

Thursday 24th April
2025
Issue 6

LINK LETTER



61 Henry Street,
Greensborough 3088
(03) 94354617

WWW.WATSONIAHEIGHTSPS.VIC.EDU.AU

EMAIL-WATSONIA.HEIGHTS.PS@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU

Term 2

- **Monday 12th May**
District Cross Country
- **Tuesday 13th May**
Grade 2 Walking Incursion
- **Thursday 15th May**
Grades 5 & 6 Elephant Ed Incursion
- **Friday 16th May**
ISS-WHPS vs Streeton
- **Wednesday 21st May**
National Simultaneous Storytime
- **Thursday 22nd May**
parent Teacher Interviews
10am - 6pm,
Students are not required to attend school
- **Friday 23rd May**
WHPS vs Norris Bank
- **Wednesday 28th May**
World Turtle Day
Wear Green and bring a gold coin donation
& Library Open
Afternoon 3:30pm - 5pm

Term Dates 2025

Term 1: January 30 - April 4

Term 2: April 22 - July 4

Term 3: July 21 - September 19

Term 4: October 6 - December 19

Hello and welcome to the latest newsletter and my last.

I'm not really sure where to start or what to write that would do my thoughts, feelings and reflections justice.

As I sit down to write this final newsletter as your principal, I'm filled with gratitude, reflection, and a deep sense of pride. After 15 wonderful years leading this incredible school community, the time has come for me to say goodbye and step into the next chapter of my life.

Fifteen years ago, I walked into WHPS (alongside 160 students) with excitement, hope, and a vision—to build a school where every child felt safe, valued, and inspired to learn. Today, with our 520 students, I leave knowing that we've grown into so much more than I ever imagined. Together, we've celebrated countless achievements, faced challenges with resilience, and created a culture rooted in kindness, inclusion, and excellence.

To our dedicated teachers and staff: thank you for your unwavering commitment, your passion, and your heart. You are the backbone of this school, and it has been a privilege to work alongside you.

To our students: you are the reason we do what we do. Your energy, curiosity, and growth have brought me endless joy. Never stop believing in yourselves—you are capable of amazing things.

To our parents and guardians: thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your support over the years. Your involvement has made a lasting impact on our school and community.

While it's hard to say goodbye, I am confident that Watsonia Heights will continue to thrive. I congratulate Tony Ryan on his appointment as Acting Principal for the remainder of the term. During this period a process to appoint a substantive Principal will occur with this position filled from term 3.

From the bottom of my heart—thank you. It has been the honour and privilege of a lifetime to work within such a wonderful community and thank-you for your support and your trust every day.

I was overwhelmed by the many thoughts, sentiments and of course the actions at my final WHPS assembly on Friday. Thank-you to everyone whom contributed or passed on their well wishes. This mean more than you'll ever know.

I will certainly be taking a keen interest on the progress of our students and indeed the school over time. I also hope to keep some connections with school and it's people. I'll enjoy coming and celebrating in some milestone activities across the remainder of the year in our wonderful concert in term 3 and of course our Year 6 graduation in term 4.

Wishing you all every health, happiness and success for today, tomorrow and beyond.

With extreme gratitude, thank-you.

Michael

NAPLAN- Preliminary results, confirmed results coming home soon & the Year 4-6 Attitudes to School Survey will be happening over coming weeks.

Happy Mother's Day to everyone for yesterday, I hope you had an amazing day being celebrated and acknowledged by those close to you.

Thank-you also to everyone whom attended and enjoyed the recent Special Ladies morning tea on Friday.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to two of our staff members whom recently enjoyed their respective wedding days.

To Claire Jackson and Sam and also to Ellen Close and Matt congratulations.

We know they enjoyed an amazing time on the day and we wish them every happiness into their wedded futures.



Success Teamwork Respect Individuality Visionary Effort!!

Across the Acting Principal's Desk:

Tony Ryan

Hello WHPS,

Well it's fair to say it's been a pretty jammed packed first few weeks of term. We have had quite a number of community events such as our House Celebration Day, WHPS Cross Country, ANZAC Day ceremonies, Kids Roar incursions, Cultural Diversity Day and Mother's Day. In amongst all these special activities, we also farewelled our Principal Michael Kent on Friday with a special school assembly.

