Friday 9th October
2026 - Issue 17

LINK LETTER

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From the Principal

Tony Ryan

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. Sadly, I had to watch my beloved Hawks come up slightly short in the AFL finals, but our congratulations go out to any Brisbane Lions supporters in our community and our commiserations to any Dockers supporters.

It has been wonderful hearing the students talk about the adventures, activities and experiences they enjoyed over the holidays. There has been plenty of excitement and energy around the school this week as everyone has settled back into routines and reconnected with friends and teachers.

Term 4 is always a busy and exciting time of the year, and we look forward to making the most of the many opportunities ahead while supporting our students to finish the year positively and confidently. Team newsletters will be coming home Friday next week. These newsletters will outline the upcoming term for children and their classroom.

Term 4 Swimming Program

Our Term 4 Swimming Program has now commenced, and it has been fantastic to see our students getting into the water and developing their skills.

Term 4

- **Monday 12th October**
  Grade 3 Yakult Excursion

Tuesday 13th October
Prep-Grade 2 Swimming

Wednesday 14th October
Region Athlettics
&
Wed-Friday
Grade 5 Camp at Sovereign Hill

Thursday 15th October
Prep Firefighter Visit
&
Division Basketball

Friday 16th October
Grade 4C, 3B, 3A & 3D Swimming

Tuesday 20th October
Prep-Grade 2 Swimming

Wednesday 21st October
Division Softball

Thursday 22nd October
Grade 1 Dinner & Prep Firefighter Visit

Friday 23rd October
Grade 6C, 5F, 5S & 5R Swimmiing
Saturday 24th October
WHPS Trivia Night

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

Swimming and water safety are particularly important life skills in Australia. With our strong connection to beaches, pools, rivers and other waterways, developing confidence and competence in and around water is an important part of keeping our children safe.

Our swimming program provides students with the opportunity to develop their swimming ability, water safety knowledge and confidence in the water, while also learning how to respond appropriately in different aquatic environments and having fun in the water!

I thank our staff, parent helpers and swimming instructors for the work they put into providing this valuable program and encourage all students to approach their swimming lessons with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn and improve.

Staffing Changes

This term we welcome back Ms Ally Clarke who is returning to the school from maternity leave on Thursday's. Ms Clarke will be fulfilling a variety of roles across the term and we are excited to have her back as an active member of staff. Mr Stuart Hunt has also returned to his role as Assistant Principal and he can be contacted with any enquiries and support at stuart.hunt@education.vic.gov.au

We also welcome Mr Anthony Lentini into a new role switching from teaching part of our PE program to replacing Ms Kucewicz as teacher in 2J. Today is Ms Kucewicz last day as she is finishing up on maternity leave. We wish Jamie-Lee all the best as she and her partner face an exciting time adding another member of their family.

Toilet Block Renovation

Over the school holidays, we completed the largest component of our toilet block renovation, with the floor being re-poured.

This work, together with the painting completed earlier in the year and the replacement of hand sanitisers and tapware, represents the culmination of a significant school fundraising effort through our Colour Run in Term 2.

I would like to sincerely thank our school community and school council for supporting the Colour Run and helping us raise the funds required to rejuvenate this important part of our school infrastructure. It is fantastic to see the direct benefit of our community's fundraising efforts and the difference this makes for our students.





Respecting Our Neighbours

I would like to remind all families about the importance of being respectful of our neighbours and the wider community when arriving at and leaving school.

I have received reports from concerned neighbours about students trampling on gardens, yelling, banging on fences and taunting a dog through a fence. On one occasion, the dog became so distressed that it subsequently experienced a medical episode.

I ask all parents and carers to be vigilant in actively monitoring their children's behaviour before and after school and to reinforce the importance of safe, respectful and considerate behaviour when travelling to and from school.

Our students are representatives of our school community wherever they are, and we want to ensure that our relationships with our neighbours remain positive and respectful.

Parking and Traffic Safety

An associated concern has been raised by members of our community regarding parking behaviours in the visitor parking area.

We have seen substantial improvement in the use of this area since the installation of the No Standing signs, and I thank families for responding positively to this change.

Unfortunately, there are still occasions when vehicles are being parked in the visitor parking area on the non-parking side. This adds significantly to congestion within the car park and makes it difficult for parents who are following our procedures and reverse parking into the designated spaces.

The safety of our students and pedestrians must remain our highest priority. Please ensure that you follow the signage and parking arrangements whenever using the school car park.

A reminder also that parents and carers must not use the staff car park to drop off or collect students unless express permission has been provided by the school. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep the area safe and accessible for everyone.





SunSmart Reminder

As we move into the warmer months, a reminder that our SunSmart practices are particularly important. Please ensure that your child brings their school hat each day and that it is clearly labelled with their name. We also encourage families to ensure that students have a water bottle available throughout the school day. Our students are expected to wear their school SunSmart hats when outdoors during the designated SunSmart period. Please help us establish these routines early in the term.



Labelled Belongings

With the warmer weather and the many activities that occur during Term 4, we inevitably see an increase in the number of belongings left around the school.

Please ensure that all items of clothing, lunch boxes, drink bottles and other personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name. This makes it much easier for lost items to be returned to their owners.
I also encourage families to consider carefully what students bring to school. Items of high financial or sentimental value should remain at home wherever possible. The school cannot guarantee the security of valuable personal items brought to school.

