Friday 23rd October 2026 - Issue 18

LINK LETTER

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From the Principal

Tony Ryan

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Term 4, Week 3 edition of our school newsletter.

World Teachers' Day

Next Friday, 30 October, is World Teachers' Day in Australia, providing an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the wonderful work of our teachers.

At WHPS, we are fortunate to have a dedicated team of teachers who work hard every day to provide engaging learning experiences, support the individual needs of our students and help every child grow and achieve their potential. Teaching involves so much more than what happens in the classroom, including the planning, collaboration, assessment, communication and care that take place behind the scenes.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our teachers for their professionalism, commitment and the genuine care they show our students. Their work makes a significant difference to the lives of our children and the strength of our school community. I hope our teachers feel recognised and appreciated for the important work they do, not just on World Teachers' Day, but throughout the year.

Thank You

Term 4

- Monday 26th October - Wednesday 28th October Grade 4 Camp
- Thursday 29th October Prep Breakfast & Bandanna Day
- Friday 30th October CANTEEN CLOSED & WORLD TEACHERS DAY

Monday 2nd November Curriculum Day-Students do not attend school

- Tuesday 3rd November Melbourne Cup Public Holiday-Students do not attend school
- Wednesday 4th November Kids Roar Incursion Grades 1-6
- Thursday 5th November Kids Roar Incursion Grades 1-6
- Friday 6th November Prep Melbourne Zoo Excursion

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

Victoria-Federal School Funding Agreement
Some members of our community may have seen recent news about a new school funding agreement between the Victorian and Australian governments. This is known as the Victoria Bilateral Agreement (Better and Fairer Schools Agreement - Full and Fair Funding 2025-2034).

The agreement establishes a pathway towards fully funding the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) for Victorian government schools. The SRS was a key recommendation of the 2011 Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling and provides a benchmark for the resources required to meet students' educational needs.

While the agreement represents an important longer-term commitment to school funding, I have not yet seen sufficient detail to determine precisely how it will affect individual school budgets or what changes, if any, will flow through to our 2027 Student Resource Package (SRP). The Australian Education Union has also raised concerns about the timing of the additional funding and how much will be delivered in the later years of the agreement.

We will continue to monitor the information released by the Department of Education and share any relevant updates as they become available.

Parent Payments for 2027
Each year, our school leadership team works with School Council to establish the parent payment arrangements for the following year. This process considers the indicative Student Resource Package (SRP) funding provided by the Department of Education, projected enrolments and other relevant funding initiatives. In making these decisions, School Council considers the financial impact on families alongside the costs associated with providing the great learning environment, resources and experiences we want for our students.

This year, School Council completed its usual process at our September meeting. Following this, the Department released changes to the parent payment policy and documentation requirements for 2027. These changes introduce a new structure and prescribed templates for communicating parent payments to families. Schools can't alter the templates or add additional information for families to that documentation.

As these changes may look quite different from what families have received in previous years, I wanted to provide some context ahead of the information being distributed in early November.

The new documentation has three main sections:
Voluntary Contributions
The previous curriculum contributions section has been incorporated into the voluntary contributions section. The new template provides a single total figure for voluntary contributions, without the additional breakdown of how the amount has been calculated or what individual contributions support.

Tax-deductible Voluntary Contributions
Families may also choose to make tax-deductible donations through eligible school funds. At WHPS, these include our Library Fund, which supports library maintenance, programs and enhancements, and our Buildings and Grounds Fund, which supports renovations and upgrades to school infrastructure.

Extra-curricular Items and Activities
This section lists optional, user-pays items, events and activities, together with estimated dates and costs. School Council and the leadership team have identified that collecting payments separately as each event occurs wasn't working effectively and creates a significant administrative workload for our office team and families.

For 2027, we are therefore planning to offer families the option of paying for listed activities in bulk at the beginning of the year or in three instalments: one covering Term 1 activities, one covering Term 2 activities, and one covering activities across Semester 2.

Where a family has paid in advance for an activity that their child does not attend, a credit will generally be applied to the family account towards a future activity. An exception may apply where a family has confirmed participation and a late change means the school still incurs a cost from an external provider.

The parent payment documentation also outlines the support available to families experiencing financial difficulties, including assistance the school may be able to provide. We encourage families who need support to contact the school so we can discuss their circumstances.

We greatly appreciate the support our community provides, both through voluntary financial contributions and through participation and volunteering. These contributions help us maintain a positive learning environment and provide valuable experiences for our students. Families can expect to receive the new parent payment information for 2027 in early November.

State Election – Democracy BBQ and Cake Stall

WHPS will be used as a polling place for the Victorian state election on Saturday, 28 November. With many members of the wider community expected to visit our school on the day, this presents a wonderful fundraising opportunity.