Mr Kent has been the principal of WHPS for 15 years and has been instrumental in shaping the great culture and performance of our school. WHPS was a small school of approximately 160 students when Mr Kent arrived as Principal. Across those 15 years Mr Kent has invested heavily into the people of WHPS, from students to families and our staff. His leadership and care for others has helped shape the great community that we have today and seen our student numbers swell to over 500 students. We thank him for his outstanding contribution to our school and wish him all the best for his future!



Congratulations:

We offer our congratulations to Michelle Lewis who was recently appointed to our advertised Education Support role within the school. We are very happy to add Michelle to our ES team and know that her skillset will complement our team and further support our teachers and staff.

Cultural Diversity Day:

Last Thursday we celebrated our Cultural Diversity Day. On this day we celebrate the many cultures that make up the fantastic tapestry of life we enjoy in Australia. This is an opportunity for students to share their family heritage and be exposed to cultural traditions and experiences from a range of different cultures. A massive thank you goes to our Mandarin teaching team Serina Lee, Winnie Wang and Lisa Fan for their planning and organisation of the day. There were many smiles on the faces of our students as they immersed themselves in fun activities such as martial arts, dancing, craft and enjoying sushi as part of our special food day.



Success Teamwork Respect Individuality Visionary Effort!!

Mother's Day:

A very happy Mother's Day for yesterday to all the Mum's in our community. I'm hoping that our families made this a very special day for you. It was great being able to meet with some of our Mum's at our Mother's Day breakfast on Friday. It was great to see so many families in attendance, enjoying a cuppa, a bite to eat and a chance to catch up with others in the community. A very big thankyou to our Community Links team and all others including our staff that assisted in the organisation, running and pack up for this occasion.

ANZAC Day Ceremony:

Our school captains and vice captains joined staff member Kathryne Campara in representing the school in laying a wreath at the Watsonia RSL ANZAC Day ceremony. We are immensely proud of how our student leaders represent our school and they also did an outstanding job leading our school through our own ceremony on the Thursday prior to ANZAC day. Lest we forget.



Important Dates:

Our Parent Teacher interviews are scheduled to take place on **Thursday 22nd May**. Further details will be sent home regarding the booking process for interviews.

On **Friday June 6th**, the final of the **Professional Practice Days** associated with the current 2022 VGSA agreement is scheduled as a student free day. The school has placed this alongside the **King's Birthday Public holiday** on the **9th June** to assist those families that may wish to get away across the long weekend. A reminder that our junior school class teachers in years P-2 are keen to book in individual assessment times for those students that are available on Friday June the 6th.

Sunsmart Period:

The 1st of May sparks when our SunSmart period ends. The wearing of hats is not currently mandated, however we still encourage SunSmart practices all year round. The SunSmart period runs between 1st September and 30th April each year.

Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week:

The 26th of May marks the anniversary of the tabling of the Bringing Them Home report in parliament in 1997 and commemorates stolen generation survivors. National Reconciliation week follows this between 27th May-3rd June. This year's theme Bridging Now to Next calls on all Australian's to step forward together, to look ahead and let past lessons guide us.

IDAHOBIT:

May 17th is the International Day against LGBTQIA+ discrimination. It is a day for us to continue to promote inclusion, acceptance and understanding of LGBTQIA+ members of our community and to call out bullying, harassment and discriminatory behaviour.

Success Teamwork Respect Individuality Visionary Effort!!

NAPLAN:

The DET has released preliminary NAPLAN results to schools from the 2025 testing. The school continues to perform strongly, and we look forward to unpacking these results with staff in the coming weeks. Confirmed results and individual reports will be coming home in the coming weeks.

Attitudes to School Survey:

As they do each year students in Years 4-6 will participate in the Attitudes to School Survey in the coming weeks. The survey is completed at school and is organised by our staff. Further information will be distributed to parents about this process and there is an option to opt out for those parents/carers that don't wish for their child to participate.

District Cross Country:

Today approximately 60 of our year 3-6 students are completing at the District Cross Country event. We congratulate them on making our school representative team and wish them all the best. Many thanks to Miss Massa, Ms Sullivan, Michelle Lewis and those parents/carers in attendance for supporting our students at this event.

School Savings Bonus:

The Victorian Government is delivering the School Saving Bonus (SSB) – a one-off support of \$400 for eligible government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025.

The SSB can be used for uniforms and textbooks until Monday 30 June 2025.

