

What's on in the West

Wangaratta West Primary School Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

Ongoing
Virtual Tours

Friday 21st August
Learning Pack Pick Up
12 - 4pm

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we enter week four of remote and flexible learning (round 2) I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and congratulations to you all on the way you are handling an incredibly difficult situation. I believe there would have been very few people looking forward to returning to remote and flexible learning, including our staff who were devastated to again be losing the ability to teach their class face-to-face, but we are all doing the best we can and making the most of a challenging time. Thank you also again for the words of support that you are offering to our staff and school as a whole - they are so greatly appreciated!

Wellbeing

If you are finding it particularly difficult supporting your child or children at home, please know that you are not alone, and that we are here to help. Get in touch with either your child's classroom teacher, one of our amazing wellbeing leaders (Bree or Rose) or myself and we will try to come up with a plan to support you. Also please be kind to yourselves. No-one is expecting perfection, so just do what you can.

Live Assembly

We are currently exploring the idea of running a live assembly for the entire school. Like our regular assemblies, these would be run by our school leaders and would include the reading out of Students Of The Week, sporting updates, reminders and more. We hope to trial this next Friday (August 28th). Log in details will be provided via Seesaw.



Parent/Carer Feedback - Remote Learning 2.0

Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to our feedback survey. We had a fantastic response rate with 58 people sharing their opinions, and have therein been able to gain insight into the success of our revised model.

Please see below a summary of the responses that we received:

Which Remote Learning do you prefer?

Our current model – 84% Our previous model – 16%

How would you rate your satisfaction with our current model (1-5 with 5 being excellent) –

Average – 4.1

In relation to workload, how are you and your children finding our current model?

- Too much work – 5%; Just the right amount of work – 78%; Not enough work – 17%

How engaged is your child with version 2.0 (out of 5)

- Average – 3.9

Did your child enjoy the inclusion of the WebEx session?

- **Yes - 81%**; Somewhat - 12%; No - 7%

What are the strengths of our current approach?

- Tasks are more engaging and student driven with the addition of the choices within the matrix (x23)
- Kids are loving seeing and interacting with their friends and teacher via WebEx (x 16)
- It's easy for parents and children to understand the work and follow the Monday-Friday layout (x5)
- Specialists subjects on the Wednesdays still (x4)
- Fantastic support from staff (x 3)
- Feedback from staff (written and audio) (x 3)
- More/very organised (x 3)
- Explanatory videos from staff were kept
- Everything!

How could we improve our current model?

- "I can't think of anything" (x 6)

Technology

- Less technology/online (x 2)
- Make sure that all students have the required passwords **(If you don't have the required passwords, please contact your child's classroom teacher)**
- More interactive class meetings (x 2) **(We chose not to run these too often to begin with as we don't want the novelty and excitement to wear off but we will certainly keep this in mind)**
- Information on the parent seesaw also

Weekly plans:

- More explanatory videos (x 4)
- Variation (i.e. not picking form a matrix every week) (x 2)
- Suggested time durations provided for activities
- Balance choice with direct instruction
- Greater volume of work (x 3)
- More real life/project based options
- Some outdoor activities (weather permitting)
- Fortnightly learning packs
- Differentiated packs **(Each matrix has a variety of tasks at different levels of difficulty but please contact your child's classroom teacher if the matrix is overall too difficult or too easy for your child and they will be able to suggest adjustments).**
- Encouraging students to complete more than one activity per day per subject **(Absolutely - this was a planned option as part of the matrix)**

Thank you very much for all of these suggestions. The staff and I will discuss your ideas and look at modifications to the model.

What feedback do you have regarding how we handled the shift to remote learning?

- The whole staff did an amazing job under the tight timeframe – (x 25)
- Strong communication again (x 7)
- Smooth transition (x 7)
- Staff are being really supportive (x 5)
- It's really good that you used the feedback from last time and are again listening to feedback (x 3)
- The extra day was beneficial for teachers, students and parents (x 3)

Krist Keenan
PRINCIPAL

The staff and I will meet on Monday to go through your feedback and consider possible adjustments to the model, and I'll report back on any changes in the coming weeks. As always, if you have any suggestions, feedback or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.



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.

Safe on Social

For this week's Safe on Social focus, we are looking at ways to keep older kids, particularly 'tweens' safe online.

When your child reaches 10 – 11yrs, they may start asking for their first smartphone and to use social media. Please find within this newsletter an article 'Ten Things To Keep Your Tweens Safe Online' which we hope will help you to make informed choices.

