

LINK LETTER



6 May 2021

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Phone: (02) 6024 1188

www.wodongawestps.vic.gov.au

Enrolments are welcome for all year levels, including Kinder for 2021 & 2022

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

Yard focus this fortnight: Including Others



Dear Parents / Carers,

This week we welcomed Mrs Kellie Wright who will be working in the front office replacing Jess De Koeyer who will be commencing her Family Leave next Thursday. We wish Jess and Matt all the very best with the birth of their second child and sibling for big brother Billy. Congratulations and hope everything goes well for you all. Speaking of babies, Mrs Connors gave birth to a healthy baby boy (Liam) during the last holiday break. They are all doing fine.

The month of May is a particularly busy month for us with lots on the calendar. The main things we are planning for are NAPLAN testing for year 3 and 5 students as well as Education Week and tours of our school.

Education Week

This year we will celebrate **Education Week from Sunday 23rd May to Friday 28th May**. We will be conducting tours of our school and Kindergarten on the following dates and times:

Sunday 23rd May at 11.30am and 12.15pm

Tuesday 25th May at 9.30am and 12.30pm

Thursday 27th May at 9.30am and 12.30 pm

Other tours are possible by phoning the school to make a suitable time.

Please inform any new potential families who might be looking to enrol their child in school or Kinder for 2022.

SCHOOL & KINDER WORKING BEE

On Saturday 22nd May we are holding a School Working Bee from 9 am until midday. We are asking for our Parent community to come along for an hour or two to assist with a range of chores around our school grounds. School Working Bees are only held twice per year at Wodonga West. We ask that parents / carers bring along their own tools such as gloves and garden tools. Some of our staff attend but we really need assistance from our parent community. Many hands make light work. Let's see if we can tick off all the jobs in the Garden with the assistance of a large crew of helpers. It is really rewarding to see what has been achieved across the morning. We are wanting our school and Kindergarten to look its' best for Education Week and any school tours.

NAPLAN TESTING

Next week, our year 3 and 5 students will be involved in NAPLAN Testing. NAPLAN is an acronym for National Assessment Program of Language and Numeracy. The testing is done over three days in very strict conditions which the students are not particularly familiar with. The tests are marked off site by specially trained assessors (the school does not do any of the marking).

Once all that has been completed, the school receives a report on each individual child, and all parents / carers will also receive a report on their child which shows where their child 'sits' in relation to all students across the nation in each of the areas tested. This will take some time to come back – usually in August.

Staff use NAPLAN Tests as only one form of information that they use to make judgements about their students. Good teachers use a range of assessments to make a balanced judgement for student reporting purposes.



Important Dates

Saturday 22nd May Working Bee

Sunday 23rd– 28th May Education Week

EARLY COLLECTION OF STUDENTS

It is becoming a real issue with the number of parents/carers who are coming to the school to collect their child/ren early (usually during the last hour of the school day. This is causing a great deal of disruption to everyone's learning, and those children being collected early to go HOME are missing vital parts of their own learning. We understand that there are sometimes a valid reason for this such as an appointment, but just going home early is not a valid reason for any child to miss out on their learning. From now, we will no longer be calling any students to the office with their bags. Students being collected early will need to be signed out at the office. A collection slip will need to be completed and parents / carers will need to visit classrooms to collect their child/ren. This will stop the announcements across the school which are becoming increasingly annoying to teachers and students in classrooms.

MOTHERS' DAY

I am hoping all our Mothers have a lovely Mothers' Day on Sunday and get at least a little bit spoilt. I would like to mention that our wonderful PFF put a lot of time and effort into organising the Raffle and the Mothers' Day Stall which offered such a large choice of lovely gifts at very reasonable prices. I know the students had fun choosing their gifts to take home. Thank you to our families for selling / buying the raffle tickets – the PFF worked very hard to obtain terrific prizes donated by local businesses. We are lucky having the support of local businesses which we rely upon for raffle donations.

Regards,
Jocelyn Owen
Principal



PFF President Chandra Burns and

Vice President Amanda Guy



Happy customers at the Mother's Day stall



On Sunday the 25th April 2021 Rhon Evangelista and Juliette Matthias laid a wreath on behalf of the Wodonga West Children's Centre community.

Because of COVID regulations it was Service and not a march. Our students were very respectful and courteous and they felt honoured to be a part of the ceremony. Rhon and Juliette are a credit to our school and also to their parents. I was very proud of them.

Back at school, Students in 12H worked on some ANZAC day commemorative artwork.





Wellbeing Report

Studio West

Studio West will be operating in the child care building on Fridays at lunch time starting next Friday and running for the rest of the term. I hope you will come along and enjoy being pampered by our wonderful Studio West Staff.

