8 February 2018

Lawrence Street Wodonga, 3690 Phone: (02) 6024 1188 Fax: (02) 6024 4257
Email: wodonga.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au www.wodongawestps.vic.edu.au

Be Safe **Be Respectful** **Be A Learner**

Enrolments are Welcome for all Year levels, including Kinder for 2019.
Please come and collect an enrolment form.

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I warmly welcome you all back after the holidays, and especially welcome all the new families starting with us as well as our new Foundation and Kindergarten families. I congratulate you all for having your children looking so smart in their uniforms, and for having their broad brimmed green school hats for this hot time of the year – well done! Please make sure you clearly label items of clothing so it may be returned if it gets misplaced.

We have had a wonderful start to the 2018 school year with everyone excited to get back into their formal learning. The students have particularly enjoyed catching up with their friends, and forming new relationships as well. I have been thrilled with the way the students have settled into their learning so smoothly. It is always lovely to visit classrooms and have a quick chat to students about their learning tasks. Our teachers have worked hard at getting to know their new class and to form respectful relationships with students.

The transition for our little Foundation students has also been excellent. I am amazed at how well they have coped with 'Big School' and the way they have embraced our school expectations of 'Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner'. We look forward to working in partnership with our families for the next 7 years at Primary School to develop well rounded, confident learners.

Our school has grown significantly and we have welcomed several new staff who have joined our teaching team; Ms Martin in year 1/2 (who unfortunately slipped and broke her wrist 2 days before school started!), Miss Chick in year 3/4, Mr McMaster in year 4/5 and Ms Connors in year 5/6. I am really impressed with the quality and depth of all our staff and look forward to a busy but brilliant year of learning ahead.

Essential Items Payment
The students have been allocated their first lot of stationery to get the school year started. We purchase all the items needed for the year in bulk, store them and receive a discount for doing so. We now ask that all families make their $100 per student payment to the school to cover these essential items we supply. We also offer a payment plan that can be set up with Jo, our Business Manager. It is an expectation that we receive this payment within the first two weeks of the school year, and I thank the many families who have already done this.

Compass App
If you are a new family to the school you will need to call into the Office and speak with Suzanne at reception who will assist you to download the Compass App (which is our main form of communication with parents) and to receive your username and password to access this App. We also use Compass to receive the Linkletter, record student

Assembly : Monday
12 February 2018
Assembly In Gym - 9am
Class - Admin
All Welcome

SPECIAL DATES

Monday 12 February
- Senior Swimming (Yr 3/4/5/6)

Tuesday 13 February
- Senior Swimming (Yr 3/4/5/6)

Thursday 15 February
- Senior Swimming (Yr 3/4/5/6)

Friday 16 February
- Senior Swimming (Yr 3/4/5/6)

Wednesday 21 February
- Wander Through West 4 - 6pm
- School Council Meeting - 6pm start

Thursday 22 February
- Senior Swimming (Yr 3/4/5/6)

Monday 26 February
- Division Swimming (Yr 5/6)

Tuesday 27 February
- Future Moves (Yr 5/6)

Wednesday 7 March
- School Photos

absences, receive student reports and permission notes.

If you have forgotten your password and log in details, Susanne can assist you with re-setting them and get back onto Compass. A reminder that the Linkletter will be sent out (via Compass) every second Thursday.

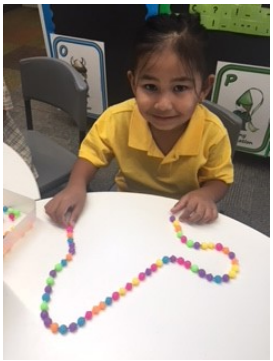
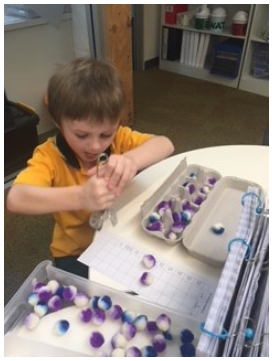
Assembly
On Monday we will hold our first whole school Assembly in the Gym beginning at 9.10. We will be presenting our 2018 School Captains with their badges and we have also invited the Kinder (Group A) to attend. All parents/carers are welcome to attend assembly which is held every second Monday morning for approximately half an hour.

Wander Through West
Our school community is invited to come into our centre on Wednesday 21 February between 4 - 6pm to meet and greet our staff and get to informally speak with your child/children's teachers. You are encouraged to visit specialist areas such as the Arts, Science, PE and the learning spaces. We will have a coffee van on site for people to purchase refreshments during this evening. We would love to see all of our parents/carers at this annual event, it is also a great chance to meet other families and our new staff members.

