesday 16th -
Wednesday 17th March**
Grade 3 Camp at
Nillahcootie

Friday 19th March
Anti Bullying Day

Monday 22nd March
Safe on Social Parent Night

Tuesday 23rd March
Open Morning

Wednesday 24th March
Hot Cross Bun orders due

Friday 26th March
Cross Country

Monday 29th March
Easter Raffle tickets

Thursday 1st April
Final day of Term 1

Monday 19th April
Proposed Curriculum Day



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful long weekend with their family, soaking up this beautiful weather and enjoying some relaxation time.

Pre-Review Self Evaluation: Summary Of Highlights

Thank you again to parents/carers, students and staff who shared their thoughts and opinions on our school's highlights for the past 4 years through survey responses. Together with the leadership team I have collated the responses into four key areas which will form part of our Pre-Review Self Evaluation (see below). There is so much to celebrate at our school so congratulations to everyone who has contributed to our achievements. I couldn't be prouder of our school's growth since 2017.

Cementing a broad, consistent and high quality curriculum

Strengthening our consistent approach to high quality planning and teaching has been an high priority at Wangaratta West throughout the current strategic plan period. This has been driven through:

- The introduction of collaborative planning (timetabled within the daily schedule) with staff contributing to consistent, shared planners on Google Drive. This consistent approach continued throughout periods of remote and flexible learning.
- Learning Walks and Talks assisting with gaining insight into consistency of practice and directing future learning opportunities for staff.
- The introduction of Professional Learning Communities (PLC's), extended through our role as a PLC Link school.
- A focus on data literacy (external and internal professional development for staff) using the SPA platform and PAT as a method of completing and analysing formative and summative assessments.
- Updated Instructional Models, a whole school focus on Learning Intentions and Success Criteria

REMINDERS

Absences

Please text any absences to 0477 343 814 or call 5721 3491. It is a legal requirement that all absences are explained.

Signing Students In/Out

Please sign your child or children in and out at the office if they are arriving at school late or being picked up early. For early pick-ups, we ask that parents/carers please go directly to the office.

Late Arrivals

All classes (including specialist classes) will begin at 9:05am so we ask that students please make their way in to classrooms by 8:55am.

School Hours

Just a friendly reminder that staff supervision of students in the yard before school begins at 8:45am. Prior to this, all staff are in a staff briefing each morning and thus cannot monitor the yard. We understand that this timing may be difficult for some families which is why we have Out of School Hours care available each morning from 6:30am. Alternatively, should you wish to drop your child off before 8:45am, you may do so but please be aware that formal supervision is not available at this time and we recommend that students do not arrive before 8:30am.

Staff Correspondence

Staff can be contacted between 8:30am and 4:30pm on their working days. Out of hours contact may not be responded to until the following work day.

- The introduction of school-wide programs (Soundwaves, Big Write, Jan R Guided Reading), intervention programs (Mini Lit and Multi Lit with multiple staff trained), the High Ability Learner Program and Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series
- The purchase of extensive Digital Technology resources

Ongoing improvements within teaching and learning have been achieved as a result of the school's dedicated, skilled and passionate staff. Within recent surveys 5 out of 18 parents/carers (28%) and 85 out of 109 students (78%) noted our amazing staff as a highlight of the school.

Professional development was also a priority through the mentoring of graduates, internal support/presentations and the engagement of high quality external consultants.

The specialist program was broadened with the introduction of Science as a specialist program with a dedicated space and teacher (0.4). Strong support was similarly shown for this within surveys with 70 out of 109 students (64%) and 4 out of 18 parents/carers selecting this as a highlight.

Strengthening Community Connections

COMMUNICATION: Since 2016 Wangaratta West Primary School has focused on strengthening two-way communication with families. This has included the introduction of social media platforms (Seesaw, facebook and instagram) and the re-imagining of the school's website to reflect Wang West in a modern, professional manner.

- Seesaw showcases student learning through work posted to individual journals where parents/carers can be involved in learning, post comments, and communicate with teachers.
- An Instagram account has been established for both Library and Art, raising the profile of these subjects
- A school facebook page has been created as an important means of communication, promotion and celebration.
- During periods of remote and flexible learning, WebEx was used to engage with students, ensuring face-to-face time with teachers and peers to maintain connections.

SURVEYS: The school has invited increased input into planning through a number of parent/carer feedback surveys also. This was particularly useful during periods of remote and flexible learning and directly affected planning. Parents/carers were asked to give feedback on the quality/amount of work (81% said we set the perfect amount), general satisfaction with remote learning models (average of 4.15 of 5) as well as the quality of home/school communication, with comments such as, "The school, leadership team and staff have been amazing with your ongoing communication to students and parents" and, "love the constant asking for feedback". Other surveys related to Prep transitions and general school functioning to which we had strong responses and great suggestions (thank you!)

