



LINK LETTER



25 June 2020

Lawrence Street, Wodonga, Victoria, 3690

Phone: (02) 6024 1188

Email: wodonga.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au

www.wodongawestps.vic.gov.au

Enrolments are welcome for all year levels, including Kinder for 2021

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be A Learner

Yard focus this fortnight: Including Others



Dear Parents and Carers,

School Council

I would like to announce that we have filled our School Council vacancies. As the number of nominations for all categories equalled the number of vacancies I would like to declare all nominees as elected members of School Council. I would like to congratulate the following people and look forward to working closely with you all as School Councillors. Parent Category: Lauren

Barber, Stephanie Grant and Janelle Fitzpatrick (all 2 years). Community (Kindergarten) Category: Kylie Whitsed (1 year). DET Category: Melissa Watson (2 years). Our next School Council Meeting will be on March 24th immediately following the Annual General Meeting beginning at 5pm. We will include a photo in the Linkletter of all our School Council Members after that meeting. I thank all these people, as well as the other School Councillors for their willingness to give up their time to attend meetings and sub-committee meetings, and for contributing and making decisions that help our school and Kindergarten to be great places for your children to develop and learn to the best of their ability.

At last night's School Council Meeting, 3 Kindergarten policies were passed as well as the School's Annual Implementation Plan was endorsed. This year our Annual Implementation Plan focuses on two main areas; trying to catch up students who were impacted by the Covid enforced school closures and who fell behind, as well as a whole school focus on Numeracy. Both these are huge pieces of work for our staff. We have implemented some additional tutoring beginning in the year 3 and 4 area. This will occur in small groups daily. In addition we have a number of other additional supports in place, particularly in the Reading sessions daily whereby our Specialist teachers also work with groups of children. We have also employed some additional Teacher Aides who do a fabulous job supporting a wide range of students in all classrooms.

Smile Squad

All students have recently been given a large envelope containing Smile Squad information and forms to be completed and returned to classroom teachers at school. This is a free dental service that will be visiting the school for two weeks in mid March. This service is provided once per year, so I strongly encourage you to get your forms back to school so that your child/ren accesses this service. Oral health is extremely important and determines a range future health outcomes as people age.

School Photo Day

School Photos will be taken on **Wednesday 3rd March**. Students have been provided with envelopes for families to choose the package they wish to order. These MUST be returned by or on photo day to classroom teachers. Our families always go to great lengths to have their children looking 'extra gorgeous' for school photos and we thank you very much. A reminder to be in full school uniform and to not be wearing bows/ headbands etc. that are not our school uniform colours.

Just Brass

A reminder to all Just Brass participants and their families, band practice will commence this afternoon at the Salvation Army Hall. Students will walk there with Jeremy after school, please ensure students are collected promptly at **5:30pm**.

Principal's Message

Continued



Student Safety

A reminder for families to speak to your children about the importance of coming straight into school grounds when dropped off of a morning. We have had a couple of instances where students linger or chat with others outside the school gate. Safety is always our priority. Once students enter the school grounds, they are not permitted to leave without permission.



Important Dates



1ST March	School Assembly
3rd March	Photo Day
5th March	Foundation Students day off
8th March	Labour Day– No School
24th March	School Council meeting + AGM

Permanent Care Program

Information for prospective permanent carers

[Could you be a permanent care parent?](#)

There are a number of children supported by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing who require a family for life as they are unable to live with their birth families. We are seeking committed and motivated people who would be interested in learning more about providing a permanent family for a child.

Assistance payments are made to the Permanent Care family to assist with the day to day expenses of caring for a child/ young person. Assistance payments are considered to be a reimbursement for expenses and not an earned income.

We are also keen to speak with families who are particularly interested in caring for children aged between 5 and 10 years.

Prospective permanent carers must attend a three-day training course. Our next training dates will be held on March 3rd, 10th and 17th 2021.

For further information regarding [Permanent Care](#) please visit our webpage <<https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/permanent-care>>.

Please contact the program to discuss your interest via [email](mailto:melanie.matthews@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <melanie.matthews@dhhs.vic.gov.au> or phone: (03) 5832 1552.