Please Note School Council Members - Our first School Council meeting for 2018 will be at the conclusion of Wander Through West.
Regards
Jocelyn Owen

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Foundation Fun
A big thank you to all our families of our Foundation students. They look fantastic in our uniform and drop offs and pick ups have been very smooth. We thank parents for respecting the systems we have organised to ensure children arrive and depart safely and allow teaching to get underway at 9.10am. To start the day, our students engage in a variety of fine motor activities to strengthen and develop their handwriting muscles. There is a great range in muscle strength, pencil grip and left or right handedness and these fun activities support their growing skills.

Buddies
Our 18 buddies, who assisted in transition sessions last year, have been rostered on daily to share lunch eating and support our new students in the playground. They have now "retired" from official duties as we encourage our new students to play with their own age group but no doubt the buddies will keep an eye our for these students in the playground. Foundation teachers will form a relationship with another class in the school where the students can work and learn together in supervised sessions periodically.

Thank you buddies!

Classroom Helpers Training
If you are a parent/grandparent/carer who would like to learn more about how children in Years Foundation to Year 2 acquire literacy and numeracy skills or if you would like to assist in classrooms then this course could be for you.

When: Monday 26 February
Time: 1.45pm to 3.15pm

You do not need to complete this course if you have done one in previous years but it is a pre-requisite if you would like to help out in classrooms during the year.

Please leave your name at the office if you would like to attend.

STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

Breakfast Program

Packs are now 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.

Canteen

The canteen will be opening for 10 minutes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the purchase of snacks. Nothing is priced over $2. Offering a canteen program gives students the opportunity to learn social skills such as manners, lining up, taking turns, money handling and more. Year 6 students who work at the canteen also gain valuable skills and enjoyment. Thank you for supporting the school canteen. **All money raised will go back into programs for students.**

Queen's Baton Relay

The baton relay which is on its way to the Gold Coast for the XXI Commonwealth Games opening ceremony on 4 April 2018, will be passing through Wodonga, next Thursday 15 February. Please see below for information or for further information regarding the event, please contact event manager Kim Strang via email kstrang@wodonga.vic.gov.au or phone on Ph: 6022 9283.

Miss Nicol and Mr Stagg's classes are fortunate to be able to go to WSSC to watch the baton as it passes through. (Notes to go home shortly). Unfortunately due to senior swimming being on at the same time, other classes are unable to attend.

Coles Sports for Schools Program

When you shop at Coles, you'll receive Sports for Schools vouchers that we can exchange for sports equipment. The more vouchers you collect, the more sports gear we will receive. So start collecting today. Vouchers can be left in the box in the front office.

OFFICE NEWS

Reminder to pay your fees for SAKG for Term 1 ($25.00), otherwise your child/children will not participate in the activities. This only applies to Year 1-6.

If you are having difficulties paying your account, please see Jo Henderson (Business Manager), to organise a payment plan.

Those who are new to the school will need to complete a form for CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund), if you have a Health Care Card/Pensioner Card. This will cover the costs of Sports Levy, Cultural Event and Swimming.

If your child/children have borrowed a change of clothing from the school, could you please make sure it is returned to the School Office.

Just another reminder, the School Office will not be supplying any change for payments.

SAKG NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to help out in the SAKG kitchen and garden. We would really like to have some more volunteers, if anyone has got any time available, it would be fantastic to see more helpers.

QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

Queen's Baton Relay 2018 Event

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018
Event time: 9.20am to 10:30am

Location: Silva Drive- Melrose Drive - Brockley Street - Beechworth Road - High Street – Junction Square

Wodonga Council is excited to announce Wodonga has been selected to be a host city for the Queen's Baton Relay (QBR). The Gold Coast is hosting the Commonwealth Games in April, 2018.

Wodonga Council invites schools to join us to help celebrate the journey. We encourage all schools to line the streets during the relay

time to support the baton bearers.

A community celebration will take place at Junction Square from 9.00am – 11.15am.

In order to host the international event council has been asked to close all roads along the route.

The following roads will be closed for the relay:

Road to be Closed	Time of Road Closure
Church Street	6:00am – 12.30pm
High Street	8:30am – 11am
Silva Drive	9:00am – 10am
Melrose Drive	9:00am – 10.15am
Brockley Street	9:00am – 10.40am
Elgin Boulevard (Between Hovell St and Smythe St)	9:00am – 11am
Beechworth Road	9:00am – 10.45am

Please ensure you arrive to school on time (before 9am) on this day to avoid the road closures in place.

We encourage the community not to park their cars on the street along the route for the duration of the event to allow for better viewing of the relay, however, this will not be enforced.

See below for the map of relay route.

