



Ariel Announcements

No. 12 ~ May 16, 2022

Engage Learning * Expand Minds

Welcome to Week 4

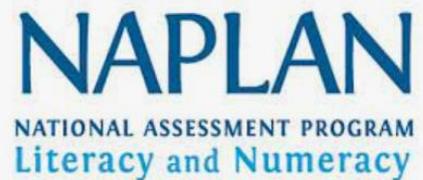
Winter is settling-in and we are feeling the effects of the weather in a number of ways. We are experiencing above average student absences and understand that families are following advice around preventing the spread of illness. On page 3 of today's Newsletter is a reminder from DET and the Department of Health regarding advice on approaching the cold and flu season.

In the meantime, please ensure you are communicating with the school your child/ren's absence through COMPASS or a quick call to the office.

Additionally at this time of the year, non-school uniform items start creeping in. Please ensure your child/ren have appropriate winter uniform. Our school has a second-hand uniform shop for families to use as well as State Schools Relief to support families in need. Our [Dress Code Policy](#) outlines our uniform options for families. Please ensure your child's jumper/jackets/scarf/beanie is named clearly.

NAPLAN

Well done to our Year 3 and Year 5 students who sat the NAPLAN tests last week. The resilient approach to the test was very noticeable, great job parents and staff for supporting our students with a growth mindset towards NAPLAN. Result will be provided to the school and families in Term 3.



GEM OF THE WEEK

This week's Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness student in the yard is Sidney Wilkins. Sidney was very mindful by picking-up rubbish in the yard. Well done and thank thanks for keeping the yard tidy Sidney!

RAT INITIATIVE

As per today's Compass Newsfeed, RATs will continue to be distributed to you as they have been throughout this school year, for the remainder of this term. However, from Monday 23rd May, students will no longer be recommended to undertake either twice weekly RATs in mainstream schools or 5 days a week in specialist schools. RATs however will continue to be required by students who are household contacts or who have symptoms, in order to attend school (5 negative tests over a 7-day period). The ongoing supply of RATs to families in our school will ensure that parents and carers will have them if their child is a household contact or has symptoms.

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EDUCATION WEEK



Next week Victoria celebrates the education of our young people. At Wodonga Primary School we are excited to involve our families once again in our school.

Monday: To kick the week off we are commencing the week with a breakfast on Monday morning. For catering purposes, please register your attendance for the Big Breakfast via <https://forms.gle/y92xiFytr3gUaL2U9>

Tuesday: Our classrooms are open for families to come in and see Resilience Project learning in action. From 2pm to 3:15pm our classroom doors will be open. Please sign-in at the office before heading off to your child's classroom. To ensure the flow of visitors and equity of time, please plan to stay in your child's classroom for a maximum of 15mins.

Wednesday: Our Choirs will be performing in the Courtyard at lunchtime. Families of our choir members are welcome to attend in person at 11:40 am to 12:00pm. The school will live-stream the event on Facebook.

Thursday: Open Classrooms once again - Our classrooms are open for families to come in and see Discovery learning in action. From 2pm to 3:15pm our classroom doors will be open. Please sign-in at the office before heading off to your child's classroom. To ensure the flow of visitors and equity of time, please plan to stay in your child's classroom for a maximum of 15min

Friday: Years 5 and 6 students will be competing in the Winter School Sports Carnival. Families are encouraged to pop over to your child's location to watch the sports in action.



COLD AND FLU SEASON

With international borders opening and the arrival of colder weather, cases of influenza (the flu) are increasing throughout Victoria. Our community is at risk of higher rates of students and staff affected by the flu or COVID-19 this season.

What to do if your child gets sick.

To help keep your child and our school community safe, please take the following steps if your child has any cold or flu-like symptoms:

- take a COVID-19 test and follow the current Department of Health isolation requirements if a positive result is shown
- keep your child at home until their symptoms pass
- common flu-like symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose, loss of appetite, body aches and feeling extremely weak and tired
- diagnosis of the flu can only be confirmed by a doctor after a nose or throat swab
- encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and ask them to cover their nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

COVID-19 vaccines are available free of charge to everyone aged 5 years and over in Australia.

It is important that children and young people have the best possible protection against the flu and COVID-19 by getting vaccinated.

Ensuring your children are protected against serious illness helps to protect everyone in our community, including older family members who may be at higher risk, along with younger children who can't receive vaccinations yet.

You can book COVID-19 vaccinations through the COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398 or at a participating GP, pharmacy, or community health service.

Some local schools are also holding walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics on school grounds. Vaccination settings can be found at the Vaccine Clinic Finder.

FLU VACCINATION

Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 6 months and over.

