



## **From The Principals Desk**

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### **WILLY KIDS**

2018 saw our school staff review our highly regarded and successful *Willy Kids* program. The result of this review has meant a few small but critical changes to the program's emphasis in order for us to ensure we are enacting **our school's Vision and Purpose:**

***To provide all students with an education to succeed in a complex, changing world.***

***Students will develop to be responsible, happy, resilient and socially adept.***

***They will exhibit the qualities of successful learners who are confident and creative and who will become active and informed citizens.***

Designed and initially implemented in 1994, it was a whole school social skills program implemented to support our students' positive social behaviour. The four key areas of focus were: COURTESY, RESPECT, CO-OPERATION and RESPONSIBILITY. It became the cornerstone of all we do at Willy and as a school community we want to ensure that this intention continues to be relevant and authentic for every Willy Kid in 2019. To this end, the content has been enhanced so that the program continues to emphasise the traits and qualities of 'all-round, great kids' whilst also developing the assets, skills and capabilities identified as necessary for today's kids' overall wellbeing and success in learning and life.

**The new four pillars of the Willy Kids program from 2019 are now:**

**LEARNING**

**RESPECT**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**RESILIENCE**

Aligning well with our whole school unit '*Learning to Learn; Learning to Be*', the Willy Kids pillar or topic in term one is LEARNING. Students will explore the following key statements across each fortnight:

**Willy Kids are Ready to Learn**

**Willy Kids Wonder**

**Willy Kids are Problem Solvers**

**Willy Kids have a Growth mindset**

**Willy Kids are Reflective**

The 'program' (which really is so much more than just another program) will continue to underpin every decision we make at Williamstown Primary. A 'Willy Kid' is a proper noun, adjective and a verb, for it is what our students identify themselves as the moment they step through our gates. For every one of our students, past and present, this is a lifelong identification and we are proud to say, "Once a Willy Kid, always a Willy Kid!"

Please refer to the Compass Post dedicated to Willy Kids which will provide you with the details you need to help support and share the learning content of Willy Kids.

**Whole School review:** This year at Willy, we are working through the final year of our current School Strategic Plan (2016-2019). This effectively means we are ensuring the completion of all the work we prioritised for the past four years and additionally, we will also engage in an internal and external review of our performance during the past four years. Undertaking this evaluation, involves measuring our success according to the goals and targets we set out to achieve, as well as assessing our school's performance against DET identified 'similar schools' across Victoria. Through various forums, all key groups within our school community, that is staff, students and parents, will have the opportunity to provide input into the school's self-evaluation.

The review looks at the main areas of school performance; student learning, student well-being, student engagement. It involves us looking closely at the performance data derived from a range of sources including: achievement data such as NAPLAN, the Staff Organisational Health survey and the Parent Opinion Survey.

Through this process we will gain a far deeper understanding of what we are doing well and what we need to improve. The self-evaluation will celebrate our achievements and identify our school's next level of work. This will then translate into the next School Strategic Plan for the period of 2020-2023.

We will keep you informed about our progress and the opportunities you will have to contribute to the process.

## School council elections

On Monday the School Council Election process will begin at WPS with the calling for nominations for both Parent representatives and DET representatives. School councils play a key role in Victorian government schools, and being a member of the school council is a rewarding and challenging experience. Acting as a team, the school council supports the Principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students. As Principal, I find the work of school council to be rich, dynamic and invaluablely supportive as we challenge one another to strive for school improvement at all levels. We have 8 to 10 meetings throughout the year and which take place on Tuesday evenings, commencing at 6:30pm.

School councils make decisions that set the direction of the school. Every member of the council is also part of a school council sub-committee which contributes to key areas of the school including the Buildings and Grounds, Education / Policy and Finance.

The work of the school council collective is to:

- contribute to the school strategic plan
- help create and check the school's budget
- make decisions on policies like investments, payments by parents, dress code.

**The election process will take place throughout Feb - March. The first school council meeting for the new team will take place on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>.**

For more information please visit: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/get-involved-at-school.aspx>

## Meet the teacher evenings

We thank all our families who were able to join us for our 'Meet the teacher' session on Tuesday. More time slots are available for this coming Tuesday February 19th. We really appreciate this time as your valuable information and insights about your child greatly helps teachers during this getting to know you stage of the year.

