



WODONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

Damian Duncan - Principal

Welcome to Week 2,

Well things are ramping up with the preparations and excitement for the Country Fair. We have a very committed parent task force working on making the event a fun event for the students while also bringing the community together in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

At this morning’s Assembly, I was able to show the students some of the fun they can have at the Fair. We took a peak at a “SLIME” showbag and the Glowsticks, as well as giving out vouchers to the Carnival Rides for our Environmental Heros and GEM recipients.

In this week’s Year Level Newsletters, teachers will be calling for donations for the Year Level stalls. In the lead up to the Country Fair, our students can contribute to the Fair by donating to their Year Level Stall. Year Level and our ES teams are running Stalls at the Fair, which raises money and provides some fun. Below is a summary of the what we are asking to be donated to the Stalls. Please take all donations to your classroom teacher.



Year	Stall Name	Donations Required
F	Lollie Jars	1 jar filled with lollies from each student
1	Bake Sale	Cakes, slices etc. School will send home ingredients stickers, freezer bags and plates. NOTE: families from other Year levels can contribute to the bake stall.
2	Mini golf	Bags of lollies from parents e.g snakes, lolly pops, wrapped lollies.
3	Spider Drinks	1.25 or larger bottles of Soft drink from students . Vanilla Ice-cream to be dropped to the school by Wednesday 24th October
4	Slushies / Popcorn / Fairy Floss	Sugar Paper Cups & Paper straws
5	Lucky Duck	Lucky dip prizes (funky pencils, lolly bags, fiddle toys, knick knack items etc)
6	Hair colour station	Coloured and glitter hair spray.

All families are welcome to provide food to the Bake Stall or the Salads for the catering committee. Please contact your classroom teacher if you need any further information.



Young at heart - Wodonga District Arts Festival

A reminder the exhibition is open Tues to Sat 10am – 4.00pm from 3rd – 28th October



2024 Student Placements

Thank you to the families who have submitted their requests for student placement already. It's not a compulsory process for families, however, the option is there for families to consider.

In November, teachers alongside the leadership team, commence placing students into their 2024 classes. This process consists of a strategic approach to ensure our classroom structures are balanced and supportive of learning. Staff consider multiple factors when constructing the classes for the upcoming year; gender balance, academic achievement balance, behavioural needs and the overall combination of student personalities.

Students have a voice regarding their placement by nominating five (5) learning partners which they rank from 1 to 5. In addition to this, parents who have concerns or would like to provide a request, can do so by putting their request in writing addressed to myself (Damian). These requests have parameters which parents need to consider.

There are three types of parent requests the school will consider when using parent input into the process.

Parents can request a separation. Valid reasons why their child would not learn to the best of their abilities if in the same classroom as a particular student.

Parents can request a pairing. This requires both sets of parents to put in writing a request for their children to be in the same classroom.

Parents can request a type of teaching style. This requires a description of the attributes their child learns best with, parents are unable to request a particular teacher (by name)

NOTE: All previous year's requests made by families need to be re-submitted. Families with twins may also consider letting the school know about their desire for their children to be placed together or apart. The deadline for parent requests is **Tuesday October 31st**.

Write Wodonga

Mel McInnes & Alecia Williams

Our annual Write Wodonga Celebration night is right around the corner. Students have been crafting their writing pieces and publishing them ready to share with an audience.

We would like to invite families, friends and special people in student's lives to come and enjoy reading these fabulous pieces of writing this Thursday 12th October. We will start off in our outdoor COLA space at 5pm and then move into classrooms at 5.10-5.30pm. Afterwards come and find a comfy spot on our junior oval and enjoy a BYO picnic dinner together with the WPS community.

We look forward to seeing you all next Thursday afternoon.



Foundation Transition Buddy Program

Christine Forrest - Assistant Principal

Term 4 is always an exciting time for us as we begin our Transition Program for our 2024 Foundation enrolments. At Wodonga Primary School we believe that the responsibility of transitioning new students lies within the whole school community. Buddy programs are one way we support new students as they transition from Preschool to Primary School. Buddy programs are designed to help students entering their first year of school to feel a sense of belonging to their new school environment. The focus is to help students establish relationships and to feel secure and confident within the school community. Transition buddies are provided for the short term to help students learn school rules, negotiate the playground and unknown buildings and to be a warm and friendly face in the school environment.

Today, Year 5 students have been invited to register their expression of interest for being a 2024 Foundation Buddy. Year 5 students that are interested are asked to complete the application form from their classroom teacher and return to Mrs Forrest at the front office by Monday 16th October. There is also an attached application form on Compass if needed.

Applications will then be collated and successful applicants will be notified within the next few weeks. Feel free to direct any questions you may have to me before 16th October.

Student Leadership 2024

Maureen Murray - Student Leadership Coordinator

We are committed to providing a range of purposeful leadership opportunities for our students each year. Leadership opportunities for 2024 are:

- Foundation Buddies – Year 6 students
- Friends of the Library – Year 5 and 6 students
- FROGS Helpers – Year 5 and 6 students
- Computer Lab Mentors – Year 4 students
- Slow Food Mentors – Year 6 students (to be determined in 2024)
- Student Leaders – Year 5 and 6 students



We have just begun our process of selection for these roles. Students wishing to be Foundation Buddies (see Mrs Forrest's message), Friends of the Library (FOTL), and FROGS Helpers need to fill in a written application form available from the office, Library or classroom teachers, that must be submitted by next Monday 16th October. Computer Lab Mentor applications will also be available from Week 5.

Student Leaders selection will be through a peer election process. Students currently in Year 2, 3, 4 or 5 are being asked to create/join a group that matches an area of high interest for them. Each group of 20 or more students will be able to select a student (Yr 5/6 in 2024) to be their representative as a Student Leader.

