

Information Pack



*Developing learners for
life who care for
themselves, others and
the environment*



Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents and Families,

May I extend a warm welcome to all new students and families to the Wangaratta West Primary School community. This booklet is designed to provide you with information about the school and its activities and will assist you in becoming an active participant in your child's learning.

I am delighted to be the Principal of Wangaratta West Primary School and proud to lead the school that has been educating children of Wangaratta and surrounding communities since 1950.

Our school prides itself on providing a quality education for all our students in a safe, happy and stimulating environment where every child achieves their best. We foster the development of globally aware and community minded students that have the skills and attitudes necessary to thrive in the 21st century.

I look forward to your child being part of our great school and invite you also to participate in the many opportunities for parental involvement in the school. I hope your association with our school will be a long and happy one, as we work together to achieve the best possible education for your child.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any enquiries. I look forward to working with you.

*Kristy Keenan
Principal*



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

School Name: Wangaratta West Primary School

Address: 47-49 Phillipson Street
Wangaratta, 3677

Telephone: (03) 5721 3491

Email: wangaratta.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Website: www.wangwestps.vic.edu.au

Facebook: [@wangwestps](https://www.facebook.com/wangwestps)

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Principal: Kristy Keenan

Assistant Principals: Xavier Norden
Danielle Ashmead (Acting)

Business Manager: Tania Pool

Office Administration: Anna Sharrock

School Council President: Cameron Meggs

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2021:

Term 1: 27th January – 1st April

Term 2: 19th April – 25th June

Term 3: 12th July – 17th September

Term 4: 4th October – 17th December

Prep students do not attend school on a Wednesday up until the week of the long weekend in March. The school will keep you updated and informed of this.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL:

Wangaratta West Primary School continues its commitment to providing quality education for all students within a safe and caring environment. All students are encouraged to be confident, lifelong learners who are able to form strong and positive relationships with others. Our school values of Respect, Honesty, Resilience, Empathy and Gratitude are reflected in all that we do.

Our school currently has 470 students enrolled and the equivalent fulltime staff of 43, including a Principal, 2 Assistant Principals, 11 Education Support staff, a School Welfare Officer, a Chaplain and a Speech Therapist.

We are a Google accredited school with a 1:1 iPad program for our students in years 3-6.

Our school consists of:

- 21 classrooms
- Art room
- Music/Drama room
- Science Lab
- Library
- Digi Hub
- Large Hall
- Kitchen (lunch orders are out sourced)
- Vegetable Garden
- 3 Playgrounds (year levelled)
- Basketball and Netball Courts
- Oval



SCHOOL GOALS:

At Wangaratta West Primary School, all children are valued and their successes are celebrated. The school is committed to providing a high quality education for all, and actively promotes and encourages all students to be the best they can be – to strive for success at all times.

OUR SCHOOL VISION:

‘Developing learners for life who care about themselves, others and the environment.’

OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

At Wangaratta West Primary School we promote our school values of:

- *Respect* - We accept differences will exist but we will treat each other and our environment respectfully.
- *Honesty* - We will have truthful and honest communication.
- *Resilience* - We are able to recover and bounce back quickly when faced with adversity.
- *Empathy* - We have the ability to understand and help others around us.
- *Gratitude* - We show appreciation for what we have and show kindness to others.

As a school we continue to work together as staff, students and families to build a common understanding of the school values and to incorporate these into our ways of working together.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM

At Wangaratta West Primary School we strive to provide an inclusive, supportive and safe learning environment by encouraging all students to care for themselves, others, their learning and their school.

Introducing, modelling and reinforcing positive social behaviour are important components of a student's educational experience, and at WWPS we promote and maintain a reliable and controlled approach to behaviour management by utilising a School Wide Positive Behaviours Support (PBS) framework.



