



Ariel Announcements

No. 2 ~ February 8, 2021

Engage Learning * Expand Minds

Dear Families & Caregivers,

Welcome to Week 3. Last week was a big week, five full days of school for our Year 1 to Year 6 students, while our Foundation students commenced having their rest day on Wednesday. These rest days for Foundation will continue for the entire month of February.

Mother Nature has definitely been sending us some unseasonal weather, although the rain has not impacted our outside play times too greatly. Students are settling into the rhythm of school, getting their routines established and experiencing all that school has to offer.

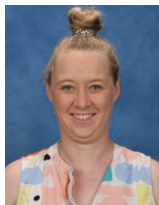
Our Specialist program is in full swing with our students experiencing the arts, languages, technology, sciences and physical education offerings within our great school.

MUSIC



Aaron
Silver

JAPANESE



Elyssa
Webster

ART



Kirsty
Wakefield

STEM



Khamal
Sarkis

PE



Blake
Maxworthy

COMPUTER LAB



Emma
Walker



Stacey
Anderson

2021 CAMPS

Families in Years 4, 5 and 6 received a Compass message today outlining the current status of our camps program for 2021. All three camps have been postponed until later in the year, due to various interstate and COVID restrictions. We anticipate them being held late in Term 3, we will notify parents when dates have been set.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council contributes towards the direction our school takes and is an important component in ensuring the big picture is achieved.

Each year, we ask parents to nominate for positions on Council, to help us achieve our parent membership. This year, we have **four parent positions available** (each position has a duration of 2 years).

If you wish to be part of the governing board of our school, please drop by the office and pick-up a SC Nomination form after 12pm tomorrow. School Council is a great way of being involved in many aspects of Wodonga PS. Full details of the SC Election process is attached.

*Collaboration * Culture * Challenge * Community * Curiosity*

SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Attached to the Newsletter is our School Communication Tree which outlines the broad roles of our staff as well as the flow of communication for families. The communication tree assists families to identify key people for communications regarding their children. The structure also supports students within our school as each year level has Principal class support, a Learning Specialist, and ultimately their classroom teacher.

KIND KIDS IN THE YARD

Congratulations to Milli McNab & Jed Boehm who received our KIND Kids in the Yard awards at assembly today.

Jed was seen helping a Foundation student to tie up their shoe laces, while Milli helped a student who was sitting on the Buddy Bench to find a friend.



TEACHER LED CONFERENCES: February 22-24

These conferences will be held from Monday February 22nd – Wednesday February 24th before and after school.

We look forward to connecting with families during Week 5 via the Teacher Led Conferences. These conferences are an opportunity to discuss student learning and set future goals. They also provide an opportunity for teachers to develop relationships with families at the beginning of each school year.

To support parents in preparing for the Teacher Led Conference we have provided parents with three prompts to consider prior to their meeting. This might also be a useful reference 'prompt' for teachers throughout the conferences. The three prompts for families are;

- ***What are your child's strengths?***
- ***What are your child's challenges in learning?***
- ***What further information about your child do you wish your teacher to know?***



ANNUAL COMMUNITY NIGHT

We look forward to seeing our whole school community tomorrow night for our annual back-to-school Community night, commencing at 5pm. This will be a night of fun, and a great opportunity for families to connect with the school, and fellow parents. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions we are unable to provide the free BBQ, so we are asking parents to bring a picnic dinner if they wish.

We aim to make the night short and sweet, as it is a school night. The following is an overview of the evening. Please be sure to social distance when on-site, as well as wear your mask if you can't keep your distance. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

5.00pm	Classrooms open for families to explore
5.30pm	Welcome in Courtyard
5.35pm	Explore Activities: 7 activities around the school
6.15pm	Picnic time and socialise
6.30pm	Prizes and farewell

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL – STUDENT SAFETY MESSAGES

1. Cherry Tree Lane is a high foot-traffic and pedestrian thoroughfare before and after school. There is no general public parking in the lane, except for two disabled parking spots, and a loading zone. PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE down Cherry Tree Lane or enter the service area to drop-off your children.
2. School gates open at 8:45am. Parents who drop their children off well prior to this time are leaving their children unsupervised and potentially putting them in an unsafe situation. Passing motorists and our parent community have raised concerns about unsupervised children along our fence line. Please organise to drop your children off at school between 8:45 and 9:00am.

Thank you for helping us keep our students safe.

LEADERSHIP

This year, the Leadership Structure of our school continues to provide support to families, teachers and students from various vantage points.

- James Harris' Assistant Principal role focuses on Building Practice Excellence. James is aligned to Years 5 & 6.
- Christine Forrest's Assistant Principal role focuses on Curriculum Planning and Assessment. Christine will be aligned to Foundation and Year 1 teachers, students and families.
- Jye Williams' Assistant Principal role focuses on a Positive Climate for Learning. Jye will be aligned to Year 3 & 4 teachers, students and families.

