

January 2019, Issue 1

LINK LETTER



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IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 6th

Prep Parents Information Evening
7 – 8.30pm in the Library

Thursday 7th

Gr 3 – 6 Swimming Trials

Friday 8th

Inter School Sports (ISS)
Home V's Norris Bank

Friday 15th

ISS - Home V's Watsonia

Friday 15th

School Open Information and
Family Fun Night

5.30 - 8pm

Classrooms Information Sessions

Prep - Gr 2 at 5.30pm (30mins)

Gr 3 - 6 at 6.00pm (30mins)

Monday 18th

School Council Meeting

Wednesday 20th

Meet the Teacher Gr 3 – 6

Thursday 21st

Meet the Teacher Prep – Gr 2

Friday 22nd

ISS - Home v's St Mary's

Tuesday 26th

Prep Mindful Monkey Incursion

Wednesday 27th

Canteen Special Food Day

Thursday 28th

ISS - Home v's Watsonia North

Friday 1st March

Curriculum Day

Hello everyone!

Michael Kent

Welcome back!

Hello and a very warm welcome back to everyone to the 2019 school year. I hope you all enjoyed a fantastic Christmas/New Year holiday as I have. A very special welcome to our new Prep families. The Prep students have started school in brilliant style! Our Prep parents are to be congratulated on the way they have prepared their children for school, your efforts have helped to make this transition to school as smooth as possible.

Our Preps have enjoyed their first half day at school today. This will continue on Monday and Tuesday, prior to commencing full time days on Thursday 7th February. The Preps will not be attending school on Wednesdays during February.

Thanks to the Prep parents who came along to share in some scones and refreshments after the "Day 1 Drop Off". It was great to see so many in attendance and wonderful way to start life at WHPS by sharing the experience and meeting some old and new friends!

A very exciting year ahead as the staff have been working hard to prepare a dynamic and engaging curriculum. All staff were involved in meetings and planning sessions prior to the students commencing school. We are excited to have all students back to school and eager to learn. The students have settled back into school amazingly well and it has been wonderful to see them all, chat with them and to hear of the fun times had over the holidays but also to hear the children talking so positively about 2019. Even in the first days the grades have settled back into school life extremely well and students have been actively re-establishing friendships and of course, are making lots of new ones! A special welcome to the new families whom are joining the school this year. I trust that you will enjoy everything that our great school has to offer and that you will feel connected to our school and it's people.

As you know, we work extremely hard to provide the highest quality learning for all students at our school. In order for us to maximise on student capabilities we require your help. As parents and guardians you have a crucial role to play within the learning framework. Your assistance at home in discussing school is an invaluable aspect of student learning. This provides opportunities for students to reflect and consolidate their understandings. As a minimum it would be fantastic to set aside some time each night to share a love of literacy. Reading to your child, reading with them, listening to them read to you and discussing the book (pictures, themes, characters, plot, setting, what might happen next etc..) are all helpful ways of engaging with your child around literacy. Reading each night forms a part of the homework for all students at WHPS.

Welcome again to the school year and I am buoyed by the opportunities that lay ahead. I ask all families to mark Friday 15th February on you calendars at home! This marks our 2019 School Information Evening / Family Fun Night. This promises to be a wonderful event. It will allow for all our families to come long and enjoy our school in a social, fun and enjoyable time but most importantly you can visit your child's classroom and hear from the staff about what to expect in 2019!!

All classrooms and learning spaces will be open from 5.30-6.30pm followed by our family fun night from 6.30-8pm.

Information evening – all classes open for visitation. At 5.30pm all Prep-2 classes will be sharing information about the year. At 6pm all year 3-6 classes will be sharing information about the year. An information booklet will also be provided on the night. Please make the time to come along to this night as it will lay the foundation for a transparent and positive year ahead for your child.

At 6.30pm-8pm families are invited to share in some social time with music, jumping castles and BBQ. Feel free to bring some food and drinks to enjoy the social side of school. Don't forget to visit the specialist classrooms as well!!

For student in years 1-6 there will be an opportunity to schedule a 1 on 1, meet the teacher meeting in the week following the School Information Night. Further details to come.

Year 1-6 Student Information

Today students in years 1-6 received a 'Getting to know your child' notice that allows parents to share some important information about your child. Please complete this and return to your child's teacher by Tuesday 12th February. This form helps staff to build a picture of your child.

