



## From The Principals Desk

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Dear Families,

### Year 1 and 2 Swimming

Monday saw our Year 1s and 2s commence their warm water swimming program. This year we have changed venues and taken a position at the nearby BeFit in Mason Street, Newport. After the challenges of the first few days, when the kids were over the top excited and the swimming staff were sorting ability groups, and the teachers were drilling the dressing routines, we are pleased to say that things have settled into a more regular routine. To the families who were able to come along to watch their children, we are very appreciative of your measured assessments and willingness to give the pool staff the time and space to get organised. To the kids, we congratulate them on their growing independence and self-management as they work hard to gather up all their gear to keep from losing stuff! After a break over the weekend, we're sure the children will be looking forward to next week's program!

**School review:** As mentioned last week, this year at Willy, we are working through the final year of our current School Strategic Plan (2016-2019). During this year, we will also engage in an internal and external review of our school's performance during the past four years in relation 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. Through this process we will gain a far deeper understanding of what we are doing well and what we need to improve. As a community we hope to celebrate our achievements we identify and then pinpoint the key areas for improvement, that is, our school's next level of work. This will then translate into the next School Strategic Plan for the period of 2020-2023.

On Monday we will be commencing the first of a number of student forums, we have planned for this term. The aim is to have an open discussion with students about their learning at Williamstown. We want to capture the voices and thoughts of the children and then use this feedback as catalyst for further teaching and learning improvement. As a starting point, we have invited new Willy Kids in years 3-6 to join us for a light lunch and to bring along a friend. It will be interesting to see how this goes and we'll look forward to sharing our learnings with you.

### Parent Participation at Willy!

Our **Friends of Willy (FOW) parent and volunteers team** are about to hit the ground running. Next Tuesday, the 2019 Seaside Fair committee will be meeting and on Thursday, the first FOW event, specifically for our new prep families will take place as we welcome them all to join us at a family picnic /BBQ. This will be a relaxed and casual event where we hope families will enjoy the opportunity to meet or catch up with new classmates and friends. An information flyer with details and an RSVP has been sent home. We hope to see as many families there as possible.

At Williamstown Primary there are many ways to assist as a parent. We invite you to join us **at our first FOW meeting for the year on Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>**, to check out the fun and fundraising plans for the year and how you can get involved.

Throughout the year, specific events are organised in order to raise funds for the school. Whilst schools receive some funds from the government, projects such as grounds upgrades, new, large equipment items, are up to the school to fund. We rely upon locally raised funds in order to meet many over and above costs.

We welcome you all! It is a great way to hear what's planned, get involved (if you want), or simply meet new people.

**We would love to see as many of you as possible on Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the staffroom.** Thank you.

### Other notes and reminders:

- **Nominations are now being called for 5 parent representatives to join our 2019 school council. Self-nomination forms can be collected from the school office and are due back by 4:00pm on Monday!**
- A note from the canteen: **SUSHI orders** can now be made for **WEDNESDAYS**. 😊
- **Willy Kids are Sun Smart Kids! No hat, No Play! Remember to SLIP! SLOP! SLAP! SLIDE! And SEEK!** Please don't be disappointed if children miss key events because they do not have a school hat to wear. We need to help children build their responsibility around this.

- Our staffroom and the male staff toilets are now back in order after new floor covering has been laid following our bathroom flooding over the holidays. We thank all our staff for enduring the noise and disruption during this time.
- Year 5 and 6 Sports training takes place for all our Willy Kids on Thursday afternoon. It commences at 3:15pm and goes through until 4:00pm. We ask that families entering the school year to collect their children are mindful of the court space and try to avoid walking through the courts. We certainly don't want anyone bopped on the head!
- All parents or **visitors to the school** must sign in at the office **before entering** their child's classroom.
- This year we will be running one **assembly will be on Friday afternoons**, in the hall or under the shade cloth, from 2:45pm. All families are invited to come along and join in.
- Parents who wish to assist in their child's classroom must have attended and completed the guidelines for **"Helping in the Classroom"** and hold a current **Working with Children Check**. A session will be held on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 9:15** by Liz and Steven for all those interested.
- **Prep Welcome BBQ is coming up - Thursday 28th February from 5:30-7:00pm.**
- We encourage every child to **walk, ride, skate or scoot** to school every Friday, in fact every day you can in term one.
- School commences at nine o'clock every day but the kids should arrive by the 8:50am bell so they are set for the learning program to commence at 9:00.

Please note the yard is NOT SUPERVISED prior to 8:45am.

Many thanks for your attendance at our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings, for your conversations about school council nominations (these are due on Monday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>) and for your support for tired kids!

Warm regards  
Andrea and Mat

## Dates to Remember

TERM 1 February:		WEEK 9 Wednesday	27.03- Kids Share Open Afternoon in classrooms (3:30pm-4:00pm)
		Friday	29.03- Interim Student reports posted on Compass
WEEK 5 Monday	25.02 – 'Helping in the Classroom' at Willy – parent session 9:15 – 11:00am		
Tuesday	26.02 – Seaside fair meeting 7:00pm	WEEK 10 Friday	05.04- Easter hat Parade 9:30am
Wednesday	27.02 - Prep rest day / Prep Entry Assessment	Friday	05.04- End Term one 2:30pm dismissal
Thursday	28.02 – <i>Friends of Willy</i> – 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- <i>Friends of Willy</i> 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 with families		