Library

Just a reminder that library books are available for borrowing. All you need to do is request a book or books by emailing Melissa (Melissa.nyman@education.vic.gov.au) or messaging her on Instagram (@wangwestlibrary) and they will be placed into your child's tub on a Friday for pick-up with learning packs. Please see a list of some of the available books later in this newsletter.

★★★ Principals Award ★★★

Ruby-Rose - For the bravery shown when she broke her wrist. Ruby still managed to keep calm and look on the bright side throughout a very trying and painful situation. We wish you a very speedy recovery Ruby!

Kristy Keenan

PRINCIPAL



safe on social

Ten things to keep your
Tweens safe online

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#safeonsocial #socialmedia #sos #positive #esaf
#onlinesafety #educationandtraining #cybersafe

Ten things to keep your Tweens safe online

When your child reaches 10 – 11yrs, they may start asking for their first smartphone and to use social media. Here are my tips on what to do to keep them safe.

1. If your child is hassling for a phone, make sure that you get them to do a little presentation, or write a small project sheet, on a topic of cyber safety every week in the lead up to getting their phone.
2. Think about the age recommendations; it is not illegal for a child to use social media under the age of 13yrs with their parents' permission. But they need to remember to update their age on any site that has asked for it when they actually turn 13yrs. Like Facebook, for example. This way, the app will not think they are older. As an extreme example...if your child signs up to use Facebook when they are 10yrs, and they have to lie and say they are 13yrs...so by the time they are 15yrs if they haven't adjusted the year they were born, the app will think they are 18yrs. Then they can get a Tinder account as it relies on Facebook for verification!
3. Teach your kids to think twice before they accept a friend request. Just because someone is a friend of their big brother or sister or cousin who goes to another school does not mean they should let them into their life.
4. Engage with them about their favourite social media app and get them to teach you about it so you can at least know the basics. Get them to show you how to block and report so you can be sure they know how to.
5. Be a good role model. Keep your screen time in check. There is no use banning the phones from bedrooms if you go to bed with yours each night, for example.
6. Help them to check and manage privacy settings. This is something you can do together when they are younger by making it a shared experience.

7. Think twice before “sharenting.” Do not post photos of your kids in school uniform or school events or holding certificates with their full name and school name on it. You are letting the whole world know where they go to school. This can happen by “checking in” or geotagging a school as well.
8. Ask them first when you are about to share their photo. Let your kids be involved in the decision making on whether they are ok with you posting a photo of them or not as young as possible. This will teach them to ask others first before they post pictures as they grow up.
9. Put healthy boundaries in place. Don’t ban them from their device if they forget to do a household chore or are naughty for something totally unrelated to their device. Do not take it off them if they speak up about something that has happened online because you are scared either. This is the quickest way to drive all the conversations that you want to be having underground. Instead, if you have a healthy boundary like all devices are banned from the bathroom or bedroom. So then if they are caught with their device in either place, you ban them for a week. This way, they will learn that it is safe to speak up about what is going on online without punishment unless they break the rules about device use.
10. Respect the classifications. The average age of a gamer is 35yrs old. Classifications are there for a reason. It is not ok for a child under the age of 18yrs to be playing R Rated games...even with their parents!!! If your child is playing online games, set healthy boundaries around time playing as well. All of the other tips above also apply to gaming.

