

# What's on in the West

Wangaratta West Primary School Newsletter

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday 27th February**  
6S & 5L - Winton Wetlands

**Thursday 2nd March**  
Grade 6 Leadership Camp  
3G & 4C - Winton Wetlands

**Monday 6th March**  
5C & 5D- Winton Wetlands

**Thursday 9th March**  
2B, 2K & 2W - Winton Wetlands

**Monday 13th March**  
Labour Day Public Holiday

**Wednesday 15th March**  
Safe on Social  
First Wednesday for Preps

**Thursday 16th March**  
Prep M & Prep D - Winton Wetlands

**Monday 20th March**  
2C & 1ZC - Winton Wetlands

**Thursday 23rd March**  
Prep A & Prep O - Winton Wetlands  
Open Night - details to come



TERM 1 WEEK 5 | 24.02.2023

This week I had the pleasure of spending some time in 6S teaching a writing session and I was so impressed by not only the quality of work that these kids produced, but by their active participation in group discussions/joint writing, their willingness to share ideas and their attentive listening. Thank you to the 6S students for reminding me how much fun teaching year six is!

Here are just three examples of what the students produced in a short lesson:

**Ellie:** "The soft grass sways in the cool, summer breeze of Western Wangaratta. You can hear the water from the creek gushing as it flows downstream. Birds fly past squeaking and squawking almost like they're singing a song, while the blistering heat pounds your back."

**Tate:** "In the forest beneath the trees there is a secret rockpool in Porpunkah. For decades the spot has been hiding in the woods, with the sound of gushing water sliding over rocks and heat hitting people like a slap to the face."

**Mason:** "The rolling, tree-riddled hills flow into the vast expanse of parched earth, scorched from the blistering sun".

### Class Structures

A focus of the leadership team for several years has been trying to keep class sizes as low as possible. Below is a summary of class sizes for 2023.

<b>Prep</b>	4 classes (21, 22, 22, 22)
<b>Year 1</b>	3 classes (20, 20, 20)
<b>Year 2</b>	4 classes (19, 19, 19, 19)
<b>Year 3</b>	3 classes (23, 23, 23)
<b>Year 4</b>	3 classes (22, 22, 23)
<b>Year 5</b>	3 classes (21, 21, 22)
<b>Year 6</b>	3 classes (25, 24, 26)

### New Contact Details

If you receive an email from Kristy Mullins I promise it is not spam! 😊 I have officially changed my name now and am in the process of transitioning from Miss Keenan (or Mrs. Ashmead) to Mrs Mullins.

# 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.

## Specialist Classes

Our amazing specialist classes are again running for the full year each, with hour long sessions in Science, Art, P.E and Music, and 30 minute sessions in Auslan. We are incredibly lucky to have such skilled and dedicated specialist teachers in the following areas:

**Art** – Stacey Hedderman

**Music** – Atty Carr

**Science** – Michael Raison

**P.E.** – Demi Walker

**Auslan** – Sharon Sealey

The fact that kids love their specialist classes so much and eagerly look forward to them each week is testament to the commitment and passion of these teachers. We are lucky to have them at our school!

## School Council

The 2022 School Council group met on Monday evening for the final meeting for this group (before we welcome the 2023 school council). At the meeting the 2023 Annual Implementation Plan, draft budget and 2022 financial documents were all approved.

We also thanked outgoing school council members Melissa Finnigan, Sara Gartside, Atty Carr and Cameron Meggs for whom this meeting was their last as school councillors. We greatly appreciated the contributions made by each and sincerely thank them for generously giving up their time to contribute to our school.

We also particularly thanked Cam for being the School Council president for the past six years. During this time Cam has transformed the structure of our meetings, running them in an efficient but fun manner; has overseen the financial operations of the school and contributed to major decision making; has played a key role on selection panels for both substantive Principal and Acting Principal positions; and has been an active contributor within the school community. His unwavering support and kindness have been so greatly appreciated by the staff and I. Cam has been the School Council President for the entire time I have been principal and I will miss working with such an inspiring person. Cam, your positive influence, assistance, backing and encouragement will be dearly missed. On behalf of the entire school community, thank you very much!