Any funds remaining after 30 June 2025, including online voucher amounts that have not been redeemed, will become a credit to use on school activities. However, the credit will not be available on your family account at our school until late July. To use any remaining SSB funds to cover the cost of school activities in July, please refer to the SSB online system and allocate the funds to school activities before 30 June 2025. To learn more about the SSB online system, download the step-by-step System guide for parents and carers (DOCX, 945KB) or watch this School Saving Bonus video. System guide translations are also available in 14 languages.

The Department of Education's SSB contact centre will remain available until 30 June 2025.

The contact centre can be reached by:

- completing the School Saving Bonus enquiry form
- calling 1800 338 663, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays.

After this date, please contact our administration team for any SSB related questions.

Have a great week everyone.

Tony



Success Teamwork Respect Individuality Visionary Effort!!

DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

🏃 District Cross Country Success! 🏃

Today, a team of 60 students proudly represented Watsonia Heights Primary School at the District Cross Country Carnival held at Banyule Flats. We're absolutely thrilled to share that WHPS finished 1st overall – an outstanding result that reflects the incredible effort, determination, and team spirit of our students.

I am so proud of each and every student who competed today – your contribution was vital to our overall success, and your commitment and attitude were truly admirable.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support the team, those who helped out on the course, and those who assisted with transporting students to and from the event – your support is so appreciated and made a big difference.

The next stage of competition will be the Division Cross Country on Tuesday 3rd June 2025, once again at Banyule Flats. Miss Massa will be in touch with the students who qualify for the next level shortly.

Congratulations to everyone on an amazing day of achievement and school spirit! 🎉🏆



DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY



DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY



What's happening in Grade 5&6



Cultural Diversity Day!

We had a blast with WHPS Cultural Diversity Day! From mask making, to Karate practice and Afrobeat dancing, we celebrated all cultures and identities.



WHPS Celebrates the 2025 Cultural Diversity Day!

WHPS came alive with colour, music, and energy during the 2025 Cultural Diversity Day, celebrating the many cultures that enrich our school community.

Students enjoyed the Mandarin Expo, where they explored Chinese and world cultures through exhibits of work from students across all year levels. They also appreciated beautiful guzheng music played by our Grade 6 student, Lily. GKR Karate Greensborough ran interactive and exciting workshops which brought smiles to so many faces!



The Nikki Visaj Project involved the Preps in a little Bollywood dancing, the Grade 1/2s in some KPop dancing, the Grade 3/4s in a very meaningful and mindful Indigenous dance, and the Grade 5/6s in a very energetic Afrodance item.

Members of Latrobe University's Confucius Institute led engaging craft sessions across all the year levels.

A fun guessing game about staff cultural backgrounds sparked curiosity and connection, and the day ended on a high with an assembly where students proudly shared what they had learned in their karate and dance workshops.

The positive spirit of the day was felt across the school, making it a celebration to remember!

WHPS Celebrates the 2025 Cultural Diversity Day!

I'd like to give a massive shoutout to my fellow Mandarin Team members – Mrs Wang and Ms Fan for all the behind the scenes planning and hours of organisation that went into putting the day together! 7 months of planning turned out to be a fabulous day had by all! Thank you also to Cara at the canteen and our parent helpers for running the Special Food Day for our students – an enormous undertaking!



Finally, I'd like to extend a big thanks to all our WHPS families who took the opportunity to talk to our students about their cultural backgrounds and organise their outfits for the day. As our Mandarin Captains Penny and Ethan mentioned at the start of our CDD, "Every culture is beautiful and special!" and "By learning about each other, we grow respect, kindness and understanding." The turn out to the Mandarin Expo after school on Cultural Diversity Day was wonderful and we can't wait to draw the raffle next Friday (16th May) at assembly!

Ms Lee

News from your Library

Have you logged into your Premiers' Reading Challenge portal?

Victorian
**Premiers'
Reading
Challenge**



The **Premiers' Reading Challenge (PRC)** is in full swing and is a great way to combine your child's love of reading with an opportunity for them to win fantastic, randomly drawn prizes.

All of our book-lovers received a hard copy of their **PRC username and 2025 updated password**. So, they have everything they need to start logging all the wonderful books they read before the closing date on the **5th of September 2025**.