Another element of Leadership at our school is the continuation of the leadership roles entitled "Learning Specialists". These roles are a DET state-wide initiative aiming to build transformational leadership capacity in schools at the classroom level. Every year level, including the Specialists (Art, PE, Music, Japanese and STEM) have a Learning Specialist. The attached Communication Tree explains the flow of leadership and classrooms so that families can identify their contact points and the school's commitment to improving outcomes for all.

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Specialists
							
Cassandra Quine	Alecia Williams	Alisha Watson	Matt Bramich	Cara Pfeiffer	Molly Hari	Brendon Peisley	Khamal Sarkis

Over the next few newsletters, I'll be sharing other new initiatives of the school to support our school improvement goals.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS & MOBILE DEVICES

Students and parents are reminded to comply with our policies in regards to –

- Wearing / bringing personal electronic devices to school (mobile phones / smart watches) – please read our [Mobile Phones – Student Use policy](#)
- bringing other personal belongings to school, please read our [Personal Property](#) policy

DATA & PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our [website](#).

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in nine community languages via the same link:

* Amharic * Arabic * Dari * Mandarin * Somali * Sudanese * Turkish * Urdu * Vietnamese.

Have a great week,
Damian Duncan, Principal

PHYS ED / SPORT

Year 4 Hockey Roadshow Incursion: Today our Year 4 cohort participated in the Hockey Roadshow Incursion. The purpose of this was to ignite some interest in the game of hockey and for students to participate in some fun activities and games to further develop their skills. The 30-minute sessions were run by Abbey Mitchell and Marg Brown from the Wodonga Hockey Club. Abbey also provided our students with information about the local Hockey opportunities available here in Wodonga. Further information will be available through our community news.

Swimming Trials Report: On Wednesday February 3rd, 41 WPS students participated in the annual Swimming Trials. These students challenged themselves in their selected strokes in an attempt to qualify to participate in the upcoming Division Carnival. All participants displayed true WPS spirit and determination throughout the day. Students who were successful in qualifying for the Division Carnival will be notified this week. Thank you to all the students for representing our school so positively while out in our community.



CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

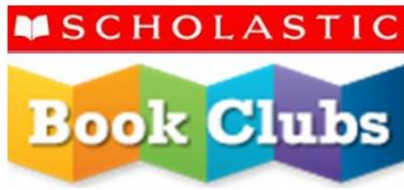
Our canteen now able to call for volunteers to assist with food preparation for lunch orders and counter sales this Term.

There are strict guidelines related to Covid safety and volunteers must comply with physical distancing and face mask recommendations set out in the DET Operations Guide for schools, which includes the need for parents to sign-in at the main office upon arrival and wear a mask indoors at all times. There is a density limit of one person per 2 square metres, meaning our Canteen can host 4 people at any one time inside.

If you would like to assist, please contact the school office, and provide a copy of your current Working With Children check, and we will pass your details onto our Canteen Managers.

Thanking you in advance.

LIBRARY



All book club orders are due to the office on **Monday 15th February** – orders will be processed after this date. Please be aware that deliveries of orders may take a week after processing.

FOTL (Friends of the Library): Each year, senior students are selected to take-on responsibilities in the school library as Friends of the Library. They are responsible for putting books away, helping children to find books,

assisting with activities in the library, tidying shelves, helping with displays and scanning books.

This year's group are very enthusiastic and have already been coming in at lunch times. We thank them for taking on this role, and look forward to watching their new skills develop across the year.



L-R (Back): Caprice Abel, Chaska Atau McFarland, Morgan Davies, Hayden Cheater, Patrick Robb, Johnathan Valivaka.

L-R (front): Rory Thomas, Mariah Nugent, Darcy Gallagher, Jesse Way, Emma McGrath and Lahni Goldspink.

CSEF: Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seekers and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is: **\$125 for primary school students.**

TO APPLY: Complete a CSEF application form, available from the school office. We will need to photocopy your Centrelink Card when you return the form.

If you applied for the CSEF at WPS in 2020, you do not need to complete an application form in 2021 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances. You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools in 2021 or you did not apply in 2020.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2021.

Any queries, please contact Faye at the school office on 6048 0300.

FOUND ITEMS

- Two pairs of reading glasses as pictured.
- One bike (left at school on Thursday).
- Two bike helmets.



ISAIAH FIREBRACE ZOOM OPPORTUNITY

Attached to the newsletter is a unique opportunity for our community. The Wangaratta, Wodonga and Mansfield Local Aboriginal Networks (LANs) have organised a Spirit and Beyond Virtual Workshop by Isaiah Firebrace. This is a free virtual event that anyone is welcome to attend. This event is next Wednesday 17th February from 4:30pm. For enquiries regarding this event, please feel free to contact Josh Atkinson at: joshua.atkinson@dpc.vic.gov.au. To register for this event, please email your full name and email address to Joshua. This information has also been passed onto the OM KESO team for distribution to schools across the Ovens Murray Area.