w: safeonsocial.com
 e: wecanhelp@safeonsocial.com



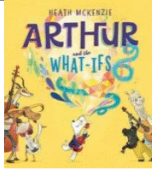




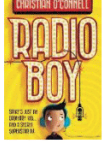

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@ the library



Level	Cover Picture	Title	Description
Picture Book		The Colouring Competition by Heath McKenzie	It was the perfect day for colouring in ... until Oscar noticed he had COMPETITION! Now both Oscar and Henry can't stop colouring and they have gone WAY outside the lines! Who will win The Colouring Competition??
Picture Book		Miss Eliza Flowerdew Can Nearly Touch The Ceiling by Brenda Gurr	When Lucy turns five, she can reach the biscuit tin. Her mum can hang clothes on the washing line and Grandpa can change lightbulbs without a ladder. So Lucy longs to take a peek at the very elderly Miss Eliza Flowerdew - at her age (99), she might even be able to touch the ceiling.
Picture Book		Arthur and the What-ifs By Heath McKenzie	Arthur is a little dog with a big secret: he LOVES playing his violin. But only at home, and on his own. Because, well, what if he sounds terrible and people laugh? WHAT IF? But when the song in his head and the dream in his heart just won't stay quiet, will Arthur find the courage to face up to his WHAT IFS?
Green Dot Level 24 (Early Chapter Book)		Amelia Chamelia and the Birthday Party by Laura Sieveking	Amelia's eighth birthday is just around the corner and she is so excited. She's going to have the best party ever – even if she does have to invite her troublesome twin cousins. But then something strange and magical happens ... Now Amelia has a very big secret!
Yellow Dot Level 25 (Novel)		Clifftoppers – The Fire Bay Adventure by Fleur Hitchcock	Everyone is really excited about the fire festival on the beach. There'll be bonfires, music and fireworks! But with suspicious blazes breaking out across town, the cousins realise that something sinister is going on. Can they uncover the secret, of Fire Bay before things go up in flames.
Blue Dot Level 26 (Novel)		The Besties – Show and Smell by Felice Arena and Tom Jellett	Ruby is SO looking forward to Show and Tell, but the teacher is away and it looks like she'll miss out. Plus, the besties won't get to see what Zac's talent is – it's bound to be really FUNNY and GROSS! Can they turn a very bad day in the very best?
Orange Dot Level 27 (Novel)		Ninja Kid 5 – Ninja Clones by Anh Do	Nelson and Kenny have been CLONED! Robot Nelson and Robot Kenny are FASTER, SMARTER and BETTER DANCERS! But when the clones spin way out of control at school camp, can the real Nelson and Kenny save the day?
Purple Dot Level 28 (Novel)		Radio Boy by Christian O'Connell	When Spike gets fired from hospital radio, he decides to launch his own show from a makeshift studio in his Dad's shed, under the secret identity of Radio Boy. Spike quickly becomes an underground hit. But will he handle his newfound fame well? Will he impress Katherine Hamilton, the girl he wants to marry? Can he keep his identity a secret?
White Dot Level 30 (Novel)		Kensy and Max – Freefall by Jacqueline Harvey	Where do you draw the line when your family and friends are in grave danger? Do you take action even though it means ignoring the rules? Kensy, Max and their friend Curtis from Australia are off on a surprise trip to New York for a holiday

Email Melissa before the end of Thursday to request to borrow one of these books and she will loan them for you and put them in classroom collection tubs by Friday pickup. Melissa.Nyman@education.vic.gov.au

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

- Prep C** Laura For sending in the best videos explaining her work. They clearly explain her understanding of the task and make me smile with her enthusiasm and confidence. Well done Laura!
- Prep M** Tyler For working extremely hard on your writing during remote learning. You are becoming a master of putting finger spaces in between your words!
- 1C** Jet For clever working with making arrays. Loved you using Mum's shoes!
- Matilda For clever work with arrays and being able to use them to solve challenging problems.
- Mackenzie For putting beautiful spaces between her numbers so they can be read easily.
- 1DS** Hudson For working very hard during remote learning, both when at school and at home. Keep up the amazing work Hudson.
- Emma For being such a thoughtful girl and always using her manners. Thank you, Emma.
- 1J** Benjamin For bringing such a big smile and positive attitude to our new class Webex meetings. Thank you Ben, keep sharing that wonderful smile of yours!
- Harry For his commitment, hard work and positive attitude during remote learning 2.0. Well done Harry, your dedication to your learning at home is wonderful to see!
- 2SS** Charlotte For the effort that she is showing through remote learning. Charlotte is attempting all tasks with pride and determination. Keep it up Charlotte.
- 3S** Cody For taking such pride and care in his remote learning, thank you for always giving 100% towards every task.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

- 4AP** Aimee For the consistent effort you put in with your work Aimee. Thank you for always going above and beyond what is asked, and always putting in 100% to everything you do. Well done!
- 5C** Bradley For displaying resilience by acting on feedback received during remote learning, using his IT skills and communicating regularly. Keep up the great work!
- 5G** Peyton For her dedication and persistence to our learning activities during remote learning. Your consistent communication and uploading of work to Seesaw has been fantastic. It has been great to see the effort and quality you are putting into your learning at home. Keep it up!
- 5/6D** Bianca For your dedication to remote learning. You did a fantastic job with your House Rules investigation, well done!
- Zara For your continued improvement throughout remote learning. Keep up the good work!
- 6MW** Tim A positive start to the West! Welcome and well done for settling into our school with such a positive attitude.
- Aurelio For your commitment to completing quality and quantity of work in Remote Learning. Well done.

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We are grateful for their support and look forward to the Wangaratta West school community supporting them.



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Primary School

VIRTUAL TOUR



As you are unable to visit our school in person during these unprecedented times, we have put together a video that summarises many key aspects of what makes our school special.

Please use the password
West4642 to access the video.

For enrolment packs or queries, please
contact our office on 5721 3491



**SCAN HERE TO ACCESS
VIRTUAL TOUR, OR
VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