We will be offering hand massages, back massages, foot soaks and mini face massages

All services will be free – no charge ☺



Parent & Relationship Education Programs and Parenting Support –Term 2, 2021

(bookings essential for all programs)

Program	Venue	Date	Time	Phone:
Positive Parenting Telephone Service (PPTS)	Free call telephone service	Ongoing	day & evening appointments	1800 880 660
WODONGA				
Tuning in to Kids Emotionally intelligent parenting (2-10 years)	Gateway Health Room F11a and F11b 155 High St, Wodonga	Fridays 21st May to 18th June 2021	10am - 12pm	Intake Team (02) 6022 8888
Tuning in to Teens Emotionally intelligent parenting (10+ years)	Gateway Health Kitchen Dining (Facing High St) 155 High St, Wodonga	Wednesdays 19th May to 23rd June 2021	10am to 12pm	
Parenting Trans and Gender Diverse Kids and Teens	Gateway Health Room F11a and F11b 155 High St, Wodonga	Wednesdays 5th May to 9th June 2021	6pm to 8pm	
Mother Goose (0-2 years)	Gateway Health Room F11b 155 High St, Wodonga	Wednesdays 21st April to 23rd June 2021	10:30am -11:30am	
YACKANDANDAH				
Tuning in to Kids Emotionally intelligent parenting (2-10 years)	Yackandandah Kinder 30 Isaacs Ave Yackandandah	Mondays 10th May to 7th June 2021	5:30pm to 7:30pm	Yack Kinder (02) 6027 1560
Individual Parenting Support - WANGARATTA				
Individual Parenting Support—Wangaratta Based	Gateway Health 45-47 Mackay Street Wangaratta Vic 3677	By Appointment Only Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	Business Hours	Intake Team (03) 5723 2000

Please note that registrations for group programs is essential as spots are limited due to Covid-19 safety protocols. Please contact our intake team on (02) 6022 8888 for any questions or to register your interest.



Tuning into Kids

A 5 week face-to-face program for parents/carers of children 2-10 years of age that helps you tune into your children's emotions and manage their behaviour.

Learn about:

- "Emotion coaching" - helping children to understand and regulate their emotions.
- Responding to your children's individual needs in ways that suit the child and the family.
- Problem solving and managing strong feelings.
- Using children's emotional experiences as an opportunity for connection and teaching.



Wodonga West
Primary School
Childcare Building

**Time: 2.30pm to
3.15pm**



Fridays
14th May to 11th June
2021

What do I pay?

FREE



Bookings Essential

To book or ask a question contact

Melissa Potter

Ph: (02) 6024 1166

CHILD SAFE HOT TOPIC

Child safe hot topic 1: Talking to your child about Consent.

Giving our children the right messages about Consent is an important life lesson that starts when they are young. It is important to ensure that everyone gives positive messages about consent to young people. Below are some helpful tips about starting the conversation with our children.

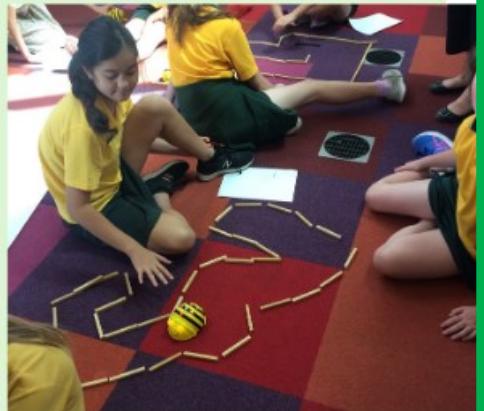
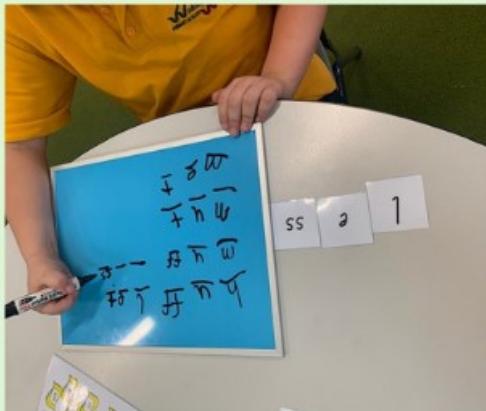
1. If your children are young, encourage them to ask for permission before showing physical affection—"Let's ask Sarah if she wants a hug right now." Also encourage your children to ask permission of adults outside their immediate family if they can initiate a hug and help them understand that sometimes people may not feel ok about physical contact and that they need to respect others feelings.
2. Teach your children bodily autonomy: the concept that an individual has control over what happens to their body, including who gets to touch it. **Respect your kids' wishes when it comes to hugging, kissing, cuddling, and tickling.** The only exceptions are in matters of safety; for example, if a child needs to be restrained from hurting themselves or others. The big example here is that they aren't "forced" to hug and kiss anyone, even grandma. Children should get to choose their level of contact based on their level of comfort.
3. Teach your children to respect the power of the word "no," that when someone tells them to stop doing something, they need to immediately cease their behaviour. Encourage them to *say no*, as well, and continue saying it, loud and clear. If their friend doesn't honour their "no," tell them that it's okay to not want to spend time with that person anymore and to move away.
4. Talk with your child about the importance of "gut feelings." Explain that sometimes, we feel weird inside when we sense that a person or situation isn't right, even if we can't really say why. Tell them they should always listen to that inner voice, that as human beings, our brains are wired that way in order to protect us from danger. Emphasize that they should respect their instincts and seek help if needed.

