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**Be Safe**

**Be Respectful**

**Be A Learner**

**Enrolments are Welcome for all Year levels, including Kinder for 2019.**

**Yard focus this fortnight: Using Kind Words**

## Principal's report

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

A big thank you to all the families who have responded to our recent 'Survey Monkey' questions regarding our school. This survey is open to everyone until the end of this month. A link was sent out on Compass, so if you haven't yet completed this quick survey, we would really appreciate it if you could. We value your feedback and we are continually trying to improve all that we do to make this school and Kindergarten an awesome place for learning. The survey results will help us with our School Review later in term 4, as well as guiding and planning for the future direction we take.

### Student Attitudes to School Survey

This is an annual survey put out by the Education Department to be completed by students in years 4 to 6. We were pleased with our overall results which are showing an improvement from previous years in most areas, so that is really worth highlighting and celebrating as a school. Our most positive results were from the girls in all year levels, and our least were from year 5 boys. A variety of questions (64 in total) are asked about things such as Excellence in teaching and learning, Positive climate for learning, Effective teaching practice for cognitive engagement, Student safety and Experience of bullying. The vast majority of all responses to the 64 questions were between 70% – 100% positive responses. This is really great feedback to our staff and the school. We can use this data to look at any areas that were not as strong to continually improve.

### Federation Future Leaders Program

Congratulations to Mrs Melissa Watson for being chosen as part of 8 participants to from local schools to participate in the Federation Future Leaders program this semester. This involves attending a series of after school sessions and 6 days shadowing a principal or assistant principal in another school. I will also be hosting one of the participants of this program from Wodonga Primary School who will be shadowing me for 6 days. During this time, participants set some goals for themselves based on their areas of leadership that they would like to develop further. This does not necessarily mean that participants wish to pursue principal positions, but they are already in middle management roles within their schools, and therefore leaders. In fact, all teachers are leaders within their schools and have specific roles and responsibilities to perform. We hope all participants use this opportunity to grow professionally and achieve their personal goals which they can utilise in their school settings.

### Uniform

A reminder to parents to make sure that your child's school uniform is clearly labelled with their name as we are finding quite a number of jumpers and other garments around the school which need to go to their rightful owners. If you are missing any items please check in your child's classroom or at the office.

Regards,  
Jocelyn

### Important Dates

<b>23rd August</b>	Book Week Parade
<b>26th to 30th August</b>	Arts Festival Week
<b>29th August</b>	School Concert
<b>29th to 30th August</b>	Father's day stall
<b>20th September</b>	Term 3 finishes 2.30pm finish

# Child Safe Standards

## CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

Our schools care about preventing and protecting children from child abuse. We have a zero tolerance of child abuse.

There are four forms of child abuse and neglect:

Sexual or Grooming	Emotional or Psychological
Physical Violence	Serious Neglect

About **1 Child...**



every thirteen minutes suffers from abuse or neglect within Australia.

(Source: ACT For Kids fact sheet)

Child safety is a top priority for our schools. We meet the requirement of Ministerial Order No. 870 - Child Safe Standards.



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders



Culturally & linguistically



Children with a disability

Our schools are mindful of the diversity of our students and communities and apply principles of inclusion to each standard.

We have a strong commitment to providing a child safe learning environment where the interest and safety of all children are protected and promoted.

## 7 Standards



Strategies to embed an organisation culture of child safety



A child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety



A child safety code of conduct



Staff selection, supervision and management practices for a child safe environment



Procedures for responding to and reporting allegations of suspected child abuse



Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse



Strategies to promote child empowerment and participation

## What can you do?

[www.wodonga.vic.edu.au/child-safe](http://www.wodonga.vic.edu.au/child-safe)

### Ask your school for:



Additional information can be found on your school's website

[www.wodonga.vic.edu.au](http://www.wodonga.vic.edu.au)  
[Facebook.com/WodongaFGS](https://www.facebook.com/WodongaFGS)



Wodonga Federation of Government Schools  
Collectively, we learn, grow, and thrive.

Wodonga West Children's Centre is part of the Wodonga Federation of Government Schools which as a group have developed a number of policies in response to Ministerial Order 870-Child Safe Standards which came into effect in August 2016.

Wodonga Federation of Government Schools promotes an inclusive environment for all children, parents and staff. It believes every child, parent and staff member has the right to be valued and treated with respect and dignity. Wodonga Federation of Government Schools does not tolerate any discriminatory practices. It strives to promote cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and their families and culturally and/or linguistically diverse children and families. Wodonga Federation of Government Schools welcomes vulnerable children, children with disabilities and their families and their participation.

Staff at Wodonga Federation of Government Schools are trained in preventing and responding to child safety. All staff undergo 'Working with Children Checks' and sign a Child Safety Code of Conduct annually.

Our School Council members also sign this Code and are kept abreast throughout School Council Meetings across the year of the standards and how they are implemented.

Our Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct are available to be viewed from our school website ([www.wodongawestps.vic.edu.au](http://www.wodongawestps.vic.edu.au))

# Wodonga Federation of Government Schools Annual Conference



Wodonga Federation of Government Schools held its third annual conference on Friday, August 26. Over 480 educators and education support staff from Baranduda Primary School, Melrose Primary School, Wodonga Middle Years College, Wodonga Primary School, Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Wodonga South Primary School and Wodonga West Children's Centre attended.