A PBS framework promotes a proactive approach to teaching behavioural expectations and rewarding students for following them, rather than waiting for errors to occur before responding. This ensures a consistent approach to discipline with clearly defined rules, routines and physical arrangements, which are developed and taught by school staff. Like academic skills that have been learned initially, social skills must be regularly practised and acknowledged frequently to ensure mastery and sustained use.

Our approach aligns academic and behavioural systems to create an emphasis on explicitly teaching, monitoring and rewarding appropriate behaviour. We use a behaviour matrix to teach our four values: 'Care for Yourself', 'Care for Others', 'Care for Your Learning' and 'Care for Your School'.

WRIST BANDS:

As part of our Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) program, students are able to earn themselves wristbands by displaying our five school values of Respect, Honesty, Gratitude, Empathy and Resilience. When students are "caught" displaying these values by staff they will receive a stamp on their PBS card. After reaching five stamps, students will be called out at assembly to receive their wrist band. Our Mascot 'Westy' the wolf promotes our school values in everything we do.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Wangaratta West Primary School is served by dedicated, caring and highly qualified professional staff who focus on developing students as effective learners. Staff are committed to the learning of each individual child at the school. The teachers plan for and implement targeted teaching and learning activities to meet the individual needs of all students using the Victorian Curriculum. All students are engaged in two hours of Literacy teaching and an hour of Numeracy teaching each day. The Victorian Curriculum provides the basis for curriculum planning and development across the school.

Teaching and learning programs address the needs of the students through explicit teaching and learning of key skills in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy based on data. Our teachers are committed to providing a high quality education for their students to ensure their individual learning needs are met.

Our whole school instructional model prides itself on the following principles:

- *Teachers are released in teams to plan and develop consistent, quality teaching programs that are informed by data and evidence based research.*
- *Explicit teaching practices, including modelling and demonstration, are used to clearly show students what to do and how to do it.*
- *Differentiated teaching methods are employed to extend the knowledge and skills of every student in every class, regardless of their starting point.*
- *Learning intentions and success criteria are used to make learning transparent to students.*
- *Individual learning goals are established and feedback is used to inform students and teachers about their performance relative to their goals.*
- *Problem solving, creativity and critical thinking are highly valued.*

LITERACY

Our literacy program successfully engages students across all Victorian Curriculum areas of reading, viewing, writing, and speaking and listening. With a clear focus on learning intentions and success criteria, students work together in groups, or on individual learning tasks, on a range of evidence-based activities to develop and refine their English skills.



READING

Our reading block involves explicit teaching of specific reading strategies and skills, providing scaffolding for students as they make the transition from dependent to independent readers.

There are 6 components to the Reading Workshop:

1. **The Interactive Read Aloud** where teachers model correct reading strategies and behaviours to the students.
2. **Guided Reading/Literature Circles** where teachers work with a group of students at their instructional level. These groups are formed using data provided by ongoing assessments.
3. **Shared Reading** where students and teacher read together, providing the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of what the students are reading.
4. **Independent Reading** which allows students time to actively practice applying the new strategies and skills they have been learning.
5. **Word Study** which links reading to spelling. Starting at letters and the sounds they make through to exploring root words, suffixes and prefixes and learning how to derive meaning from words.
6. **Reading conferences** that take place regularly between the teacher and individual students. This enables the teacher to have a genuine conversation with the student about their reading, text selection and to monitor their progress in achieving learning goals.

WRITING

At Wangaratta West Primary School, our writing framework consists of a range of proven elements that when combined, create a rigorous and engaging foundation for the teaching of writing. The building blocks of our approach consist of utilising Big Write and VCOP.

Big Write and VCOP is a fast paced, fun filled writing program that is based around talk. At the heart of Big Write is the development of the writing voice. Big Write and VCOP creates a positive ethos towards writing for all students. Writing improvement is achieved through a series of highly motivating, differentiated lessons that embed all the basic skills and knowledge that children require to be successful and to continue to improve. The use of the Australian Criterion Scale ensures consistency of assessment between and across grade levels.

