

What's on in the West

School Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 12th March
Breakfast club 7:45 - 8:15am

Saturday 14th March
Muntz St Twilight Market

Monday 16th March
Issue 2 Bookclub Due

Tuesday 17th March
Grade 5 Excursion to
Bonegila

Wednesday 18th March
Grade 6 Excursion to
Bonegila

Playgroup 10-11.30am

Parents & Friends AGM 7pm

Thursday 19th March
Open Classroom Evening

**Monday 23rd -
Wednesday 25th March**
Grade 3 Camp at
Nillahcootie

Tuesday 24th March
Prep Open Morning

Friday 27th March
Final Day of Term 1 - 2:20pm
dismissal



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

School Grounds

There was certainly a lot of rain about last week and this helped us to identify some issues regarding flooding, particularly around the new portables. We have contacted the team in charge of the installation and will work with them to find solutions prior to the weather turning. Also, a small section of star picket was identified protruding from the ground in the schoolyard earlier this term however this was removed three weeks ago. As always, if you have any concerns please let me know and I will act as swiftly as possible.

No Monday Assemblies

In an attempt to implement proactive strategies and avoid unnecessary mass gatherings, there will be no Monday morning assemblies until further notice.

Feedback Surveys

Thank you so much to the parents/carers who have already provided valuable feedback via our anonymous surveys. There are lots of great ideas so far so please keep them coming! Prep parents/carers, please use the link <https://forms.gle/dG6FTYqRa8EczBmh9>. All other parents/carers, please use the link <https://forms.gle/HWKVAuAGToH3eCVN8>



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. We recommend that students enter classrooms between 8:45am and 8:55am to prepare for their day.

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.

Parents & Friends

At Wednesday evening's Parents and Friends meeting we again saw an increase in numbers which was fantastic! The group prepared for a number of upcoming fundraising events including the hot cross bun drive, the Easter raffle, the Twilight Market and the disco (term 2).

Congratulations to the 2020 office bearers:

President – Cassie Kay; Vice President/Treasurer– Kristie Meggs; Secretary – Jane Elzinga.

We are lucky to have such a dedicated group at our school. As always if you would like to come along, new members are very welcome.

Muntz St Twilight Market

The twilight market in the Muntz street park is tomorrow 14th March from 4:30pm – 8:00pm. Thank you very much to those parents and carers who have volunteered to either help out on the stall or prepare a plate for us to sell. If you are in the area tomorrow, please pop down and purchase a plate.

Principals Award

Kaitlyn G (5G) for her bravery when helping to save the life of a loved one by calling for help. Your ability to stay calm while calling 000/another adult was extremely impressive. Well done Kaitlyn!

Garden Club

We are still looking for someone to work with a group of students during a break time once a week to plant, weed and water in our vegetable garden. If you are willing to help or know of anyone (parent, carer, grandparent, community member), please contact me.

Kind Regards,

Kristy Keenan

PRINCIPAL



PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Hot Cross Bun Order forms and Hot Cross Bun Drive Fundraiser forms were sent home on Tuesday 10th March. These forms are due back **WITH CORRECT MONEY** and **MUST** be handed into the office by **9AM THURSDAY 19TH MARCH** to allow for counting and ordering.

Hot Cross Bun Drive Fundraising orders will be ready for collection from 3pm-4pm on Thursday 26th March. Hot Cross Bun orders for individual students will be distributed to the classrooms for first break on Friday 27th March.

IF ANYONE IS AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH THE COUNTING OF ORDERS (Thursday 19th) OR SERVING (Friday 27th), PLEASE LET ANNA OR TANIA KNOW AT THE OFFICE.

We will also be running our Easter Raffle to be drawn on the last day of Term **FRIDAY 27TH MARCH**. If you could please send along an easter egg donation for the raffle before Wednesday 25th March, it would be greatly appreciated. Raffle tickets will be sent home shortly or will be available from the office. Tickets and correct money are to be returned by Wednesday 25th March.



REMINDERS

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.

Westy's Sports Report



NETBALL REGISTRATION

The Wangaratta Netball Association competition is due to commence on the 18th of April. All students who would like to play need to complete their Netball Victoria registration, this is to be done online by **THURSDAY 19TH**

MARCH. The link can be found on the Wangaratta Netball Association or Wangaratta West Primary School Facebook page. Once registration is completed please email receipts to Miss Hannah Grady at grady.hannah.h@edumail.vic.gov.au



CRICKET

On Thursday 12th of March, Connor Ormond, Jaxon Wickham and Max Marek went down to W. J. Findlay oval for the state cricket trials. As bottom aged players, the boys were up against older students from around the region. They did an amazing job and learnt a lot from the state coaches. Unfortunately, they didn't make it to the next round this year but they are already excited for next year! Great job boys!

CROSS COUNTRY

Today's cross country races were sensational! As I stood and watched the red faces of puffed kids running past me, the thing that really stood out was our students' positive attitudes, willingness to give it a go and enormous support for one another. The raucous cheering of the crowd and words of encouragement from students was a sight to see and truly heart-warming! A huge thank you to Demi Walker who organised the day, our staff for donning their runners and getting involved, and the parents/carers who were there cheering on the kids.

- Kristy Keenan.





STUDENT OF THE WEEK

- Prep A Harriet for always caring for others in the classroom and the yard when they are sad or hurt. You are such a kind and caring class member. Well done, Harriet!
- Ivy for coming to school with a smile on your face and making everyone around you smile. Thanks for being such a happy and positive member of Prep A!
- Prep C Laura for caring for herself by always having a red hot go at everything we do. Great work Laura, keep it up.
- Prep M Jaxon for working really hard at reading and writing your golden sight words. Keep up the great work, Jaxon!
- 1C Allaryce For caring about her learning by being ready to learn and doing her best.
- Kenzie For always having a smile on her face throughout the school day.. Such a delight to see
- 1DS Emma For always being respectful towards others. You are a wonderful role model for others.
- 1J Peyton for being such a positive class member by consistently showing our school values and always being willing to help others.
- 2SS Charlotte for the way that she consistently sets her self up for learning. In the morning Charlotte is organised and ready to start her day. Keep up this fantastic work Charlotte!
- 3S Darby for ensuring he always gets the best out of himself in all learning activities.
- Georgia for always having a bright and bubbly attitude towards all of her learning!
- 4AP Tirandi For always being cooperative student and being an amazing classroom helper! We are so grateful for the way she care for our learning environment.
- 4M Scarlett For her persistence and determination when BMX riding at Camp Borambola. So proud of you, Scarlett!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

- 4P Gus For demonstrating our GEM values by checking in on a class mate when he noticed they were upset.
- 5C Jaz For having a positive mindset towards Maths, working hard in class and at home on Math tasks. Your persistence with Place Value saw fantastic progress. Keep up the great work!
- 5G Tanè for showing passion and commitment towards our persuasive writing topic. It's fantastic seeing such a willingness to finish and uplevel your writing during free time and at home.
- 5/6D Noah For displaying empathy when helping another classmate in a time of need. You're a great role model to your peers, keep leading the way Noah!
- Bridget For always providing your support to classmates and helping out when a task needs to be completed. Keep up the good work, you're a superstar!
- Dion For always providing your support to classmates and helping out when a task needs to be completed. Keep up the good work, you're a superstar!
- 6C Taylor For using your knowledge of place value to rename large numbers. Fantastic work Dion, keep working hard!
- 6MW Kaydence For her great effort and attitude in all she does.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.

ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.

EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.

LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.

Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



NEW FOR 2020 FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.

SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

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