

Friday 22nd May 2026  
Issue 8

# LINK LETTER



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## From the Principal

Tony Ryan

### Native Garden and Yarning Circle Opening:

This afternoon marks an exciting milestone for our school community as we officially open our new Native Garden and Yarning Circle. This wonderful new space will provide students with opportunities for outdoor learning, reflection, connection and engagement with Indigenous perspectives and culture. We look forward to celebrating this important occasion alongside members of our school community and distinguished guests including the Banyule City Council Mayor Alison Champion and the local member for Bundoora Colin Brooks, as well as Wurundjeri Elder Annette Xiberras, who will perform a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. We are incredibly proud of this new addition to our school and grateful to the North East Link Community Fund Grant Program, our School Council and Luke and the team from Complete Landscape Constructions for helping bring this vision to life.



- **Tuesday 26th May National Simultaneous Story Time - 11am**
- **Wednesday 3rd June Division Cross Country**
- **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June Fight MND Big Freeze Beanie Day**

- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June King's Birthday Holiday 24th-26<sup>th</sup> June Grade 3 Camp**

## Term Dates 2026

### Term 1:

- **Thursday 29th January Years 1-6 Students return**
- **Friday 30th Preps start half day**
- **Preps Wednesday's off during February (apart from assessment day)**
- **Thurs 2nd April term 1 end**

### Term 2:

- **Mon 20th April term start**
- **Fri 26th June term end**

### Term 3:

- **Mon 13th July term start**
- **Fri 18th Sep term end**

### Term 4:

- **Mon 5th Oct term start**
- **Fri 18th Dec year end**

### **Parent Teacher Interviews:**

This week we also welcomed many families into the school for our Parent Teacher Meetings. These conversations are an incredibly valuable opportunity for teachers and families to discuss student progress and to work together to support student learning, wellbeing and growth. Thank you to our families and staff for the positive engagement and collaborative approach shown throughout the meetings.

### **In-principle Agreement:**

Families may be aware that an in-principle agreement has now been reached between the Australian Education Union and the Victorian Department of Education regarding the current agreement negotiations. As a result, all industrial action, including the proposed half-day work stoppages, has been suspended. We are pleased to hear of this positive development in the negotiations. We thank families for their understanding and support throughout this period.

### **Semester 1 Reports:**

As part of the agreement and workload reduction measures currently being implemented across Victorian government schools, mid-year student reports this semester will contain fewer individual written comments than in previous years. Families can be assured that reports will continue to provide clear information regarding student achievement and progress against the Victorian Curriculum, alongside the valuable insights already shared during Parent Teacher Meetings. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our school community.

### **Celebrating Our Education Support Staff:**

Last week we proudly celebrated National Education Support (ES) Staff Day and recognised the incredible contribution our Education Support staff make to the daily life of Watsonia Heights Primary School. Our ES staff play an essential role in supporting student learning, wellbeing and inclusion across the school. Whether working directly alongside students in classrooms, the library, canteen, supporting programs and administration, or assisting staff and families, their care, dedication and professionalism help create the positive and supportive environment we value so highly at WHPS.

We sincerely thank our Education Support team for the outstanding work they do each and every day for our students and community.

### **World Turtle Day Celebration:**

A huge thank you to our Librarian Kathryne for coordinating a wonderful World Turtle Day celebration in the GP Room after school on Wednesday. It was fantastic to see so many students enthusiastically involved in activities celebrating turtles, conservation and a love of reading and learning.

Events such as these help foster curiosity, creativity and student engagement beyond the classroom, and we greatly appreciate Kathryne's passion and effort in creating these memorable opportunities for our students.

Kathryne is also coordinating the National Simultaneous Storytime next Tuesday for our school alongside our teaching staff. National Simultaneous Storytime is always a fantastic opportunity to celebrate literacy, storytelling and a shared love of books across the school community.

### **District Cross Country Success:**

Congratulations to all students who represented Watsonia Heights Primary School at the recent District Cross Country event. Our students demonstrated outstanding determination, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the day and represented the school with pride.

We are incredibly proud to announce that Watsonia Heights PS won the District Cross Country Trophy for the second consecutive year. This is an outstanding achievement and a reflection of the hard work and commitment of our students and staff. Thank you to Mr Lentini, Miss Clay and those family members who attended on the day to support our students.

A special congratulations also goes to the students who have qualified for the upcoming Division Cross Country event. We wish all of these students the very best in the coming weeks and look forward to cheering them on as they continue their cross country journey.

### **Supporting Positive Partnerships Between Home and School:**

At Watsonia Heights Primary School, we value the strong partnerships we share with families and recognise that open communication between home and school is essential in supporting positive outcomes for students. At times, children may come home upset following a peer conflict, behavioural incident or consequence at school. Understandably, parents and carers want to support and advocate for their child when this occurs. As educators, we also understand that children will often recount events from their own perspective and emotional experience. Part of supporting children to grow socially and emotionally involves helping them reflect on situations, understand different perspectives, take responsibility for their actions where appropriate, and develop strategies to navigate challenges positively.

