

Friday 14th August 2026
Issue 14

LINK LETTER



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From the Principal

Tony Ryan

It has been another busy and productive few weeks at Watsonia Heights Primary School. As we move through Term 3, I would like to take the opportunity to remind our community of some of the important ways we can work together to support the safety, wellbeing and learning of all our students.

Bullying No Way Week

This coming week we acknowledge Bullying No Way Week, an important opportunity for our school community to focus on creating a culture where every student feels safe, included, respected and connected. Our SWPBS values and expectations provide an important foundation for this work. We want our students to understand that they have an important role to play in looking after one another, speaking up when something doesn't feel right and seeking support from a trusted adult when they need it.

Being an upstander means having the courage to speak up when we see something that isn't right and to seek help when someone may need support. Being an upstander also means being honest and providing an accurate account of what we have seen or experienced regardless of our relationships with those involved. We build trust in our school community when we speak up respectfully and allow others to understand what has actually happened.

Preventing bullying is not simply the responsibility of teachers and school leaders. It is something we all contribute to through the way we speak to others, include others and respond when we see someone experiencing difficulties.

Term 3

- **Wednesday 19th August Science Competition Closes**
- **Thursday 20th August District Athletics & Prep Bunnings Visit Incursion**
- **Monday 24th August Book Treasure Hunt 3:30pm-5pm**
- **Tuesday 25th August Book Week Parade 9:10am on the basketball courts**
- **Friday 28th August Book Week Meerkat Production in the GP Room Prep-Grade 2**
- **Monday 31st August Grade 1 Melbourne Zoo Excursion**
- **Tuesday 15th September- CELEBRATION OF LEARNING-3pm-3:30pm & 3:30pm-4:40pm**

Term Dates 2026

Term 3:

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

Term 4:

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

WHPS Positive Acknowledgement System:

In mentioning our SWPBS implementation above, it is a great opportunity to acknowledge the awesome work of our students and the awarding of STRIVE points and tokens that have been going on across the school when positive behaviours and choices are being displayed. It is a real highlight for me when I see students from classes coming up to our office area and contributing their class tokens to our Whole School Positive Acknowledgement towers. Our students are steadily working towards and contributing to a whole school reward. The towers are pretty even, but I think the movie reward is edging towards the front currently!

Proposed Stop Work Action

As I shared in a recent Compass post to the community, the AEU has called its members to further strike action next **Wednesday the 19th of August** as part of their industrial relations dispute with the DET.

Since this announcement, another proposed agreement has been offered to the union by the Department of Education. The AEU has put this proposed agreement to its members for voting. This ballot does not close until Monday and the outcome of the count will not be known until this time. If the vote is successful, then the Stop Work Action is likely to be cancelled. If it is not successful, the strike is likely to go ahead.

Staff are required to advise Principals at least 48 hours prior to the strike action. I will notify our community as soon as I can with those classes that won't be required to attend school on the day. Based on the indications our staff have provided to this point, I am expecting significant disruption to classes on this day if the strike action does go ahead. Our school appreciates the support and understanding that our community has displayed in supporting the supervision of students in impacted classes during the previous stop work actions.

A reminder about school crossings

With many of our students walking to and from school each day, I would like to remind families about the importance of always using the designated school crossings when crossing roads close to school.

It can be tempting to cross at a more convenient location, particularly when students are travelling with friends, but school crossings are there to provide a safer and more predictable environment for our students. Please reinforce with your children the importance of using the crossing, following the instructions of crossing supervisors and taking care around roads and driveways. A few extra minutes to use the crossing is well worth it when it comes to keeping our children safe.

I also want to acknowledge and thank our community for their caution and patience in navigating around the school in vehicles at peak traffic times at the start and end of the school day. There has been a noticeable improvement in the parking choices of parents/carers and the decision of many to park a little further away and complete the last part of the journey on foot. We appreciate your support in ensuring the safety of our students and wider community is our number one priority.



Congratulations!