2027 student requests

We are starting the process of considering grade structures for next year.
If parents have requests that need to be considered for their child in 2027, these must be sent through via email to the principal. These must be received by October 31st at the latest. Requests received following this date, won't be considered. Please note that this process is not to select your child's teacher or to provide a list of your child's friends, but rather to put forward any special circumstances that need to be considered. Any concerns raised in previous years will not be considered unless it is sent again for the following year. This is because many issues or previous concerns from prior years are historical and may no longer be relevant. Please do not put requests through to staff.

In the coming weeks our teaching teams will be asking students to compile a list of five preferred friends that they wish to be placed with in their class next year. This is numbered 1-5 in preference order. These lists are a key consideration when our staff team are comprising class groups for next year. We guarantee students receive at least one person from their list, but obviously can't guarantee that they will receive all their friendship requests.

Please also note that whilst the school actively considers parent requests around special circumstances, there are many factors that go into the composition of classes, and not all requests can be accommodated. Thank-you in advance for following this process.
tony.ryan@education.vic.gov.au

Looking Ahead to Term 4

There is plenty happening across the term, including learning programs, special activities, sporting opportunities, camps, excursions and preparations for the end of the school year.
A number of important dates are already on the school calendar, including:

Monday 2 November
Report Writing Curriculum Day.
There will be no school for students on this day.

Tuesday 3 November
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.



Tuesday 8th December
Year 7 State School Transition Day

Thursday 10th December
Year 6 Graduation

Friday 18 December
Last day of the 2026 school year.
Our final assembly will commence at 1:00pm, with students finishing for the year at 1:30pm.

Please keep an eye on our school calendar and regular communications throughout the term for further dates and information.

Dyslexia Awareness Month, ADHD Awareness Month and Developmental Language Disorder Day

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month and ADHD-awareness-month. This provides a great opportunity for us to reflect on how we meet the needs and raise awareness of the diversity amongst our team of staff, students and parents. This also provides the opportunity to refresh our knowledge and skills in this area.
Diverse learners include students with characteristics associated with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism and learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and developmental language disorder (DLD).

There are usually 5 or more diverse learners in every class in every school. With the right evidence-based instruction and intervention, diverse learners can reach their potential and thrive at school.

That's why it's important we have the knowledge and skills to support diverse learners. Evidence-based teaching instruction and support that's essential for diverse learners will benefit all students. At WHPS we work extremely hard to support all of our students and are always considerate of individual learning circumstances.

Thunderstorm Asthma



Grass pollen season, which typically runs from October to December each year in Victoria, brings an increase in asthma and hay fever symptoms. It also increases the risk of thunderstorm asthma. For people with asthma or hay fever, especially those who experience wheezing or coughing with their hay fever, thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life threatening.
We will implement a range of measures to keep our school community safe as the risk of thunderstorm asthma increases.
Many of our staff are trained in asthma first aid, and we will monitor the VicEmergency app to receive thunderstorm warnings, and, where appropriate, keep students indoors when weather forecasts identify greater risk.

During the season, there are some things you can do to prepare and protect yourself and your family:

If your child has ever had asthma, talk to your doctor about what you can do to help protect them from the risk of thunderstorm asthma this pollen season, including updating your asthma action plan. Taking an asthma preventer properly and regularly is key to preventing asthma, including thunderstorm asthma.

If your child has hay fever, see your pharmacist or doctor for a hay fever treatment plan and check if you should have an asthma reliever puffer. These are available from a pharmacy without a prescription.
If your child has hay fever and experiences wheezing and coughing, it is important to make sure they don't also have asthma. Speak to your doctor about an asthma action plan.

Where possible, avoid being outside during thunderstorms from October to December, especially during the wind gusts that come before the storm.

For more information, speak to your doctor. You can also visit the Better Health Channel website.

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 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.

A Great Term Ahead

Term 4 is a wonderful time in a primary school. There is a real sense of excitement as students look towards the end of the year, while also having important opportunities to consolidate their learning and celebrate their growth.
Thank you for your continued support of our school and for the role you play in helping us maintain a safe, respectful and positive environment for every student.
I look forward to a fantastic Term 4 and to celebrating all that our students achieve over the coming weeks.

Tony



Dates for your DIARY 2026



By Miss Massa

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

Final Day of Term 4 - Friday 18th December @1.30pm







Student of The Week

Week 1



Raj, Emerson, Kiaan, Cameron, Maya, Charlotte, Ari, 2J, Neve, Leila, Frances, Hayley, Ava, Bodhi, Ava, Hudson, Taylor, Felicity, Yaami.

Congratulations!

WATSONIA HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Strive for the Heights

PRESENTS

TRIVIA NIGHT

Run by Trivia Buffs
Support our school in a night of fun

Saturday
October 24th

GP Room at WHPS
Doors open at: 07:00pm
Game starts at: 07:30pm

Bring along your gold coins to join in on bonus games

$20
per person / max table of 10

B.Y.O:
Food & Drink

Raffles
Team Prizes
Silent Auction

Book fast as space is limited

Scan the QR Code to Book

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snap fitness 24/7
Greensborough R.S.L
Kate Thwaites FOR ALL
Bunnings warehouse
Nillumbik Leisure
verve
ICE HQ
Luna Park Just for Fun
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Lollipops
Inflatable World Bundoora
Lower Plenty Hotel
Mabel Jones
The Chocolateries Yarra Valley
The Rosanna Golf Club