



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 3, 2022	
Monday 28 th to Wednesday 30 th November	Year 4 Camp
Monday 12 th December	Prep Animal Land Farm Excursion
Each Wednesday this term	Year 5 Swimming
Each Thursday this term	Year 6 Swimming
Tuesday 20 th December	End of Year 1.15 Finish

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

Chris Gatt, Kerrie Slaymaker & Susan Richardson

SCHOOL VALUES FEEDBACK

We are currently exploring our school values and identifying what values we hold and expect of one another as a community. We have created a Google Form to collect your feedback. **We ask families and carers to take two minutes (at most) to complete our values survey** <https://forms.gle/4qqvzFBqoE2qVb7r6>. Thank you to our School Council for engaging in the review of our school values and sharing their ideas.



EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS

This term at our Friday afternoon assemblies and with specific year levels we have been discussing with students what it means to be respectful to one another and our physical environment and how we demonstrate this. We have specifically discussed:

- Help seeking behaviours and the importance of seeking an adult
- How we speak to one another
- How school property and facilities is to be treated

Additionally, over the last couple of weeks our Year 1 and 2 students have gone on their first ever excursions! It was amazing to hear their excitement from the day when arriving back at school as well all the positive statements about how they represented our school and displayed our school pillars – Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner.

2023 BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) PROGRAM

In 2023, we are making the following changes to our BYOD program:

- Year 3 students will be provided with access to school supplied iPads (these will stay at school).
- Year 4 & 5 students will continue to use their OWN iPad at school.
- Year 6 students will be provided with access to school supplied netbooks (these will stay at school). Year 6 will no longer be allowed to supply their own device.

The following decision has been made to better prepare our students for secondary education as we plan to have our Year 4-6 students accessing netbooks from 2024 as well as provide greater safety for students whilst at school.

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PREP 2023 TRANSITION

We will be welcoming our new Preps onsite again tomorrow (Friday) to continue their transition to primary school. Our student leaders are playing an important role in this process by meeting and greeting the families and assisting the students in class during the visits.

CANTEEN NEWS

A huge thank-you to our parents who volunteer at the canteen. We couldn't run the canteen offering snacks to the students at recess and the wide variety of items on the menu without this support. Unfortunately, we need to once again appeal for assistance. If you have any time at all, it doesn't have to be a full day, it could be for a couple of hours or half a day. It also doesn't have to be each week, it could be once a month, or once a term. So, if you feel you could help us out and have a valid Working with Children's Check, please call the office, and ask to be put through to Leanne in the canteen.



We are still having issues with our suppliers and whilst we try to always have a full menu available sometimes it is just not possible. When this is the case, we will either refund the money or substitute an item your child is happy with.



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Recently, we launched our Westgrove Attendance trophy which will be awarded to the class with the greatest percentage of children who have attended school 90%+ for the week. Congratulations to 6M and 2S for being our Week 4 and Week 5 winners this term!



We thank all of the families who are regularly providing a reason for their child's absences from school. This is a requirement from the Department of Education. Reasons for student absences can be done via:

1. a phone call to the office
2. COMPASS
3. a note to the teacher/ message in Class Dojo

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REMEMBRANCE DAY – FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

Tomorrow, Friday 11th November is Remembrance Day. We will be holding a ceremony at 11am in our classrooms to help keep the legacy of those who served alive by learning about Remembrance Day, reflecting in silence, and wearing a poppy. Our student leaders have been selling poppies for 20c over the last fortnight.



TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE

LITERACY AT WESTGROVE



Each week students have the opportunity borrow a book when they have their Library lesson. Please remind students to bring their Blue Book Bag to ensure books are kept safe when travelling to and from school. The Library is also open for student borrowing at 8:45am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

We are currently creating book displays for upcoming significant events that have a range of different books for students to enjoy. Here is the display that we have for Remembrance Day.



NUMERACY AT WESTGROVE

MATHS and your SNACKS

You can use packets of snacks around your home as an opportunity for working mathematically! For example, open a packet of colourful M&Ms or Smarties. Create a table that displays the amount of each colour. Create a pie or column graph to represent your data. Open another packet and compare the results by tabulating and graphing it too. Show your classroom teacher what you've discovered.

ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING UPDATE

SOCIAL MEDIA

[Getting started with social media](#)

Understand social media for children and young people, so you can:

- talk with your child about social media
- set up their online account
- use social media safely
- report problems.



Getting started
with social media

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CRAZY COLOUR FUN RUN – DECEMBER 2ND

We will be holding the School Fun Run's Crazy Colour Day as a major fundraising event this year on December 2nd! We're doing it to raise much needed money for new playground equipment.

The Crazy Colour Day is all about FUN! It will be a huge colourful mess and is undoubtedly one of the most exciting days on our school's calendar, with everyone's participation the aim, so please make sure they attend on the day and cheer the other kids on!

How Does My Child Fundraise? Firstly, go to schoolfunrun.com.au and create a student profile page. Everything to do with your fundraising revolves around this page.

Students who raise just \$10 will be able to choose a prize! The more they raise, the better their reward – don't forget to check these out in the sponsorship form! We have educated students on the dangers of door knocking without supervision, and we encourage you to reiterate this at home. The great thing about online fundraising is that you can share the link to your child's profile with friends and family via email, SMS and Social Media.

