Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,
Namaste, Hola, Kia Ora, Chao Chi, Yasou

At Laverton we are busy preparing for transitions for our student’s next educational setting. We were fortunate enough last week to have representatives from some of our local special schools attend the Laverton campus and share information with families about their school and what they offer as a P-12 educational setting. Parents went away with brochures about the different schools and the variety of programs they offer.

Warringa Park School who attended on the day, have notified us they have school tours this term and term 4. Our families are welcome to attend if interested in finding out more about their school as an option in the future, the dates are as follows:
Early Years: 25 Aug, 15 Sept, 20 Oct, 17 Nov
Middle Years: 1 Sept, 27 Oct, 24th Nov
Contact Warringa Park School for information 9749 5774

As the Transitions Coordinator to mainstream and special settings, I am also happy to answer any questions you may have in regards to student’s transitions.

On Thursday 11th August we will have our drama group of students participate in the annual FOPA 2016 at Carranballac P-9 College. Parents are most welcome to attend and we have our school representatives performing in the morning show starting at 10.30 am.

Best regards, Michelle Sanders

Curriculum Day this term
On Friday the 9th of September staff have a full day of professional development. There will be no school for the children on that day. The staff will focus on the Victorian Curriculum that we will implement at WAS from the start of 2017.

Festival of Visual Arts (FOVA) Art Show
Visual arts is incorporated into sessions and activities of our classroom program, as it develops skills in a broad range of areas from enhancing expressive and receptive communication, building fine motor skills and creativity, through to supporting emotional and social development.
Western Autistic School is proud to participate once again in the Festival of Visual Arts (FOVA) art show.
Our colourful display is situated at Stockland Point Cook (Town Centre) just outside the Target store and available for viewing until Sunday 14th of August. Artwork from one or two students in a range of classes are on display. Let’s celebrate the creative art work of our students. Come along and view the display.

‘The World through our eyes’ Arts Show
Western Autistic School, Niddrie Campus, welcomes all family, friends and community members to a showcasing and celebration of our student’s artistic talents with our Art Show.
Where: Multipurpose Room, WAS Niddrie Campus, Garnet St
Date: 15th September 2016
Time: 5.30-7.00pm
Details: $5 entry per family
Student’s artwork can be purchased for a gold coin donation. A raffle will also be run on the night. We hope to see you all there to support and celebrate our children.

Chickens at Western Autistic School Laverton
After having a holiday away from school, the chickens have returned to their home in the garden area near the front of the school. In the coming weeks, some classes will begin to explore this part of the school as they learn about growing vegetables and maintaining a garden as well as caring for our chickens and collecting freshly laid eggs. Since their return to school, students in Green Pod’s room 4.3 have taken on the responsibility of looking after our clucky friends. Everyday, students
Spotlight on Teaching Teams

Room 2.6
Shirley, Mary, Indu and Stacey

Welcome to 2.6. Our room has begun the term with a great kick start on our Swimming Program. The students are absolutely enjoying the experience and always look forward to the weekly swimming lessons. It’s amazing to see them so relaxed while in the water and extremely comfortable with their swimming instructors. Outside of swimming, the classes have been focusing on our theme which is “The Gingerbread Man”. The students have watched the story on multimedia and have shown high level of interest. The story depicts various characters including farm animals which the students are incorporating in their learning. Students have made art work of the Gingerbread Man and other related activities. In mathematics, the students have been doing Gingerbread Man matching and counting games using the iPad. We are incorporating turn taking and requesting when engaged in these activities to scaffold students’ communication. Cooking has been a very successful experience for our students. In the next few weeks, we will be making Gingerbread Man cookies as it relates to our theme. During cooking, students learn a lot of skills including communication, social skills and self-help skills. Some of our students are picky eaters. We are incorporating cooking as it a fantastic way to introduce them to various types of food.

Room 2.7
Angela, Maria and Stacey

In 2.7 we have an energetic and exciting classroom that is made up of 7 boys. The children in 2.7 love music, social games and board games, in these sessions we focus on following instructions, taking turns, answering questions, winning and losing.

We are also working on our literacy and numeracy skills which include recognising familiar words, letter names and sounds, days of the week, location words and numbers. We send home readers every week to share with our families and to build on our literacy skills. This term we also participate in swimming which occurs every Thursday and we are having so much fun! The children are enjoying the swimming program and look forward to the sessions in the pool.

Parent Activities and Events

Free two day workshop for parents and careers
Positive Partnerships are hosting two day workshops.
The workshops intend to: increase understanding of the impact of autism on learning, introduce a planning tool that can be used to share an understanding of your young person, explore ways to work in partnership with your school, etc.

Werribee Workshop
Where: Werribee Racing Club, 2-10 Bulban Road
When: Tues 30 & Wed 31 Aug, 9:15 - 3:00pm
Contact: 1300 881 971 or parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au

My Time parent peer support groups
There are My Time groups in Avondale Heights, Sunshine, Point Cook and Williamstown. Please find information about locations and days of the groups run by Tweddle in the west on the school website.

Sensory friendly screenings at Village Cinema
Village Cinemas are hosting two sensory friendly screenings across August and September.
The screenings will take place at the following cinemas: Airport West, Eastlands, Fountain Gate, Geelong, Karingal, Knox, Southland, Sunshine and Werribee. Alice through the Looking Glass will be shown on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 August at 11:00am Finding Dory will be shown on Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 September at 11:00am
Tickets are $5 and can be purchased online or at the ticket box.

Parliamentary Inquiry into Services for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder
A series of Public Hearing begin on Monday 29 August 2016.
Time: 9:15am - 4:15pm.
Where: 55 St Andrews Place East Melbourne, Room G7.
A list of witnesses will be posted on the parliament website www.parliament.vic.gov.au
Members of the public are welcome to watch the hearing. Please arrive 5-10 minutes before the start of the hearing to allow time to go through security. The Committee will hold a number of hearings in Melbourne and regional Victoria. Details of further public hearings will be posted on the parliament website.