

What's on in the West

Wangaratta West Primary School Newsletter



TERM 2 WEEK 4 | 19.05.2023

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 25th May - Friday 26th May
Grade 3 Camp to Howman's Gap

Friday 2nd June
SRC Fundraiser - See Newsletter

Monday 12th June
Kings Birthday Holidays

Friday 16th June
Trivia Night

Wednesday 21st June
Senior Winter Sports

Friday 23rd June
Final Day of term, 2:20pm dismissal

This week we celebrated International Education Support Staff Day on Wednesday. To thank our incredible E.S. team we set up a picnic at the park across the road with coffees, cakes and savory snacks and enjoyed some time together in the gorgeous sunshine. Our E.S. team has grown from just 7 back in 2015 when I started to the now very large team of 26! They are absolutely worth their weight in gold – supporting our staff and students every day and giving their heart and soul to the job they do. We couldn't function without them so I wholeheartedly thank our wonderful team!

Trivia Night

Our Trivia Night is fast approaching! On Friday June 16th we will be holding our Trivia Night with questions, games and activities throughout the night. We will be encouraging tables to dress up in a theme of their choice, with prizes for the best dressed table. Tickets will be \$15 each and can be purchased as a table of 8 or as individual tickets to be allocated to a table with a given theme.

As mentioned previously, we will be running a silent auction so if anyone would be willing to donate an item to this, or to the prize pool, we would be extremely grateful! Please let Kristy know if you would be willing to contribute. Keep your eye out for the link to purchase tickets.

PRINCIPAL'S *Award*

Malakye (1J) for entering the classroom every day with a smile on his face, and a positive, 'ready to learn' attitude. We are so proud of you for the growth you have shown in this area. Keep up the amazing work Malakye!

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.

Influenza A

Today we have been informed of two confirmed cases of influenza A which is highly contagious, predominantly in the first three to four days from when symptoms begin. Symptoms may include a fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, tiredness and in some children vomiting and diarrhoea. If your child is displaying flu like symptoms, especially a fever, please keep them home until 24 hours after their temperature has broken and returned to normal.

Parent/Carer Feedback Survey

Thank you again to those who shared their opinions and thoughts with us in our recent survey. As promised, please find below a summary of key points:

Parent/teacher interactions – Thank you for the beautiful words of support received in response to the question "What are we doing well?" including:

- "I love that all of our teachers are so vibrant and willing to engage in fun things around the school"
- "School/Parent community feels incredible"
- "Feeling of welcome from the teachers and aides - they know our names and our child's name, even if they haven't taught them before", and
- "High level of teaching staff".

To improve in this area, a suggestion involved the use of AAA's when responding to parent concerns – Acknowledge, Apologise and Act. Thank you for the suggestion.

Communication – Again there were numerous comments highlighting this as a strength, including:

- "Great communication from teachers, love seeing what is happening in specialist classes"
- "Easy to talk to my child's teacher if needed via Seesaw"
- "Very informed with school activities and my kids are happy. Makes me happy!" and,
- "Communication - newsletter, facebook".

Suggestions for ways to improve included providing reminders about upcoming events and pupil free days a little earlier (I will definitely aim to do this), increasing communication to parents/carers about issues in the classroom or playground (absolutely – we will strive to improve in this area) and seeing more photos/videos of kids learning and examples of work on Seesaw (thank you for this suggestion also. We will work with the teachers to try to find ways (and time) to increase our usage of Seesaw.

Grounds – We received complements on the way the playgrounds, gardens and grass areas are looking beautiful, as well as suggestions to work on reducing the rubbish in the yard and around the bins which we will definitely work on.

Curriculum – In response to “What are we doing well?” we received the following:

- “Giving the students a variety of subjects and school activities”
- “Range of specialist classes which are available all year to all year levels”
- “Engaging activities, like incorporating Minecraft into learning activities” and,
- “Keeping classes motivating”.

In relation to ways we could improve, we heard that we could increase our emphasis on personal relationships and growth, embed Aboriginal Education into the curriculum to a greater extent, explore Science of Reading training for teachers, expand our range of extension activities and revisit homework practices again. Thank you very much for these suggestions which will all be explored and discussed with the leadership team and staff.

