Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome back for the start of Term 3. Hopefully you all enjoyed the break from school even though the weather was mostly cold and wet. A very special welcome to all our new families across our school from our entire school community.

We have had an excellent start to the term with all classes eagerly getting back into their learning from day one. Students have enjoyed meeting up with their friends once again and there is a wonderful tone within the school. We are very fortunate to have students who almost always uphold our school expectations of: Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner. This is part of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) which we have been implementing at Wodonga West for a number of years now with very positive success. Staff work collectively and consistently to model and teach the expected behaviour and interactions between students, staff and the wider community. All our efforts over a period of time has paid off and our school truly is a wonderful place for students to learn and to prosper. We have the very best quality of Teaching and Support staff who work relentlessly to achieve amazing outcomes for each individual student. I am very proud of our combined efforts and the way our school functions as a community of learners, reflective of our school vision “Learning for Living”.

**Staffing**

This term, Mrs Liz Haynes will be taking some well-deserved Long Service Leave. Mrs Haynes works in many of our classrooms as a Teacher Aid supporting the classroom teacher and providing students with some additional support. She also opens our beautiful Resource Centre at break times for students to visit and enjoy some quite time reading or playing board games. We will miss her whilst she is on leave. However, she will be replaced by Mrs Jo Weal until the end of this term. Jo joins us, highly recommended, and I know she will continue to do an amazing job in this classroom support role. Enjoy your Leave, Liz!

**Thank You**

I would like to formally thank one of our MYOS students, Jason Cameron, for assisting the school by taking great care of our school’s chickens during the entire school holidays. Jason visited the school regularly to check on the chooks. He fed and watered them, let them out of their enclosure to wander around, collected the eggs for our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Program, and generally cared for them (even picking them up and giving them cuddles!) We really appreciate you doing this for us, Jason, as our chickens are very special and all our students are very fond of them. They also help us out by laying a regular supply of eggs which we enjoy using in the Kitchen program. We are proud of your community mindedness and the way you are so caring for animals. Thanks again!

(Continued on page 2)
Science News
Welcome back to school for term 3 2016.
This is a very exciting term for science, not only will we continue to run fabulous activities and fun assemblies but it is also getting very close to National Science Week.
The theme for this year’s National Science Week is Drones, Droids and Robots and will run from 13th August to the 21st August. During this week we will be running lunch time activities on Wednesday 17th August. I will be sending home more details closer to the day.

During term 3 our junior classes will be exploring the natural wonders of Weather, middle school classes will be challenging their understandings about Salty V’s Fresh Water and our senior classes will be conducting hands on experiments and activities to explore the Human Circulatory System.

There will be a few visits from creatures this term which I’m sure your child/children are bound to come home talking about.

Melissa Watson
Science Teacher

Student Wellbeing Report

The Resilience Project
On Thursday 28th July all year 3 students from surrounding schools have been invited to attend a free presentation by ‘The Resilience Project’ founder Hugh Van Cuylenburg. Hugh will teach students the importance of mindfulness, gratitude and empathy; the foundations for good mental health. This is a fantastic opportunity for all year 3 students.

Breakfast Program
Many students have already benefitted from taking home one of our breakfast packs. There are still a few packs available if you feel your family would benefit from the assistance of this program or you have any questions, please see me (Mrs Potter) who can supply you with a breakfast pack.

West’s got Talent
This term students will have the opportunity to participate in West’s got Talent. If you would like to performance a song, dance, jokes or show us another talent, you will have the chance to sign up next week. So start thinking now and be ready to amaze.

West’s got Talent will also be seeking support from students in MYOS in terms of judges, technicians, hosts and crew.

Melissa Potter
Wellbeing

Attendance / Lateness
Remember that we have high expectations for all students to be at school and on time EVERY day. Every day counts to be a learner. Attendance at school is critical if students are to achieve to their full potential, and it develops great lifelong habits for the future. I know the mornings have been miserably cold, but it is still a requirement that everyone arrives on time ( we recommend 8.50 am ) so that they can be ready to learn on the 9 am bell. Every day and every minute counts. Students arriving late to school disrupt the teaching program and miss the important beginning of the lesson, and so find it difficult to know what to do.

Our teachers and Mrs Potter, our Wellbeing Officer, closely monitor bad attendance and lateness across our school, and will be contacting families where this is an issue to develop an attendance plan together.

Having said all that, we also have an overwhelming majority of students who rarely or NEVER miss a day of school, and whom are punctual. You are champions and I congratulate you all, and your families, for this wonderful effort.

A Game start to the Day!
The Linking Learning Project has purchased some Board games for use in the Resource Centre. It would be great to see our families who arrive at 8:40 going to the Resource Centre (where it is lovely and warm) and playing a short Board game with their children before the day starts.

Come in and visit Ms Donehue and see what games are available. It’s nice and warm inside!

Regards,
Jocelyn Owen

School Dental Services
Albury Wodonga Public Health Dental Clinic:
155 High Street Wodonga.
Lower Floor
Phone 02 6051 7925

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