As a school, our staff work hard to investigate concerns fairly, calmly and thoroughly. This often involves gathering information from multiple students and staff members, considering the broader context, and applying professional judgement aligned with the expectations and processes of the Victorian Department of Education. While schools may not always be able to share detailed consequences or information relating to other students, families can be assured that concerns raised are taken seriously and followed up appropriately.

The Victorian Government's recently released behaviour expectations reinforce the importance of respectful partnerships between schools, families and students. These expectations highlight that everyone within a school community has a shared responsibility to contribute to safe, respectful and orderly learning environments.

We encourage families, when concerns arise, to approach conversations with the understanding that schools and families ultimately share the same goal in supporting children to learn, grow and thrive. By working together respectfully, modelling calm problem-solving strategies and maintaining open communication, we can best support our students to develop resilience, responsibility, accountability and positive relationships. We thank our families for their ongoing support and partnership in fostering a positive and respectful school culture for all students.

Have a great weekend,

Tony

# District Cross Country



**District  
Winners 2026!**





A FIGHTMND EVENT

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Wear your Big Freeze Beanie or a "touch of blue"  
Gold coin donation

Proceeds going to FightMND Foundation

Design a Beanie competition

Give your design to Miss Clay or  
Miss Close by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Most creative design wins a 2026  
Big Freeze Beanie



# Learning Takes Flight in Grade 3!

This week in Grade 3 Maths, students explored length through a fun and hands-on paper plane investigation. Students designed and created their own paper planes, estimated how far they thought they would fly, and then measured the actual distance travelled using formal measuring tools and units such as metres and centimetres. This activity helped students build their understanding of measurement, estimation, and accurate measuring in a real-world context.



# Learning Takes Flight in Grade 3!



GRADE 4

# Literacy Greek Mythology

Students have explored Theseus and the Minotaur.  
We have learnt about key ideas and how the qualities  
of a hero can impact a story.

We have also looked at Demeter and Persephone. We  
jumped in to find out why the world has seasons and  
the story behind it all.



# Student of The Week

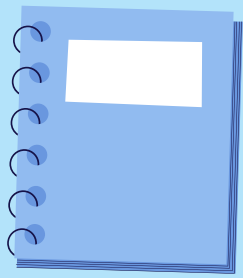
**Week 4**



**Week 5**



*Congratulations!*



# Dates for your **DIARY 2026**



By Miss Massa

## **Term 1 - 27th Jan - 2nd April**

District Swimming Carnival Thursday 19th February @ Watermarc  
Division Swimming Carnival Thursday 12th March  
Northern Metropolitan Regional Swimming Carnival Thursday 19th March

## **Term 2 - 20th April - 26th June**

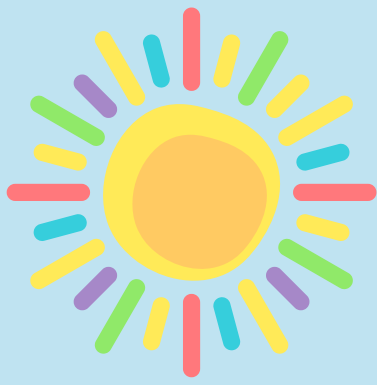
WHPS 3-6 House Cross Country Monday 27th April 2026 @ WHPS  
Colour Run (P-6) Friday May 1st 2026  
WHPS 3-6 House Cross Country BACKUP DAY 4th May 2026 @ WHPS  
District Cross Country Monday 11th May @ Banyule Flats Reserve  
Division Cross Country Wednesday 3rd June  
Northern Metropolitan Regional Cross Country Wednesday 17th June  
Grade 3 Camp Mount Evelyn - Wednesday 24th June-Friday 26th June 2026

## **Term 3 - 13th July - 18th September 2026**

WHPS 3/4 House Athletics Monday 20th July 2026 @ Willinda Park  
AFL 9s Division Thursday 23rd July  
WHPS 5/6 House Athletics Monday 27th July 2026 @ Willinda Park  
Netball Division Tuesday July 28th  
Soccer Division Wednesday July 29th  
T Ball Division Thursday July 30th  
District Athletics Thursday 20th August @ Meadowglen Athletics Track  
Division Athletics Friday September 11th

## **Term 4 - 5th October - 18th December 2026**

Northern Metropolitan Regional Athletics Wednesday 14th October 2026  
Grade 5 Camp Sovereign Hill - Wednesday 14th October- Wednesday 16th October 2026  
Division Basketball Thursday 15th October  
Division Softball Wednesday 21st October  
Grade 4 Camp Alexandra Adventure Resort - Monday 26th October- Wednesday 28th October 2026  
Cricket Blast Wednesday 28th  
Grade 6 Camp Coastal Forest Lodge - Wednesday 2nd December - Friday 4th December 2026



# YOUR WELLBEING SPOT



## WELLBEING INITIATIVES AT WHPS

Our lunch time clubs have continued to be a great success, with many students participating in Yoga and Art. It has been great to see our Grade 6 students getting involved and acting as role models for some of our younger students.