Other suggestions for ways to improve included:

- **“Stop split classes”** – We would love to never need to split classes but unfortunately we are unable to get enough Casual Relief Teachers (CRTs) to meet our needs each day. With all of the bugs going around schools we often have staff away when they or their children are ill (sometimes at very short notice). We also have Time In Lieu for all staff now, meaning that for every hour they work outside of their normal working hours, we need to release them from duties for that same amount of time. With all of the camps that have been happening, we have a very large number of days to be covered which is also adding to our demand for classroom cover (our six senior teachers, for example, accrued almost 5 days worth each over the course of two camps!) We are very lucky to have some regular CRTs available to us, however there is a state-wide shortage so all schools are pulling from a very small pool. We also wouldn't be able to keep camps running financially if we covered all Time In Lieu days with a CRT as the school would not be able to afford this. With all of this in mind, the leadership team (Xavier, Danielle, Nadia, Brody and I) will continue to cover classes where we can and we will keep trying to find new CRTs but please have our assurances that we are doing everything we can to keep split classes to a minimum.
- **“More opportunities for parents to be involved if they want to”** – We would love more parents to be involved! We have the Parents and Friends committee who help out with fundraising events and we often call for parent helpers on sporting days. In addition to this, if anyone would like to help out in a classroom with activities such as reading, writing, spelling or maths, please speak to your child's teacher as we absolutely welcome parents helpers in the classroom.

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

Parents & Carers Feedback Survey continued

Other suggestions included:

- **“Scrap the Principal's Award”** - Thank you for this suggestion. I will try to collect additional feedback on this before deciding which way to jump but thank you for bringing this point of view to my attention.
- **“Can there be a camp for grade 2 please?”** – Good news – the year two team is actually in the process of planning something already!
- **“Focus on anti bullying”** – Absolutely! This is part of our whole school approach to promoting positive schoolwide behaviour, and was certainly part of discussions in the initial weeks of school where classes each collectively established expectations for positive interactions in the classroom and yard. We also incorporated this important message into our Harmony Day which focused on respect for all and appreciation of diversity. National Bullying Prevention Week is coming up (August 14th-20th) so we also plan to take part in this to help revisit and reinforce this important message.
- **“Allow more consent and payments via Compass”** – Thanks for this suggestion. We are now using Compass and it was a great success for the Mother's Day Breakfast!
- **“What about the canteen opening up again for the kids”** – Unfortunately we tried this but had to stop because it continued to make a loss for a sustained period of time which meant we were forced to shut it down.
- **“Outside lockers outside classrooms are not ideal.”** – We absolutely understand your concerns. We have lockers outside as it gives valuable space back inside the classrooms for the kids to use, but if items are going missing or bags are getting wet, they can definitely be brought inside .
- **“Swimming twice a week instead of every day”** – We completely understand that the intensity of the week could cause challenges for families however we need to work in with the busy scheduling of the pool and this is the option available to us. They also recommend a five day program as they believe it is the best option for students to see progress.
- **Screening of the Embrace Kids' film?** – Thank you also for this suggestion. I have passed it on to our wellbeing leader (Breanna Thewlis) to investigate.

Lunchtime Clubs

There was a sea of faces in the hall this morning for Minecraft Club! It was great to see so many kids there, enjoying being creative either by themselves or with others.