We will be running a Democracy BBQ and Cake Stall, and we are seeking a large team of volunteers to help make the day a success. With enough people involved, volunteers will only need to assist for a short period. Kathryne has shared a Compass post with further details and information about registering your availability.

There are a range of ways to help, including planning and coordination, baking and assisting with cooking and serving on the day. Please note that, due to health and safety requirements, volunteers working in the BBQ and Cake Stall area must be over 16 years of age.

If you are unable to volunteer, you can still support the school by voting at our polling place and purchasing something from the stall while you are here. Thank you in advance to everyone who is able to contribute to this important fundraising opportunity.

Year 1 Dinner

Our Year 1 students had a fabulous time at their Year 1 dinner last night. This event is part of our progressive school camping program and gives students the opportunity to spend time with their peers, participate in fun activities at school and enjoy a meal together.

I would like to acknowledge our Year 1 teachers, members of our ES team, Jacqui and Kate, and Mr Hunt for supporting the event. I hope all of our students enjoyed this special experience!

Year 5 Camp

We are well into our Term 4 camping season, and our Year 5 students had a fantastic time at Sovereign Hill Camp last week.

I really enjoyed the opportunity to attend the camp and see our students enthusiastically engaging in the many immersive experiences on offer. These included panning for gold, observing a gold pour demonstration, exploring an underground gold mine and experiencing the Aura sound and light show, among many other activities.
The students' behaviour was excellent, and it was wonderful to see them enjoying each other's company while learning about Australia's gold rush history. Camps are incredibly rewarding experiences, although they can also be tiring! We returned on Friday afternoon with some tired but very happy students and staff.
A big thank you to our Year 5 teaching team and the wider camp staff team, including Mrs McLean, Miss Massa, Annalise and Alanah, for their care, support and around-the-clock supervision. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Louise Lines, who attended as a parent volunteer and provided valuable support to both students and staff.



Year 4 Camp

Next week, our Year 4 students will head to Alexandra Adventure Resort Camp from Monday to Wednesday. This promises to be another fantastic experience, with a range of fun and challenging adventure activities for students to enjoy. We wish them a wonderful time away!

Please note that access to our visitor car park will be restricted on Monday morning and for a period on Wednesday afternoon, as buses need to access the area to collect students and load their baggage. Thank you for your understanding and patience while these arrangements are in place.

Regional and State Athletics

Congratulations to the nine WHPS students who qualified for last Wednesday's Regional Athletics Carnival: Ellie Elms, Levi Murphy, Alma Maklhin, Easton Hay, Maddy Abdallah, Akash Rupank, Bodhi Stabb, Arlo Keys and Abi Alexander. Qualifying for a regional carnival is a fantastic achievement and reflects a high standard of competition.

Looking Ahead – Term 4

There is plenty happening across the remainder of the term, including learning programs, special activities, sporting opportunities, camps, excursions and preparations for the end of the school year.
Some important upcoming dates are listed below. Please continue to check the school calendar and Compass communications for any additional information or changes.

- Saturday, 24 October: WHPS Trivia Night
- Friday 30th October CANTEEN CLOSED
- Monday, 2 November: Report Writing Curriculum Day – no school for students.
- Tuesday, 3 November: Melbourne Cup public holiday.
- Saturday, 28 November: Victorian state election – Democracy BBQ and Cake Stall at WHPS.
- Tuesday, 8 December: Year 7 State School Transition Day.
- Thursday, 10 December: Year 6 Graduation.
- Friday, 18 December: Last day of the 2026 school year. Our final assembly will commence at 1:00 pm, with students finishing at 1:30 pm.

2027 Student Placement Requests

We are continuing the process of planning our grade structures and class groupings for 2027.
If there are special circumstances relating to your child that you would like considered as part of this process, please email your request directly to the principal by 31 October. Requests received after this date may not be considered.

This process is not intended for families to select their child's teacher or provide a list of preferred friends. Rather, it provides an opportunity to raise specific circumstances that may need to be considered when forming classes. Any concerns raised in previous years must be resubmitted if they remain relevant, as circumstances can change over time.

Please do not direct placement requests to individual staff members. All requests should be sent to the principal by email.

In the coming weeks, our teaching teams will ask students to nominate five preferred friends, numbered from one to five in order of preference. These lists are an important consideration when staff form class groups for the following year. We guarantee that students will be placed with at least one person from their list, although we cannot guarantee that every friendship request will be accommodated.