Some people are more at risk of complications from the flu and are eligible for free vaccination under the National Immunisation Program including:

- anyone aged 65 years and older
- pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy)
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged from 6 months and over
- people 6 months or older with:
 - o heart disease
 - o chronic lung disease (including people with severe asthma who require frequent hospital visits)
 - o chronic neurological conditions
 - o impaired immunity
 - o haemoglobinopathies (blood disorders caused by genetic changes)
 - o diabetes
 - o kidney disease
- children on long-term aspirin therapy from 6 months to 10 years
- children aged from 6 months to under 5 years.

Flu vaccinations can be booked through GPs and pharmacies, many of which can also provide COVID-19 vaccinations. If you would like more information about the flu vaccination, visit the Better Health Channel.

Enjoy your week,

Damian Duncan, Principal

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

Please note that tomorrow, Tuesday 17 May 2022, our office will close early at 3.45pm.

CHERRY TREE PARKING

Located in the Cherry Tree Lane area there are a limited number of disabled parking spaces. Recently we have had families illegally parking in these spaces, which then negatively impacts on students who rightfully should have access.

Can families please ensure that they find alternate parking spaces if they do not possess a disabled parking permit?

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STUDENT NEWS

GRIP LEADERSHIP

By Matilda Robinson

Last week, I went to the GRIP student leadership conference day. I went in thinking it was boring but my mood changed when we started. I learnt lots of things like speaking up. Speaking up is a great thing you can use it with many things like friends doing the wrong things. We also learnt about raising the standards which is to look for more jobs as a leader and making things in the yard more fun. At one stage I had to perform onstage because we had to do this activity where we went around all the different schools asking some questions like do you like pizza? or do you play the drums?, and see who can get it done first. This girl finished and she asked me a question that was do you play the drums and I said yes. So I had to perform playing the drums, after I got a badge that said raising the standards. The day was exhausting and fun. I do wish kids in year five or six get this opportunity



CAUGHT READING



We have LOVED catching kids at WPS reading over the last two weeks. We have seen reading happening all over the school and observed an increase in engagement and borrowing books from our library. Today, three lucky students had their names drawn out in a spot prize draw. They each won a book of their choice to take home to read and add to their book collection. Well done to Jethro BR6, Breanna BR6 and Liam OS4 who were our lucky prize winners. We would love to get more of our community 'Get Caught Reading'. If you see someone reading at home or anywhere else, please snap a shot and send it through to Ms Harrison and Mrs Williams and we will share the photo with the rest of our WPS community.

KONNICHIWA!

I am excited to continue the Taiko drumming program at Wodonga Primary School this year. It will be open to interested students in Years 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

Today, those interested students were able to have a go at Taiko and decide if this is something they would like to continue with. Those students who have shown interest have gone home with a note today that will need to be signed by the student and parent/caregiver and returned to the Japanese classroom ASAP.

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Unfortunately, positions are limited, and it will be a 'first come first serve basis.' Students will need to show they are committed and able to collaboratively work as part of a team. If accepted, they will need to be able to attend Taiko practices and in-school performances.

Taiko Drumming will be on Monday recess in the Ariel Centre (gym).

Elyssa Webster, Japanese Language Teacher



LIBRARY NEWS

Simultaneous Story time

Each year a book written and illustrated by an Australian author is read simultaneously throughout libraries, schools and preschools across the nation. Tune in at **11am on Wednesday 25th May 2022** and listen to Mrs Harrison reading Family Tree.



Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge

The VPRC has begun, please check your Compass notifications regarding

1. How to access your usernames & passwords and
2. A user's guide to help navigate the VPRC site.

Please see your classroom teacher for log on details.

If you are new to the challenge, students in

- Years F-2 must read 20 challenge books and 10 books of their own choice books
- Years 3-6 must read 10 challenge books and 5 choice books.

Good luck, have fun and happy reading!

Wendy Plunkett, Library Technician



REMINDER TO WEAR BLUE & GREEN TOMORROW

May is International NF Month, so on Tuesday 17th May we will be holding a **green and blue casual wear day** in support of kids and families impacted by Neurofibromatosis (NF) in Australia and the Children's Tumour Foundation. With students in our school community impacted by NF, we are asking all families to participate in our NF day to raise awareness and funds. **Students are asked to wear blue and/or green and bring a gold coin donation.** Students can get really dressed up or just wear simple blue and green casual clothes.

Our Student Leaders will be running some lunchtime games that students can participate in through a silver coin donation. There will also be some blue and green treats for sale at Recess for \$1 or less.