# PRINCIPAL'S *Award*

**Cooper B, Luke P and Nick J from 6S** for their active contribution to a collaboratively developed paragraph of writing during a lesson with me this week. I really appreciated your willingness to share your ideas, the enthusiasm you showed for developing a high-quality piece, and the effort you were putting in. Thank you!

## Class Splits

Due to the shortage of available replacement teachers that has continued into 2023, we are preparing for the need to cover staff absences with class splits more frequently this year, however the smaller class sizes are conducive to this. A strength of our school is consistency of practice so we are able to continue daily routines and planned learning opportunities during class splits. In the event of a class split, classroom teachers either create and post a plan for the day to students' Seesaw accounts (in year levels where this is appropriate) or join in the learning planned for that class if it is relevant. Wherever possible, teachers will also let parents/carers know of a split in advance. We will continue endeavouring to find replacement teachers where possible and the leadership team will also jump in to cover classes when possible, but in the event that a split is necessary we have a solid plan that allows us to sustain the learning. We thank you for your support and understanding with this, and also thank our teachers who put such thought and effort into both the planning of these days and supporting students who temporarily join their class.

## Baby News

Our Wangaratta West Primary School community is growing! I am thrilled to announce that we have a new addition to the Wangaratta West family- baby Spence! Congratulations to Jack and Lauren Spence (formerly Claney) on the arrival of the beautiful Nora. The staff and I couldn't be happier and wish Jack and Lauren all the very best during this wonderful time in their lives.

In other news, we temporarily farewell one of our amazing Education Support staff members Kahlia Thompson as she heads off on maternity leave at the end of this week. We can't wait to hear news of the newest addition to the Thompson family very soon!

## Homework

We are constantly aiming to improve our approaches so, based on feedback and observations from staff and parents/carers, we are trialling some changes to our approach to homework this year. We are aiming to limit screen time by returning to a focus primarily on reading, with the expectation that all students read each night. Junior classes will also have a focus on practising high frequency words. Beyond this, we encourage families to engage in fun learning activities wherever and whenever possible. For example, cooking is a great way to not only expose students to instructional texts and practise reading with a purpose, it also allows for great discussions relating to units of measurement. Reading clocks, using measuring tapes, practising skip counting or number facts, and finding 2D and 3D shapes in the environment are other great ways to immerse children in real world maths. Writing letters, shopping lists or diary entries are similarly great ways to encourage purposeful writing. If you would like some other ideas regarding ways you could support your child at home, please speak to their classroom teacher for suggestions.

## 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



# Westy's Sports Report

## House Captains

Last Friday our newly appointed house captains received their badges, and have taken on their leadership roles straightaway, helping set up and supporting students at cross country training. Congratulations to the following:

**Hotham - Matilda & Jack P**  
**Buffalo - Dasha & Dexter**

**Feathertop - Polly & Nick**  
**Bogong - Paige-Lee & Jack A**



## Saturday Morning Netball

If your child would like to play Saturday morning netball for Wangaratta West please email Demi Walker at [demi.walker@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:demi.walker@education.vic.gov.au) ASAP. Please refer to the Seesaw announcement from 21/02/23 for more information.

## Cricket

The Growing Cricket For Girls (GCG) is funding an all girls after school cricket program with the support of Woolworths Cricket Blast (W/WCB).

This program is for girls aged 5yo-12yo and is run over four weeks in Term 1 on the school oval with the aim to have 15-25 girls involved in the program and being charged a subsidised \$10 each. The program would begin on Tuesday 7th March and finish on Tuesday 28th of March (3:30pm to 4:30pm).

If your child is interested please email Demi Walker at [demi.walker@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:demi.walker@education.vic.gov.au)

Spots are limited so be quick!