EVENTS: Our school hosted a number of exciting events throughout the four year period including

- school productions (2017 and 2019)
- family events (BBQ's, pool parties)
- the introduction of West Fest (2018 and 2019)
- special days (Careers Day, celebrating a diverse range of careers; Anti-bullying Days; House events i.e. cross country races, athletics days, Old Fashioned Sports Days, etc.)
- open nights (with focuses on Literacy, specialist and WOW week (integrated studies)), and
- parent/carer information evenings with guest presenters (The Resilience Project, Safe On Social, etc.).

Positive Climate For Learning

Since 2017, Wangaratta West Primary School has focused on creating a positive climate for learning through the creation of calm, visually appealing environments both inside and outside the classroom. As part of an endeavour to support the "Third Teacher" (Lyn Sharratt) and minimise visual over-stimulation, classroom displays have been minimised to those referred to daily, including school wide consistent displays (Behaviour Matrix, VCOP wall, etc.), and displays rotated frequently.

A previously unused 'storage' room was fully renovated to become the Science room which supported the introduction of Science as a specialist curriculum area. To service the growing school enrolments, the school was also approved new relocatable school toilets (male and female) as well as an all-ability toilet.

Throughout the four years, the school grounds were modernised with the resurfacing of asphalt netball/basketball courts, the installation of watering systems to promote healthy grass, the planting of a range of trees (many of which formed part of a community inclusion project) and the installation of a new playground. A Koorie garden was also introduced. This involved collaboration with parents/carers, community members and students who collectively planted the garden and created mosaics 50% of respondents to a review survey listed improvements to the grounds as a highlight of the last four years. 93 out of 109 students (85%) selected improvements to school grounds as a highlight within a recent student survey.

Headlice

We endeavour to keep our school as free from headlice as possible. As such, any student who has live headlice or eggs will be sent home for treatment. They can return as soon as the treatment has occurred but please remember that it is vital that bedding, hats, clothing and any other soft furnishing/teddies that your child has used need to be washed. If you require a treatment kit, please let the office know.

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders are available online through Munch Monitor on Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays at first break (11.20am).

Bike Storage & Locks

We encourage our students to ride their bikes to school and would like to inform due to high numbers at the school now, we will require bikes to be stored in and out of the bike storage facility. Each student is required to have their own bike locks and are responsible for safely securing them to the bike racks.

Compass Parent Portal

If you haven't accessed the Compass Parent Portal please call into the office for your unique log in letter. This is vital for informing of student absences, emailing your child's teacher and accessing of student reports.

OSHC

All OSHC Queries/Bookings to 0407 004 059 or wangwestoshc@gmail.com

Strengthening a Whole School Positive Behaviour Approach.

The school has worked towards creating a calm environment through an ongoing focus on School Wide Positive Behaviour. This has included the development of a Positive Behaviour Matrix displayed in every room, the introduction of 'Westy Wolf' (our school mascot whose attributes reflect our school values) and the recognition of positive behaviour through postcards, Students Of The Week and Principal's Awards. A therapy dog (Moose) has also been inducted into the school to assist with de-escalating emotions and supporting the positive behaviour of children experiencing difficulty regulating their emotions.

Embedding the new school vision and values has been a school wide focus throughout the four years. The vision of developing learners for life who care for themselves, others and the environment has become engrained through displays and constant reference within the language of staff. The values have been highlighted through the introduction of values wristbands and weekly 'blitzes' focusing on a value at a time. Timetabled weekly lessons explicitly teach the values along with resilience and positive behaviour expectations.

The school also continued fostering the development of resilience through an ongoing relationship with The Resilience Project (including student, staff and parent/carer presentations), the introduction of student journals and ongoing professional development for staff.

Inclusion has also been a focus throughout the past four years. During this time the school introduced a Koorie program which included:

- a Koorie garden (developed by staff and parents) which features a mural of mosaics created by students,
- the introduction of all three flags visible within the office area and on flag poles at the front of the school. The flags are also displayed at assembly, and the Acknowledgement of Country is included within all school assemblies.
- whole school activities i.e guest Koorie presenters to build the cultural understanding of all students.

Parents & Friends Meeting

On Wednesday evening we held our first P&F meeting for almost a year! It was wonderful to see some new faces there and to catch up with members from 2020 and earlier. After such a long absence, the team is keen to begin fundraising and are planning some fun events for our students.

