



Wominjeka

# WESTGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thames Boulevard, Werribee 3030  
 Email: westgrove.ps@education.vic.gov.au  
 Phone: (03) 9749 8233

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – IMPORTANT DATES

### Term 1, 2023

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	End term 1 – 2.15 Finish
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Start term 2
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Anzac Day Public Holiday – No students at school
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Curriculum Day – No students at school

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

*Chris Gatt, Kerrie Slaymaker & Susan Richardson*

### END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Our final day of this term is next Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Students will finish school at 2.15pm on this day. Please ensure you make suitable arrangements to collect your child at this time. We will still have a lunch and a recess break on this day, however the canteen will not be open.

Students return to school to commence Term 2 on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April.



### PREP 2024 ENROLMENTS

The Department of Education (DE) has released a new state-wide Foundation (Prep) enrolment timeline. Therefore, we will begin accepting enrolments from Monday 24 April 2023.

You can find information and resources about the new timeline, including factsheets, at: [Enrolling in Foundation \(Prep\)](#). You can also download the 'Foundation (Prep) Enrolment Information Pack for Parents/Carers for the 2024 school year' from the Starting School webpage (available from 24 April 2023).

For those families that reside outside of our school zone and are interested in enrolling, we will accept your out of zone application, which would then be reviewed in late August.

### NAPLAN

I would like to congratulate our Year 3 and 5 students on recently completing the NAPLAN assessment. They all did an amazing job in taking the assessment and change in routine in their stride. They displayed resilience and care for one another during this time. I would like to thank Mrs. Richardson, Miss. Denyer, Miss. Venuto, Jonathan and the Year 3 and 5 teachers for their efforts in making this assessment period as structured and smooth as possible!

### SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March we held our Annual General Meeting for our 2023 School Council. In this meeting office bearers were elected. It is with pleasure we announce:

School Council President: Karlie Miles

School Council Vice President: Stewart Greig

Treasurer: Kelly Bennett

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## **BEHAVIOUR IS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION!**

Adults and children are communicating something through their behaviour during every moment in every day, even if they are not aware of it. A child's inappropriate or unsafe behaviour is a sign that they may be upset, feel threatened or unsafe and that something is not right.

At a school level, we manage challenging and unsafe behaviours displayed and work with our students to develop pro-social behaviours. This includes working with them to find positive ways to communicate their needs to others and to learn important social and problem-solving skills that will help them throughout their life. In doing so, we are meeting these behaviours with empathy and understanding, rather than assuming that these children are being 'naughty' or defiant. In managing these types of behaviours at school, appropriate consequences are enforced, however they will look different for the age and stage of the child and the privacy of the children respected. As we move into Term 2, we are continuing our work on improving our School Wide Positive Behaviour practices and particularly refining our acknowledgement systems for positive behaviours. Watch this space as it unfolds throughout next term!



## **BRINGING TOYS FROM HOME**

Just a reminder that when children bring toys and objects from home, they are responsible for them. These items are to stay in their school bags during learning time and if they choose to take them outside during break times it is their responsibility to ensure they play with them safely and do not misplace them. Please be mindful not to allow your child/ren to bring items to school of significant financial or personal value.



## **RESPECTFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITY RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOUR**

For our school to continue to create an environment in which our children thrive it is important that all adults in our school community treat each other with respect and kindness at all times. The Department of Education has released a policy that describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment for students, staff and adults. <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Respectful-Behaviours-within-the-School-Community-Policy.aspx>

## **2023 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

In 2023, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in a national online main study in science literacy.

### **What is the NAP – Science Literacy main study?**

The NAP – Science Literacy main study is an online test that informs schools, education ministers and the community about the levels of achievement in science literacy among Year 6 and Year 10 students across Australia. If your child is selected for the sample, they will participate in a world-class online assessment designed by education experts in science literacy. Taking part will provide your child with an excellent learning opportunity because the tests are designed in an engaging way to bring out the best in students. The online assessment will test your child's level of science knowledge, understanding and skills. Your child is not expected to study for this assessment and no preparation is necessary. There are separate tests for Year 6 and Year 10 students.

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## YEAR 3-6 CROSS COUNTRY

Today our Year 3-6 students participated in our annual Cross Country at Galvin Park. This year, we ran it a little differently with our Year 3/4 and 5/6 students attending in two separate groups. It was great to see the level of participation and encouragement of the students in the event. We would like to thank our staff who organised and attended this event.



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## TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE






### Literacy

## Take Home Reading -

### Helping your child work out difficult words

When your child begins to read to you, they will often have difficulty with long or tricky words. It is important to give your child time to work out difficult words themselves. This helps develop their reading skills. You might, however, help them if they are stuck by prompting them with the following:

#### IF I GET STUCK

	Look through the whole word, left to right.
	Use a finger to segment the words into sounds, syllables or chunks.
	Blend the sounds and link to the letter strings I see.
	I can listen to my own voice, slow my thoughts and think... Does that word make sense?
	Ask for help if I don't know.

### Numeracy

#### Learning to Count

When children are learning to count, they like to touch, point to and move objects as they say the number aloud – so encourage them to!

Have your child count toys, kitchen utensils, items of clothing as they come out of the dryer, collections (such as stickers, buttons or rocks) and any other items your child shows interest in counting.

- Mix it up! Have your child count a set of objects but start at different places in the set (for example, start counting in the middle of the set rather than at the beginning). This helps to develop the idea that the counting of objects can begin with any object in a set and the total will still be the same.
- Sing counting songs and use counting in meaningful ways in games, such as Hide-and-Seek. Counting games, rhymes and songs exist in every culture. Some counting songs and rhymes help children to count forward and backward as well.
- Have your child skip count (counting by twos, fives or tens) to count larger groups of items quickly. Use such objects as blocks, pasta pieces, toothpicks or buttons.
- Develop your child's awareness of the symbols used to represent numbers by making it a game. Look for number symbols in your home and neighbourhood: on the television remote, on the microwave, on the telephone keypad, in flyers and media, on signs and on team sweaters.
- Play a number version of I Spy. For example, "I spy something that has the number five on it," or "I spy something in this room that there are three of."
- Ask for your child's help to count items in your home. "I wonder how many chairs we have around the table? In this room? In the house?" Count windows, light switches, lamps or beds. You might record "how many" by using a combination of numbers and pictures.

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## OFFICE NEWS

### **Please be on time!**

It is really important that families/ carers are at school at dismissal time to collect their child/ren. Lately we have had a significant number of children waiting at the office until well past 3.30pm. It is an expectation that all children are collected at 3.15pm. Students still at school after 3.30 will be expected to go to after school care.



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