

WANGARATTA WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL



INFORMATION PACK

Developing learners for life who care for themselves, other and the environment.

CONNECTION SAFETY RESILIENCE SUCCESS



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 Mullins
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@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.wangwestps.vic.edu.au

Facebook: @wangwestps

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Principal: Kristy Mullins

Assistant Principal: Danielle Ashmead

Acting Assistant Principal: Tony Ciancio

Business Manager: Tania Pool

Office Administration: Anna Sharrock
Julie Cairns

School Council President: Tom Arnold

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2024

Term 1: Monday 29th January - Thursday 28th March

Term 2: Monday 15th April - Friday 28th June

Term 3: Monday 15th July - Friday 20th September

Term 4: Monday 7th October - Wednesday 20th December

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2025

Term 1: Wednesday 29th January - Friday 4th April

Term 2: Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 4th July

Term 3: Monday 21st July - Friday 19th September

Term 4: Monday 6th October - Friday 19th December



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 22 classes consisting of low student numbers.

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

Our school consists of:

- 22 classrooms
- Art room
- Music/Performing Arts room
- Science Lab
- Library
- Large Hall
- Kitchen (lunch orders are out sourced)
- Vegetable Garden
- 4 Playgrounds (year levelled)
- Basketball and Netball Courts
- Oval

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.

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.



OUR VALUES
CONNECTION SAFETY RESILIENCE SUCCESS

We believe that in order to provide a safe, happy and supporting learning environment for all, we as educators must:

- Model respect, understanding, and kindness to all
- Create calm, orderly and accessible classrooms and maintain these routines and expectations all year
- Have clear expectations, focusing on student behaviour, and explicitly teach these to all
- Celebrate student learning at all times, no matter how big or small, focusing on the effort and not just the outcome
- Make the learning tasks engaging and allow students to make connections to real world applications and across all areas of the curriculum
- Build trust and maintain positive relationships

Wangaratta West Primary School is served by dedicated, caring and highly qualified professional staff who focus on developing students as effective learners. 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.



At Wangaratta West Primary School we explicitly teach children how to decode (read) and encode (spell) using an evidence-based scope and sequence, ensuring children develop literacy skills for future. In the junior grades we focus heavily on 'learning to read' with fluency and in the middle and upper grades we shift to a focus on 'reading to learn' with strong comprehension and understanding.

We have a specific order in which we teach phonics skills, progressing from simple to complex, which will be followed throughout the early grades. Students will progress through the continuum as they master skills. While this skill will be emphasised in grades P-2, we will make sure all students have this necessary foundation. Students in grades 3-6 may need to practise these skills until they have mastered them and also continue with word study with more grammar and morphology (learning about word parts such as Greek and Latin roots).



Our students participate in 2 hours of daily literacy activities where our teachers link reading and writing skills through explicit teaching and expose our students to high quality mentor texts promoting rich, engaging conversations and targeted teaching opportunities through individual, small group and whole class tasks.

Our literacy block is very structured with clear routines, reducing the overall cognitive load on our students and integrates and embeds all components of the 'Literacy Big 6':

- 1.Oral Language
- 2.Phonemic Awareness
- 3.Phonics
- 4.Fluency
- 5.Vocabulary
- 6.Comprehension



At Wangaratta West Primary School we strive to develop writers who understand what high quality writing looks and sounds like through the use of the “6 + 1 Traits of Writing”. The traits focus on Voice, Organisation, Ideas, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions and Presentation.

Students are also exposed to writing for specific purposes by developing a clear understanding of the structures of various text types during these sessions. Whole class needs are explicitly taught through Modelled and Shared Writing. Individual and small group needs are specifically targeted through differentiated learning tasks, Guided Writing groups and one to one conferencing with the teacher. Punctuation and grammar are taught through whole class and small group sessions based on the needs of the students.

As well as the Traits of Writing, we explicitly teach how and why authors write using certain language patterns and word choices by Scaffolding Literacy. Through this approach students learn how to write using the stylistic language features authors apply to create feeling and intent. We build student knowledge of these features using quality mentor texts with the intent of seeing the students transferring these features into their own writing. The mentor texts are used across all areas of the curriculum and are a fantastic modelling resource in reading and writing, providing strong examples of the skills that are being taught.

In addition to the above approaches, our students participate in a weekly ‘Wang West Write’. This is a special writing session which promotes student voice and agency, allowing the students to work on their own personal writing project, based on their interests. The students are supported with their learning goals and create pieces of writing they are proud of, following the writing process and showcasing their skills.





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 understanding 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 a range of high-quality mathematical consultants. 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.

Wangaratta West delivers a sequential, inter-connected mathematics program based on the outcomes from the Victorian Curriculum. Mathematics as a subject is organised into six content strands, along with four embedded proficiency strands.