The Big Write methodology is; 'if they can't say it, they can't write it.' With talk and communication, an imperative element of the program, it directly appeals to those who are reluctant writers. Our students are encouraged to be ambitious, up-level their work and focus on the elements of VCOP in their writing. By highlighting these areas as and independently using the Student Criterion Scale, our students are empowered by understanding the simple and successful ways to improve their writing.



SPELLING

Our spelling program is supported through the Sound Waves phonemic approach using a sound-to-letter strategy which acknowledges that sounds can be represented more than one way in written form. This phonics curriculum focuses first on the basics of sounds in our language – phonemes. It then explores the letters that represent these sounds and how they can be put together to form written words. These concepts include prefixes, suffixes, Latin and Greek roots, synonyms, homophones and more. Sound Waves builds on each lesson from Prep through to Year 6.



MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is an essential area of learning in our curriculum. It is vitally important that our students develop mathematical skills in order to function effectively in society. Becoming confident and competent with mathematics enables our students to be able to reason, solve problems, demonstrate understandings and see the relevance of mathematics in everyday life. The mathematics program at Wangaratta West Primary School allows all students to have genuine access to high quality learning in mathematics. The program builds on students' interests and experiences, allowing students to make meaningful connections to real life situations and enables them to see a purpose for all concepts

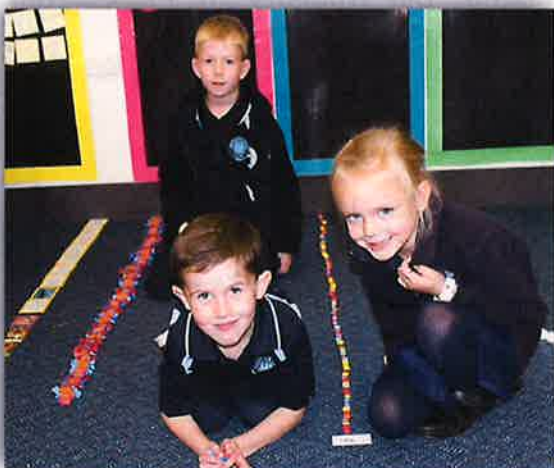
and skills being taught. Students are encouraged to analyse, compare, explain, reason, justify, estimate and synthesise mathematical problems, which assists them in developing the ability to choose the most effective approach to solving problems.

At Wangaratta West, we have developed a strong whole-school approach based around Professional Development from mathematics expert Rob Vingerhoets. We have a commitment to the teaching and learning of problem solving strategies. Mathematical concepts and skills are explicitly taught, and students are encouraged to explore and discover them for themselves in mathematics. Students are supported, challenged and extended through 'real life' open-ended problems that have multiple solutions, allowing students to experience success regardless of their mathematical ability. This approach increases student engagement and enjoyment in mathematics, assisting us in developing positive growth mindsets towards learning in mathematics.



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- **Number and Algebra** – This focuses on developing student understanding of counting, patterns, place value, the four processes, financial mathematics, fractions and decimals

- **Measurement and Geometry** – This focuses on developing students understanding of different types of measurement including; length, area, perimeter, time, volume and capacity. It also focuses on the properties of shapes and the relationships between shapes and measurement. Finally it includes a focus on location.

- **Statistics and Probability** – This focuses on building

understandings about how to create, display and interpret data and developing an understanding of chance and how it can influence the outcome of events.

These strands describe the concepts being taught and learnt, and provide the basis for our mathematics curriculum. The proficiency strands are:

- Understanding
- Fluency
- Reasoning
- Problem Solving

The proficiencies describe how the concepts are explored and skills are developed - the thinking and the doing.

SPECIALIST PROGRAM

MUSIC:

Each class receives a 45-minute music lesson each week where students learn to read music and play a variety of instruments, including; numerous drums, xylophone, marimba, ukulele, steel pans, and other auxiliary percussion.

