



From The Principals' Desk

Our brand-new **Outdoor Learning Space** opened for the children on Monday and it has certainly been getting a work-out! If you haven't seen it yet, come on down, it looks terrific. We thank everyone for their contributions to this redevelopment which we know the students will appreciate using both during class time and their breaks. This new space is bright and attractive and once the stunning collection of plants establish themselves, it will provide a cool and calm passive space for the children to sit and enjoy. For this reason, the space is not to be used as a run-through. We are working with the children to recognise this and hope families will support us with this messaging as well.

Once again, thank you to all our families who contributed to the Friends of Willy (FOW) events of 2018 from which the raised funds greatly contributed to this project.

Professional Practice Days

As part of the last Victorian Government Schools Agreement (2017), it was agreed that all state school teaching staff would be granted four days per year in which they engage in non-face-to-face Professional Practice time. Next week all Williamstown teaching staff will be actively involved in these days: 3/4 team on Tuesday, Prep team on Wednesday, Specialists on Thursday, 1 and 2 teams on Friday and the 5/6 team on the following Monday 18th March. These days are opportunities for staff to engage in assessment practices such as moderation, to visits other schools to investigate pedagogical practices, and to research and conduct inquiry learning about current evidential practices and planning. For this day, staff will be looking deeper into Inquiry Learning strategies, Reader's Notebooks and Critical and Creative thinking approaches. These days are hugely valuable assets for teachers to have as the time dedicated for professional conversations can at times be hard to find in the busy schedules of schools. Please be aware that for your children on these days, it is classes as usual. Unlike curriculum days, all children are required to be at school.

Easter Raffle

As we approach April, our community is gearing up for the ever-amazing, Willy Primary Easter Raffle. Already we have a small band of parents planning for this, however we need more helpers! Last year, with the generosity of Willy Families, 42 big, beautiful hampers filled with chocolate (and other luxurious goodies) were raffled off. The raffle takes place at our annual Easter Hat Parade on the final day of term. The parade itself is a spectacular event not to be missed, but you have to be in the raffle to win it! Please listen out for FOW notices about how you can support this fundraiser and hopefully win one of the most amazing Easter hampers we've ever seen.

Other notes and reminders:

- **Riding bikes/scooters in the yard:** It's timely for us to remind our Willy Kids and their families that children (including younger siblings) should walk their bikes and scooters once they are inside the school grounds. The yard can be a very busy place at the start and end of the day and we don't want anyone being hurt. Thank you for supporting this!
- **Class Representatives:** We currently have many grades still on the hunt for a Class Representative (one or two parents from the grade). The role of Class Representative is a mostly 'coordinator' role and includes a few simple key jobs such as organising for a class contribution to the Mother's Day and Father's Day Stalls, being a point of contact for any Friends of Willy info that might go out, and coordinating fellow parents to help out during the week of your grade's lost property duty. If you are interested in taking up this role, the teachers of the following grades would love you to let them know

you are keen: Prep D, 1A, 2A, 2S, 2T, 3/4C, 3/4E, 3/4K, 3/4H, 3/4S, 3/4W, 5/6B, 5/6D, 5/6H, 5/6K, 5/6L, 5/6M.

- **Lost Property Bins:** We hope we can keep lost property to a minimum this year by having all clothing and other items clearly named. In the case of lost items though, there are three bins located across the school – one in the Redbrick building, one in the 5/6 Gallery and one in the main entrance of the Bluestone building.
- **Have you connected with the Friends of Willy (FOW) Facebook page yet?** It's a great way to keep up to date and connected to the events and happenings our school community. By the way, can you spare an hour to assist with our **Bunnings BBQ on March 30**? Check out the Facebook page or the **FOW notice board outside the Music room** for more information.
- With the recent announcement of our 2019 Junior School Councillors and House Captains, we hope families will join us at our special assembly next Friday March 15th where we will present their badges and certificates.
- **WPS Seaside Fair on November 17th! Save the Date!** Funds will be dedicated to developing a new *Willy Walk Way* dedicated to our Willy Kids and an upgrade of the multi-purpose turfed area.
- A reminder 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.
- All the best to our 19 Willy Kids who after Tuesday's District Swimming Carnival, have made it through to the **Regional Carnival next Thursday**. Good Luck!
- **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 yard to collect their children are mindful of the court space and try to avoid walking through the courts and games. We certainly don't want anyone bopped on the head!
- **All families should ensure they have logged onto COMPASS and made arrangements to pay their child's Essential Student Learning Items (ESLI) ASAP. Thank you.**
- All parents or **visitors to the school** must sign in at the office **before entering** their child's classroom.
- We encourage every child to **walk, ride, skate or scoot** to school every Friday, in fact every day you can in Term One when the weather is fine.
- Are your details up to date? It is ESSENTIAL that the school has accurate information; particularly contact details, in case of an emergency or illness.
- 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.

We hope you all enjoy the long weekend ahead! See you on Tuesday for Week 7.

Thanks,
Andrea & Mat.

Dates To Remember

MARCH

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
Friday	15.03 - Assembly: Badge presentation to JSC Representatives and House Captains and Vice Captains

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

WEEK 9

Wednesday 27.03 - Kids Share Open Afternoon in classrooms (3:30pm-4:00pm)
Friday 29.03 - Interim Student reports posted on Compass
Saturday 30.03 - FOW -Bunnings BBQ

WEEK 10

Friday 05.04 - Easter Hat Parade 9:30am
Friday 05.04 - End of Term One (2:30pm dismissal)