- Number
- Algebra
- Measurement
- Space
- Statistics
- Probability (commencing at Level 3)

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.



MUSIC

Each class receives a 60 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, African drumming 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.

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 and band.





AUSLAN

Auslan stands for AUStralian sign LANguage. It is sign language used throughout Australia by Deaf people. You may have seen interpreters on television, signing during the News conferences, recently.



During Auslan classes, students will begin to explore and understand Deaf Culture and Identity. What does it mean to be Deaf and the barriers Deaf people may face every day.

Our students will also learn how to sign the Auslan alphabet, numbers, signs for topics such as animals, family and colours. Throughout these topics, they will work on signing sentences, such as, 'My favourite colour is red'. As the students develop their skills they will learn more complex Auslan concepts.



VISUAL ARTS

Students participate in one hour Art lessons 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 artwork 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 one hour 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.

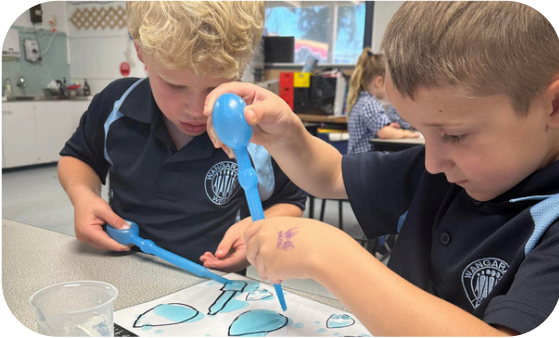


To implement the P.E. program, we have access to excellent facilities including a hall, nearby oval, basketball, netball and bat tennis courts. We also have a range of equipment that ensures a variety of exciting new experiences each session. Various lunch time programs are also offered throughout the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



The Physical Education program is complemented 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 one hour weekly session every week.

The Science program covers areas such as:

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



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



The Digital Technologies program at Wangaratta West Primary School encompasses a range of programs for Prep to Grade 6 that fosters creative and critical thinking.

Students in our Prep classrooms have access to a shared bank of iPads and the creative technologies in our school's DigiHub.

Our students in Grades 1-6 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 termly 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
- Wang West Workshop





TUTOR LEARNING INITIATIVE

We have experienced classroom teachers in our tutor team who implement support within the classroom settings as well as in a one on one or small group setting, in a separate learning environment. By engaging additional tutor teachers, we can further support children with intensive learning, classroom teachers will have greater capacity to ensure that all other students' achievement, engagement and wellbeing needs are met, so that all students receive the support they need.

Student selection for this program is a thorough and comprehensive process, driven by analysis of student learning data. It is a fluid program and students will take part for varying time periods depending on their needs.

How the TLI tutors integrate to existing school structures and process:

- Attending targeted year level team Professional Learning Community meetings to discuss student data, learning goals and progress
- Attend team collaborative planning sessions to ensure consistent and relevant teaching cycles
- Involvement with the formation of student Individual Education Plans
- Communicate student goals and progress to parents

SPEECH THERAPY

We have employed a speech therapist, Kate Howard, to work onsite 1 day a week. Kate works collaboratively with our teachers to provide support for identified students. Below is an outline of Kate's role:

- Speech pathology assessment and reporting for students
- 1:1 screening sessions with students
- Small group intervention targeting articulation, language and literacy skills
- Consultation with parents/carers and discussion of appropriate external referrals to services including but not limited to, occupational therapy, paediatricians and psychology





MINILIT & MULTILIT

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
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

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 ICAS ASSESSMENTS

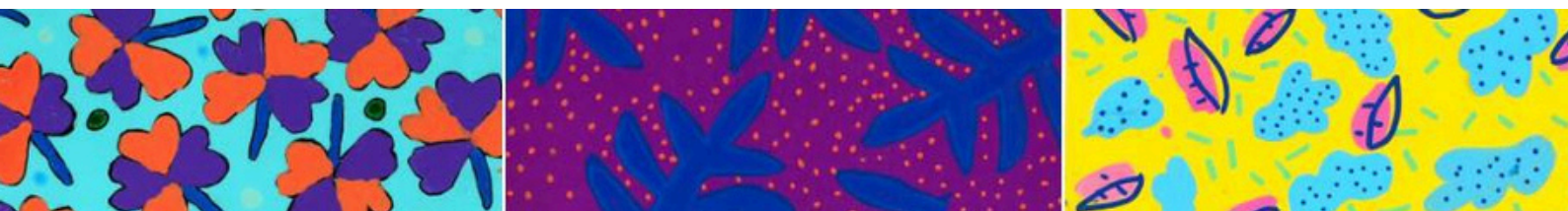
UNSW Global ICAS ASSESSMENTS are designed to recognise and reward academic excellence. They are a series of tests that are designed to assess student's abilities to apply classroom learning in new contexts, using higher order thinking and problem solving.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS

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.