The easiest way to help your child raise money is through online fundraising, where students raise an average of \$120. On top of raising more money, it's also safer and easier than doorknocking and you don't have to worry about handling money! To start fundraising online, go to your student profile page at schoolfunrun.com.au and share your online fundraising link.

Not only can you support the school and students with your sponsorship – but you can join in on the fun! We would love to welcome parents and family members to attend the Crazy Colour Day. If you would like to volunteer on the day, please contact Miss Slaymaker. I can't wait to see you at our event!

Ordering Prizes – ALL PRIZES MUST BE ORDERED BY NOVEMBER 11TH!

Please contact your school's coordinator if this isn't possible.



VAPING

We have been made aware of some of our students coming into contact with vapes and vaping. Please see the information below so that you are informed and know what to look for and how to talk with your child about this activity.

Recommendations for parents

As a parent and caregiver, you have an important role in protecting children from e-cigarettes.

The best way to protect your children is to never smoke or vape in the house, car or other places where there may be children nearby. Passive exposure to e-cigarette vapour can be damaging for children and young people.

In most Australian states and territories, it is illegal to use e-cigarettes in cars with children under the age of 16 present.

Parents should learn about e-cigarettes. It's important to talk to your teen about the health risks of e-cigarettes.

Many children are under the misconception that e-cigarettes are safe. It is helpful to know what the different devices look like and the different words young people may use to describe using e-cigarettes. This will help you to talk about e-cigarettes with your child.

Finally, if you are an e-cigarette user, always keep e-cigarettes and e-liquids locked away and out of reach of children.

How to talk to children about the health risks of using e-cigarettes?

Talking with children about risky behaviours is an important way for parents to help keep them safe. Parents are already good at talking to their children about alcohol, smoking and drugs. E-cigarettes should be included in the conversation.

The earlier and more often you speak with young people about e-cigarettes, the more likely they are to listen. It's important for parents to educate themselves, so they know the facts and what to say when the topic comes up.

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Finally, young people are more likely to use smoking products if others around them do. Parents can lead by example by not using e-cigarettes at all, especially when children are around.

Key points to remember

- E-cigarettes and vaping devices heat e-liquids into an aerosol that users breathe in
- E-liquids may contain nicotine, flavourings and a range of harmful and toxic chemicals
- E-cigarettes are also known as vapes, mods, e-hookahs and juuls
- Using e-cigarettes is sometimes called 'vaping' or 'juuling'
- E-cigarettes and e-liquids have not been safety tested by the TGA in Australia, and should not be considered safe

If you are concerned about your child vaping or encountering someone who is, please reach out to a trusted person to support you. This includes us at school. We welcome your contact and will help you through the process of supporting your child.

OFFICE NEWS

PARENT PAYMENT FORMS

2023 Parent payment forms have been sent home with students. Please return completed form to school by Friday 9th December.

EDCONNECT

Reignite your purpose, passion and power through volunteering! EdConnect Australia is seeking volunteers to provide life-changing mentoring or learning support to students in local schools. This information session is open to the wider community, so register today or simply come along find out more.

#EdConnect #Volunteer

The information session is:

Day: Monday 14th November Time: 10:30am

Venue: Heathglenn retirement village, 2 Glendale Ct, Werribee VIC 3030

COVID UPDATE

The following settings, based on advice from the Department of Health, will apply from 11.59pm Wednesday 12 October 2022.

It is strongly recommended that students:

- who test positive to COVID-19 stay home and isolate for 5 days
- should not attend school after 5 days if still symptomatic
- who are symptomatic but have not tested positive should not attend school
- advise the school of the COVID-19 positive test result

Where **students** become symptomatic at school they should:

- be collected by their parents/carers
- undergo testing for COVID-19
- Staff and students who wish to wear a face mask should be supported to do so, and schools should continue to make face masks available for staff, students and visitors

We will no longer be sending out COVID-19 notifications to the community.

VOLUNTEER WITH US **ED CONNECT Australia**

The team here at EdConnect has been training volunteers in schools across Australia for over 20 years, providing a vital safety net and springboard for young people who might otherwise struggle to realise their potential.

Learning Support Volunteers Needed

THE ROLE
We are seeking caring, compassionate and genuine people who are able to commit to a minimum of 1 hour per week to assist students either in the classroom or support a program that a school is trying to run. This may include literacy and numeracy support or helping in a library, cooking classes, gardening and much more... We operate in both primary and secondary schools.

THE REWARDS
You'll share your skills, knowledge and experience that can transform a child's life and academic outcomes. In the process you have the opportunity to make new friends, make a difference in the community and gain a sense of satisfaction and wellbeing too.

If this sounds like it might be right for you, take the next step, visit the website and complete the online application form or call us on 1800 668 550.

Can you spare one hour per week?
www.edconnect.org.au or call 1800 668 550

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Respectful school communities start with respectful behaviour

Parents, carers, staff and students can help keep our school community safe, supportive and respectful.

Good relationships are based on:



Open and honest communication



Trust and respect



Working together



Fair and reasonable expectations by all

These behaviours are **not** okay in our school community:

- ⊗ Threats
- ⊗ Violence
- ⊗ Rudeness
- ⊗ Harassment
- ⊗ Discriminatory and derogatory comments
- ⊗ Aggression
- ⊗ Intimidation
- ⊗ Threatening gestures

This includes in-person, over-the-phone, email, text message, social media and online.

For more information ask your school about the **Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy**.