We share our heartfelt congratulations to Mr Stuart Hunt and his wife Kate on the recent safe arrival of their second daughter Poppy. We understand that Mum and bub are both doing well. Congratulations on this fantastic news and we hope they enjoy all the cuddles to come.



School uniform

A reminder that students are expected to attend school in the Watsonia Heights Primary School uniform each day.

Wearing our school uniform helps create a sense of belonging and pride in our school community and ensures that all students are appropriately dressed for their school day.

Please ensure that students arrive at school wearing the correct uniform, including appropriate jumpers/jackets and hats when required. If there are circumstances making it difficult for your family to meet uniform expectations, please contact the school office so that we can discuss how we can support you.

Child Safe Standards – our shared responsibility

Keeping children safe is one of the most important responsibilities we share as a school community. The Child Safe Standards provide the framework that guides Victorian schools in creating environments where children are safe, respected and supported.

At WHPS, we work to create a culture where students feel comfortable talking to trusted adults about anything that concerns them. This includes concerns about their own safety and wellbeing, as well as concerns they may have about another student.

We encourage all members of our community to speak up if they have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child. Concerns should be reported to the school so they can be taken seriously, appropriately followed up and, where necessary, referred to the relevant authorities.

Child safety is not something that sits with one person or one group within our school. It is a shared responsibility. By creating a culture where children are listened to, concerns are acted upon and everyone understands their responsibilities, we can continue to make WHPS a safe and supportive place for every child.

Yard Duty Supervision:

Student safety at WHPS is our highest priority and the safe and appropriate supervision of students is an important element of our duty of care to students. Part of this duty is ensuring parents/carers and students are aware of our student supervision arrangements before and after school.

Before school: Our school grounds are supervised by our staff between 8:45–9:00am each weekday morning. Parents/carers are responsible for supervising students arriving before this time. Students arriving at school before 8:30am should be enrolled in Kelly Club to ensure their safety and appropriate supervision.

After school: School grounds are supervised after school between 3:30–3:45pm.

Students on school grounds outside these times will not be supervised by school staff (unless they are attending our before or after school care program or a supervised extracurricular activity). Parents/carers are requested to ensure that students do not attend school outside of these supervised times.

Families are encouraged to contact Kelly Club coordinator Heidi via email at watsoniaheights@kellyclub.com.au for more information about the before and after school care facilities available to our school community or if you would like any further information about our student supervision arrangements.

Parents are welcome to contact our office for a copy of our school's Yard Duty and Supervision Policy. This policy includes WHPS's student supervision arrangements across the school day, including before and after school. This policy does not live on the school website at the recommendation of the DET.

An associated reminder, that in order to maintain student safety the school secures the three entry gates to the school shortly after 9:00am to allow for a settled and secure start to the school day. The main electronically secured gate is the only point of entry/exit to the school during the school day, before the additional gates are opened again towards the end of the school day to allow parent/carer/family access for the end of the school day.

Community Consultation on School Policies

As part of our ongoing commitment to good governance and continuous improvement, the school regularly reviews and updates our policies and procedures to ensure they reflect current Department of Education requirements and the needs of our school community.

A number of policies have recently been reviewed and are now available for community consultation. Families are invited to review the policies and provide any feedback to the school by the 1st of September 2026. Policies currently available for consultation include our child abuse (including grooming) identification and response, bullying prevention, enrolment, school complaints and inclusion and diversity policies. These policies can be accessed via <https://www.watsoniaheightsps.vic.edu.au/page/111/Policies>

The importance of reading every night

Finally, I would like to reinforce the importance of regular reading at home.

Even a short period of reading each night can make a significant difference to a child's development. Reading supports vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, background knowledge and confidence, while also helping children develop a lifelong enjoyment of books and learning.

For younger students, sharing a book together and talking about the story is particularly valuable. As children become more independent readers, encouraging them to read a range of texts and discussing what they have read can continue to build their skills.

We encourage all families to make reading part of the evening routine. Ten to twenty minutes of reading each night adds up to many hours of valuable reading over the course of a year.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our students and our school. Working together, we can continue to create an environment where every child feels safe, connected, supported and ready to learn.