# Student OF THE Week

<b>Prep D</b>	Elizabeth	For trying her best at all the learning tasks she completed. Well done, Elizabeth!
<b>Prep M</b>	Neve	For always trying your best with your work. Your persistence when faced with a challenge is something to be proud of!
<b>Prep O</b>	Ava	Well done Ava, for working really hard to remember to put your hand up and wait for your turn to talk during whole class discussions!
<b>1J</b>	Marlee	for her extremely hard work on making sure she is following the classroom rules and expectations. Marlee has been an absolute superstar, we love having you in our class!
<b>1M</b>	Finch	Finch is a kind and caring member of our class and always shows respect. Finch is always ready to learn and not afraid of being in 'The Dip!' Keep up the great work, Finch!
<b>1ZC</b>	Judd	for being a respectful and helpful class member.
<b>2B</b>	Aakash	for being so willing and open to letting new friends join in with his games. You are such a kind and thoughtful member of our class, Aakash.
<b>2C</b>	Cash	For proudly sharing his writing and announcing that he loves writing. Cash, I am enjoying seeing your enthusiasm when we write in class. Keep up the wonderful effort.
<b>4WM</b>	Remy	Thank you for taking your role of 'teacher's assistant' very seriously and ensuring our classroom runs smoothly.
<b>4SM</b>	Pasidhi	It is a pleasure to teach a student as kind, compassionate and empathetic as you. You are always thinking of others. What a role model and great friend.
<b>5C</b>	Ry	for being an outstanding leader within our classroom community, always being there to lend a hand and support others with their learning.
<b>5D</b>	Layla	For being an outstanding class member and displaying the school value of success by using a metaphor to tell a story about courage.
<b>5L</b>	Jacob	For having a positive growth mindset during numeracy lessons which lead to successful outcomes. Well done Jacob.
<b>6P</b>	Billie	Billie, you're always willing to help your classmates, your teachers and you put 100% effort in to your work. Thank you so much, Billie for all your valuable contributions to our class!
<b>6S</b>	Tate	for the insightful knowledge and connections that you made with our mentor text. Thank you for sharing these with us and for explaining in detail the way you are able to connect with the 6 indigenous seasons of Kakadu. Keep up the amazing work.

WWPS 2023

\$2 PER  
TICKET

# EASTER

• RAFFLE •



**EASTER HAMPERS UP FOR GRABS!**

PLEASE SEND ANY EASTER DONATIONS TO THE OFFICE.  
ALL MONEY AND DONATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN  
TUESDAY 4TH APRIL.

**PRIZES DRAWN THURSDAY 5TH APRIL**

# Galen Catholic College Year 7 2024 Enrolments

Dear Parents and Year 6 students,

We would like to invite you and your family to our

## Family Discovery Tour on Thursday 16th March from 5.30pm to 7pm

simply scan the QR code below to book your place.

During the evening you will be able to explore the school, tour our facilities and ask any questions to our leadership team and educators. We will also have our student leaders to help with any questions that your son or daughter may have about life at Galen. Our application process is now online [Click here for](#) to start the application. Once you have completed the application form & application fee payment you will then be provided with dates for interviews. If you are unable to join us for the evening, you can also book for one of our Learning walks [Book a Learning Walk](#)

We look forward to seeing you and your family! For any queries please email [enrolments@galen.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@galen.vic.edu.au)



# Family Discovery Tour

Thursday  
**16th**  
MARCH

— 5.30pm - 7pm —






- Focused** on 2024 Year 7 cohort
- Explore** the college
- See** what's new around the campus
- Meet** the school leaders
- Interactive** and hands-on activities



Scan the QR code to register your family

More info:  
[admin-enquiry@galen.vic.edu.au](mailto:admin-enquiry@galen.vic.edu.au)

*We look forward to seeing you!*

Galen Catholic College | 188 - 244 Phillipson Street, Wangaratta | [galen.vic.edu.au](http://galen.vic.edu.au) | 5723 6322



**WANGARATTA NETBALL ASSOCIATION**

**NETSETGO 8-10 years Competition  
(Grade 3 and 4 players)**

Modified game for girls and boys aged 8-10 years. Incorporates skills development at training sessions and round-robin games with the emphasis on participation and having fun while learning the game of netball.