Class formation is a complex process involving many considerations, including student learning needs, wellbeing, friendships and the overall balance of each class. While we carefully consider requests relating to special circumstances, it is not always possible to accommodate every request. Thank you for your understanding and support as we work to establish positive and balanced learning groups for 2027.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school and the opportunities we provide for our students.
Have a great weekend,

Tony



From the Assistant Principal



Return from Leave

Having returned from leave this term, I've enjoyed being back amongst the community and checking in with students and families through the first few weeks. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to check in with me and ask how I'm going with a new baby, balanced with a recently emerging 'threenager'!

Term 3 Movie Day & Term 4 Reward

Having caught up with our staff and students, I was delighted to hear about the success of our whole-school Movie Day at the end of Term 3 - this was a well-earned reward for our students who demonstrated STRIVE values and positive behaviour expectations!

Throughout Term 4, our students will earn tokens towards a Sports, Dress-Up, or Carnival Day! Students earn a STRIVE Token for every 10 points earned. Students can cash in their own points for individual rewards, and for every 100 STRIVE Points, families are emailed to celebrate their achievement!

SWPBS Matrix

This year, we introduced our School-Wide Positive Behaviour Expectations matrix, using the value of RESPECT and outlining expectations across different settings in the school.

With an eye on 2027, our upcoming work this term will plan for the expansion with two additional values. Staff, students and School Council will collaborate to develop positively stated expectations that align with both the values and settings. This is an exciting body of work that will strengthen our SWPBS practices across the school and wider community. More details to follow soon!

Supporting Positive Behaviour

Alongside our positive behaviour expectations matrix and positive acknowledgement system (STRIVE Tokens), we have been working throughout the year to develop a behaviour response continuum. This outlines to our staff, students and families how the school responds when expected behaviour is not met. More information will be shared shortly, outlining a clearer process to our wider school community on how we aim to maintain safe, inclusive and positive learning environments.

NAPLAN 2026

Whilst I was on leave, the 2026 NAPLAN results were released. The achievements of our Year 3 and Year 5 students this year were outstanding and are a testament to the high ceiling that we set for our students at WHPS. I thought I would re-share those results below, comparing our school to others in the Banyule-Nillumbik Network, as well as the state.

Have a restful weekend. Stuart

NAPLAN - Exceeding or Strong (2026)

Year 3	WHPS	Network	State
Reading	82%	80%	69%
Writing	88%	86%	78%
Numeracy	80%	78%	67%

NAPLAN - Exceeding or Strong (2026)

Year 5	WHPS	Network	State
Reading	95%	83%	74%
Writing	90%	81%	73%
Numeracy	88%	81%	71%



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 2



Jacob, Izzy, Alessia, Ethan, Zander, Noah, Carter, Riley, Zoe, Evie, Miles, Mika, Aria, Ebony, Lexa, Mivaan, Levi, Morrissey, Erin, Ollie.

Week 3



Neve, Harrison, Dylan, Steele, Harrison, Leah, Elijah, Skyler, Leki, Jack, Annie, William, Sophie, Harry, Hannah, Akash, Harriet, Arlo, Ariel, Evelyn.

Congratulations!

HELP BANDANA-FY OUR SCHOOL!

Celebrate Bandanna Day, Thursday 29 October! Bandanna-fy your school and yourself by wearing your bandannas and standing in solidarity with young Aussies facing cancer.





canteen
bandanna day



THANK A TEACHER

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

30 OCTOBER 2026

TEACH THE FUTURE

VICTORIA State Government

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

S.E.P.E.P in Grade 5/6

This week, our Year 5 and 6 students played another round of SEPEP. They all tried their hardest in Rounds 8 and 9 and did their best throughout every game.

The teachers were impressed with the students' sportsmanship and awarded points to teams for positive behaviour. This new system rewards teams for showing respect, effort and a positive attitude. These points add to their team's total and can sometimes earn them an extra point on their final score.

Students are showing great teamwork as they work together to earn points for their teams. The rules committee also worked hard to make sure everyone's feedback was heard, helping to create a positive environment where students showed leadership and good attitudes.

The top three teams on the ladder at the moment are
* The Flip Flop Floppy Flip Flops
* Pickle Rick
* Redeem Team

- Newsletter Committee









DROP-OFF DONE?
NOW MAKE SOME TIME FOR YOU.

REFORMER PILATES

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BIG

Bundoora Showcase



MARKET STALLS & STUDENT ENTERPRISES



FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY

28

NOVEMBER 2026

11.00am - 3.00pm

SAVE THE DATE

Everyone Welcome!
Join us for a day of celebration at Bundoora Secondary College.



LIVE MUSIC & PERFORMANCES



GREENWOOD FARM CAFÉ OPENING



FOOD & DRINKS

SCAN FOR EVENT DETAILS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



LEARNING SHOWCASES

Bundoora Secondary College

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