Wellbeing Report

Breakfast Packs

Anyone requiring a breakfast pack there are still a couple available. Please see Mrs Potter for details.

Canteen

Canteen will run the same as last year, on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at lunch time for snacks. A slushy or shaky shake cost \$2 everything else is less than this price. We have wonderful year 6 canteen helpers working in the canteen and I commend students who are already showing fantastic manners when lining up and waiting their turn.



School Leadership Council SLC

Congratulation to the following students who were elected by their peers as this year's SLC representatives

Lexie Peirce
Haley Waite
Jayliah Travers

Juliette Matthias
Deacan Martinelli-Walsh
Asish Basnet

Our newly elected members will receive their badges at our next assembly on Monday 1st March.

The students have already had their first meeting and will also announce their first fundraiser for 2021 at Monday's assembly. Parents will receive more details about this fundraiser in the next school newsletter.

Mrs Potter has received confirmation that that our SLC will be heading off to Wodonga Senior Secondary College on the 23rd March to participate in a Student Voice forum. This is a fantastic opportunity for our SLC to develop leadership skills and to take an active roll in supporting student voice at our school.



CHILD SAFE HOT TOPIC



Set yourself up for a year of healthy lunchboxes!

Fuelling our kids with the right stuff gives them a head start for both learning and long-term health. Check out Nutrition Australia's top three tips for lunchboxes in 2021.

1. Smart swaps

Make the switch from highly processed foods to healthier alternatives. It can be as simple as swapping white bread for wholegrain, chips for popcorn or fruit straps for a carrot. With a bit of planning and simple preparation, buying less processed foods can actually save you money and reduce packaging.

2. Fuel their day

Around a third of children's daily food intake is consumed at school. Kids who eat well are better fuelled to listen, learn and play. Including food from each of the five food groups will help children meet their nutritional needs and support their long-term health.

3. Safe and simple

No-one wants to eat a hot salad sandwich or a soggy, bruised banana. Keeping food safe and fresh between home and the school playground can have its challenges, especially during a hot Aussie summer. Be sure to keep lunchboxes cool using insulated bags and cool packs. Remember to keep it simple with a healthy snack, a piece of fruit or vegetable and an easy lunch dish. Even leftovers can be a hit.

With some trusty guides and recipes by your side you can stay in control of fantastic lunchboxes the whole year through. For more lunchbox inspiration, visit Nutrition Australia's Healthy Lunchbox Week website:

www.healthy lunchbox week.org.au





HOCKEY ROADSHOW

Students in Years 1/2 were fortunate to participate in the 'Hockey Victoria Roadshow' last week with guest presenters, Mrs Mitchell & Mrs Brown. Students learnt the different parts of the stick, how to dribble, push and stop the ball. If any students are interested in continuing in this exciting sport, there are free sessions on Thursdays for the next few weeks or register on wodongahockey@gmail.com if you want to play for the whole season.



DIVISION SWIMMING

Congratulations to Daphne Hoving, Wil Gavrilovic and Sharnaea Hall-Bidois, who represented Wodonga West in the Division Swimming Carnival last Friday. All students swam competitive times in the Freestyle events and gained from the experience. Wil was fortunate to come third in the 11 Years Backstroke and just missed out on representing our school at the Regional Swimming Carnival. Well Done!