Prep parents will have this opportunity during the two assessment days that are held on Wednesdays during February.

Prep Parents are all invited to our 'Prep Parents Welcome Evening' to be held at 7pm – 8.30pm on Wednesday 6th February in the Library. It would be great to see you all there to share in some social time.

Term Dates

Term 1:

to 5th April

Term 2:

23rd April to 28th June

Term 3:

15th July to 20th September

Term 4:

7th October to 20th December

A reminder that the school office hours are from 8.30-4.30pm. Outside of these times please leave a phone message or email the school.

Staffing

2019 will be an exciting and enjoyable year for WHPS. As the school continues to grow, we will be running with 18 classrooms this year.

Our staff team for this year:

Grade/Program	Staff	Email
Prep	<u>Dani Irene</u>	Beran.Danielle.I@edumail.vic.gov.au
Prep	Rebecca Mead	mead.rebecca.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Prep	<u>Shanai Bowden</u>	bowden.shanai.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
Prep	<u>Lainie Nestor</u>	nestor.lainie.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 1	Cherrie McIntosh	mcintosh.cherrie.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 1	<u>Lacey-Rose Demanuele</u>	demanuele.lacey-rose.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 1/2	Georgia Barnes	barnes.georgia.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
	<u>Catherine Trethowan</u>	trethowan.catherine.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 2	<u>Chantelle Lanyon</u>	mooney.chantelle.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
	Amy Esposito	reid.amy.e@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 2	<u>Angela Gray</u>	gray.angela.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 2	<u>Stephanie Tsakmakis</u>	Tsakmakis.Stephanie.S@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 3/4	Laura Bolden	Bolden.Laura.L@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 3/4	Clint Mackie	mackie.clinton.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 3/4	Amy Davidson	davidson.amy.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 3/4	<u>Anila Agnew</u>	Agnew.Anila.A@edumail.vic.gov.au

Grade 5/6	Jessica Rancie	rancie.jessica.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 5/6	Sara Ceranic	TBC
Grade 5/6	Phil Hannon	hannon.philip.p@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 5/6	Ally Clarke	clarke.allison.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
AP	Tony Ryan	Ryan.Tony.J@edumail.vic.gov.au
PE	Amanda Macellari	macellari.amanda.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
LOTE	Serina Lee	lee.serina.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
DL / grade 1/2	Catherine Trethowan	trethowan.catherine.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
Art / music	Sally Beran	beran.sally.i@edumail.vic.gov.au
Science	Cathy James	james.catherine.m1@edumail.vic.gov.au
	Emma MacDonald	macdonald.emma.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Science	Sharni Kennedy	kennedy.sharni.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
Art	Lana Cordwell	buckingham.lana.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
Aide Support	Kylie Emmenegger	
Aide Support	Izzy Cahill	
Aide Support	Debbie Nichols	
Aide Support	Armerleigh Ward	
Aide Support	Kay Rowland	
Aide Support	Jacqui Heczey	
Library	Kathryne Campara	radcliffe.kathryne.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Welcome again to Lacey Demanuele, Stephanie Tsakmakis, Laura Bolden, Anila Agnew, Dani Irene, Lainie Nestor, Sara Ceranic.

Due to unforeseen circumstances Ms. Reem Elsaafin has taken indefinite personal leave and a recent recruitment process has provided the exciting announcement that Sara Ceranic will be joining the staff and teaching our 5/6 class.

We are excited to continue our specialist program this year. Additionally, all students will enjoy our Discovery Learning program and our enhanced Library program. Our Prep -2 students will again this year enjoy a dual Arts program that will include visual arts and music. The year 3-6 students will maintain a focus on art throughout the year. Their music tuition and exposure will be in the form of our Year 3-6 Instrumental Music Program.

Of course all students will participate in our annual school concert which emphasizes the performing arts including music, dance and drama.

Communication

As part of our communications this year we will be enhancing our processes and opportunities to keep you all well informed. Newsletter – will be published through Compass each fortnight commencing today.

Facebook – this will continue to provide you with up to date and pertinent information regarding school events and happenings. Simply search for Watsonia Heights PS and be sure to follow and like our page and turn your notifications on.