Over the years we have been fortunate to host workshops and performances by Oz Opera, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Ballet. In 2019, all students will be involved in opera activities in preparation for Oz Opera's performance of 'The Barber of Seville' on 28th May. Term 2.

The class music program covers areas such as:

- *Basic music reading skills*
- *Exploring music from different cultures and eras in history*
- *Listening and responding to music*
- *Instruments of the Orchestra*
- *Developing instrumental techniques and skills*
- *Arranging and composing music, and basic improvisation*
- *Music Technology*
- *Performance.*



The classroom music program is complimented by extension programs including choir, percussion and African drumming.

LANGUAGE:

Our students study a language from Prep to Year 6 for 45 minutes each week. Our current language is Italian. The Italian program incorporates reading, writing, listening to and speaking the Italian language within lessons through singing songs, playing games, acting out short skits and completing fun activities. Our Italian program demonstrates our commitment to providing all students with a greater awareness of the world around them.

The Italian program covers areas such as:

- Basic reading and writing skills
- Pronunciation of words
- Geography of Italy
- Conversation skills
- Greetings, colors, numbers, days of week, months, family, etc.
- Following instructions in Italian
- Exploring music from Italy

VISUAL ARTS

Students participate in a 45-minute art session each week. They are presented with a balanced program based on creativity, exploring and developing skills in the areas such as:

- *Painting*
- *Modelling*
- *Textiles*
- *Drawing*
- *Printmaking*
- *Collage*
- *Construction*
- *Mixed media.*



Students' art work is celebrated and displayed in the art room, classrooms, and shared spaces and in the community. We aim to achieve a balance between displaying student art work and sending it home to share with family and friends. All families are invited to visit the art room and enjoy the displays throughout the year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Wangaratta West Primary School provides a 45-minute Physical Education session for every student each week. It is designed to prepare students for a healthy and active lifestyle through the development of skills, knowledge, teamwork and positive attitudes. Our comprehensive program provides children with a wide range of physical and sporting experiences focusing on the sequential development of fundamental motor and locomotion skills, dance, athletics, fitness and sport education.

To implement the P.E. program, we have access to excellent facilities including a hall, nearby oval, basketball, netball and bat tennis courts. We also have a range of equipment that ensures a variety of exciting new experiences each session. Various lunch time programs are also offered throughout the term.

Children in the junior school will learn and practise the correct techniques for:

- *Running & Skipping*
- *Hopping & jumping*
- *Catching, throwing and kicking*
- *Rolling*
- *Balancing*
- *Twisting & turning.*



While those in the middle and senior school will develop the capacity to link these skills into more complex and coordinated movement sequences. As students develop increasingly complex motor skills, they will be given opportunities to then apply these to appropriately modified games and sport-specific settings.

The Physical Education program is complimented by whole school house team events such as athletics and cross country. These events also open up opportunities for students to compete at a Regional and State level. We also offer a swimming program, Winter Sport competitions with other local schools and weekend sporting opportunities.

SCIENCE

Science education at Wangaratta West Primary School provides an inquiry based approach that aids our purpose of developing our students' scientific literacy. We want to increase their scientific knowledge and use it to ask questions, acquire new knowledge, and explain scientific phenomena and to draw conclusions. Students are lucky enough to have access to a well-equipped Science Lab and specialist teacher for a 45-minute weekly session for 2 terms each year.

The Science program covers areas such as:

- Biological Science
- Chemistry
- Earth and Space
- Physics.



Digital Technologies

The Digital Technologies program at Wangaratta West PS encompasses a range of programs for Prep to Grade 6 that fosters creative and critical thinking. Students in our Junior classrooms have access to a shared bank of iPads and the creative technologies in our school's DigiHub. Our students in Middle and Upper classrooms work with a 1:1 iPad program and begin to explore the Digital Technologies curriculum even further with VEX Robotics, Sphero robotics and LittleBits coding. The green screen technology in our DigiHub is extremely popular and it used regularly by students to create the weekly Wang West TV episode.