WANG WEST WORKSHOP

Wang West Workshop is an innovative education program which started up 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 cross-age students with a focus on collaboration, team work, communication and problem solving.





8:45 AM	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.
9:00 AM	First teaching and learning session
11:00 AM	Student lunch begins – students are supervised to eat for the first 10 minutes
11:10 AM	Students play in the playground
12:00 PM	Second teaching and learning session
2:00 PM	Recess begins - students are supervised to eat for the first 5 minutes
2:05 PM	Students play in the playground
2:30 PM	Third teaching and learning sessions
3:15 PM	Students travelling by bus leave
3:20 PM	End of school day.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC)

Wangaratta West Primary school offers both before and after school care, along with vacation and pupil free day care. Enrolment forms for the OSHC program are available on our school's website under "Community". OSHC staff can be contacted on 0407 004 059 or wangwestoshc@gmail.com.

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:	3.20pm - 6.00pm
Vacation Care:	6.30am - 6.00pm

**ASSEMBLY**

Is held every second Friday afternoon in the hall and commences at 2.40pm. Parents and families are welcome to attend assembly. Students receiving awards are announced in the school newsletter on the Friday prior to assembly.

ABSENCES/ LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY DEPARTURE

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

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. 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.

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 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 through our parent Compass portal. Children must have a signed permission note to engage in and attend activities.

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.

Camps, Sports, Excursions Funding (CSEF) is available to eligible families who hold a current Health Care Card and is for \$150 per student. 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 (including Out of Hours School Care).



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 Worklocker, Wangaratta.

The school uniform comprises of:

Hats

- 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, named, in good repair and worn correctly.



Tops with School logo

- 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 skirt
- Navy blue check dress



Footwear

- All footwear must enclose the toe 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, black or white in colour. NO multicolour/fluro socks.

Hair

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



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

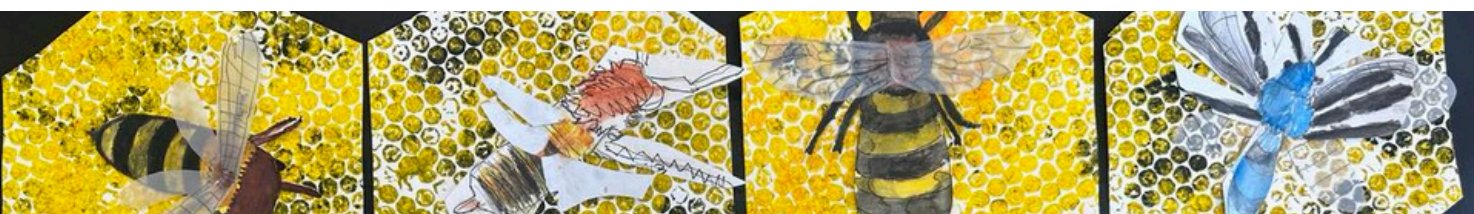
School Council meets at the school, eight times a year, currently meeting on a Monday night twice a term beginning at 5.30 pm, unless otherwise notified. School Council elections are held during February and an election meeting is held in March. The School Council consists of 12 elected parent and teacher 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 & FRIENDS GROUP

Joining P&F is a great way to get involved and be informed about the schools' directions and events. It is also a wonderful opportunity to make new friendships with a fantastic bunch of passionate and supportive people. P&F conducts regular meetings on the first Wednesday of every month in our Staff Room to plan ways to continually support the school and students. Members are welcome to come to as many or as few meetings as their schedule allows, or just to help out when available. We invite you to come along to a meeting to see what we're all about. Please contact the school for more information.

Activities that P&F is involved in:

- Mother's and Father's Day Stalls
- Easter Raffle
- School discos
- Fundraisers: Book Club, community BBQs etc.
- Supporting the school's events: Book Fair, Athletics Day and special morning teas etc.





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 via Seesaw and our website every second Friday. The newsletter contains lots of information about school activities.

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 provides 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 approve and pay for excursions & camps, access student reports, view and report attendance, book parent/teacher conferences and more. Should you require assistance with Compass, please contact the office staff.



WELLBEING LEADER

We are fortunate enough to have a Wellbeing Coordinator, Breanna, who works full time. 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.

Also in our Wellbeing team we have Rose who is a teacher with qualifications in wellbeing and special education and grief, loss and mental health.

Rose also coordinates our Community Playgroup which continues to be enjoyed by all involved and is open to the wider community every Wednesday morning from 9.30am to 11 am in our school hall.

SPEECH THERAPY

Kate Howard one day a week (Wednesdays).

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 understands 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.

HEADLICE

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:

- Gastro - exclude until there has not been vomiting or a loose bowel motion for 48 hours, and for all other diarrhoeal illnesses exclude until there has not been vomiting or a loose bowel motion for 24 hours
- 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.