COMPASS – this will continue to be our main form of communication for information, online permissions, live attendance data, school reports etc.. This year we will be adding to the suite of functions and further details will be coming home.

We will also be using Compass as our online booking system for interviews throughout the year. This will include; Meet the teacher interviews, parent teacher interviews, etc...

Website – please access our website for extensive information around all things WHPS!

<http://www.watsoniaheightsps.vic.edu.au>

Leaders

Congratulations again to our 2019 Student leaders. At WHPS we promote every student to be a leader and take control of their learning journey and also to lead the way in every opportunity that presents itself.

We do have some more formal roles within the framework of promoting leadership development for everyone.

School Captains	<u>Eysha Denison</u>	Heidi Hull-Brown
School Vice Captains	Harry Prior	Cooper McCallum

	Banksia Blue	Wattle Yellow	Boronia Green	Waratah Red
House Captains	<u>Ori Abraham</u> <u>Holly Gersh</u>	Lucy Norton Ruby Woodcraft	<u>Saoirse Doherty</u> Archie Cook	Max White <u>Ryan Commandeur</u>

Library Captains	<u>Liam Geraghty</u> Ashanti Christie Kristi Nagy
Sustainability Captains	<u>Charli Ribaric</u> Ruby Bishop
ICT Captains	Liam McKenzie Ava Mott
Wellbeing Captains	Libby Allen <u>Orlaith Feeney</u>

Canteen

Our canteen days for 2019 are Wednesday and Friday. To make this successful and viable we are calling for helpers to assist out on these days. If you are able to help out please contact Kate Fisher. Mobile: 0417 565 853 email: katefisher76@gmail.com
As well as our lunch order provision, our canteen also has counter sales during recess and lunchtime on both days.

Instrumental Music

The instrumental music program for students in Year 3-6 will commence in the coming weeks. There will be further notices being sent home shortly to our year 3 students regarding purchasing instruments (and to any new students). Please return these asap so that orders can be filled.

Assembly

School assembly will be held each Friday at 3pm on the asphalt outside the main office (unless inclement or hot weather forces us inside the GP room). Please note that the Prep cohort won't join this assembly until they have settled into school life (usually a few weeks into the term).

Can you HELP!?!

In 2019 all classroom helpers and volunteers are required to register via the school office. This involves completing an annual Code of Conduct document and providing your working with children check card. Whilst this may be seen as an imposition, I encourage you all to follow this process which ensures the safety and wellbeing of our students. We highly value and appreciate any form of support from home. If you have previously registered your details, these need to be updated as WWC cards expire and must be renewed prior to continued work in schools. All volunteers are asked to complete the annual Code of Conduct agreement.

Parent Payments

Thanks to those parents who have made payments towards their school fees. If you are yet to submit your payment plans please do so asap and this supports the school in budget provision and also to plan appropriately for your child's participatory program.

We have a wonderful learning environment at WHPS and for us to continue to provide the highest quality learning experience we rely upon parent contribution and fundraising. Much of the operational costs including provision of computers (including laptops), high quality school resources, extra sports equipment, library/ICT support and equipment, quality art and science supplies and maintenance, along with the provision of new curriculum initiatives are supported solely from local fundraising, including parent payments.

OHSC – Out of Hours School Care

Any parents requiring OHSC in 2019 are asked to log on to the Camp Australia website via: <https://www.campaustralia.com.au>

Camps Sports and Excursions Fund - CSEF

Eligible families are welcomed to apply for funding support supplied from the government. A payment of \$125 per primary school child is available to those eligible parents/guardians. Please see the attachment for further details.

Every Day Counts!!

In the Victorian education system it is compulsory for all students to attend school each day of the school year. At times an absence may be unavoidable, however every effort must be made to ensure students attend school on time each day. Evidence tells us that students who regularly miss days of school are at risk of missing out on learning the basic building block in subjects, and may experience long term difficulties with their learning. School attendance helps children develop social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communications skills and develops a healthy self-esteem.

Please try to ensure that any appointments are made outside of school hours. To maximize on learning opportunities we need all students here all day. If this presents a problem for you and your child please make a time to see me.

All late arrivals and early departures need to be signed in/out at the school office by a parent/guardian. It is not acceptable for a student to sign themselves in or out of the school. Late passes and early leave passes are provided through the office.