Digital Technologies is available to students across the school as an additional specialist subject.



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Additional Programs that are offered at Wangaratta West Primary School include:

- Student Leadership opportunities
- Incursions/Excursions
- Swimming Program
- Camp Programs
- Student Wellbeing Programs
- Supervised lunchtime activities



TARGETED INTERVENTION & EXTENSION PROGRAMS

MINILIT is targeted for Year 1 and 2 students, those who still struggle to read at the end of one year of formal reading instruction in school. It consists of 80 one-hour lessons, typically delivered over 20 weeks, to groups of four students who come out of the regular class for the lesson. The lessons focus on five keys to reading:

1. phonemic awareness
2. phonics
3. fluency
4. vocabulary; and
5. comprehension.

MULTILIT is a literacy program for students in years 3 to 6 which has been developed by Macquarie University. It is a 1:1 program that consists of 40 one hour sessions delivered over 10 weeks. The lessons focus on the same five keys to reading as the Minilit program.

MACROB GIFTED OUTREACH PROGRAM is a one on one mentoring partnership between Mac.Rob's Year 10 students and selected Year 5 and 6 students at Wangaratta West Primary School. Using a digital platform, Year 10 Mac.Rob students mentor our students who have been identified by their teachers as gifted. It is designed to challenge students by providing a learning experience that is different in pace, depth and complexity to what they are used to.

MATHS OLYMPIAD

The APSMO Maths Olympiads is a competition for students in years 5 and 6 of primary schools and from around Australia and New Zealand. It is aimed at challenging participants' maths problem solving abilities.

UNSW Global ICAS ASSESSMENTS are designed to recognise and reward academic excellence. They are a series of tests that are designed to assess student's abilities to apply classroom learning in new contexts, using higher order thinking and problem solving.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS are developed for all students who are 12 months or more below or above the expected curriculum level of achievement, as well as Out of Home Care students, Koorie students and students funded under the Program for Students with Disabilities. These are made in conjunction with the students and shared with parents on a regular basis.

HANDS ON LEARNING (HoL) is a innovative education program starting at Wangaratta West in 2019. HoL aims to build skills and confidence in young people for school and future employment success. The HoL group consists of a small group of crossage students with a focus on collaboration, team work, communication and problem solving.

THE SCHOOL DAY:

SCHOOL TIMES:

- 8:45am Students/parents are able to enter the classroom and get organised for the day – junior students change their take home reading book and read to an adult. Please note that supervision of students in the yard will begin at this time also.*
- 9:00am First teaching and learning session*
- 11:20am Student lunch begins – students are supervised to eat for the first 10 minutes*
- 11:30am Students play in the playground*
- 12:00pm: Second teaching and learning session*
- 1:30pm: Recess begins – students are supervised to eat for the first 5 minutes*
- 1:35pm: Students play in the playground*
- 2:05pm: Third teaching and learning session*
- 3:15pm: Students travelling by bus leave*
- 3:20pm: End of the school day*

OUT OF HOURS SCHOOL CARE (OHSC):

Wangaratta West Primary school offer both before and after school care, along with vacation and pupil free day care.

The programs are child focused, seeking to engage children in experiences that reflect their natural curiosity and wonder about the world around them. We aim to develop every individual child, encouraging them to develop their emotional, social, intellectual, physical, and creative skills in a caring and supportive environment. The Victorian Early Years Learning and Developmental Framework and the National Quality Standards are at the core of all of our programs and guide our goal of remaining a leader in the industry through providing a High Quality Curriculum.

HOURS OF OPERATION

- Before School Care: 6.30am - 8.45am*
- After School Care: 3.30pm - 6.00pm*
- Vacation Care: 6.30am - 6.00pm*

GENERAL INFORMATION:

ASSEMBLY: is held each Monday morning in the Hall and commences at 9:05am. Parents and families are welcome to attend assembly each week. Students receiving awards are announced in the school newsletter on the Friday prior to assembly. Wang West TV is presented on a fortnightly basis, celebrating all the wonderful things that have been happening around the school.

