



WESTGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Wominjeka

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2, 2023	
Mondays throughout Term 2	Year 4 Swimming
Fridays throughout Term 2	Year 2 Swimming
Tuesday 9 th May	District Athletics
Friday 12 th May	Curriculum Day – No students at school
Monday 12 th June	King’s Birthday Public Holiday
Friday 23 rd June	Last day of Term 2 – 2.15pm finish

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

Chris Gatt, Kerrie Slaymaker & Susan Richardson


WELCOME BACK FOR TERM 2

School holidays seem like a distant memory, as we are already into full swing and nearing the end of week 2. We hope you had a terrific Easter and holiday break - if in fact you were able to factor some down or recreation time.

MATRIX OF EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS (SWPBS)

We are super excited to unveil our updated Matrix of Expected Behaviours with our school community as this has been a work in progress since late last year (it commenced when we reviewed our school values!). The purpose of this matrix is to clearly define the behaviours we expect to see and acknowledge here at Westgrove Primary School. These behaviours will be explicitly taught to the children and our acknowledgement for positive behaviours will be centred around this.

The matrix has already been presented to students at assembly and displayed in all learning areas. We encourage families to familiarise themselves with the matrix below as we will be referring to it frequently with students, particularly when we spotlight expected behaviours each fortnight at assembly.

 WESTGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL		Be a Learner	Be Respectful	Be Safe	Be Inclusive
We will always... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use our manners be honest wear school uniform ask for help when needed be on time care for school property keep our hands and feet to ourselves listen to and follow instructions from an adult use strategies & tools to help regulate our emotions understand that we all behave and learn differently take responsibility for our actions 	LEARNING SPACES Including classrooms, Gym, Library, Art room, Performing Arts room	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use learning time to learn use a growth mindset understand that mistakes are part of learning work towards our learning goals accept and learn from feedback 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wait for our turn to speak actively listen to the speaker allow others to learn 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ask the teacher for permission to leave the learning space wait for our partner and return to our learning area together use equipment correctly 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are willing to work with all other people work co-operatively with others show kindness share with others
	OUTSIDE Including oval, play equipment, canteen, lining up for class, transition between places, toilets	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn the rules of the game play by the rules of the game leave the playground when we hear the music 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> speak kindly and calmly remain private and respect other peoples' privacy place rubbish in the bin use the toilets and taps correctly 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> move around the school safely speak to the yard duty teacher when someone does not feel safe are SunSmart use equipment safely 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> invite others to play share with others
	ONLINE Including the use of iPads, mobile phones, cameras, computers	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follow the digital Technology Agreement use devices to support learning use Apps as directed by an adult 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use equipment for its intended purpose only post things that are positive and constructive 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remove ourselves from any online activity that makes us feel uncomfortable or upset report unsafe or inappropriate behaviour to an adult 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate politely and kindly
	SCHOOL ACTIVITIES Including excursions, sports events, assemblies	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are an active participant ask questions accept new challenges 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> show good sportspersonship look after community property and the environment 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stay with our group and adult use equipment correctly 	We: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> celebrate the achievement of others allow all others to sit beside us on a bus encourage others participation

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CURRICULUM DAY – Friday 12th May

Next Friday is our next Curriculum Day. Staff will be building on our understanding of cultural and trauma informed practices to support the learners within our community. This day will be led by the Side-By-Side Team which include staff from Berry Street and VACCA (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency). **STUDENTS DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL ON THIS DAY!**

STAFFING NEWS

As we commence a new term, we have a couple of staff changes that have occurred:

- **Miss. Kate Richardson** (1RS teacher) will be leaving us tomorrow as she has been successful in gaining an ongoing teaching position at Aintree Primary School. Miss. Richardson has been a valued and active part of the Westgrove community for several years. We wish her all the best at her new school and hope she enjoys the precious time she has gained with her own family now that she will be working significantly closer to home.
- **Sharon Anderson** has commenced a period of leave before officially retiring after 25 years of service at Westgrove and 30 years with Department of Education. This milestone demonstrates Sharon's unwavering dedication to our school and our community, and we thank her for the impact she had in her time with us. We will be acknowledging this milestone later in the year.
- Mid last term we had **Emma Inglis** join our Education Support – Classroom Support team. Emma will be working across the school supporting children to engage in learning and provide additional support in the school yard. Please make her feel welcome!
- Last week we welcomed back **Marium Naqvi** (Student Counsellor) from Family Leave & **Damian Hayes** (Facilities). Marium will be back on Wednesdays and Thursdays, where she will have small student group intervention programs and support with the roll out of the Disability Inclusion Model.



We would like to congratulate Emily Parsons and her partner Joel on the safe arrival of their son, Ollie who arrived in late March.