## Appointment of 2019 Student Leaders

Over the past two weeks, we have been thrilled to witness the number of Willy Kids who have put up their hand and nominated for a Student Leader role. Many students, from every class across Prep to Year 6 have demonstrated wonderful leadership potential, approaching the task of writing and delivering a candidate's speech with insight and maturity.

Leadership is instilled in all of us and often only equated with a title or badge. At Williamstown we actively promote leadership qualities in **every** student, highlighting everyday opportunities for these to shine through. We congratulate everyone who recently nominated for a Leadership position at Willy Primary in 2019 and know that whether they were successful in attaining the role or not, we have many leaders in the making across the school!

Having said this, we are pleased to congratulate the following students who will take up an official position of leadership this year:

### HOUSE LEADERS

#### NELSON

**Captains:** Evie Karakiozakis and Liam Knight

**Vice Captains:** Heidi Fehring and Ed Powick

#### FERGUSON

**Captains** Sam Castine and Charlotte Miller

**Vice Captains:** Christopher Iacovou and Hanna Terolli

#### REID

**Captains:** Charlie Macleod and Ella Macleod

**Vice Captains:** Zanya Fletcher and Isaac Gawne

#### GEM

**Captains:** Gus Mee and Beth Braz

**Vice Captains:** Oskar Ainsworth and Kaitlin Muftar

### JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

Prep D Alessandra Jones	3/4 E	Farris Driver
Prep J Flynn Gardner	3/4 H	Chanel Maamary
Prep L Curtis Round	3/4 K	Nikhil Suresh
Prep C Boyd McLeod	3/4 S	Nitya Suresh
1A Henry Cannon	3/4 C	Alyssa Wilkinson
1R Zara Holmes	3/4 W	Lenox Essman

1T Molly Firth	56 B Connor Gostencnik
2A Hugo Devine	5/6 D James Palser
2S Freya de Silva	5/6 H Ellen Barker
2T Quincy Keegan	5/6 K Callum Patel
	5/6 L Sophia Neville
	5/6 M Sienna McPhee

We thank our House Leaders for their great efforts yesterday at their first official meet. The **House Swimming Carnival** was held at the Williamstown SLSC. It was a great day with plenty of atmosphere and fun events for maximum participation by swimmers and non-swimmers alike. Our thanks go to Paddy Gallivan, P.E. teacher, who organised the day with a good load of support from the 5/6 and 3/4 staff. All the feedback we have had has been very positive. We now look forward to hearing more about the swim teams who will go on and represent us, but for now we say well done all! Congratulations on a wonderful day.

For the families of our year 1s and 2s, please don't forget that next week the students commence their two week swimming program. We hope this goes well for them all!

Warm regards  
Andrea and Mat

## Dates to Remember

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TERM 1					
February:					with families
WEEK 4				WEEK 9	
Monday	18.02- 01.03	Year 1 and 2 Swimming Program commences		Wednesday	27.03- Kids Share Open Afternoon in classrooms (3:30pm-4:00pm)
Tuesday	19.02	School Council Meeting 6:30pm		Friday	29.03- Interim Student reports posted on Compass
Tuesday	19.02	'Meet the teacher' sessions		WEEK 10	
Wednesday	20.02	Prep rest day / Prep Entry Assessment		Friday	05.04- Easter hat Parade 9:30am
WEEK 5				Friday	05.04- End Term one 2:30pm dismissal
Monday	25.02	'Helping in the Classroom' at Willy – parent session 9:15 – 11:00am		Friday December 21st	End of school year - Dismissal @ 1:30pm
Tuesday	26.02	Seaside fair meeting 7:00pm			
Wednesday	27.02	Prep rest day / Prep Entry Assessment			
Thursday	28.02	Friends of Willy – Prep Families Welcome Picnic 5:00 – 7:00pm			
March:					
Friday	01.03	Schools' Clean-Up Day			
WEEK 6					
Monday	04.03	Preps here fulltime this week			
Tuesday	05.03	Friends of Willy Meeting 7:00pm			
Tuesday	05.03	District Swimming Carnival			
WEEK 7					
Monday	11.03	Labour Day Public holiday			
Friday	15.03	National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence			
Thursday	14.03	Divisional Swimming Carnival			
WEEK 8					
Monday	18.03- 21.03	Life Education Van (Prep-2)			
Tuesday	19.03	School Council meeting 6:30pm			
Friday	23.03	Interim reports (Term 1) shared			