Commencing Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 from 11.30am-12.30pm for 12 rounds.

Team registrations close 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 on Netball Connect.

Contact your local primary school or view our website, wangarattanetball.com or Facebook page for further information



**WANGARATTA NETBALL ASSOCIATION**

**NETSETGO 5-7 years (Foundation, Grade 1 and 2)**

The program introduces girls and boys aged 5-7 years to learn basic netball skills through various skills and drills.

Friday from 4.30pm - 5.30pm for 8 weeks commencing 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at the netball courts.

Participant registrations open online via Netball Connect on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Further information on our website, wangarattanetball.com or Facebook page



**WANGARATTA**  
marathon & fun  
**Chronicle RUN** **GARRY NASH & CO. REAL ESTATE**  
EST. 1981

**Sunday 19 March 2023**

Total cash prize pool of over \$5000 plus trophies and gift packs

**ENTER NOW**

For further information and to register go to [wangarattamarathon.com.au](http://wangarattamarathon.com.au)



**MARATHON**  
**HALF MARATHON**  
**10KM**  
**5KM**  
**2KM PRIMARY SCHOOL CHALLENGE**

Sponsored by



Supporting Partner



*Junior Netball Competition*

**WANGARATTA NETBALL ASSOCIATION**

**11 to 17 years**

Commencing Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 from 8.30am - 11.30pm for 14 rounds.

Online Team registrations via Netball Connect close 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Further information on our website, wangarattanetball.com or Facebook page





**SIGN UP!**  
**2023** (raising awareness of depression and suicide prevention)  
**1 DAYER**  
 19TH MARCH 2023



WANGARATTA  
 VICTORIA

**SAVE THE DATE  
 SO YOU  
 DON'T MISS OUT  
 ON THIS ICONIC  
 RIDE!**

Help us get the country talking  
 and join your local 1 Dayer!

Departing from Apex Park,  
 Wangaratta VIC 3677

[www.blackdogride.org.au](http://www.blackdogride.org.au)

**8 AUSTRALIANS TAKE  
 THEIR LIVES EVERY  
 SINGLE DAY, THAT'S ONE  
 AUSSIE EVERY 3 HOURS  
 LOSING THEIR LIFE TO  
 THE BLACK DOG.**

On the third Sunday of March, Black Dog Ride is uniting under one banner with one voice on one single day to amplify a national message of hope, awareness and prevention.

Scan the QR Code to register



For more information contact  
 ride coordinator

Kurt Dissegna  
 e: Kurt922@yahoo.com

Fun & Creative  
 Outdoor  
 Activities,  
 Challenges and  
 Games



**TERM 1, 2023  
 SPARTAN  
 CHALLENGE**

*Our mission is to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of young people!*

- Group Challenges, Activities & Games
- Obstacle Course
- Fun & Engaging Coaches
- Health & Fitness
- Meaningful Experiences

For any young person aged 4-12 years old. Young people will be placed in their own age group!

To sign up head to

[WWW.MYFUTUREACADEMY.COM](http://WWW.MYFUTUREACADEMY.COM) BOOK-ONLINE



**My Future Academy  
 SPARTAN!**



MFA's Spartan program aims to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of young people by being active with new friends in the great outdoors! For young people aged 4 - 12 years old.

Kids Spartan involves an obstacle course, team challenges, mindfulness, games and activities and is all about inclusion!

- Social & Emotional Wellbeing ✓
- Health & Fitness ✓
- Teamwork & Communication ✓
- Resilience ✓
- Improved self awareness, empathy and compassion ✓

Young people will be in their own age group and will be guided by one of our amazing coaches! We value the individual and aim to make our program as inclusive as possible. Our games do not align with competitive sport, yet an opportunity to move freely with their peers.