COMPASS 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
Community Night	Feb 9	Whole community	See flyer in newsletter	N/A
Year 6 Polo Orders	Feb 19	Year 6	Return your polo with payment by Feb 19 th	N/A
Bogong Leadership Camp	Feb 19-21	Selected students	Consent required by.....	Feb 12
Slow Food Program	Various	Year 3	Consent & payment required \$150.00	April 1
Brass & Woodwind Tuition	Term 1	Selected students	Consent & payment required \$82.40	Feb 7
Foundation Photos	Feb 15	Year F	11am onwards – please wear school uniform	N/A

Principal DAMIAN DUNCAN

Building Leadership Teams | Year 2 | Specialists

Federation Schools' Principal Network | Wodonga Indigo Network | School Council | Workforce Planning
Parent Grievances | Enrolments | Transfers | Newsletter | Parent Squad | Policy & Procedure | Student Leadership

Assistant Principal

CHRISTINE FORREST
Curriculum Planning & Assessment
Foundation & Year 1

Assistant Principal

JAMES HARRIS
Building Practice Excellence
Years 5 & 6

Assistant Principal

JYE WILLIAMS
Positive Climate for Learning
Years 3 & 4

Business Manager

CHANTAL GARDNER
Building Communities

Curriculum Coordinator
Literacy Strategy

EAL Tutor
Tutor Learning Initiative

Discovery
Assessment Coordinator

Foundation Transition

Numeracy Strategy
Professional Practice
Professional Devt Plan
DET Initiatives

Year 6-7 Transition

Digital Technologies
Compass

Wellbeing & Engagement
Coordination:
- Wellbeing Officer
- Guidance Officer
- Engagement Officer
- Psychologist

Facilities
PSDMS Coordination
DSM
KESO

Coordinator of:
- Administration Staff
- OOSHC TheirCare
- Canteen

Finance
Budgets
Stationery Packs

Federation Business
Manager

Learning Specialist
Cassandra Quine

Learning Specialist
Alecia Williams

Learning Specialist
Alisha Watson

Learning Specialist
Matt Bramich

Learning Specialist
Cara Pfeiffer

Learning Specialist
Molly Hari

Learning Specialist
Brendon Peisley

Learning Specialist
Khamal Sarkis

Foundation Classroom Teachers

Year 1 Classroom Teachers

Year 2 Classroom Teachers

Year 3 Classroom Teachers

Year 4 Classroom Teachers

Year 5 Classroom Teachers

Year 6 Classroom Teachers

Specialist Classroom Teachers

Students & Parents



WODONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION 2021 TIMELINE

EVENT	DATE
a) Notice of election and call for nominations	February 8, 2021
b) Closing date for nominations	February 23, 2021
c) Date positions declared or election announced.	March 1, 2021
d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	March 9, 2021
e) Close of ballot – 4.00pm	March 15, 2021
f) Vote count	March 15, 2021
g) Declaration of poll	March 16, 2021
h) Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)	March 22, 2021 (prior to SC meeting)
i) *First council meeting to elect office bearers (the Principal will preside)	Monday March 22, 2021

* All nominees should ensure they are available for the first SC meeting scheduled on March 22nd.

Isaiah Firebrace Virtual Workshop

The Dirrawurra, WAN and Gadhaba LANs invites all interested Aboriginal youth and families to register for this free virtual work.

Where: Participation is via Zoom invitation
When: Wednesday 17th February, from 4:30pm

If you would like to participate, please register by sending you full name and email address to joshua.atkinson@dpc.vic.gov.au

And invitation will be distributed closer to the event date.

A portrait of Isaiah Firebrace, a young man with long, wavy brown hair and a light beard, wearing a patterned shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

Spirit & Beyond Workshop

ISAIAH

Isaiah Firebrace shares his journey as a young boy growing up in a small town through to following his passion as a singer. Isaiah has overcome many challenges and he shares these stories with local communities. Isaiah explores what it was like to become famous and successful when he only saw himself as a small town country boy. Isaiah then turns the conversation toward young people in the workshops and discusses their passions, and how they could follow these pathways toward their wildest dreams. Isaiah talks about removing shame from our creative thought process and finding inner strength to believe in yourself.

To meet Isaiah and explore how you too can follow your own dreams don't miss this opportunity! See details about when your virtual online workshop is and Isaiah will see you there!

The Creative Victoria logo, featuring the words "CREATIVE VICTORIA" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a stylized black triangle pointing downwards between the words.

ISAIAH is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria

