

What's on in the West

Wangaratta West Primary School Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 6th August
Pyjama Day



TERM 3 WEEK 3 | 30.07.2021

New Shelter

Over the holidays, our new shelter was put up and it looks fantastic! Our kids will now have a place to play games at break times and participate in PE lessons with protection from the sun and rain. Miss Walker has been in her element out there!

The next step is a court of rubber that can now be laid (now that the trucks needed for the shelter have been and gone) so that is on its way. A huge shout out to Mrs Ashmead for organising it all for us.



Return to school from remote learning

Thank you again to all of our students and parents/carers who dug deep yet again to complete another 7 days of remote learning. Fingers crossed that will be the last time!

Thank you also for your understanding regarding only entering school grounds if necessary. We absolutely support parents/carers walking students to classrooms if they are anxious but wherever possible please drop and pick students up from an available school gate.

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.

100 Days of School

Today our Prep students celebrated 100 days of school by parading around the courtyard wearing sensational hats and enormous smiles whilst the rest of the school cheered them on. It was a beautiful scene and something we are so glad we were able to celebrate with all of our students at school. Congratulations Preps!!

National Pyjama Day

Thank you to everyone for your flexibility re our Pyjama day. It will now be held next Friday, 6th August. It will be great to see the school awash with colour yet again. Please remember your gold coin to donate to this very worthy cause (raising much-needed awareness and funds for children in foster care) and that all students need to wear climate appropriate pyjamas and regular school shoes please (slippers may come but should only be worn indoors). Thank you to our SRC and Miss Claney for organising this day for us.

School Dental Van

The dental van has been rescheduled to start next week, the 3rd, 4th and 5th of August (and returning later in the term). Unfortunately they are unable to take late forms, but for everyone who had previously returned consent forms, your child will be seen starting next week.

Egg Cartons

If anyone has any egg cartons at home, Kerrie would greatly appreciate some for the art room, thank you.

Attendance

Given that our school year has yet again been disrupted by periods of remote learning, it has never been more important than now to ensure that students miss only the school days they absolutely need to due to illness, medical appointments, etc. You may think that a day here and there won't matter, but our teachers will tell you that is definitely disrupts learning as our programs are progressive, building on the learning of the day before so missing a day means missing a chunk of understanding. Over time, these build up and cause 'gaps in learning' that are difficult to counteract. We certainly ask that you keep your child home if they are ill, particularly in this current climate, but otherwise we need them here every day. If you are experiencing difficulties getting your child to school, please contact myself or Bree (our wellbeing leader) to discuss strategies that may help.

Census

Our August (mid-year) census will take place next Friday, 6th of August. It is vital that we have your current occupation status listed as our 2022 school funding is determined in part by this and we want to ensure that we are in a position to offer the best possible programs and structures for our students. If your work has changed since the beginning of the year (i.e. you are no longer working, you have changed work place or you are on maternity leave), PLEASE let us know as this will have a positive effect on our funding resources next year.

Raffle

We are about to launch our second raffle for the year. We have moved it forward due to the fact that in the current climate we are unable to run any community or whole school fundraising activities (which were planned and have unfortunately had to be rescheduled). We hope you will once again get involved and purchase and/or share the raffle opportunity with friends and family.

We have amazing prizes up for grabs, very kindly donated by local businesses so keep an eye out on Seesaw and facebook for further details.

Prizes include:

- **A \$500 food and feast voucher at The BBQ Garden & Providore, Glenrowan (kindly donated by Ms Mexon)**
- **A Jumbuck Steel Fire Pit (kindly donated by Bunnings, Wangaratta)**
- **A donation by Officeworks, Wangaratta**
- **A King Valley Spice Pack (kindly donated by King Valley Spices)**
- **Wine from Castagna Wines (kindly donated by Ms Castagna)**
- **A coffee voucher for 6 small hot drinks at Madem Espresso (kindly donated by Madem Espresso)**

All funds raised will once again go toward the construction of a (much needed) new Hands On Learning shed.



Hugh (5G) for his very impressive comic! The detail within the drawings was incredible. Thank you for sharing this with me, Hugh.

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.

OSHC

All OSHC Queries/Bookings to 0407 004 059 or wangwestoshc@gmail.com



RoboGals Visit

Wangaratta West was lucky enough to host the amazing Robogals from Monash University this week. Robogals mission is to inspire more students, particularly females, to pursue STEM degrees and careers. We hosted 10 Engineering students from Monash who explained what their different engineering degrees meant. Our girls learnt about the different types of engineering, civil, chemical, resource, mechanical, biomedical, aerospace, software, mechatronics and environmental which was incredibly interesting. They defined engineering as using maths and science to solve real world problems.

Next, we learned to use Lego Mindstrom robots, writing code to make them move forward, turn, use light sensors and reverse.

We followed a simple coding activity, then coded a program for the sumo wrestle battle! The energy in the room as the girls were at first frustrated and then shouting with excitement as the robots moved in the right direction!

A fantastic experience for Wang West and Robogals certainly did inspire our girls.

Stacey Hedderman

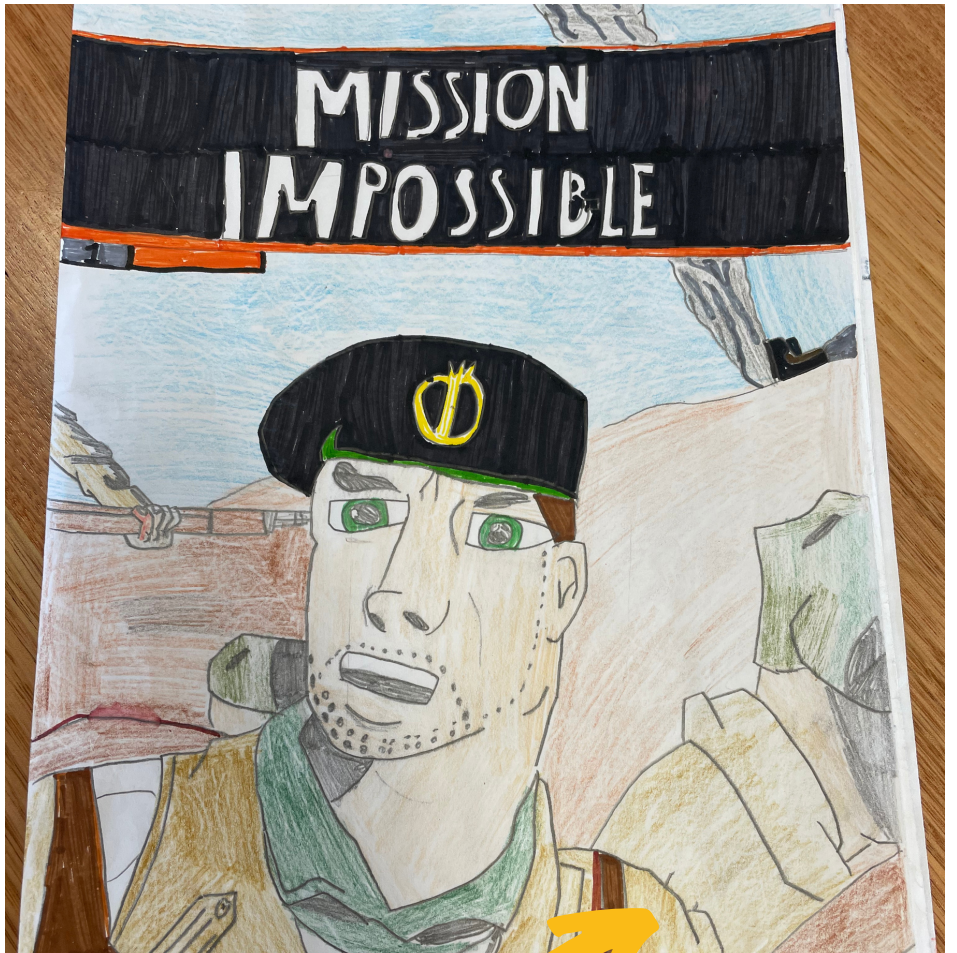
High Ability Practice Leader



100 DAYS OF PREP!



GRADE 6 SPHERO OLYMPICS



HUGH'S DRAWING

Student

OF THE WEEK

Prep M	Lucas	For giving 100% with everything you do, keep up the good work Lucas!
	Rania	For being such a caring member of Prep M and always looking out for your classmates. Well done Rania!
Prep R	Zac	For his wonderful concentration and being so ready to learn new things this term. Thanks for being so enthusiastic about Maths, Zac!
	Jax	For having such a wonderful start to Term 3 and being so excited to be back in the classroom. Keep up the smiles, Jax!
1C	Flynn	For 100 nights of reading. Fantastic Effort.
	Jonny	For 100 nights of reading. Fantastic Effort.
	Arthur	For being able to read the 300 high Frequency words from our wall. You are a Superstar!
	Indigo	For being able to read the 300 high Frequency words from our wall. You are a Superstar!
1J	Reese	For the incredible way she has settled into Term 3. Reese, I am so proud of your positive attitude towards learning this term, you have been working so hard. Keep it up!
2C	Indi	For the creativity and flair she puts into her learning tasks, both at school and at home. Keep up the great work, Indi!
2SC	Ben	For being a helpful member of 2SC. You are always willing to assist those around you. Well done.
	Kenzie	For always giving tasks 100%. You are setting an example to those around you, and this is heart-warming.
	Mackenzie	We love that you always come into the class with a smile and positive attitude. It lights up our classroom and makes us all feel lucky to have you in the class.
3VP	Lachlan	For the commitment and dedication he demonstrated to his reading during remote learning. Lachlan your reading is improving every day! Keep up the good work!