ABSENCES/ LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY DEPARTURE: If your child is absent, we require notification. You can do this via your login access, or by texting or telephoning the school. An absent text is sent to all parents at 10:00am each morning. If your child arrives late or they need to leave early, please come to the front office first, to sign them in/out.

ART SMOCK:

All students in Years Prep to Six will need to have an art smock to protect their school uniform from paint and other craft materials.

BUDDY SYSTEM

Each prep student has a Year 5 Buddy from the first day of school to help with any adjustments to school life. Throughout the year, buddy activities are planned to further support our new Prep students.



FAMILY DETAILS:

If there is a change in address, phone, medical information, family circumstances, emergency contact, access rights, etc., please contact the school so that we are continually kept up to date.

HATS

As we are a Sun Smart School, staff and students are required to wear their hats outside from the 1st of September until the 1st of May. 'First of Spring, hats we bring. First of May, hats off day.'

HOMEWORK

All year levels are required to complete some form of homework. This includes reading, spelling and Big Talk homework. All classroom teachers communicate the homework routine at the beginning of the year.

HOUSE SYSTEM:

Each child is placed in one of the four 'houses'. The houses are Bogong, Buffalo, Hotham and Feathertop. Students compete in the house colours on School Sports Day and are encouraged to wear their house colour t-shirt. Teachers also award house points for students during the week for good work, displaying the school's values, working well etc. The winning house for the week is announced at assembly on Monday.



LOST PROPERTY:

Lost property is located in the Hall. The school endeavours to return all items that are named and placed in the lost property tub. Please ensure that you label your child's lunch box, drink bottle, art smock etc. for easy identification.

LIBRARY BAG:

All students will spend one session a week in the library, where they will borrow books to take home. All students in Prep – Year 2 are required to have a library bag to borrow books.

MONEY SENT TO SCHOOL:

Please make sure that all money is sent to the office in an envelope with your child's name, class, amount and clearly label what the money is for.

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

SCHOOL EXCURSIONS:

Excursions and incursions are arranged and planned for students to participate through the year to enhance their teaching and learning programs. These are a regular feature of our school year and often relate to, and add meaning to the theme work done in the classroom. Excursions can be a short or long day activity. Parents are notified of these in the newsletter and via a note that will be sent home. Children must have a signed permission note to engage in and attend activities. Depending on the nature of the excursion, class teachers may seek parental support to attend day trips or camps to support with supervision.

Excursions may include:

- The Aquarium
- The Melbourne Zoo
- Local areas of interest
- Activities to support transition programs

SCHOOL CAMPS:

Students in years 3-6 will have the opportunity to attend school camp each year. Students in year 3-5 will enjoy a 2 night camp, whilst year 6 students will spend 3 nights in Canberra.

CSEF money is available to eligible families. Please check with the office for more information regarding this.

STUDENT LUNCHES AND SNACKS:

- Students are required to supply their own playlunch and lunch.
- Students eat together in class groups for the first 10 minutes of recess and lunch times.
- Students are encouraged to only bring water to drink and water bottles can be left on or beside their table.
- Students are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit, or cut up fruit to snack on at 10:00am each morning.



PUPIL-FREE DAYS:

The school is allowed four Curriculum / Pupil-free days each year. These days are set aside for professional development of staff. The days may be used to develop curriculum programs, visit other schools, introduce new programs/skills or complete assessments and reports. These days will be made known in advance to allow parents time to make appropriate arrangements.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

The Wangaratta West Primary School Council maintains a policy of compulsory school uniform for all students. School uniform is required to be worn by all students attending school, as it promotes a sense of identity. Uniform items may be purchased from the school.