Student OF THE Week

- Prep A** Scarlet for her amazing enthusiasm for learning. Scarlet always shows the class that she is ready and excited to learn and works hard at every task thrown her way. Well done, Scarlet!
- Prep D** Oscar For working really hard at writing independently and using strategies such as sounding out and finding words he knows on the word wall. Keep up the wonderful work, Oscar!
- Prep M** Willow For having great resilience at school. When faced with a challenge you use your different strategies to bounce back and continue on with your learning, keep up the good work!
- Prep O** Maleigha Shout out to Maleigha for bringing such enthusiasm to her counting this week! Your added dance moves helped you to reach 100 without stopping!
- 1ZC** Mailee For being ready to learn every morning and trying your best during learning time. Well done!
- 2C** Kaitlyn For taking care with her learning and always doing her best. Kaity never rushes to be first finished but wants to do the best she can.
- 2K** Clay Well done Clay for your dedication and resilience during swimming. You listened carefully to your swim teacher and built up your confidence in the water. Great work Clay!
- 2WR** Sam You have shown so much improvement in your reading skills and we love hearing the expression in your voice! We were also impressed with the excitement you showed with your writing this week. Keep it up Sam!
- 3G** Flynn For working hard to be his 'Wang West Best' in class and in the playground. We are so proud of your efforts!
- 3P** Arthur for his willingness to help anyone and everyone in our classroom. Arthur goes out of his way to make others feel included in our room. What a great quality to have!
- 4MV** Isaac for showing resilience and persistence with his writing assessment and producing an interesting piece of writing. Well done Isaac.
- 4SM** Ethan A huge congratulations on the way in which you represent our class in the SRC Role. You have shown your commitment and reliability in this role, well done Ethan.
- Mailah A massive well done for the perseverance that you are showing each day in your learning tasks.
- 6P** Crosbie for having a positive attitude towards his learning and always putting a smile on our faces - what a start to Term 2! Keep up the amazing work, Crosbie!

'B DAY' FOR MND

FRIDAY 2ND OF JUNE

GOLD COIN DONATION

WEAR A BEANIE, SOMETHING BLUE
OR SOMETHING BRIGHT



SRC FUNDRAISER

SUPPORTING LARA MAREK-RHODES IN HER 42KM WALK IN THE
GREAT MND RELAY WITH ALL FUNDS GOING TO THE MND
FOUNDATION.

WELCOME TO OUR OPEN DAYS FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN IN 2024

- **Appin Park Kindergarten** (4 Year Old Program) – Appin Street, Wangaratta
Wednesday 17th May : 9.30am – 11.00am
- **Bernard Briggs Kindergarten** (3 & 4 Year Old Program) – Church St, Benalla
Wednesday 17th May : 12.30pm – 2.00pm
- **Chiltern Kindergarten** (3 & 4 Year Old Program) – Main St, Chiltern
Friday 2nd June : 9.00am – 11.00am
- **Christopher Robin Kindergarten** (4 Year Old Program) – Merriwa Park, Wangaratta
Tuesday 30th May: 1.00pm – 2.30pm
- **Coronation Kindergarten** (3 & 4 Year Old Program) – Swan St, Wangaratta
Wednesday 31st May : 2.30pm—4.00pm
- **Glenrowan Pre School** (3 & 4 Year Old Program) – Old Hume Highway, Glenrowan
Tuesday 16th May: 2.30pm—3.00pm
- **James Tilson Kindergarten** (3 & 4 Year Old Program) – Burke St, Wangaratta
Thursday 1st June : 2.00pm – 3.00pm
- **Moyhu Pre School** (Occasional Care, 3 & 4 Year Old Program) – Byrne St, Moyhu
Tuesday 23rd May : 2.00pm - 3.00pm
- **Munro Ave Pre School** (3 & 4 Year Old Program) – Munro Ave, Benalla
Wednesday 24th May : 2.30pm – 3.30pm
- **The Hub Kindergarten** (3 Year Old Program) – Burke St, Wangaratta
Friday 26th May : 9.30am—10.30am
- **Wangaratta West Kindergarten** (4 Year Old Program) – Orkney St, Wangaratta
Thursday 18th May : 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- **Whitfield Community Childcare Centre** (3 Year Old Program) – Wangaratta Whitfield Rd, Whitfield
Visitors welcome : email whitfieldchildcare@gmail.com to arrange a time
- **Whorouly Kindergarten** (3 & 4 Year Old Program) – Church St, Whorouly
Thursday 25th May : 1.00pm – 2.00pm

talk to our staff about how the programs are run, *look* over the facility,
ask questions and *collect* a registration package

PLAYGROUP



9:30AM - 11:00AM
EVERY WEDNESDAY

WWPS HALL
EVERYONE WELCOME
NO COST
FRUIT PROVIDED

**COME
ALONG!**