There is school tomorrow as normal!

We are taking Wodonga Cup Day as a public holiday on November 24th.

The year is certainly starting to feel like it is rushing past - it is wonderful to visit our classrooms and observe the strong learning routines in place - our students continue to thrive and challenge themselves - we see many individual learning goals being achieved as students put in the extra effort and focus. We still have 7 weeks of learning to go before the end of the term - these are important weeks, as students consolidate their skills and understandings and gain the independence necessary for their next year level. Please continue to support strong attendance and positive attitudes towards learning as we move into the end of the year.

Staffing 2018

We can now confirm that Damian Duncan will be the Acting Principal for Semester 1, 2018 while I am on leave. This appointment will enable our school to continue to flourish into the new school year. I will be working with Damian over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

We have also appointed a number of teacher leaders for 2018 - these teachers will have full time classroom responsibilities and will also lead a year level team, supporting teachers and students. Congratulations to Matt Bramich, Molly Gilmour, Alisha Watson, Cara Pfeiffer, Khamal Sarkis, Alecia Williams, Cassandra Knight and Jye Williams who will be teacher leaders at WPS for the next four years.

We are currently conducting selection panel processes for our final classroom teacher positions for 2018 - these will be determined in the coming weeks.

Start Right

Wodonga PS supports all students to have the right conditions for learning. These include structures and routines at school as well as having basic needs such as food and water. We will now be offering the opportunity for students to access breakfast on a Thursday morning. This program will target students who struggle to learn in the classroom due to insufficient breakfast. Students can report to the PLC from 8.30am and must sit to eat the provided food. The Start Right breakfast will cease at 8.50am. Please see Stacey or Geoff for more information.

Federation Achievements

Wodonga PS is proud to be a member of the Wodonga Federation of Government schools - the Federation ensures that all students across Wodonga have access to high quality education from primary through to senior secondary level. The Federation formed in late 2016 and has already set in place many major achievements - please click here to read the outline of Federation achievements.
Respectful Relationships – Whole School Approach

In 2016, our school applied to be a lead school, along with the other Wodonga Federation of Government Schools, in the implementation of Respectful Relationships. This important initiative aims to ensure students have skills, knowledge and attitudes to engage in respectful relationships now and into the future.

A whole school approach to Respectful Relationships focuses on six key domains:

1. Culture and Environment
2. Support for Staff and Students
3. Teaching and Learning
4. Community Partnerships
5. Professional Learning Strategy

Our school has been teaching elements of Respectful Relationships for many years. Our success in applying for this funding supports the Federation schools to be able to strengthen our ability to promote and model gender equity in everything that we do, and support students and staff affected by family violence. Over the coming weeks, we will be outlining the Respectful Relationships curriculum.

Click here for an attachment that highlights why this is an important issue for our school and the Wodonga community.

Somers School Camp

Tomorrow, we send-off Will Brooke, Bailey Nicholson, Marco Schubert, Rowan Lillis and Amelia Bax to the bi-annual Department of Education Somers Camp. These lucky Year 5/6 students will attend the residential outdoor and environmental camp experience for 9 days with our Canadian exchange teacher, Lisa De Luca also chosen to attend. We look forward to hearing all about their exciting adventure when they return.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event / Activity</th>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Permission / Payment Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSU Future Moves</td>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Consent required</td>
<td>03/11/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slow Food Excursion</td>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>3CM</td>
<td>Consent required</td>
<td>09/11/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transition Day 1</td>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>2018 Foundations</td>
<td>Refer to your Transition letter for details</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wodonga Cup</td>
<td>Nov 24</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL – PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 1</td>
<td>Yrs 4/6</td>
<td>Consent &amp; pay coming soon</td>
<td>Nov 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Dec 6-12</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Consent &amp; pay soon</td>
<td>Dec 3</td>
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<td>Head Start</td>
<td>Dec 4 - 12</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Attend Secondary College of choice</td>
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<td>2017 Awards Day</td>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>Morning assemblies, times TBA</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>To be advised</td>
<td>Dec 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Reports</td>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>Live on Compass</td>
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<td>Christmas Concert</td>
<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>6pm til dusk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of School</td>
<td>Dec 22</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>Finish time to be advised</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Excellence in teaching and learning

Major Achievements

School-based Index Analysis (SIA) – LaTrobe University Project
The Federation has partnered with LaTrobe University to undertake the School-based Index Analysis (SIA). This project has been developed to assist schools to analyse the data that they have, provide insights into interrelated variables and the impact on particular groups of students as well as individual students. This SIA empowers staff in the schools by providing valid information on which to base educational decision-making relevant to the students in their school.