The school uniform comprises of:

Hats (available from the school office)

- Navy Blue School hat, broad brimmed/brushed cotton with school logo (bucket style). Compulsory from 1st September until the 1st of May. Hats must be clean, in good repair and worn correctly.

Tops with School logo (available from the school office)

- Navy polar fleece jacket with logo
- Navy with pale blue trim short sleeve polo shirt

Bottoms

- Plain navy blue cotton drill pants
- Plain navy blue track pants
- Plain navy blue shorts
- Navy blue skort
- Navy blue check dress



Footwear

- All footwear must have covered in toes and be low heeled. School shoes and sandals must be black, brown or navy. Sneakers /runners are acceptable in a neutral colour.
- Socks must be navy blue or white in colour.

Hair

- To be clean and neat. Long hair is to be tied back.
- Head bands, ribbons, scrunchies and hair ties must be navy blue.

WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE SCHOOL:

SCHOOL PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT:

Staff value the assistance of parents in classroom programs. Wangaratta West Primary School has an open door policy and encourages and promotes parents to assist whenever they are able to. Parents are invited to assist with listening to children read, testing children on their spelling words, covering books etc. Volunteers to assist with excursions such as swimming are also greatly appreciated. Class teachers inform parents of the class needs and the ways you can assist throughout the year. Parental support is highly valued by all staff members across the school and all staff are very appreciative of the time parents are able to give to support the programs being offered at school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL:

School Council meets at the school, eight times a year, currently on the third and eighth Wednesday of each term beginning at 6.00 pm, unless otherwise notified. School Council elections are held during February and an election meeting is held in March. School Council consists of 12 elected parent and teacher representatives. The School Council has a vital role to play in deciding issues such as finance, maintaining grounds and buildings, educational policies and student welfare. Please consider your availability to serve as a School Council member.

PARENTS' CLUB:

Meet twice a term (at school, unless otherwise notified). Executive members are elected at the beginning of each year. All parents are welcome to attend. Funds raised by the Parents' Club provide extra materials and items for the school. Parents' Club also provides an ideal forum to share ideas which can then be discussed at Staff Meetings and School Council Meetings. Parents who are unable to attend meetings but would like to be involved are invited to register themselves as a "Friend of Parents' Club". Look out for the regular updates on newsletter from Parents' Club.



COMMUNICATION:

REPORTING TO PARENTS:

At Wangaratta West Primary School we see the importance of working with our parents and school community to keep them informed and up to date with the learning of their child, sharing ways that parents can support the work of their child's teacher and assist with their learning at home.

Reporting to parents is done both formally and informally. The school has two formalised parent/teacher interviews/ information sessions each year. In addition to this, parents are encouraged to discuss any areas of concern they have with their child's teacher or the school's Principal. Student's individual learning goals are also shared with parents to further build the home/school partnership. Written reports are sent home at the end of Terms 2 and 4 as per the Department's requirements. The individual student reports assess the students against the standards within the Victorian Curriculum and provide parents with information on areas for future improvement. All reports can be found through your Compass login.

NEWSLETTER:

The school newsletter is published and distributed every Friday. The newsletter contains lots of information about school activities. The preferred method of distributing this is through Compass or email. Please make sure the School Office has your email address. The newsletter is also uploaded to our website. If you are not able to receive this Compass or email, a hard copy is available from the front office.

SEESAW:

Seesaw is an app where your child, teacher and parent can share work and announcements in a safe, secure and private social network environment. Seesaw provide a safe digital learning journal for your child to document their learning creatively by periodically adding entries to it like photos, videos, drawings and notes to show you what they're doing in class. It creates a triangle of communication between you as parents, the teacher, but also, your child.



COMPASS:

Our school uses Compass as an easy way to access student reports, view and report attendance, book parent/teacher conferences and more.