Susan Macdonald

P.E. Coordinator



RESILIENCE RIGHTS & RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

THE EDUCATION STATE VICTORIA State Government Education and Training

RESILIENCE RIGHTS & RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

RESILIENCE RIGHTS & RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

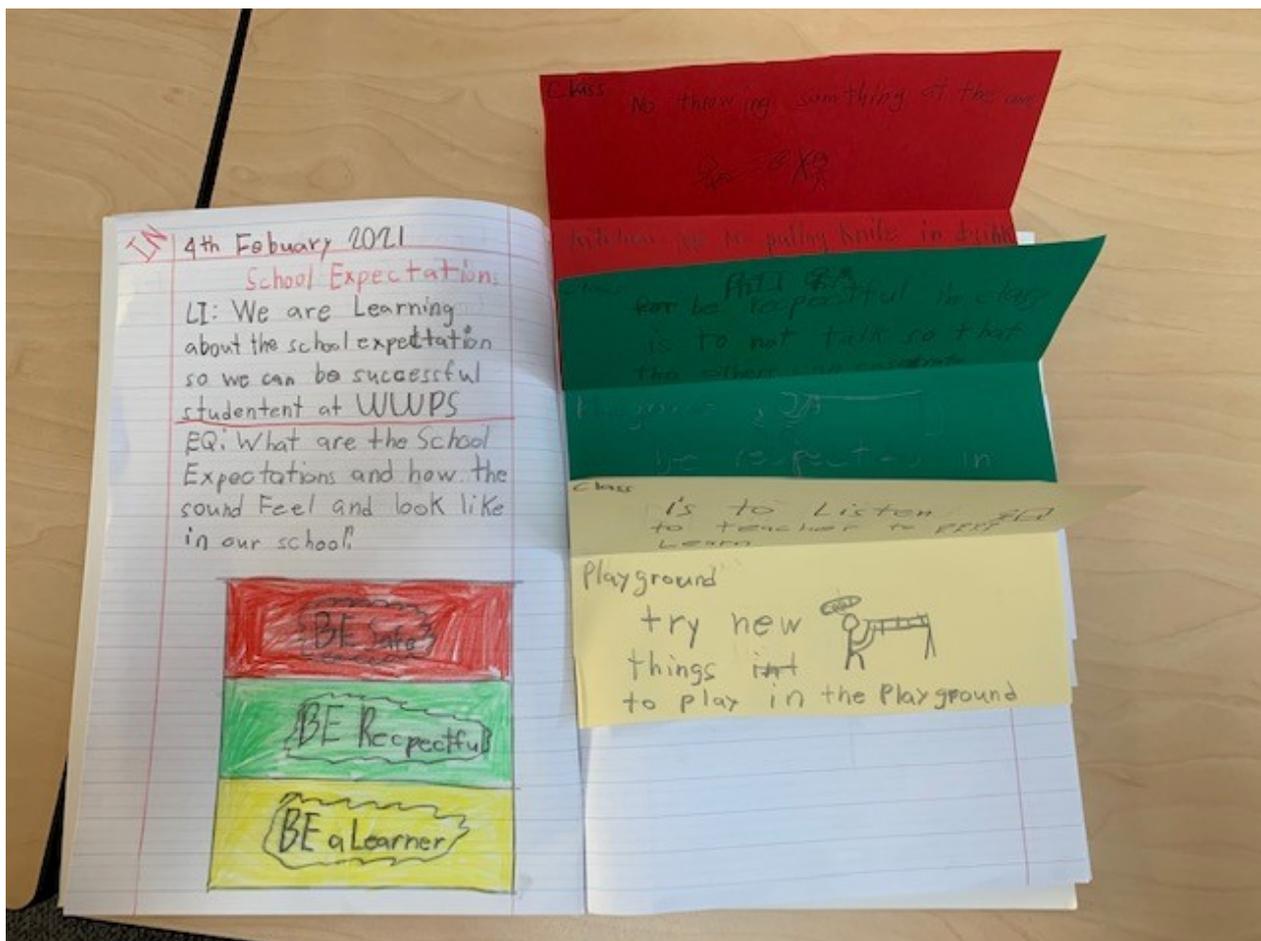
RESILIENCE RIGHTS & RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

As part of our **Respectful Relationships curriculum and our School Wide Positive Behaviour Culture**, we always start the year with all classes learning, reviewing and discussing our three school expectations: **Be Safe**, **Be Respectful** and **Be a Learner**.

The discussions are age appropriate and focus on what does it look like, sound like and feels like to be safe, respectful and a learner in different settings of our school.

At home you can reinforce the school expectations by:

- ⇒ Discussing with your child what does it mean to be safe respectful and a learner at Wodonga West Primary School.
- ⇒ You can also look at our 'Matrix' in the photo below and talk about the expectations in different setting at the school. You can see a copy of the matrix in the last Link letter.
- ⇒ As an extension you and your child can reflect of what do the expectations look like, sound like and feel like at home!



