



From The Principals' Desk

Dear Families,

We hope all our Willy Dads (and significant others) enjoyed a wonderful day on Sunday. We know there were great secrets and surprises being planned, with children plotting hidey-holes for the little treasures they made in class or purchased from the Father's Day stall. For those who were able to join in with the Prep Father's Day morning tea, thank you. We hope everyone was feeling loved, valued and a little spoiled wherever they were.

Once again, our congratulations and thanks are extended to the Friends of Willy who ensured the Father's Day stall was a big hit again this year. We appreciate the many hours it takes to make and source these gifts, and we enjoy seeing the extra care you exercise in helping the kids select the perfect surprise for their Dad. Thank you all. This year, the team raised \$2315.56 and once again we had many happy shoppers!

This week is National eSmart Week – September 2 - 9

Throughout the week you will be hearing quite a bit about National eSmart Week where communities come together to encourage everyone to be smart, safe and responsible when using digital technology. The week aims to create awareness, solutions and ideas for community education on issues of cyber safety, bullying and wellbeing online, and offline. The week correlates with National Child Protection Week and is an initiative developed by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. We hope every parent will support this agenda and discuss the issues of eSafety with their children. You may like to take this online [eSafety quiz](#) together to start the conversation..

Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge

Thank you for supporting your children this year in the **Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge**. We have been so impressed by the number of children who have taken this on and the fact that at present, we have seven entire classes all done and dusted! We remind everyone that reading records are to be updated and finalized ASAP, as the challenge ends this Friday! Following this, all records will be verified and a report will be sent through to Challenge headquarters so certificates can be issued to every participant. Many thanks!

Dogs at School

Last week we wrote about recent discussions at school council about Dogs at School. This was raised at our August meeting due to increased student safety and wellbeing concerns. Williamstown is very much a dog community and like with so many other things, we play a very important role in educating children and families about how to enjoy this, as well as keep safe.

We extend our great thank to you all for duly considering these issues. We have noticed since sharing our last news feed that the number of dogs left unattended and near gates has reduced somewhat. This is greatly appreciated as at the end of the day we are looking for happy and safe learners. School Council is currently drafting a *Dogs at School* policy which we will share with you over the next few weeks. However, in the meantime, we continue these messages about our shared responsibility for students' safety and wellbeing:

- As a school, we must fulfil an exceptional duty of care for the safety and wellbeing of every child. Creating a safe and happy environment is necessary so that all children are in the right space to learn.
- Many families enjoy walking their child to school and use this time to also walk their family dog. This number has increased in recent times.
- Whilst many families are dog owners, some Willy Kids, are 'animal shy' and become fearful and anxious when dogs are near.
- The school often runs programs about Responsible Pet Education and keeping safe.

- Dogs feel safer when their owner is present. We strongly encourage all dog owners to ensure their dog is accompanied at all times. This message is supported by the RSPCA.
- Even the friendliest dogs can become distressed or fearful and react in an atypical way. This is not confined to particular breeds.
- Dogs are not permitted to be in the school grounds at any time even when their owner is with them.
- Upon seeing even the cuddliest and most friendly dog, all children, in fact everyone, should always seek the owners' permission before approaching an animal.
- We ask that dogs are always on a leash and kept well away from the school gates, enabling easy access for all students and families.
- If an incident did occur, the onus will be on the owner.
- We have learned that the Hobsons Bay Council has Bylaws in place about the responsibilities of owners.

Vale

The Williamstown Community was very saddened to learn of the passing of Mark Richardson, quite suddenly, at home last Wednesday. Mark was a long-standing teacher at Willy, who arrived in the late nineties and retired in 2013. Mark was both a classroom teacher and a specialist teacher. Mark ensured Willy Primary was renowned for its progressive ICT, now digital learning program. This was a space he was particularly passionate about and he worked tirelessly to forge strong partnerships with external agencies to ensure we were well positioned for this work.

Mark was a friendly, supportive and a wonderful BIG Willy Kid. He will be missed by many.

Reminders / Notes:

- We have now received the **2018 NAPLAN results**. These are being prepared for distribution to you. We hope to have these out to parents of Year 3 and 5 students on Tuesday.
- Don't forget that **Friday is Pyjama Day at WPS**. This initiative has been driven by our Student Leaders who are raising awareness and funds for the **Kids Helpline**. In Australia, the Kids Helpline is the only free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people age 5 to 25. Their motto is Any reason. Any time. In ational Child Protection Week, this is a very important message for our children to be sharing with others. Willy Kids are invited to come dressed in their PJs on Friday for the onation of a gold coin.
- **Prep Swimming** continues this week. The children are doing a great job both in the water and out. Learning to swim is important for every child and most particularly for children who live so close to the beach! The program however not only builds swimming capabilities and aqua safety, it is also good for the building of independence and organisation in the change rooms. We extend our thanks to the Prep families, particularly those in Prep J and B whose children have been arriving back to school just after the bell. We know this is an inconvenience and one we are trying to avoid for the future.
- Many Willy Primary staff have recently signed up for **Steptember**, a walking challenge which aims to raise money for Cerebral Palsy. You may like to sign up yourselves or contribute to our cause at www.steptember.org.au Please speak to Ella if you would like to know more.
- Our school canteen now has a brand new oven and fridge and we are eagerly anticipating some new home baked items on the menu. Additionally, the canteen service provider is working with the school to set up QKR, an online ordering system for your convenience. More info to follow.
- Parents must contact the school to inform us of their child's absence ASAP. An automated text message will now be sent to families on the same day their child is absent, via the Compass app.

We are beginning to experience the Spring sunshine, so enjoy the week ahead.

Mat and Andrea

Dates to Remember

Dates to remember: Term 3-

Week 8- 03.09.18 National eSmart Week!

Mon-Fri: **Prep Swimming** Program

Tues: Yr. 1 Celebration Picnic

Wed: Yr. 3 / 4 Community Environmental Excursion

Fri: Junior School Council (JSC) Pajama Day Dress-Up fundraiser
Gold Coin donation goes to Kids Help Line

Week 9- 10.09.18

Mon-Fri: Year 3/4 **Zoo Snoozes (Camp program)**

Tues & Wed: Prep – Don't Move Puppet theatre incursion

Wed: **Kids Share Open Afternoon (3:30-4:00pm)** – come along and see what your child has been learning this term.

Week 10- 17.09.18

Mon-Wed Year 3 / 4 Zoo Snoozes

Tues: **School council meeting** 6:30pm

Wed: Year 2 Sleepover at school!

Thur: Senior Music Concert (Years 3 – 6)

Fri: **Footy Day!** – Wear your team's colours!
End of Term 3, early dismissal @ 2:30pm