Multi School Staffing
To further enhance the level of cooperation, to assist with school transition and to improve the level of understanding between Wodonga Federation of Government Schools, member schools are offering a Multi School Staff Professional Learning Program in 2018. This program allows teachers to gain new skills, experiences and professional understandings by working in a different school within the Federation for a school year. The program is offered to all ongoing teachers at all Federation schools.

Professional Learning Communities
The Federation member schools have been a pilot for the Professional Learning Communities initiative. Participants feedback has indicated that it has been a wonderful opportunity for schools. It has enabled schools to deepen their strategic practices when it comes to working with teams of teachers in a focused way, in particular the ICC (Inquiry Change Challenge) process. The ICC has been a key resource in aiding middle level leaders to make the professional growth of teachers so successful. Through the PLC learning opportunities in 2016 and 2017, the development of leadership teams across the Federation has meant schools have been able to effectively lead school improvement based on high impact strategies and proven methods to facilitate our learning community.
**Digital Literacy**
The Federation received $50,000 from the Federal Government to establish the Wodonga Digital Creators Community. The Digital Creators Community is developing Digital Technologies Leaders to help progress programs across member schools, develop common curriculum resources for the P-12 digital technologies curriculum, obtain specialized hardware, create opportunities for students to interact, innovate and challenge each other, develop partnerships with tertiary education providers, and provide support for staff to develop the skills required to confidently deliver the new curriculum.

**Wodonga Federation of Government Schools’ Inaugural Conference**
In July 2017 the Federation held it’s inaugural conference. It was attended by all staff (teaching and non-teaching) within seven of the eight member schools. Over 55 workshops were presented on the day as well as two keynote speaker themes. Feedback received by staff spoke highly of the professionalism and opportunity to network with their colleagues from different year levels and other schools without having to travel long distances.
Wodonga Federation of Government Schools’ Board
The Federation Board is an overarching advisory body. Members of the Board represent Wodonga TAFE, LaTrobe University, Business, member school councillors and member school principals. Each member shares a common desire to lift the learning and developmental outcomes of all children and young people in Wodonga. The Board meets quarterly to take all important decisions relating to the Federation’s functions. These functions include: Strategic Direction, Community Relations, Resources, Performance and accountability.

Parent Focus Groups
To improve parent engagement the Federation held a number of focus groups at a member school with the vision to carry these out across the Federation. The ‘Strengthening family and community engagement in student learning resource was used to guide the focus group discussions. The insights gathered from these sessions were able to be used by the school to improve engagement with parents/carers.
Strategic Resource Management

The Business Managers across the Federation have collaborated on a number of initiatives to improve the efficiency of their schools. Leveraging the collective purchasing power has meant that the Federation schools have saved over $13,000 across Test & Tag services, fire safety equipment inspections and servicing and procuring photocopying paper.

The Federation is developing improved ways to manage contractors across the member schools. Efforts have been focused on schools being OHS and Child Safe Compliant. This has resulted in some efficiencies for contractors. Once they have signed the Federation Child Safety Code of Conduct this signed copy is shared with other schools within the Federation.

Shared Policies

The Federation has developed a number of shared policies for Federation member schools. This includes:

- Visitors Policy
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Parent Payment Policy
- Working with Children Check Policy
- Child Safety Policy

As Federation Policy Development Action Group has been established to ensure all member schools are VQRA compliant.

Principal’s Advisory Committee

The Federation Principals meet week three and seven of each term. The Principals provide advice to the Federation Board on technical, implementation and board policy issues. The Principals also provide guidance and direction to each of the action groups. It is the responsibility of the Principal Advisory committee to link school level policies with the direction of the Federation.

Strategic Planning

In December 2016 the Principal’s Advisory Committee and the Federation Board had a strategic planning day for the Federation. This day and subsequent work has let to the development of the Federation’s four year objectives:

Four Year Objectives:

- Every student is genuinely known and understood as they progress from early years through to career
- Every student learns in a highly innovative environment and excellence in teaching
- Every student is self-directed and has a meaningful pathway
- Every student’s needs are supported
Wodonga Federation of Government Schools’ Student Leadership Program
Federation schools have developed and implemented a student leadership program aimed at:
• Developing student leadership capacity
• Increasing student voice
• Building student’s sense of achievement, and
• Connecting students locally.