So far, our amazing book-lovers have read **2277** books, and **24** of our book-lovers have already finished the PRC! Woo-Hoo! Sensational work book-lovers! Don't worry. There are **still 121 days left** and lots of great, randomly drawn prizes up for grabs! So, jump online and register all your wonderful books now.

Dashboard

EK 10

School: Watsonia Heights Primary School

2025 challenge in progress

66 days

Campus: All Campus

Start 03 Mar, 2025

End 05 Sep, 2025 121 days left

520

Eligible students

520

(100 %)

Students registered

24

(4 %)

Students completed

Books

619 (27%)

Added

1658 (73%)

Finished

2277

Books Read

0

Books to

0 (0%)

Books to

1658 (73%)

Verified books

Congratulations to our 24 book-lovers who have finished the PRC challenge!

Prep D - Sebastian

1H - Emily

2J - Aria & Gabbie

3B - Sierra, Mivaan, Quinn, Josephine & Riya, **3D** - Nakshatra & Sebastien,

3MT - Bodhi D, Harriet, Amelia, & Hanna

4D - Ivy & Emilia, **4H** - Ava, **4L** - Praise

5C - Lola, **5F** - Yaami & Evelyn **5S** - Grace **6A** - Nam

20 years of
Words and Wonder

Student of The Week

Week 2

CONGRATULATIONS



Koby, Harry, Annie, Ryan, Tahlia, Josie, Saylor, Lilah, Finn, Jemima, Aubrey, Dhruv, Grace, Theo, Jake, Nyah, Joshua, Meilli, Trevor, Matt, Alice, Emerson, Ruben, Will, Hiroto, Cadence.

Week 3

CONGRATULATIONS



Riley, Zoe, Bodhi, Elsie, Fraser, Jayden, Maggie, Evie, Hitha, Matilda, Hayley, Max, Carter, Ellie, Ave, Holly, Rory, Leo, Lilli, Mccaela .



Lola & Maddy

Congratulations!

Do you have a daughter in Grade 5?

Year 7 2027 enrolment applications close

Friday, 15 August 2025.

Apply today via our website
clc.vic.edu.au/enrol

Limited tour spots available, register at
clc.vic.edu.au/enrol/book-a-tour



Hear from
our Principal
Stephanie Evans



PRIVATE TUTORING

If you are looking for additional support outside of school, look no further! I am a fully qualified primary school teacher, with experience teaching all levels from Foundation to year 6. Offering support in Literacy and Numeracy, I will tailor all learning to meet the needs of your child and maximise opportunities for growth, confidence and success.

Name: James
Mobile: 0422 493 826
Email: james.biddle@education.vic.gov.au
Cost: First session \$40; \$70 per 1 hour session thereafter



Basketball Star Academy Skill Based Weekly Programs Taking Term 2 Enrolments

Age Group: 5-14 YEAR OLDS

WHY BASKETBALL STAR ACADEMY

LEARN FROM EXPERIENCED COACHES WHO HAVE PLAYED AND COACHED THE GAME AT HIGH LEVELS

FUN STRUCTURED 60 MINUTE WEEKLY SESSIONS

FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTAL, SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING

ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME

LOCAL VENUES AND DAYS TO CHOOSE FROM

ENQUIRE NOW OR SCAN QR CODE

CALL: DANIEL
 PH: 0480 566 736
 EMAIL: VIC29.BASKETBALL@SPORTSTARACADEMY.COM



THURSDAY NIGHT LEVEL UP PROGRAMS
 FOR EXISTING UNDER 12/14 DOMESTIC PLAYERS
 AVAILABLE WHO WANT TO PUSH TO REP

SCAN QR CODE FOR EOI



Bundoora
Secondary College

SECURE YOUR SPOT FOR 2026

Located in the heart of the northern suburbs, just minutes from Plenty Road and the Ring Road.
53 Balmoral Avenue, Bundoora VIC 3083

Easily accessible Close to tram 86 (La Trobe Uni stop) Short walk to bus routes safe walking and cycling paths nearby. Easy drop-off/pick-up zones and accessible parking.

No uniform required We support individual expression and practical dress. No uniform = more comfort, creativity, and confidence.

Community engagement Students participate in local environmental programs, university partnerships, and workplace initiatives real-world experience builds resumes and confidence.

Ready for the future

University Direct Entry partnerships, trade pathways and VET programs (specialist and through the network).

