



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, 2022	
Friday 8 th April	Last day of Term 1 – 2.15pm finish
Term 2, 2022	
Tuesday 26 th April	First day of Term 2
Tuesday 10 th May to Monday 16 th May	NAPLAN
Wednesday 18 th May	Vaccination Clinic – 2 nd dose

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

Chris Gatt, Kerrie Slaymaker & Susan Richardson

'Bag Bell' – 8.55am each morning

As of the first day of Term 2, there will be an 8.55am bell each morning. At this time classroom doors will be open for children to be able to go in and prepare for the school day. A second bell will ring (usual bell) at 9.00am when lessons will start.

End of Term 1 and Start of Term 2 dates

Next Friday 8th April is our last day for Term 1. School finishes at 2.15pm. We will be having assembly via WebEx at 1.55pm. We hope our families have a safe and relaxing break.

The first day of Term 2 is Tuesday 26th April, with school starting at 9am.

School Council

On the 22nd of March we held our Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to announce our 2022 school council office bearers are:

- President: Karlie Miles
- Vice President: Stewart Greig
- Treasurer: Erin Wardley
- Executive officer: Chris Gatt

We welcome Erin Wardley & Tenille Christensen onto school council who have been co-opted onto school council in our community members category. We have all vacancies filled on school council, which is extremely pleasing. We look forward to working with the school council throughout 2022.

Staffing Update

At the end of the term we farewell two of our Educational Support staff, Kym Sharp and Kirsty Evans. They are both moving to Truganina P-9 College. We thank them for their work and contributions to our Westgrove community and wish them well on their new positions.

Annual Report

Each year schools complete an annual report for the community to share progress and achievements for the previous year. Our 2021 Annual Report has been completed and endorsed by school council. Here is the link to our Annual Report which is published on our school website:

http://www.westgrps.vic.edu.au/files/ugd/6dad92_bfc07cc809714c49a02a8478bfa83ad9.pdf



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Cross Country

This morning our Year 3-6 children participated in our annual Cross Country event at Galvin Park. The students actively participated and engaged in the event. A big congratulations goes out to all place winners and to all students for their effort today. Thank you to Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Vrettas and our staff in their organisation of the day, as their work enables these opportunities for our students.

Child Protection and Child Safe Standards

The Victorian Government is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. As part of the Victorian Government's commitment to implementing the recommendations of the Betrayal of Trust report, which found that more must be done to prevent and respond to child abuse in our community, there is a new regulatory landscape surrounding child safety, underpinned by the new Child Safe Standards.

The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian early childhood services and schools, to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect by creating a safe environment. Further information can be found on in the Policies section on our website.

PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.
 No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.
 Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



It's everyone's responsibility.
 Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.
 If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.



Further information & resources
www.education.vic.gov.au/protect



TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE

Literacy at Westgrove

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 asking questions like these:

- Look at the picture. What word makes sense?
- Look at the picture. What object can you see in the picture that might start with that letter?
- What letter (or letters) does the word start with? What sound does that letter (or letters) make?
- What letters are in the middle of the word? What sound do these letters make?
- What letter (or letters) does the word end with? What sound does that letter (or letters) make?
- Can you put those sounds together to make a word?

Another good strategy is to ask your child how they worked out the word. This helps reinforce reading strategies they learn from you and from school.



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Mathematics at Westgrove

Be Persistent and Learn Together- Demonstrate the use of a growth mindset

Maths can be challenging. Our struggles provide the best opportunity for learning. It can be helpful for parents to demonstrate the use of a growth mindset. Rather than saying, “It’s too hard,” say, “I can’t do it YET,” or “We will work it out together.” Research shows that parental support is a major factor for student success at school. Celebrate achieving small steps in solving a maths problem. Persist, be supportive and remember to focus on the thinking not just getting answers.

ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING UPDATE

We have had some wonderful things going in engagement and wellbeing in the last 2 weeks!

GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Some of the Year 6 Student Leaders participated in the GRIP leadership conference in Melbourne with hundreds of other student leaders from other schools. They learned some valuable insights into being effective leaders in our school. Congratulations to these leaders who represented Westgrove so respectfully and actively in the sessions. Thank you to Mrs Richardson and Miss Venuto for attending with the students.

ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Ms Morton and her band of robotics enthusiasts began their journey in a competition last week. These students and Ms Morton give up their free time to make robots and program them to run an obstacle course. They have many challenges ahead of them, but the team is committed and working together to achieve success. WELL DONE TEAM!

BREAKFAST CLUB

Some of our Year 5 students have really taken the challenge of additional responsibility by volunteering at Breakfast Club. They are showing fabulous leadership skills by preparing, serving and packing up. We particularly acknowledge the students who have already achieved their badge by volunteering 3 times.

EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR

At Westgrove our behavioural expectations are based around the three pillars:

- a. **BE SAFE**
- b. **BE RESPECTFUL**
- c. **BE A LEARNER**

Each day in the playground, teachers acknowledge student behaviour which demonstrates one of our pillars by giving out WESTGROOVERS. A WESTGROOVER is a slip showing the identified student which of our school pillars they have demonstrated. The student then places their WESTGROOVER in one of the 4 letter boxes in the courtyard corresponding to their House Team. The letter box colours match our 4 House teams:

RED = YARRA WERRIBEE = BLUE

YELLOW = MURRAY BARWON = GREEN

Each week at assembly the House Team captains randomly choose a WESTGROOVER out of their letter box and this child wins a small prize. These students are acknowledged as a YARD STAR for the week.

Each WESTGROOVER in the letterbox earns a House Team point. The House Team with the most points at the end of term will have a special treat.



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STUDENT ATTENDANCE

It's the law that children 6 to 17 years old go to school or be home schooled. Parents/carers are legally responsible for making sure their child goes to school every day.

One of our goals across the school this year is to improve student attendance and to decrease the number of **unexplained** absences.

Student absences should be explained by parents/carers by:

- Note to the teacher
- ClassDojo message
- Compass
- Phone call to the office

Tips to help improve your child's attendance

- Talk to your child about school and how important it is. You can ask them how they feel about school, what they liked and if there are any problems.
- Reward good behaviour and not bad behaviour. For example, if your child refuses to go to school, do not let them have access to their phones or the internet.
- Set a good example. Show them how you keep to your own commitments.
- Encourage your child to take on hobbies that your child enjoys such as sports and clubs. This will help them develop positive relationships outside of the classroom.
- Have a set time to do homework and go to bed.
- Leave all technology out of their bedroom.
- Pack their school bag the night before with everything they need.
- Have a set time for breakfast.
- Plan to meet up with a friend so they can travel to school together.
- Get advice from school.

COVID-19 UPDATE

- Masks to be worn inside all buildings within a primary school setting as per Department guidelines.
- The next allocation of Rapid Antigens Tests will be sent home with students on Monday.
- Please let the office know if your child tests positive to COVID-19.

OFFICE NEWS

EARLY PICK UP FROM SCHOOL

A gentle reminder to parents/carers when needing to pick up students from school during the day, to not come during recess and lunch breaks as students are outside playing. Recess is 11:30am to 12:05pm, Lunch is 1:55pm to 2:25pm. Please come before or after these times.

We also ask that you do not pick up students between 3pm and 3:15pm unless it is an emergency, as this is when final instructions are being given to students at the end of the day.