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OPEN PEOPLE'S EYES TO NF

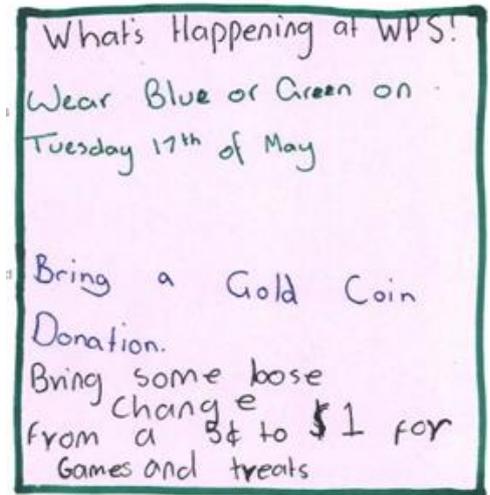


Additionally, CTF is asking people to spread the message by wearing bold green and blue eyeshadow this month.

What you need to do: Find yourself some epic looking blue and green eye shadow and start practicing your new look.

Film or photograph yourself with your eyes done up in blue and green. Post to your preferred social media account anytime during May with the #outoftheshadows and tagging us @ctfaustralia

"I am wearing blue and green eye shadow to help open people's eyes to what it means to live with neurofibromatosis".



NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

Now in its 23rd year, National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

The event will be held throughout Australia on Friday 20 May 2022.

The objectives of WSTSD are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of Public Transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

ACTIVE KIDS ARE SMARTER KIDS



FRIDAY 20 MAY 2022

Until they're ten, children must always hold an adult's hand when crossing the road

WALK.COM.AU

National Road Safety Week 2022 15-22 May
@nationalroadsafetyweek
@nswalktoschool #WSTSD
SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ALL STATE, TERRITORY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
National Road Safety Week 2022 15-22 May

The first 200 students to walk to school can come to the Wellbeing office and get a temporary tattoo!!!

Carlee Hill, Leading Teacher - Wellbeing and Engagement

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2022 Student Attitudes to School Survey

Dear Parent / Caregiver / Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about the 2022 Student Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS), that your child is invited to participate in.

About the survey

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and are conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of your school.

The AtoSS is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist your child's school to gain an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Students will be asked about their thoughts and feelings in relation to their school, their learning, peer and family relationships, resilience, bullying, mental health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general.

This year, the AtoSS will be conducted at your school over the period 23rd May-10th June.

What are the benefits?

In our experience, young people enjoy having their say. We have been running this survey for nearly 20 years and it has been invaluable in helping schools understand student views. Your school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

What are the risks?

While we do not anticipate many risks of participation, some students may find some of the survey questions too personal and sensitive in nature. Should you agree for your child to participate, they are still free to skip questions or to withdraw at any stage if the survey makes them upset or uncomfortable.

The survey has been approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee. The questions are selected from validated survey instruments used in Australia and around the world, are strength-based, and tailored for each year level group.

What will my child be asked to do?

Your child will be invited to complete the survey **online during class time** using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Please note:

- Student participation in the survey is voluntary and students may withdraw at any time.
- The survey will take around 20-45 minutes to complete.

How is my child's confidentiality protected?

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey from their teacher. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only. Personally identifiable data will not be recorded in the survey response file. This ensures that the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.

How will results be reported?

The survey results will be reported back to the school in an aggregate form throughout the survey period. All survey data that is made available in reports are for groups of students only so that no individual student can be identified. Data suppression rules are used for schools with low student numbers per year level.

Your school may share the results of the survey with parents, in documents such as the School Annual Report.

Options for participation

Participation in this survey is **voluntary**. If you **do not** wish for your child to do the survey, please opt out via email to your school: wodonga.ps@education.vic.gov.au Please do so before 23rd of May stating that you wish to opt out of your child's participation, along with their name and year level.

If your school does not receive a Refusal of Consent email from yourself before the survey commencement date mentioned within this letter, it means that you give your consent for your child to participate in the 2022 Attitudes to School Survey.

If you would like more information, please speak to your child's teacher, or contact the Department at school.surveys@education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

The Victorian Department of Education and Training

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
We are going BLUE & GREEN	May 17	Whole school	Full info in Newsletter #10	N/A
Cross Country	May 18	Years 3-6	Deadline passed	Event closed
Winter Sports	May 20	Years 5/6	Consent & payment required \$19.75	May 17
Walk Safely to School	May 20	Whole School	Walk to school safely	N/A
Simultaneous Story Time	May 25	Whole School	11.00am (see article)	N/A
Year 6 Camp	May 30-Jun 1	Year 6	Consent & payment required \$300	May 20
Pupil Free Day	June 10	Whole School	Student Led Conferences	
Public Holiday	June 13	Whole School	Queen's Birthday	
Last Day of Term 2	June 24	All students	Early finish, 2.30pm	
First Day Term 3	July 11	Whole School	School starts at 9.00am	