Career counselling starts early Dedicated Year 8, 9 & 10 programs focused on purpose, curiosity, and capability.

Empowering a lifelong love of learning to thrive in a rapidly changing world.



Call Us
 (03) 9467 1511



More Info
<https://www.bundoorasc.vic.edu.au/>



Bundoora
Secondary College

AT BUNDOORA SECONDARY COLLEGE, WE'VE REIMAGINED EDUCATION.
 OUR CONTEMPORARY APPROACH FOCUSES ON CAPABILITIES, NOT JUST TRADITIONAL CURRICULUM.
 OUR STUDENTS ARE GUIDED BY THEIR PASSIONS, STRENGTHS, AND INTERESTS.

Personalised learning: Tailored pathways that align with individual student goals.

Innovative programs: From our renowned Farm and Environment program to Athlete Development and Fitness, Music Performance, and Drama, students have diverse opportunities.

Student wellbeing and challenge: A holistic, integrated approach ensures every student feels valued, supported and challenged to achieve their best.

Community engagement: Strong ties with local organisations and real-life experiences prepare students for the world beyond school.

Student leadership and voice: Creating students who are advocates and take an active role in empowering their own education.

Annual scholarships for enrolled students and across all stages (Entry -Year 7, PACE- Year 8&9, Senior Years - Years 10-12) in: Elite Sport, Performing Arts, Science and Sustainability, Design and Creativity, Entrepreneurship.

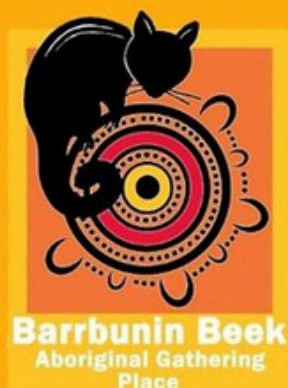
Empowering a lifelong love of learning to thrive in a rapidly changing world.



(03) 9467 1511

<https://www.bundoorasc.vic.edu.au/>





Reconciliation Week Family Day and Market at Barrbunin Beek

Saturday 31st May 2025

11.30am to 3pm

Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place invites you to join us for a family fun day for National Reconciliation Week.

The National Reconciliation Week 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.

At a time when Australia faces uncertainty in its reconciliation journey, this theme calls on all Australians to step forward together. Bridging Now to Next urges us to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.

Come along with the whole family for a wide range of fun activities and to learn what you can do to make a difference. All Allies and Friends welcome!!

Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place
55 Catalina St Heidelberg West

Sausage sizzle will be available for a gold coin donation.

Bookings can be made at <https://www.trybooking.com/CZOMT>

For more info please check out our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/BarrbuninBeekGP

Contact Kristen on 0423 063 737 or Blair on 0419 579 451



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to Next

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2025 | [RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU](https://reconciliation.org.au)




RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA



Experience Excellence in Early Learning at

Goodstart Watsonia

69-71 Devonshire Road, Watsonia, VIC

- ✓ Experienced & Caring Educators
Passionate, qualified staff who provide a nurturing and safe, environment.
- ✓ Quality Education & School Readiness
A curriculum aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework, fostering early literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking skills.
- ✓ Safe, Modern & Stimulating Environment
Designed to inspire learning, creativity, and a love for discovery.
- ✓ STEM, Sports, Dance & Nature Play
A well-rounded program that develops physical, creative, and problem-solving skills through hands-on exploration and play.
- ✓ All-Inclusive Care
Meals, nappies, wipes, cot linen, and sunscreen are provided at no extra cost.
- ✓ High-Quality Learning Environment
Carefully designed to engage young minds and foster creativity.

Book a tour today!

1800 222 543

Scan the
QR code to
learn more!



Goodstart
Watsonia

1 **E n r o l N o w** !

KINDERGARTEN
Victorian Government Approved

MINECRAFT ENGINEERS

AFTER-SCHOOL



Engineering • Problem-solving • Programming
Design • Make new friends • Trusted provider



Monday 28 Apr - 23 Jun
3:45PM - 5:00PM



Watsonia Heights Primary
School



Years 3 - 6

www.codecamp.com.au/watsonia

Get in touch at hello@codecamp.com.au

Rated **4.9** on **PRODUCT REVIEW** with over 1110 ★★★★★ reviews
.COM.AU