Congratulations to the following parents who were elected to positions of responsibility at the meeting:

President – Cassie Kay.

Treasurer – Jane Elzinga

Vice President – Skye O'Connell

Secretary – Kristie Meggs

The team have set the target of raising a profit of \$10,000 this year, to be put towards a new Hands On Learning shed. Last year's target of \$20,000 unfortunately didn't come to fruition due to, once again, COVID so fingers crossed this will be a better year.

Upcoming fundraising activities:

- Easter Raffle – The P&F crew are asking for easter themed hamper donations for our Easter raffle please. Raffle tickets will be sent home shortly and will be due back by Monday 29th of March. The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday the 31st of March with winners notified via text.
- Hot Cross Bun Drive – Order forms were sent home today and will be due back on the Wednesday 24th of March for delivery and distribution on Monday 29th of March. This year we will not be running our usual hot cross bun day for students due to COVID precautions so make sure you get your orders in for a pack instead.
- Second Hand Book Stall – Early in term 2 the P&F will be running a second hand book stall so will be calling for donations later this term. Any donations of books in good condition will be gratefully accepted.

Curriculum Day #4 (the last one for the year)

Our final curriculum day is proposed for the first day of Term 2 – Monday 19th April. This is yet to be confirmed by school council however I thought it would be helpful to let you know early so that you can tentatively pencil it in.

Bike Shed

It is fantastic to see so many students riding to school at the moment. To cater for this we will be extending our current bike shed so that we can accommodate the growing number of bikes/scooters.



Cooper (6R) for the professional approach you demonstrated whilst interviewing applicants for the Hands On Learning (HOL) program (including Mrs Castagna).



MARCH

Saturday

20th

Sunday

21st

What to bring:

Coach Workshops

How to develop an effective training session

Building Drills

Coaching workshops are observational
Pen, Note Pad, Drink Bottle

Umpire Workshops

Toolbox Pt. 1

Toolbox Pt. 2

Umpiring workshops involve some practical development.

What to bring: Active wear, Drink Bottle, Whistle

Note: The workshops are professional development opportunities and no assessments or tests will be conducted.



10:00am - 12:00pm
both days



\$20 per participant
per session



HP Barr Reserve
Schilling Drive, Wangaratta



Contact: Wendy McCormack
Mob: 0457 582 609

REGISTER

Registration via email:
wangnetball@westnet.com.au

Payment: via EFT transfer
BSB: 640-000 **Account:** 111216253

Registrations Close: Wednesday 17th March

Student

OF THE WEEK

Prep M	Ezrah	For working hard on colouring your fold up books and trying very hard with your reading, well done!
Prep R	Clay	For being such a sensible and hard working member of our grade. Thanks for always focusing on your own work, Clay!
1B	Flynn	For displaying a new, positive attitude towards writing and producing some awesome writing!
1C	Indi	For working so hard in class and caring for others, in such a kind way.
1DC	Sam	For being focused and trying very hard when completing his learning tasks. Keep up the amazing work Sam!
1J	Harvey	For always entering our classroom with a smile on his face and an infectious positive attitude. Harvey, keep shining bright!
2SC	Remy	We are impressed with your Cold Write piece about the Strange Egg. You put in amazing detail and were able to keep your story flowing and making sense. Keep up this awesome writing and work Remy!
2M	Jobe	You are a delight to have in our classroom. We love your smile, your kindness to others, how you care about others and the way you try really hard with all your work. We are so lucky to have you in 2M
3VP	Annabel	For the kind, caring and warm way they have welcomed our new friend Lindsey into our class!
4B	Crosbie	For volunteering to help teach another student who was experiencing difficulty in their Maths. Well done, Crosbie!
4C	Mackenzie	For seeking clarification, showing persistence, and independently completing extra practice towards maths and joint handwriting. Keep up the great work!
5GR	Amelia	For always offering ideas, opinions and comments during class. Amelia also loves to help me out with whatever I need and it is much appreciated! Thanks Amelia.
5PR	Noah	For making such an impressive start to Grade 5! Noah, you've challenged yourself and worked hard this term. Well done and keep it up!
5P	Ivy	For your writing and insights during our work with mentor text The Treasure Box.

Student

OF THE WEEK

PE

Pia F For showing that she cares for our school and our environment by picking up lunchtime PE equipment that has been left in the yard. Keep it up Pia!

Harry V For showing that he cares for our school and our environment by picking up lunchtime PE equipment that has been left in the yard. Keep it up Harry!

Wangaratta West is proudly sponsored by the following business.
We are grateful for their support and look forward to the Wangaratta West school community supporting them.



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