Student Leaders are the voice of the student body. We want all students to feel that they are represented within the Student Leaders group. An election system which requires students to gain support from their peers with similar interests would support this goal. This process may allow students who otherwise would not have been seen as leadership candidates to step up to this role.

The Year 4 and 5 students have been informed of the process and are considering which groups they will create and join. They will come together on Thursday 12th October to make initial groupings with support from teachers to define and/or merge groups as needed. Final selection of student leaders by students from Year 2, 3, 4, & 5 will take place on Thursday 19th October.

The poster attached is a flow chart of this process we will be trialling this year.

Students seeking further information are encouraged to speak to their teacher or to Maureen Murray (Student Leadership Coordinator).

Maths

Maureen Murray - Mathematics

Estimation is an invaluable skill in Maths. This might be estimating how big, long or heavy something is (in metric units or compared to something else). Asking children to do this - make it a game - helps build spatial reasoning and understanding of units of measurement.

It is also important when solving number problems. Having an idea of the approximate answer to a problem is a great guide to knowing if the answer we get when we “solve” the problem is likely to be correct. For example; if I want to work out $38 + 29$ I know estimate that it will be close to $40 + 30$, so about 70. If I solve the problem and get close to 80 I know that I have made a computational error somewhere.

Encourage your children to estimate answers first and then check them out by doing the calculation.

Weekly Maths Challenge: Estimate This

W.P.S challenges its students to practice estimating!

Follow the link or scan the QR code to enter the challenge!



To improve our ability to make reasonable estimates so that we can solve mathematical problems

What you need:

Excerpt of Counting on Frank (here)

Instructions:

Read the pages from Counting on Frank by Rod Clement

How could you measure (estimate) length, area or volume at your house?

What would you use?

Have a go and write or draw your ideas to share with us.

FETE

Parent Squad

Fete Dinner Order Envelopes- pre order envelopes went home last week to all of the eldest students in the family. Spares are available from the office if you require an additional order form.

The Baked Potatoes and Roast Dinners will be the main food available at the fair, although there will also be a sausage sizzle and other foods for families to purchase on the night.

Bunting: We have had some donations of bunting come in already, if you have some made up that you'd like to donate, could this please be dropped off at the office as soon as possible.

Spinning Wheel Donations: Donations of prizes for the spinning wheel can be left at the office.

Volunteer Roster- Please keep a look out on Compass for details of how to register as a volunteer and select your preferred time/stall.



Sport

Blake Maxcworthy - Sports Coordinator

DIVISION ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

On Friday the 6th October, 21 students represented Wodonga Primary School at the Upper Hume Division Athletics Carnival at the Les O'Brien Athletics Precinct in Albury. While wet weather threatened the event during the week, the weather and conditions on Friday were incredibly pleasing for our athletes.

All our students performed incredibly well in their events, with many outstanding performances either earning them victory or a place in the top 3. 8 individual students and our 2 relay teams qualified to compete in the Regional Athletics Championships this Friday in Albury.

Our place getters from the Championships were:

Ruby Cardwell	1st	200m & Triple Jump
Noah Brunec	1st	Hurdles & 100m
Ella Polkinghorne	1st	100m & Shot Put
Porscha Abel	1st	100m & Hurdles
Ella Way	2nd	Hurdles
Kalle Taylor	2nd	1500m & 800m
Domanic Bailey	2nd	Shot Put
Asha Polkinghorne	2nd	Triple Jump
Porscha Abel, Ella Way, Sienna Fischer, Zara Foster	2nd	10 Years Girls 4x100m Relay
Ella Polkinghorne, Samantha Bowen, Ruby Cardwell, Kalle Taylor	2nd	12 Years Girls 4x100m Relay
Charlotte Furaha Livia	3rd	High Jump
Malaki Moore	3rd	Discus
Jack Way	3rd	Hurdles
Ella Way	3rd	800m

Congratulations to all our students who competed on Friday, and we wish those students competing this Friday at the Regional Athletics Championships all the very best!



ASSEMBLY CELEBRATIONS



This weeks Happy Card Recipients.
Congratulations to everyone who received this good news.



Jaxon & Chloe are our Library winners
for week 1 and week 2 of Term 4



Milla is our Maths Challenge Winner this week



Bentley is our Environmental SuperHero of the week

EVENT NOTIFICATIONS

Stay in touch with Events / Activities – using Compass as your information base

Event / Activity	Event Date	Who	Information on Compass	Consent / Payment Due Date
Boys to the Bush	Oct 11	Year 6 Students only	Consent required on Compass	closed
Write Wodonga Evening	Oct 12	Whole School	Information on Compass	N/A
WPS school Fair	Oct 27	Whole School		N/A
OS1 & OS2 Discovery Excursion	Nov 1	Year 3	Compass Event details	30/10
OS3 Discovery Excursion	Nov 1	Year 3	Compass Event details	30/10
OS5 & OS6 Discovery Excursion	Nov 1	Year 3	Compass Event details	30/10
4 – 6 Swimming	Nov 7 – 16	Year levels 4 – 6	Event information to come	
Foundation Transition	Nov 14, 21, 28 & Dec 5	New foundations for 2024		N/A
Wodonga Gold Cup Public Holiday	Nov 24	Whole School	No School on this day	N/A
Year 6 Graduation	Nov 30	All Year 6 Students	Event information to come	
Year 6 Pool Party	Dec 1	All year 6 students	Event information to come	
End of year School Concert	Dec 11	Whole School	Event information to come	
Colour Run day	Dec 15	Whole School	Event information to come	
Last day of term	Dec 20	Whole School	School finishes for the year at 2.30pm	N/A