To register, please head to the website below

[www.myfutureacademy.com/book-online](http://www.myfutureacademy.com/book-online)



**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS  
 FUNDRAISER**

**AQUATHON**



**2023**

**Sunday 5th March 2023**

**THIS IS AN ALL AGE EVENT  
 AT THE SPORTS AND AQUATIC CENTRE**

**COMPETE INDIVIDUALLY OR WITH YOUR SQUAD**

- MARLIN - 2KM RUN - 400M SWIM - 2KM RUN
  - CLOWNFISH - 1KM RUN - 200M SWIM - 1KM RUN
  - GOLDFISH - 500M RUN - 50M SWIM - 500M RUN
- JUMP ON LINE AND FIND OUT MORE**

**REGISTER NOW** Proudly Sponsored by:



keep up to date  
 join our group



big brothers big sisters  
 wangaratta

Proudly Supported by:



[HTTPS://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/BIG-BROTHERS-BIG-SISTERS-AQUATHON-VFYDT3N4](https://events.humanitix.com/big-brothers-big-sisters-aquathon-vfydt3n4)

EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[WANGARATTA@BBBSAUS.ORG](mailto:WANGARATTA@BBBSAUS.ORG)



Big Brothers Big Sisters  
 of Australia

# Spotlight on You

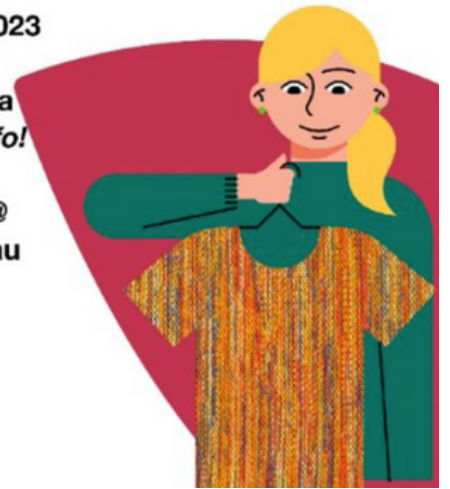
A series of FREE workshops aimed at shining a light on mental health and wellbeing for yourself, your mates and loved ones.



WORKSHOP	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
<b>Workshops for young people</b>		
Self-Care: Looking after your mental health	Mon 27 February 4-5:30pm	Wangaratta Rovers Football Netball Club
Looking out for your friends	Tues 28 February 4-5:30pm	Wangaratta Rovers Football Netball Club
Self-Care: Looking after your mental health	Tues 28 February 6-7:30pm	Wangaratta Rovers Football Netball Club
Self-Care: Looking after your mental health	Mon 6 March 4:30-6pm	Online Delivery
<b>Workshops for families (young people can be joined by a family member)</b>		
Flourish 1	Wed 8 March 4-5:30pm	HP Multipurpose Room, Schilling Drive, Wangaratta
Flourish 2	Thurs 16 March 4-5:30pm	HP Multipurpose Room, Schilling Drive, Wangaratta
Connect the lines through Cartooning	Tues 21 & Wed 22 March 4-4:45pm	HP Multipurpose Room, Schilling Drive, Wangaratta
Connect the lines through Cartooning	Tues 28 & Wed 29 March 5:30-6:15pm	HP Multipurpose Room, Schilling Drive, Wangaratta
<b>Workshops for parents &amp; carers</b>		
Supporting young people: notice, ask, connect	Mon 27 February 6-7:30pm	Wangaratta Rovers Football Netball Club
Supporting young people: notice, ask, connect	Tues 7 March 6-7:30pm	Online Delivery

# Register Now!! For our Young Creators Market 2023

**When:** March 25, 2023  
**Where:** Holy Trinity Cathedral Wangaratta  
**Contact Trinity for info!**  
**Mob:** 0447 119 145  
**Email:** trinity.byatt@gatewayhealth.org.au



Scan the QR Code for more information and to register



headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

# VILLO.

**'the one day vacay for mums'**  
 seasonal retreats; yoga, meditation,  
 self development + wellness  
 workshops

sunday 19th march +  
 sunday 2nd april  
 lancemore, milawa

**Scan here for  
more information**





[www.villo.com.au](http://www.villo.com.au) @villo.retreats