Gabriel Oshan's input and output notes where he reflects what our school expectations mean.



Kinder News

Welcome to another week in Kinder.

Last Tuesday we celebrated Pancake Day in the kinder. We cooked pancakes and of course ate them as well. The children learnt patience as they waited for them to cook. I think the best part of the experience for the children was eating them with a choice of topping of plain, butter or jam. YUM!!



Our library borrowing program has commenced for the year giving all children the opportunity to spend some time in the School Resources Centre/ Library. The children walk down to the library in small groups and are given the opportunity to choose a book to take home and share with their families. The Children are permitted to keep the book for one week, so please remember to bring your library book back to kinder every Tuesday, so your child can participate in this experience.

Just a reminder that if all parents could connect to Class Dojo, as we will be using this platform to share with you our daily reflections and the book of the day. Please see Kinder staff if you require assistance.

We are gratefully accepting donations of assorted clean jars to use in our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program.



You are invited to join Wodonga Council's Supported Playgroups

Supported Playgroups are free weekly group sessions with a trained facilitator. They are funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.

Responsive to the needs and interests of all eligible families, opportunities are provided for parents to:

- Develop the skills and confidence to support their children's learning and development.
- Learn about local services and meet other parents for emotional support and friendship.

The playgroups provide:

- ✓ Snack provided to encourage healthy eating habits.
- ✓ Opportunities to play with a large range of toys, art and craft activities.
- ✓ Help to improve children's readiness and transition to pre-school and school.
- ✓ A well structured environment with lots of activities to stimulate children's learning and imagination.
- ✓ Exposure to the English language and the chance to socialise with other families.
- ✓ *smalltalk*, a program designed to enhance the language and communication skills of your child through parent strategies and play.

Wodonga Playgroup details*:



Monday
9.30am to
11.30am

Wodonga West Children's
Centre, Kindergarten room,
230 Lawrence St, Wodonga

Tuesday
9.30am to
11.30am

Felltimber Community Centre,
Cnr Melrose Dr and Felltimber
Creek Rd, Wodonga

Thursday
9.30am to
11.30am

Belgrade Avenue Preschool,
12 Belgrade Avenue, Wodonga

Friday
9.30am to
11.30am

Koori First Steps Preschool,
44 Trudewind Rd, Wodonga



VICTORIA
State
Government

Health
and Human
Services



Learn **Chinese (Mandarin)*** | **French***
Hindi* | **Italian*** | **Japanese*** | **Punjabi*** | **Spanish***

FOUNDATION - YEAR 10

Other languages can be offered based on demand



VSL Wodonga Centre

Wodonga Middle Years College (Huon Campus)
22-24 Mitchell Street, Wodonga

Tuesdays 4.00pm-6.30pm

COST: Foundation-Year 10 \$80 per year

Please contact the Area Manager on
03 9474 0546 or country3@vsl.vic.edu.au

For further information or to enrol online, go to
www.vsl.vic.edu.au or scan the QR code.

All information correct at time of printing and is subject to change.

**Students can continue with select languages via VSL Distance Education.
For further information, please contact VSL Head Office on 03 9474 0500.*



Enrol Online



KIDS TICKETS ARE
FREE

Popping up in **Wodonga**

WILLOW PARK 25 MAR - 28 MAR

Featuring

bean beds, popcorn, snacks and a bar

Covid Safe Event

TIME: 7PM - 9PM



Tickets are limited and bookings essential
Cinemapopup.com.au



REMINDERS



Wearing a helmet is compulsory when riding a bike or scooter.

“NO HELMET NO RIDE”



Payments for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program in Term 1 are now overdue. Your child cannot participate until payment is made.



Students must wear a broad brimmed hat at school in Term 1. If you do not have a broad brimmed hat please see the office to purchase one for \$15.00.



Please remember that the school carpark is for the vehicles of staff, authorised parents/visitors and Disabled Permit holders only. This is not a drop off/pick up zone.



Our school uses Compass School Manager for ALL communication. If you require log in details, assistance or have any questions relating to Compass please see office staff.



If you use Facebook please like and follow our page to receive our updates and reminders