In term one student leaders from the Senior College were mentored by community leaders to facilitate a full day of personal leadership skill development for student leaders from the Middle Years College and the five primary schools. The student leaders enjoyed this day and the ability to learn from each other and make new friends.

In Term 2 the student leaders from the Federation schools participated in a joint Student Representative Council meeting, as well as received Teach the Teacher training from VICSRC. Student leaders from each of the schools delivered Teach the Teacher professional development in their respective schools in Term 3 on an issue relevant to their school (a some schools are scheduled to deliver this PD early Term 4). The Teach the Teacher PD has been well received by the teachers so far.

A presentation from the Mayor of Wodonga is scheduled for this term as well as student leaders reflecting on each school’s Teach the Teacher professional development session with other schools and students will further participate in developing consultation skills.

The Federation Student Leadership Program has engaged 46 Student Leaders from year five to year 12 across seven schools.

Federation Approach to Child Safe
In accordance with Ministerial Order 870 Child Safe Standards the Federation has implemented a common approach to the Standards. This has involved:

• Each school council ratifying and implementing a Federation Child Safety Policy
• Developing, ratifying and implementing a common Child Safe Code of Conduct across the Federation
• Developing a Federation Mandating Reporting Policy
• Workshop and agreeing to a common Child Safe risk strategy and assessment
• Coordinating the signing of the Code of Conduct with the Federation member school’s contractors, and
• writing promotional material for school newsletters.
Respectful Relationships – A whole Federation Approach

Three Federation schools were successful in receiving Lead School funding for Respectful Relationships as well as the other five schools being successful in applying for partner school funding. In addition to supporting other partner school outside of the Wodonga Federation of Government Schools, the Federation has:

- attended training provided by the Department for school leaders
- provided training to each school’s Respectful Relationship Leadership Team in identifying family violence and gender equity
- delivered whole staff briefings to all member schools
- supported member schools to undertake the Baseline Assessment and develop a Federation wide Action Plan.
Implementing a Whole School Approach to Respectful Relationships

A Respectful Relationships leadership team has been established in each of the Federation Schools including ours to help guide the implementation of Respectful Relationships. The team will be involved in and committed to - identifying, leading and resourcing actions to promote gender equality and implementing respectful relationships across the school. So far the teams have attended identifying family violence and gender equity training and undertaken a baseline gender assessment using the Department of Educations tool. All staff within the Federation have attended a Respectful Relationships induction session.

Over the page is a draft Public Commitment Statement - Respectful Relationships Education which all Federation schools will adopt. If you have any feedback please contact the Principal of your school to discuss or email info@wodonga.vic.edu.au by November 10, 2017.
Public Commitment Statement  
Respectful Relationships Education

Wodonga Federation of Government Schools’ and its member schools: Wodonga Primary School, Wodonga South Primary School, Wodonga West Primary School, Melrose Primary School, Baranduda Primary School, Wodonga Middle Years College, Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Belvoir Special School are committed to implementing a whole school approach to Respectful Relationships Education.

We recognise that our schools are more than a space for children and young people to learn. Our schools are a workplace where all staff deserve to feel respected, safe and valued. Schools, like ours, are also important hubs in the community and we have the opportunity to lead, influence and contribute to healthy community culture.

As part of this commitment:
• Our principals will actively promote gender equality and speak out against gender-based violence.
• Our schools will provide:
  - professional learning for leadership staff for the planning and implementation of the whole school approach to promote respectful relationships and gender equality
  - professional learning for teachers delivering Respectful Relationships curriculum in the classroom
  - professional learning for all school staff on gender equality, the prevention of gender-based violence and Respectful Relationships Education.
• Our schools will undertake a thorough assessment and planning process to identify gaps and limitations in existing culture, policies and practices in gender equality.
• Our schools will create mechanisms for staff feedback on gender equality in the workplace.
• Our schools will identify, resource and implement key actions to promote gender equality and prevent gender-based violence.
• Our schools will engage with external experts for advice and support in promoting gender equality and respectful relationships among staff and students.
• Our schools will build partnerships with expert family violence services to increase school capacity to respond to students and staff who experience, witness or perpetrate gender-based violence.
• Our schools commit to continual improvement and evaluation of Respectful Relationships Education.

Member School:

Signed: _______________________________________
(Principal)
Date: __________________________