For further information regarding the event, please contact event manager Kim Strang via email kstrang@wodonga.vic.gov.au or phone on (02) 6022 9283.

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano/keyboard/guitar/piano accordion lessons at school every Thursday during school time. For more information please contact Heather Wilson on Ph 6025 6480.

UNIFORM

Please remember our uniform policy.

No Hat = Play in the Shade

Could $500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for school costs.

- laptops & tablets
- lessons & activities
- uniforms & shoes
- books & supplies
- sports fees & gear
- camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, be at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), and have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.

Contact
Donelle Walsh
your local Saver Plus Coordinator

Phone
0457 849 112
03 5828 8100

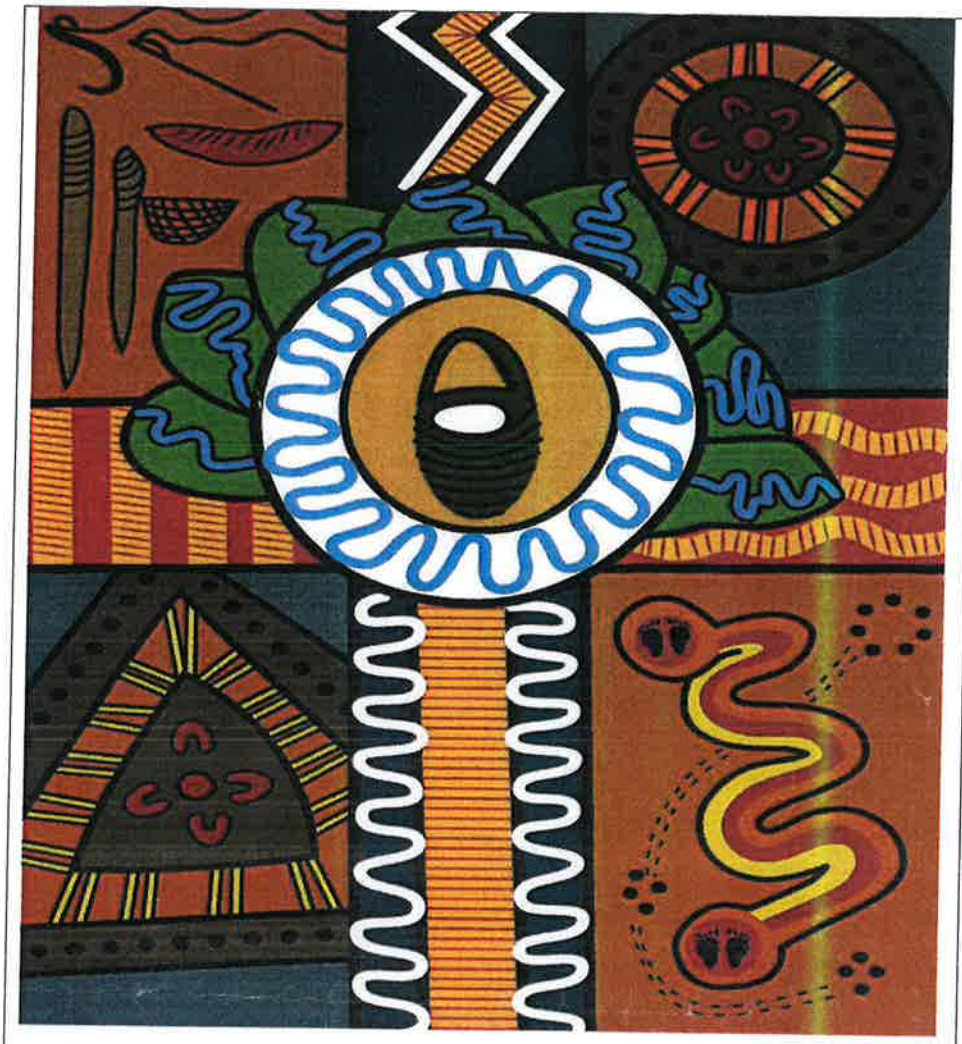
Email
dwalsh@berrystreet.org.au

Web
www.saverplus.org.au

BERRY STREET
We're for Childhood

saverplus

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.



MAC WOMENS GROUP

Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation are starting up a women's group to be held on Thursdays. We are holding a information session on Thursday 22th February 2018 at 10.30am. Please come in and have your say on what you would like to do at our new women's group. Please contact MAC to RSVP, light morning tea provided.

MAC Womens Group 2018

For all ages of Women/ Young Women

Cultural Activities

Transport provided

Information session and sign up at MAC

MUNGABAREENA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

21 Hovell Street Wodonga
VIC 3690

02 6024 7599

Stephanie Suter

22/2/2018 at 10.30am