This is a strong focus of the Department of Education & Training. Further information can be found on the website: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/attendance.aspx>

Are you being Sunsmart??

As in line with the schools policy, term 1 is a sunsmart term. This requires all students to have the appropriate black wide brimmed hat. These sunsmart hats are to be worn during all outside activities during term 1 and 4.

Hot Days and Extreme Weather Days

On days when it is extremely hot the children will remain in classrooms and be supervised as they are on wet days.

Personal Property at School

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Please note that the Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. Further details regarding insurance options will be shared in next weeks newsletter.

Uniform/Belongings

Please be vigilant in clearly naming all uniform items and personal belongings (lunch boxes, sports equipment etc..) This allows us to return any found items to the rightful owner.

Anaphylaxis

As you know this is a life threatening condition for all whom suffer from it. As a school we have an obligation to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. Therefore I remind you of our school's Anaphylaxis policy that relates to all students.

Watsonia Heights Primary is a NUT FREE school.

Nuts are known as a severe allergen. To minimise risks, as far as is practicable Watsonia Heights does not permit nuts to be brought onto school grounds, or on school excursions or camps. This policy extends to all students and adults in the school community.

The following are discouraged:

Nuts – including peanuts, almonds, cashews, pine nuts, hazelnuts, walnuts, brazil nuts, pecans or any other type of nut

Spreads – such as peanut butter, Nutella, other choc/nut spreads, pesto, nut butters and peanut oil

Dried fruit and nut boxes and muesli bars containing nuts

Biscuits or cakes containing nuts, including flourless cakes with almond meal

- There should be no trading and sharing of food, food utensils and food containers.
- Drink bottles and lunch boxes should be clearly named.
- Children with severe food allergies should only eat lunches and snacks provided by the parent/guardian.
- Food products containing nuts as an ingredient will not be available through the school's lunch ordering service, or sold at the school as part of special activities.
- Boxes and packages which have contained nuts (including tree nuts) are not to be used in classroom activities.
- The use of food in crafts, cooking and science experiments will be restricted to NUT FREE and NUT TRACE FREE as far as is practicable, depending on the allergies of particular children.

Please also note that in support of this policy parents are discouraged from sending along any food or confectionary for student birthdays. If you require further information please contact myself or your child's teacher.

Watsonia Heights School Council

Watsonia Heights Primary School is governed by our School Council. The Council is made of volunteers from our parent community and also from our teaching staff, including myself. Pierre Scotney is the current President of our council. Below is some further general information as we will be running nominations and elections for the 2019 School Council over the next few weeks. You may be interested in joining our Council and inputting into our school's development over the next 2 years.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For Watsonia Heights there are two possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category and a mandated elected DET (Department of Education and Training employee category (teachers).

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Further information about the nomination and election process are available at any time. If you are interested or have any questions please contact me. Elections for the 2019/2020 School Council will take place during term 1. Further details about nomination forms will be availed with the next newsletter on 15th February.

Updating contact details / medical

I ask all families to please ensure that you have up to date contact details at the office. This includes current address, phone numbers, emergency contact details etc..

Also any students who have a medical condition must have to date medical records at the office. Of most importance is to ensure Asthma, Diabetes, and Anaphylaxis management plans are up to date. These need to be signed off by your local doctor and a required to be updated annually. Of course these documents are so important to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students, especially yours!

Asthma

As part of our commitment to meeting our legislative requirements and the Schools Policy Advisory Guide, we require you to provide us with an updated Asthma Action Plan for your child. Asthma Action Plans should be reviewed annually.

Please follow the link below to the new Asthma Action Plan for Victorians Schools, which has been specifically designed for schools to identify asthma signs and symptoms, and respond accordingly using the asthma medication device your child currently has at school.

Once completed please return it to us as soon as possible with the appropriate medication and any other device aid i.e. spacer device. Please make sure the medication is in date and any items are labelled with your child's name.

<https://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/vic/about-asthma/resources/victorian-action-plans>

If your medical practitioner has informed you that your child has grown out of their asthma, they will need to provide a letter, on the practice letterhead to the school stating such.

School Zones

Children are our most vulnerable road users and to address this road safety issue school speed zones with lower speed limits were introduced many years ago.