Today, our school Wellbeing Captains Adelaide and Hazel announced some new and re-vamped Wellbeing initiatives that will be happening across the school.

### Wellbeing Wednesdays

In Weeks 6 & 9 of this term, we will be hosting Wellbeing Wednesdays. Adelaide and Hazel will provide classes with a whole-school Wellbeing activity to complete, like guided meditations. We will continue this in to Terms 3 & 4, during Weeks 3, 6 & 9.

### Wellbeing Warriors

Wellbeing Warriors is back! Students can nominate someone from their year level that has demonstrated the values of being a Wellbeing Warrior. Wellbeing Warriors are students who exemplify our school STRIVE values, who are kind and caring towards others, and who make their classroom and our school a great place to be.

Our Wellbeing Captains will provide each year level with a Wellbeing Warrior box where they can place their nominations.

A Wellbeing Warrior for P-2 and 3-6 will be announced each week at assembly on Friday.

Remember, kind people are the best kind of people!



Ages  
5-13

# Holiday Camps on sale now!



**MINECRAFT** • Coding  
Robotics • Animation • Craft & more

Book now at [codecamp.com.au/flyer](https://codecamp.com.au/flyer)

**SAVE \$25**

Use coupon code  
FLYER25 at checkout

Supported by  
 GROUP



# FREE COME AND TRY DAY

For all new and existing  
Under 8 players  
Monday 15 June  
4.45pm - 5.30pm  
Diamond Valley Stadium  
Court 8



To register, please head to  
<https://www.playhq.com/basketball-victoria/register/c146ca>



# BANYULE SKATE PARK/SPACE SESSIONS 2026

FREE SKATEBOARDING WORKSHOPS WITH EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE PROVIDED

Heidelberg West Skate Park	Sunday, 17 May	11am - 12.30pm
Greensborough Skate Park	Tuesday, 19 May	4pm - 5.30pm
Heidelberg West Skate Park	Sunday, 24 May	11am - 12.30pm
Greensborough Skate Park	Tuesday, 26 May	4pm - 5.30pm
Heidelberg West Skate Park	Sunday, 31 May	11am - 12.30pm
Greensborough Skate Park	Tuesday, 2 June	4pm - 5.30pm
Heidelberg West Skate Park	Sunday, 7 June	11am - 12.30pm
Greensborough Skate Park	Tuesday, 9 June	4pm - 5.30pm
Macleod Village Green Park	Sunday, 14 June	3pm - 4.30pm
Greensborough Skate Park	Tuesday, 16 June	4pm - 5.30pm
Heidelberg West Skate Park	Saturday, 20 June	11am - 12.30pm
Greensborough Skate Park	Tuesday, 23 June	4pm - 5.30pm



For full details, registration and weather updates use the QR code or visit [revolutionise.com.au/vsa](https://revolutionise.com.au/vsa)  
Follow @AllAboardSessions on facebook and instagram for all event updates and content.



SKATEBOARDING  
VICTORIA



# BECOME A **F**OSTER CARE**R**

Brighter futures **start with you!**



## TERM 2: ONLINE INFO SESSIONS

### April:

Wednesday 15th, 4 - 5pm

Thursday 30th, 6.30 - 7.30pm

### May:

Wednesday 13th, 6 - 7pm

Wednesday 27th, 7 - 8pm

### June:

Thursday 11th, 4 - 5pm

Wednesday 24th, 6.30 - 7.30pm

**Register to attend!**

**1800 809 722**

[caring@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:caring@anglicarevic.org.au)





**\$245 for 3  
days! 30%  
Offer ends  
June 9!**

#### PROGRAM INCLUDES

- 01** 9-3pm each day
- 02** AFL, Basketball, Netball, Pickleball, Soccer, Hockey and Tennis on offer
- 03** Suitable for all ages and skill levels
- 04** Guest appearances at selected programs



**It was overall very positive and the kids made great connections with coaching staff and other participants**



## THREE DAY SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMPS!

#### LOCATIONS

- Camberwell High School, Canterbury - 8, 9, 10 July 2026
- Anderson Park, Hawthorn East - 7, 8, 9 July 2026
- HA Smith Reserve, Hawthorn - 30 June, 1, 2, July 2026
- Melbourne Girls Grammar, Richmond - 6, 7, 8 July 2026
- Camberwell Hockey Club, Canterbury - 30 June, 1, 2 July 2026
- Doncaster Secondary College, Doncaster - 6, 7 and 8, 9, 10 July 2026
- Bundha Indoor Sports Centre - Fitzroy North - 30 June, 1, 2 July 2026
- Boroondara Sports Complex, Balwyn North - 1, 2, 3 July 2026

#### Contact Us:

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#### More Information:

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