HEALTH AND WELFARE:

CHAPLAIN:

Our school is very lucky to have Chaplain Rose as part of our staff. Rose provides Pastoral Care to students and parents, and works with staff on a variety of issues. (All students that wish to see Rose will need to have a signed permission note).

Some of the programs she runs includes:

- **Friends for Life** – A program to develop strategies to manage anxiety.
- **Community Playgroup** -This continues to be enjoyed by all involved and is open to the wider community every Wednesday morning from 10:30am.
- **Pastoral Care** - Many students see Rose if they want a chat and other times students are referred by parents or staff. If you would like Rose to chat to your child at any stage, please let her know. Alternatively, if you'd like a chat, please feel free to make an appointment for Wednesday afternoon or Thursday with Anna or Tania (in the office).

WELLBEING COORDINATOR:

We are also fortunate enough to have a Wellbeing Coordinator, Breanna, who works three days a week. Bree is a qualified Social Worker who comes to us with a wealth of experience and knowledge.

Bree primarily works with students and families around links to agencies such as Upper Murray Family Care, Centre Against Violence, Beyond Housing, NESAY etc.

Other areas Bree targets are mental health, sexual education, higher needs students and any students that staff identify concerns for, whether that be attendance, lunches, friendships, relationships, hygiene- anything wellbeing related.



Bree also runs the Koori program in conjunction with Appin Park and the Specialist School. This includes a number of planned activities and sessions scheduled throughout each term.

IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATE:

Children entering Foundation (Prep) and all other primary year levels MUST provide an Immunisation Certificate. These certificates will become part of the students records and will indicate their immunisation status. In the event of an outbreak of any infectious diseases, Wangaratta West Primary School will follow guidelines from the Department of Education and Training. Producing a complete immunisation certificate is a compulsory part of enrolling your child.

STUDENT ILLNESS:

Unfortunately, some students attend school when they are obviously unfit to do so. If students are ill at school, parents will be contacted to arrange for them to be taken home. Whilst the school understand that many parents find it difficult to make arrangements for care during work hours, the child's wellbeing and the likely spread of infection must be considered. Students suffering minor injuries or illnesses are attended to by the classroom teacher or in the sick bay and returned to class, kept at school until home time. If the child appears to need home care or further medical attention, the school will notify the parents.

HEAD LICE:

From time to time, students are found to have head lice. Usually when a case is found in a particular class, a note is immediately sent home to each family in that room. It is very important to notify the school when head lice are found so that families can be informed to help minimise the impact. The school is very aware that this can be a sensitive issue and it is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

The school would appreciate early notification of a contagious disease outbreak in children as this would aid the identification of such outbreaks and the withdrawal of at risk children and staff. The following are extracts concerning the most common infectious diseases:

- *Chicken Pox – excluded until fully recovered*
- *Impetigo (School Sores) – excluded until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing.*
- *Measles – For at least five days from the appearance of the rash or until a medical certificate of recovery is produced. Contacts to be excluded for 13 days unless immunised within 72 hours of first contact.*
- *Mumps – Excluded until fully recovered.*
- *Rubella (German Measles) – Excluded until fully recovered and at least four days from the onset of the rash.*
- *Whooping Cough – excluded for four weeks or until a medical certificate of recovery is produced.*

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:

Specialist assistance may be available to assist your child in the following areas:

- *Speech Therapy*
- *Welfare*
- *Guidance*
- *Occupational Therapy*

These services are designed to provide individual assistance to students on a needs basis. In addition to direct casework, preventative assistance and consultancy is also provided. Agencies from within the local community may also be consulted as appropriate to further support the emotional, social or academic wellbeing of your child.

ALLERGIES/MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

If your child has a diagnosed allergy, asthma or medical condition, please let the school know via the medical form. In the case where the allergy causes anaphylaxis, it is necessary to provide an EpiPen to be kept at the school at all times.

MEDICATION:

All medications for students must be handed to the front office. Parents are required to sign a medical administration form and inform us on the correct dosage.