4B	Cooper	For the resilience he has shown during this period of Remote Learning. I am so proud of all the efforts you have put into your learning this week, knowing that you haven't been well! Keep up the great work, legend!
	Baiden	For the positive attitude he has shown to his learning this week. It has been amazing to see how engaged you are in the classroom! Keep up the great work, Mr. Z!



EVERY DAY COUNTS

PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

SCHOOL IS BETTER WHEN YOUR CHILD IS THERE

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates.

It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

IN VICTORIA SCHOOL IS COMPULSORY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 6 -17 YEARS

Student Absences

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and developing good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

Family holidays - It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term. If you are planning to go on holiday during term time, make sure that you talk to your child's school in advance, and work with them to develop an absence learning plan.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.



School refusal - School refusing children will experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school; they may be absent from school for weeks or even months at a time. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school. See: [My child or teenager has anxiety](#)

BEING AWAY FROM SCHOOL FOR ONE DAY A FORTNIGHT EQUALS MISSING 1.5 YEARS OVER 13 YEARS OF SCHOOL

If your child is away

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

Inform the school

- Speak with your child's classroom teacher and find out what work they need to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, **every day counts**. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Chronic or ongoing attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice being issued to parent/s.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Top attendance tips for parents

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents – act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support
- Remember that every day counts
- There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with your child's school about all absences is a good idea
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term
- Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/attendance/Pages/improve-attendance.aspx>



NATIONAL
Pyjama Day

SUPPORT LITTLE PEOPLE

WITH **BIG** DREAMS

Friday
August 6th

2021

gold coin
donation

Wear your favourite PJ's &
help raise vital funds to
support kids in care

If you are interested, there's a fundraising page for further donations:
<https://the-pyjama-foundation.giveeasy.org/campaigns/wwps-pyjama-day/>

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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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