Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians, Namaste, Hola, Sawasdee, Kon’nichiwa, Mahlab

Welcome to this edition of the bulletin. It is a busy time of year! As noted in previous bulletins we are busy helping the children moving to their new schools in 2017 and their families to prepare for a successful transition. This year 100 children from Laverton and Niddrie will transition to new schools.

For the children staying at Western Autistic School next year, we have Step Up day on Monday (5/12/2016). On Step Up day the children and teachers meet in their new groups for 2017. We hope this assists families to prepare the children for next year. With your permission, photos of 2017 class groups will be sent home with the children. Parents from previous years found that it was great to have a photo over the Christmas break to talk to their children about who their teacher and class mates will be in the following year.

In the final bulletin for this year we will feature end of year reports from the different programs at Western Autistic School.

We look forward to seeing many parents and families at the end of year concerts and celebration days, which are coming up at Laverton and Niddrie to celebrate the student’s achievements this year.

Best regards,
Mary Thomson

End of Term/Year
Please note the following time and date for the end of Term 4. School will finish at 1.00pm on Tuesday 20th of December 2016. Please ensure you are waiting at your child’s bus stop 2 hours earlier than normal.

We return for Term 1 next year on Tuesday 31st of January 2017.

Classroom Readers and Library Books; Laverton
Please return readers or library books which have gone home with your children throughout the course of the year.

Parents are warmly invited to Western Autistic School to a celebration of student work and achievement taking place for each pod on the following dates:

YELLOW POD: Tuesday 6th December from 10:30—11:30
BLUE POD: Wednesday 7th December from 10:30—11:30
RED POD: Thursday 8th December from 10:30—11:30
GREEN POD: Thursday 8th December from 10:30—11:30

Please come to the school for a tour around the exhibition, along with a chance for tea and coffee with other parents.

Practicing OH&S procedures
Over the duration of the year as part of Western Autistic School OH&S procedure/policy we run practice internal and external evacuation drills. This week the school had an external evacuation drill to the off-site evacuation point at St Martin de Porres Primary School which is just around the corner. All our children were well prepared and the evacuation was a success. We would like to thank the OH&S committee for their work behind the scenes.
**Variety Day**

On Thursday 2nd of December, a few classes participated in the annual Variety Children's Christmas Party held at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. It was great to see the students who attended, enjoying the rides, photographs with famous characters, concert and food! It was a very successful day enjoyed by all. We hope to have some photos soon and will be sure to share these in the next bulletin.

**Petting Zoo**

Also on Thursday 2nd of December, for the children who remained at school Western Autistic School organised a visit from Animals on the Move. The children loved meeting the animals and especially loved getting the chance to feed the goats & lambs. Students were also able to hold and pat rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens and a cheeky goose. A fun day was had by all. We would like to thank the team at Animals on the Move and all the staff who helped out on the day.

**Parent information activities and events**

**Additional Needs Playgroup**

Are you interested in joining a playgroup designed for children with additional needs? Focusing on kindergarten and school readiness this playgroup will promote activities that support:

- Social skills
- Speech
- Fine motor skills
- Pre academic skills
- Working independently

It’s a great opportunity for parents/carers to meet new people make friends and develop support connections. WHEN: Due to commence in 2017. The group will be running during the school term in school hours. WHERE: Taylors Hill Neighbourhood House 121 Calder Park Drive, Taylors Hill

REGISTER INTEREST: Phone: 9747 5424 closing date to register your interest, Friday 9 December 2016.

**International Day of People with a Disability**
