



# REMINDERS

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## 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.

## WWPS Postcard Competition

We will again be running a postcard competition this year, and I encourage all students to create an entry. This may be a great project for the holidays when students have some extra time on their hands. Please see Seesaw or Facebook for entry details, or print out the template at the end of this newsletter.

## Coronavirus Update

Information and updates continue to be sent through to me from the DET and I will keep families as up to date as possible throughout the holiday break. In the event that we move to remote and flexible learning, I will provide information as soon as possible regarding what this will look like at Wangaratta West Primary School, how and when you can pick up student learning packs, and how you and your child will be able to communicate with classroom teachers. Please keep an eye out for emails from me, and facebook will be updated regularly with useful sites and activities for kids over the holidays.

## Parent Feedback

Thank you very much to all of those parents and carers who responded to our feedback surveys. You have given us some great ideas for how to continue improving our school, as well as a lot of positive feedback which is greatly appreciated. Please find below some key themes that were communicated:

### What worked well with our Prep transition this year?

- Having multiple transition days available for children to become familiar with the school and its staff.
- Letters from grade 5 buddies.
- Having four classes for Preps to be divided into, and taking parent requests into account

### Ideas for improving the Prep transition process

- Giving incoming Preps a play time outside on one of the transition days.
- Making one of the transition sessions (perhaps the last one) longer. (These are both great ideas that we will look at for next year.)
- Having Prep teachers available from 8:30AM in term 1 to allow parents to catch them. (We have staff briefing from 8:30-8:45 each morning but this may be something we could look at doing one morning per week.)
- More information - the more the merrier, particularly around start and end times, information sessions, who Preps should be playing with at break times, etc. (Providing timely, detailed information is certainly something we are always aiming to do so we will keep striving to improve in this area).

## Parent Feedback - continued

- Holding the Prep information session earlier in the term, perhaps in the first few days. (This is a great idea. We will look at it for next year.)

### What is working well at our school?

- Fabulous teachers!
- Fantastic programs.
- Communication with parents (i.e. Seesaw, Compass, Email).
- Students feeling happy and confident at school.
- The recent work around kindness.
- The variety of leadership roles available.
- Whole school house events.
- The school grounds that are looking amazing.
- A leadership team who are organised and involved with students, visiting classes and assisting with supervision, etc.

### How could we improve our school?

- A larger bike storage area/shed (This is something that we are looking into as space is becoming tighter and tighter with our growing population).
- Continued improvements of the school grounds (Absolutely – we have ideas and, with the feedback from this survey, we will begin moving forward).
- A crossing at the back of the school (We used to have a crossing at the back of the school but the council no longer staff it, therefore it became a hazard and was removed).
- More car parking (This is a challenging issue. We are not sure how to fix this unfortunately).
- Increased communication (We are always endeavouring to improve our communication but if anyone has any specific ideas, please let us know).
- More parent/teacher meetings (This is something that we had planned for early term 2 but unfortunately we don't know if they will proceed as scheduled given the current climate. We will look at setting up meetings earlier next year.)
- Move the rubbish bins as they create a mess (We will look at this, however they need to be near gates for access).

We also received some great ideas for ways to improve our school grounds, so you will see ongoing work in the coming months.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me via [keenan.kristy.k@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:keenan.kristy.k@edumail.vic.gov.au) or by phone on 0477343814.

I wish you all a safe and happy holidays with your loved ones. Please take care of one another and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Kind regards,

*Kristy Keenan*

PRINCIPAL

# THEFT OF BICYCLES

## An alert from Wangaratta Police

There has been an increase in the theft of bicycles particularly Mountain bikes, brands like Trek, Giant, Canondale and Specialize.

Police are urging all bike owners to better secure your bikes especially at your home. Whenever your bike is left unattended please use a good quality lock and place it out of sight at your home address in a locked shed or garage.

Ensure your bike is identifiable by engraving a licence number on the bottom of the frame and record the serial number. Write a description of your bike including make, model, colour, size and type of bicycle and take a photo. By doing this, if your bicycle is stolen and recovered by police, returning the property to the rightful owner can be done quickly.

Police recover quite a few stolen bikes but unfortunately if there is no identification or serial number then it's hard to give it back.

Opportunistic thieves target bicycles as they can easily steal unsecured bikes and repaint them or pull them apart to sell them.

It's best to make sure your bike is out of sight of would be thieves to start with.

We encourage that by taking some simple security measures you can protect your bike from would be thieves.

Insurance is recommended especially on expensive brand on expensive brand Mountain bikes as these are very popular to steal.

For further information on bicycle protection contact Wangaratta Police's Crime Prevention Officer on 5723 0803.