Adapted from <https://www.healthline.com/health/parenting/consent-at-every-age> & <https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/5-ways-to-teach-your-children-about-consent/>



EDUCATION WEEK

SUNDAY 23RD - FRIDAY 28TH MAY



2022 Kindergarten and Foundation enrolment places available.

Contact the school to join in a tour:
Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am or 12.30pm

Do you hold a concession card?

If you hold an eligible Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card you are able to bring this in and complete an application for CSEF funding which is an amount of money that helps families cover the cost of some of the user pay items on your charges list. This includes sports levy, swimming, cultural events, excursions and camps.



If you require a **FREE** breakfast pack,
please see
Mrs Potter

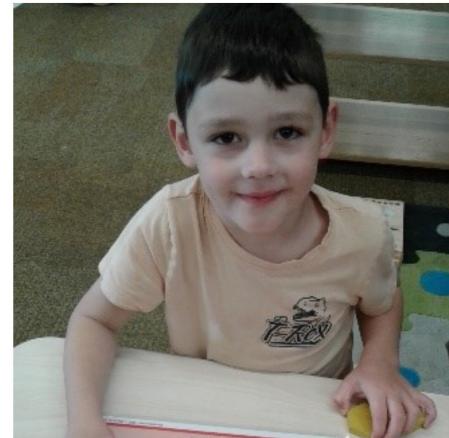




Kinder Week 3, Term 2

The children have started to learn to write their names. We have introduced name tracing cards to our writing area giving the children the opportunity to continue to work on learning to write their names. The children's names are written in the victorian cursive script, which is the style of writing they will learn when they attend primary school. When children learn to write their name it is important to teach them using a capital letter for the first letter of their name followed by lowercase letters. Helping your children to practice writing their names at home in this format will help them learn to write their name independently.

We have been using our tangram pattern blocks to copy the pictures on the template cards. The children have been very busy working on these cards while having a chat to their friends sitting next to them. This activity helps teach children about spatial relationships. It also assists children to learn geometric terms, sort and classify shapes and develop stronger problem solving abilities.



Temporary closures of Wodonga Store

Please be advised that due to staffing concerns, our Wodonga retail store will be closing on certain dates in the coming weeks. Our store will be closed on the following dates:

- **Monday 10th of May**
- **Thursday 13th of May**
- **Thursday 20th of May**

Guess who is coming to Wodonga West Children's Centre.....

We are very happy to announce that soon we will have a therapy dog in our school!



Research suggests that Therapy dogs can help to:

- reduce stress,
- build connectedness
- contribute to creating a calm environment
- teach about empathy
- develop social skills
- teach responsibility

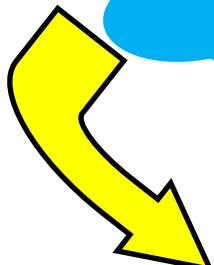
Therapy dogs and Service dogs are both very helpful but are very different.

Service Dogs are trained to only focus on their owner and ignore everyone else.

In contrast, Therapy Dogs main focus is to interact and respond to people in their environment under the guidance of a handler.

We are currently working with our Therapy dog and we are hoping he will be ready to come to school sometime during weeks 6 or seven of this term.

*Watch this space for more
information about our
ME in the coming weeks!*





TheirCare
where kids love to be!

Amazing Before + After School Care Programs

Wodonga West Primary School



About the program

TheirCare provides a stimulating and safe environment for all children and an environment where children come and enjoy their time in their program. During sessions children develop life skills, friendships, confidence and creativity through play.

Wodonga West Primary School has partnered with **TheirCare** to provide quality care, flexibility and commitment to deliver on our promise to your school community.

Operation Times	Fees	Out of Pocket	Average^
Before School Care	\$15.05	\$2.26 - \$15.05	\$2.41
After School Care	\$18.17	\$2.73 - \$18.17	\$2.91
Pupil Free Day	\$51.90	\$7.79 - \$51.90	\$8.30
Late Booking Cancellation Fee	Within 48 hours	\$5.00	\$5.00
Cancellation Fee	Same Day	Full Fee	See BSC/ASC

Service Phone Number: **0447 007 044** Your service coordinator will be available during session times. TheirCare support is available during office hours if required on 1300 072 410

How to Enrol

Visit TheirCare website: www.theircare.com.au and click on 'Book Now' in the top right hand corner to register your child's details.

*Standard fees excluding incursion / excursion costs

[^]Based on ABS published average family income for the suburb the school is located

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 2 are now due. Your child cannot participate until payment is made.



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



No dogs allowed on school grounds