Welcome to this edition of the bulletin. This term has certainly flown by with only one more week of school until end of term break on Friday the 18th September.

Transitions to new schools in 2016
The teachers are busy supporting our students whose families have decided on the school their child/ren will be moving onto next year. In line with our transition policy and procedures, each child has an individual transition plan developed in consultation with parents and staff from the receiving school. The transition plan and visits to the new school will be different for each child depending on the needs of the child and the requests from the receiving school. WAS offers ongoing support to the receiving schools to support a successful outcome for both school and student into the future. Next year in early term 1 the class teacher your child had this year will call the primary or special setting where your child/ren is enrolled, and offer to visit and support the new teacher/s with specific learning goals and to offer in-class support. Thereafter the Outreach program will offer ongoing support for your child/ren into the future.

WAS Junior School Council
Western Autistic School’s very first student representatives, Jay, Hayden, Ava, Damian, Shannon and Lucas have all had their first meeting recently and have decided to call themselves the “Junior School Team”. The Junior School Team is looking forward to speaking up and having a say in their school.

Curriculum Day
On Monday WAS hosted international speakers Dr Pamela Crooke and Michelle Garcia Winner who spoke to all staff on the topic of Social Thinking across the School Day. Michelle Garcia Winner, who developed the Social Thinking approach, spoke to staff about how differences in social understanding can impact students across a range of academic and life skills. Dr Crooke then spoke to the staff about strategies for assessing social understanding, and teaching approaches for developing social thinking in learners with ASD. The day gave staff valuable new insight into the social development of our learners, and many new tools to help them succeed.

Red Pod Camp
Camp for the students in Red Pod began this week with 3.5 setting off on the first adventure. The experience provided the students a fantastic opportunity to further develop friendships and an understanding of the world around us. The students were very excited to go to the indoor trampoline park and wildlife sanctuary, but perhaps the most thrilling was exploring the camp house and discovering mum and dad were not coming to read a bedtime story and tuck the blankets in! Camp provides our students with an invaluable opportunity to practice their communication, personal and interpersonal skills and build their capacity to participate as independent and contributing members to their community. It is a fantastic opportunity for all involved to celebrate the hard work completed at school during the year.
Wattle Camp
Students from the Wattle Program also recently attended Camp Axedale, enjoying many activities and saying, “It was the best camp ever!”

Art & Craft at Niddrie
Students from 5B recently made fish canvases for their dads for Father’s Day. They enjoyed hand printing, drawing fish eyes, stamping and sponging.

Excursions
Room 3.7 recently went on an excursion to La Porchetta for lunch. The students enjoyed pizza, pasta and much more! Here is a photo of some of the students enjoying lunch.

Events of Possible Interest for Families

The “World Festival of Magic” show is spectacular family entertainment, starring internationally acclaimed Australian magician Michael Boyd, whose mastery of “Grand Illusion” will amaze and astound audiences of all ages! Michael will be supported by the extraordinary artist JETON-The Gentleman Juggler – performing balancing acts seen nowhere else in the world!

Where: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
When: Saturday 21st November 11.00am & 2.00pm

Please send back the separate Magic Show notice if you would like tickets to the show or contact Sandra on 9097 2000 for more information.

Parent Activities and Events

Parent Group Sessions
Turning Stress into Peace
An opportunity to talk about a range of issues and concerns impacting on families parenting a child with Autism; discuss the dangers of stress and learn some simple meditation techniques which can be used in everyday life.

Chance to meet up with other parents and share ideas and strategies and gain support from the group process.

When: Every second Monday for 2.5 hours per week
Where: Western Autistic School – Niddrie Campus
Dates for Term Three; September 14th:
Time: 10:30am till 1:00pm
Please note the group will be running fortnightly, every second Monday.
There is no cost to attend and childcare is available.

If you would like to attend or require more information on this session please contact Jacqueline or Margaret.
itsines.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au
9097 2000

WAS End of Term 3
Dear Parents, please note school will conclude for Term 3 on Friday, 18th September, 2015 at 2.00pm. Please ensure you are waiting at your child’s bus stop 1 hour earlier than normal if your child catches the bus. School commences for Term 4 on Monday 5th October 2015. Thank you.