



From The Principals' Desk

Dear Families,

Staff Training day (Pupil-free day) – Respectful Relationships

While schools across Victoria have been teaching respectful relationships in their curriculum for many years, the Department of Education and Training's new mandated Respectful Relationships program (RR) will strengthen the capacity of all schools to do this. The program was developed as a direct result of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence and it fits within the mandatory Child Safe Standards that all Victorian Schools must demonstrate. Like our Child Wise Program which was introduced at Willy last year, the RR program will complement this work as it supports schools to promote and model respect, positive attitudes and behaviours, teaching our children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence.

The term 'Respectful Relationships' has a very specific meaning however – the building and promotion of gender equity in relationships and the challenging of gender stereotypes. RR is also about tackling family violence through education. This is seen as being key to the prevention of family violence in the long-term. All Victorian schools are being supported to implement a whole school approach which will include looking at school's practices and policies related to gender as well as the curriculum presented to students.

We know the best relationships are respectful ones. Respect has been part of the culture at Willy Primary for a long time, developed and actively promoted via the Willy Kids (WKs) program. It makes sense therefore, that at our school, we teach this content within this successful framework. In term three of this year, the Willy Kids program will be reviewed to ensure that it presents the best, most relevant and current curriculum content to our students. We anticipate that subtle changes to the overarching themes and topics will guarantee that as an approach to building school-wide positive behaviour, the revised WKs program will encompass and promote skills, competencies and behaviours relevant to our learners and leaders within our society today. Yesterday all staff, teachers and educational support, worked through a training unit that will help them identify and respond to incidences of family violence and they spent time investigating the teaching materials which have been developed for students across all year levels – Prep to Year 12. We will share more detail about this aspect of the learning program with you throughout its initial implementation period, commencing shortly.

For more information, please visit the DET's website:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/respectfulrelationships.aspx>

This Thursday May 10th, we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day with our annual Mother's Day Stall. The children are encouraged to come along with some money to purchase a gift for Mum or a special woman in their world. We thank Cheryl Forbes for her coordination again this year and all our Class Reps for their support! Thank you! We do hope our prep families enjoy their Mother's Day (special woman's day) afternoon tea on Friday too! All the best!

Have a great week,

Regards,

Andrea and Mat

Dates To Remember

Dates to remember:

Term 2

Week 4- 7.05.18

- *Mon: Curriculum Day*
- *Tues: District Cross Country & Prep 2019 Tour 9.30am*
- *Thurs: Mother's Day Stall & Prep 2019 Tour 9.30am*

Week 5- 14.05.18

- *Mon: Prep 2019 Tour 2.30pm*
- *Tues-Thurs: NAPLAN*
- *Fri: Walk Safely To School Day*

Week 7- 28.05.18

- *Tues: NSW Science Comp*
- *Weds: Divisional Cross Country*

Week 9- 11.06.18

- *Mon: Queens B' day Public Holiday*

Week 10- 18.06.18

- *Fri: AFL Girls Comp, Reports go live*

Week 11 25.06.18

- *Tues: Student Learning Conferences 1:30pm -*
- *Fri: End of Term 2, early dismissal*