MOTHERS DAY STALL

On Wednesday 10th May we will be running our annual Mother's Day Stall. There will be a variety of gifts ranging in prices that the students can pick from. We encourage students to bring a bag to put their purchases in. This year we are providing two ways of purchasing gifts:

- \$5 or \$10 voucher through QkR (this will close on 8.15am on Tuesday 9th May). The voucher will then be given to child on the day of Mother's Day Stall to make their purchases.
- Children can bring money to school on the day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Over this fortnight we have several events occurring including our Grade 2 and Grade 4 Swimming programs, Year 5 Immigration Museum excursion and District Cross Country. Please ensure that you have access to Compass and Class Dojo as communication and reminders about school events are published on these platforms. We hope that you have noticed our more structured approach to communicating events and gaining permission and payment through Compass in a timely and considerate manner.



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INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEPs)

This year our school has been part of rolling out the Disability Inclusion Model. As part of this we have been learning about how to develop high quality Individual Education Plans (IEPs), which has resulted in the school using different documentation to support this. IEPs will be communicated with parents/ carers of children on the Programs for Students with Disabilities, in Out of Home Care or Indigenous over this fortnight, if it hasn't been done so already.

ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING UPDATE

STUDENT ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS

In our ongoing efforts to improve student learning, we have been looking closely at student attendance. We aim to:

- better understand the reasons for student absences
- monitor our processes at school for recording student absences to ensure they are accurate and consistent
- develop consistent processes for responding to student absences
- work with families to improve attendance where necessary

OUR 2023 SCHOOL GOALS FOR ATTENDANCE ARE:

GOAL: To reduce the % of students (P-6) with 20 or more days absence from 49% in 2022 to 30% in 2023.

RESULT SO FAR IN 2023: 6% of students with 20 days or more absence

What does this data mean?

- most of our students are coming to school regularly.
- a small number of students are missing school regularly.

Category	2022	2023 YTD
20 - 29.5 Days	21%	14%
30+ Days	27%	11%
Total	48%	25%

WE ARE ON TRACK TO MEET OUR ATTENDANCE GOAL!

GOAL: To maintain or decrease the average student unapproved absence rate of 7.4 days in 2022.

RESULT SO FAR IN 2023: 7.8 days of unexplained absences.

What does this data mean?

We need to make further improvement on absences being explained with approved reasons.

	2022	2023 YTD
All absences	26.4	22.6
Unapproved	7.4	7.8

Unapproved absences includes unexplained, truancy, parent choice

Did you know???

- If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.
- There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes.
- Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

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HOW CAN PARENTS HELP WITH ATTENDANCE?

Attendance Matters



- Ensure your child(ren) attend school every day unless they are unwell
- Establish regular routines for bedtime and getting up for school
- If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day
- Provide school a reason for your child's absence:
 - Note to the teacher
 - Phone call to the office
 - Talk directly to the teacher
 - Notify school through COMPASS

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

We currently have various additional programs at school to support the health, wellbeing and engagement of our students. These include:

- **Canine Comprehension** (dog therapy group) – selected Year 5 & 6 students
- **Better Buddies** – Year Prep and Year 4s
- **Community Service Program** – Year 5s
- **Wellbeing hub** - open to all students during breaks
- **Side by Side** – DET initiative to support students with barriers to school attendance – selected students
- **Breakfast Club** – open to all students (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
- **Indigenous group** – Indigenous students P-6

ACCESSING ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS

There are various agencies in the Wyndham community that are available to support families and individuals in the following areas:

- Housing
- Food relief
- Financial aid
- Domestic violence support
- Clothing
- School uniforms

If you need support in any of these areas, please make contact with a member of our welfare team and we will put you in touch with the relevant supports. Our welfare team members are:

- Ebonie Cassar (Student support/counsellor)
- Marium Naqvi (Student support/counsellor)
- Kerrie Slaymaker (Assistant Principal)





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TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE

LITERACY:

This year, students have been using the following seven protocols in their classrooms during independent reading. These have been designed to create consistency across the school and promote the right reading behaviours to support students.

Some questions you might like to discuss with your student about their reading preferences:

- Who is your favourite author?
- What book do you most enjoy?
- What is your favourite theme or genre?
- Are there are books you dislike? If so, why?

MATHEMATICS:

Things you can say to help your child with Maths

Think of your job like a sports coach – You can be a great coach for your child by listening carefully to your child's thinking, asking questions (instead of telling) and encouraging them.

You might say things like:

- "Can you share your thinking with me?"
- "I wonder if there are any patterns here...I wonder if they might be able to help us?"
- "Do you notice anything interesting about..."
- "Let's take a break for 5 minutes! Sometimes I need a brain break to give me some space to think."

WESTGROVE'S INDEPENDENT READING PROTOCOLS



- 1** I WILL READ THE ENTIRE READING TIME AND NOT INTERRUPT OTHERS
- 2** I WILL REREAD A BOOK FROM MY BOOK BOX IF I FINISH ALL MY BOOKS
- 3** I WILL READ A BOOK FROM THE CLASSROOM, SCHOOL LIBRARY OR HOME
- 4** I WILL PRACTISE MY READING GOAL
- 5** I WILL LOOK AFTER OUR BOOKS AND PUT THEM IN THE RIGHT PLACE
- 6** I WILL INCLUDE FICTION AND NON-FICTION BOOKS IN MY BOOK BOX
- 7** I WILL CHANGE MY BOOKS REGULARLY

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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