Have a great weekend,

Tony



Dates for your **DIARY 2026**



By Miss Massa

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





INTERSCHOOL SPORT CODE OF CONDUCT



SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

- a) Demonstrate appropriate social behavior by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials
- b) Students play organised sport for enjoyment. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- c) Don't let your behavior detract from their enjoyment
- d) Applaud good performance and efforts by your team AND the opponents. Congratulate both teams upon their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- e) Respect the official's decision. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure of the sport in order to question the decision and teach the children to do likewise.
- f) Never ridicule a player for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivating.
- g) Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- h) Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- i) Encourage players to play according to the rules and the officials' decisions.
- j) Behave in a manner that respects the rights of others regardless of mediums of communication used eg digital mediums such as twitter, facebook, email and texts.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- a) Play for enjoyment.
- b) Play by the rules.
- c) Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the official during a break or after the game.
- d) Don't be induced into 'throwing' a game for the benefit of another team or individual
- e) Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent and throwing equipment is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- f) Work equally hard for yourself and your team.
- g) Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully, or take unfair advantage of another player.
- h) Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents.
- i) Behave in a manner that respects the rights of others regardless of mediums of communication used eg digital mediums such as twitter, facebook, email and texts.



Student of The Week

Week 4



Ava, Tilly, Layla, Gino, Jessica, Hugo, Mae, Daisy, Lilah,
Zara, William, Sebastien, Kyla, Sienna, Jacob, Remy,
Remy, Isaac, Calia.

Week 5



Vance, Lenny, Daisy, Neve, Yunwoo, Maya, Archie, Jesse,
Eiri, William, Briar, Kassius, Daniel, Llywelyn, Ivy, Leki,
Emmerson, Emma.

Congratulations!



KUMON



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- concentration
- a daily study and reading habit
- the confidence to learn independently.



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KUMON BUNDOORA CENTRE

Contact Community Hall
20 Noorong Avenue, Bundoora 3083
Instructor: Febra

Tel: 0424 850 457

Email : kumonbundooracentre@gmail.com

*Scan the QR code to visit website or view Ts & Cs.

5 Ways to be BodyKind

 **Move** your body in
ways that you enjoy.

 **Nourish** your body
and eat for fuel and fun.

 **Nurture** your body by comparing less, appreciating
more and tuning in to what your body needs.

 **Speak** in a way that
is kind to all bodies –
including your own.

 **Celebrate** body
diversity and what
bodies can do.

*In a world where we can be anything, be Body Kind.
To your own body, to others. Face to face and Online.*

HAVING A TOUGH TIME WITH YOUR BODY IMAGE?

Talk to a trusted friend or adult. Butterfly's National Helpline also
offers support

www.butterfly.org.au

ONE STEP AT A TIME PROGRAM: PARENT SUPPORT



FOR CHILDHOOD ANXIETY

Parents / guardians:

Do you have a primary school-aged child experiencing symptoms of anxiety?

Clinicians at Swinburne University have developed a program to help parents manage childhood anxiety in children aged 6-11 years.

Does your child experience any of the following?

- Difficulties sleeping at night due to worries
- Fears and phobias
- Difficulty separating from you or worrying about parental safety
- Trouble sleeping alone in their bed
- Fear of the dark
- Scared of lifts, trains, and people
- Fear of dogs and other animals
- Excessive worry and constant reassurance seeking
- Fear of germs and other health problems

The One Step at a Time Program involves:

- Comprehensive psychological assessment of your child's anxiety
- Seven sessions of online counselling through video conferencing
- Parent-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) skills to help you manage and support your child's anxiety
- Two combined parent-child sessions
- Reflective parenting strategies
- Access to a website with self-help materials to supplement therapy.

Cost

\$20 per session/assessment.
Treatment consists of seven therapy sessions plus one assessment session.

Contact us

Referrals and enquiries can be made by contacting the Swinburne Psychology Clinic at:

Telephone: 03 9214 8653

Email: psychprojects@swin.edu.au

OR, by accessing the online registration form by using the QR Code or the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/kxjjie5YcM>