Attendees were welcomed to the conference by three Wodonga Senior Secondary College students Luke Runciman, Chelsea Barton and Seonaid Lee. Each student has transitioned from one of the primary schools within the Federation to Wodonga Middle Years College and then Wodonga Senior Secondary College.

The students highlighted the high-quality education and extra-curricular opportunities they have received within the Federation. They also acknowledged and thanked the efforts of educators, Administration, IT technicians, canteen, library, and well-being staff and parents/carers.

The keynote speaker Adam Voigt inspired attendees as he delivered a critically important message about School Culture and how the schools within the Federation can define, improve, enhance and even transform it. Adam is an educational leader and has featured on Sunrise, The Project and Nine News.

Ensuring that our local students have the best available learning and developmental opportunities available to them, educators and education support staff within the Federation were able to select two workshops from over 40. These workshops focused on developing their capacity in teaching excellence, school administration, engagement and wellbeing.

The conference also provides the attendees with an opportunity to network and share best practice with their colleagues across the City of Wodonga. Attendees will be back at their school, implementing new strategies and ideas with their students.

## News from the office



We are currently working through all enrolments to ensure we have copies of documents such as Birth Certificates and Immunisation Records for each child.

You may be contacted by one of our office staff to obtain copies of these documents if we do not currently hold a copy.

We thank you for your cooperation with this.

## News from the PE Coordinator

### WODONGA WEST ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Just a reminder that our Athletics Carnival is to be held at Albury Athletics complex next **Friday 16th August** for all students in Years 3-6. Students participate in their age groups, rotating between nine different events during the day. **Information and permission notes have been sent out.** Please return them ASAP so you don't miss out.

**If any parents are able to assist during the day, please let me know.**

Susan Macdonald  
P.E. Coordinator



## School Review



Our School Review will be held in Term 4, therefore we would appreciate your feedback to a quick survey to help inform our continual school improvement.

You can access this survey via Compass or in our office

This survey will be open until the end of August 2019.

We appreciate the time taken to complete this survey as it is crucial in ensuring our school is meeting the expectations of our school community.

## News from the Wellbeing Coordinator

### Houses Activity

Fire house enjoyed a fun session of bean bag golf. You had to see how many times it took you to throw the bean bags before you could land them in the hoops. This was a chance for older students to take on a mentoring/leadership position in the group and help the younger students.



## House points after last assembly are...

63

83

61



## Thank You

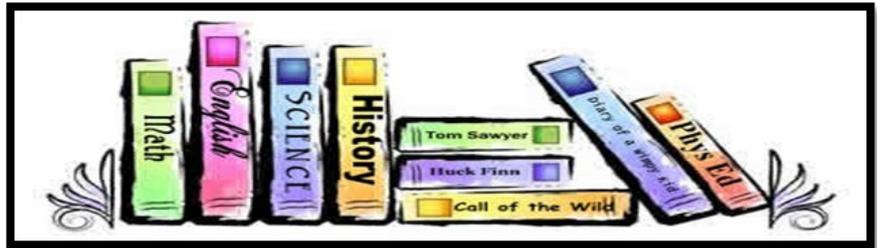
A Big Thank you to **Eliza Buckley** and **Kerry Horner** who volunteered to help cover our new books for our students in their classrooms.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thanking you again,

**Denise Donehue**

**Library Technician**



## News from the Kitchen and Garden



Even though the weather is cold there are still lots of things to do in the garden. At present we are pruning all the deciduous fruit trees so that they produce loads of fruit in summer. We are also putting compost on the garden beds which will be planted with our summer vegetables and weeding, weeding, weeding. The kids love it.

In the kitchen we are cooking in Ireland, using enormous cabbages that we have grown as well as kale, kolb rabbi and broccoli. The mini cabbage quiches have been liked by all. Our citrus trees are laden with fruit so we are also making marmalade and eating fresh mandarins, blood oranges, lemonades and oranges. We will taste the grapefruit this week and see how tart they are.

Happy gardening and cooking,

Judy Kenny & Jacqui Hillas

## Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden

Congratulations to Sharnaea Hall- Bidois and Travis Lewis-Anstis who both featured in the Border Mail this week.



They looked fabulous in their Wodonga West School uniforms pictured in our vegetable garden. Australia Post have released a new series of stamps on the theme "In the Garden". To launch the stamps they partnered with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation who contacted us for the local photo shoot.

There are 5 stamps in the collection featuring rainwater garden, nest box, worm farm, pollinators and veggie garden. These are on display in the local post office.

## News from the Kinder Room



This week is Dental Health Week so the children have been learning about all the things they can do to help keep their teeth healthy. The children participated in a class discussion sharing their knowledge which they learnt earlier in the year from the Sun Smiles program. We revisited the story book "Who is the tooth Fairy's Best Friend?" While reading the book Mrs Owen visited the kinder and the children were able to tell her all the important information that they had just learnt.