Motorists should be aware that children in traffic are not like adults. They can be unpredictable and because they are small, they can be hard to see. So take extra care and slow down when you drive past any school.

Research shows that slowing down helps to both avoid crashes and reduce their severity. According to the Monash University Accident Research Centre, an 11 per cent reduction in speed reduces road deaths by 40 per cent. Even a small reduction in travelling speed dramatically increases the chance of a child surviving a collision.

Read more about safety on our roads via the Vicroads website.

Please observe the parking restrictions and speed limits around the school. Local council and Victoria Police often patrol these areas. We have two pedestrian crossings that are supervised each day before and after school. Please use this service and ensure all children use these crossings.

Also please note that the staff carpark is not for parental use. This presents a danger to students and if parents use this space our staff will have nowhere to park!

Never leave children unattended in cars

On hot days, it is important to remember that you should never leave your child alone in a car. The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside. Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death. Young children's smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks. Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence.

Penalties have recently been increased and can include six months in jail.

If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

Your child's safety is a non negotiable.

Uniform shop

A reminder that the uniform shop is open each week on a Tuesday morning and a Thursday afternoon.

Please be aware that we also have a range of second hand uniforms available. We are also keen to accept any donations of uniform to bolster the stocks

Congratulations once again to all of our wonderful students on making such a positive start to the school year.

Once again I welcome you all back to the 2019 school year and I look forward to seeing you in and around the school.

Enjoy the weekend ahead!

Warm regards,

Michael

Across The AP's Desk...

Tony Ryan

Wominjeka

Welcome back everyone to another school year. A special welcome also to all our prep students, new students to the school and their families. The vibe around the school in the past few days has been very positive.

The start of the year is always a busy but exciting time in schools. Our school is a hive of activity in the weeks leading up to the first day with our staff getting into school and working hard together to establish powerful learning spaces and programs. It is also a time when new facilities and upgrades tend to happen to limit disruption as much as possible during school terms. This gives the school a fresh feeling for returning students.

Dahlightful!

I'm sure our students and their families would have noticed our amazing new wall mural located near the BER and outside Mrs McIntosh's classroom. Please see the attached photos. This is a tribute to the brilliant story writing of Roald Dahl and is another way we can celebrate the amazing gift of reading in our school! We have the wonderful Vivienne Degran to thank for this beautiful piece of art. Many of our students and parents will recall that Vivienne has previously worked at our school in an educational support capacity. She is also a very talented artist as some of our artwork around the school attests. We also thank Kathyne Campara for her input into this school project.



In addition to fitting out an extra four classrooms this year, you may have also noticed that some of our playground spaces have received a bit of a freshen up. The three playgrounds have been topped up with extra soft-fall mulch and the 3-6 playground has received some restoration and repainting. We also look forward to adding an extra playground space in the upper school later this term. This will constitute an extra year 3-6 play space. We thank our students and their parents for their input last year into the desired features of this playground and look forward to sharing the chosen design with the community in the coming weeks.

Information Overload!

At the start of every year there is a lot of information that needs to be gathered and disseminated across the school. This can be a little overwhelming at times but we appreciate your support in assisting the school to get up and operational as soon as possible as this supports the wonderful learning opportunities that our students are exposed to.

An example of permission forms that are pressing is in our 3-6 Sports program. We have swimming trials booked for next Thursday the 7th Feb at Yarra Swim School in preparation for the District Swimming Sports Carnival on the 21st of Feb. We encourage all students to attend and have a go in at least one event. Our 5-6 students have also been participating in sports trials for our interschool sport teams this morning. Our first match begins next Friday morning and is a home match against Norris Bank PS. All matches are played on Friday mornings between 9.30am-11.00am. Miss Macellari will be sending out further information and permission forms via Compass to families involved. Your assistance in returning these permission forms as soon as possible is appreciated to ensure the participation of as many students as possible.

Great Start

Despite it being a very busy time of year, the first week back is amongst my favourite times of the school year. Seeing students bounce through the school gate, feeling refreshed and looking forward to catching up with their school friends brings such a positive vibe to our school. It's also great to hear of their adventures over the school holiday period. This year is full of great opportunities and it's a good chance to catch up with old friends, meet new teachers and explore new friendships with classmates.

Thanks for your contribution to our positive start in readying your children for the school year and I look forward to what lies ahead in 2019.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Tony