Throughout the week the children have been engaged in a variety of different activities to broaden their understanding of the importance of keeping their teeth clean and healthy. As a group the children worked together to place the "Everyday foods" in the clean mouth and the "Sometimes Foods" in the not so clean mouth.

The children have also been busy cleaning teeth pictures using toothbrushes.

By the looks of their smiles, they are doing an amazing job brushing their teeth morning and night at home also.



**KINDER**  
**NEEDS**  
**YOUR HELP**



**Can you please collect empty tissue boxes and small boxes for Kinder craft.**

# Victorian Attendance Legislation

In Victoria, it is compulsory for children and young people aged 6–17 years to attend school.

Parents are legally required to ensure their child (aged 6–17 years) attends school every day and to provide an explanation for their child's absence from school.

Evidence shows that daily school attendance is important for young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and developmentally. Young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health and employment outcomes and enjoy higher incomes.

The law provides a framework for school's attendance, exemptions and exceptions from attendance and parents' obligations relating to ensuring attendance. The rules are not in place to punish students' time away from school, which can be unavoidable. Instead, the laws are an effort to promote and improve student attendance across Victorian schools.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT A CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL

School attendance is mandated under the *Education Training and Reform Act 2006*. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians or anyone who has parental responsibility for a child to ensure the child attends school on a regular basis.

### HOW ATTENDANCE IS RECORDED BY SCHOOLS

Schools must record student attendance twice per day in primary schools and every period in secondary schools.

### 'POOR ATTENDANCE' FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

What is considered as "poor attendance" is determined on a case by case basis. However, under the legislation, if a student of compulsory school age is absent from school for five days within a school year and without a reasonable excuse, then further action can be taken, at the discretion of the principal.

### UNEXPLAINED OR UNAPPROVED ABSENCES

A principal can approve or not approve any absence, based on the requirements of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, an individual school policy or on a case-by-case basis.

*The Education and Training Reform Act 2006* provides some examples of what a reasonable excuse is for the purposes of explaining a school absence and includes, amongst other considerations:

- Illnesses and accidents;
- Unforeseen and unexplained circumstances;
- If the absence was a result of complying with another law;
- The child is receiving distance education through a registered school;
- The child is undertaking approved education, training and/or employment;
- The child has been suspended or expelled; and
- The child is attending or observing a religious event or obligation.

### Unexplained Absence:

A principal will record an absence as 'unexplained' if no explanation about the absence is given to the school by the parent or carer of the student.

If you do not contact the school to provide an explanation on the day of the student absence, the school must attempt to contact the parent or legal guardian either by phone or in writing and seek an clarification within three days of the recorded absence.

If no contact can be made with the parent or other carers of the child within 10 days, the absence will be recorded as an unexplained absence and a noted will be made in the child's file. A parent or legal guardian can contact the principal at any time after the recorded absence to provide an explanation.

### Unapproved Absence:

In general, a principal may record an absence as 'unapproved' when no reasonable explanation has been given for the student's absence. If a reason is given for a student absence is not approved by the principal than the school will notify the parent or legal guardian in writing.

## ACTION THAT WILL BE TAKEN IF YOUR CHILD REACHES FIVE DAYS OF UNAPPROVED OR UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE

If a child reaches five days of unapproved or unexplained absence in the preceding 12 months then the school and principal will work with the parent or legal guardian to implement the appropriate support or intervention to assist the child and ensure they attend school every day and remain at school during school hours. If the support and intervention do not improve your child's attendance, the principal may decide to make a referral to the School Attendance Officer. This person is the Regional Director of the Department's Regional Office where you are located.

## WHEN A REFERRAL IS MADE TO THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER

The School Attendance Officer will investigate the student absence records and may take one or all of the following steps depending on the circumstances.

Issue a School Attendance Notice

Issue an Official Warning

Issue an Infringement Notice

For more information on the School Attendance Officer, see: [School Attendance Officers](#).

# 2020 YEAR 7 Academic Advancement Program

Is your child a high achiever?  
Do they have the capacity to work at a significantly  
faster pace and depth than their peers?

Second round Expressions of Interest for  
2020 Year 7 Academic Advancement Program  
NOW OPEN

Please contact the College for further information



**WODONGA**  
**MIDDLE YEARS COLLEGE**

[www.wmyc.vic.edu.au](http://www.wmyc.vic.edu.au)

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**WODONGA SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGE**  
*Every Student, Every Opportunity, Success for All*

**ON SHOW**

**Wednesday  
August 7  
4.30pm - 6.30pm**

**Widest Range of Subjects • Information Sessions • College Tours**

Join storytime at Wodonga Senior Secondary College 'On Show' Wednesday, August 7, 4.30pm and 5.30pm in the College Library. Your child will be able to hear stories read by Senior College students as well as play with giant games spread out across the College. Start here, go anywhere.

**WODONGA INVITATIONAL**  
**2 NOVEMBER, 2019**  
**GATEWAY LAKES**



## REMINDERS



As the weather cools off please remember to clearly label jumpers and jackets to avoid them being lost.



Stephanie Alexander Kitchen payments are now overdue for term 3.

Students who have not paid cannot participate in the program until payment is made.