12th May 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Namaste, Hola, Sawasdee, Kon’nichiwa

Welcome to this edition of the bulletin.

This week we have welcomed visitors from St Andrew’s School for Autism in Singapore, and teachers from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok Thailand. The University runs a model classroom program for children with autism. Both schools requested to visit Western Autistic School as a model of contemporary practice in the delivery of specialist educational programs.

The wonderful Essendon Symphony Orchestra again entertained the students at the Niddrie campus on the 10th May. The program this year featured music from The Snowman, a children’s picture book by Raymond Briggs. The musicians also played excerpts from the movie Frozen, The Thunder and Lightning Polka from Strauss and the Beethoven Symphony # 6 Fourth Movement (Thunder Storm). The ESO play The Snowman concert this Sunday the 15th May at 2.10 if families are interested in taking the children along. The concert is on at to the Clocktower in Moonee Ponds. Highly recommended! For details go to – www.essendonsymphonyorchestra.com

Many thanks to the musicians who so generously volunteer their time for the recitals at WAS, and to Lise Kosmides who champions this program at the Niddrie campus.

Spotlight on teaching staff at WAS
Starting in next week’s bulletins we will feature classroom teaching teams. Teaching staff will introduce themselves, and the grade level they teach.

It is Education Week next week: 15 to the 21 May
We will celebrate education week by acknowledging the great teachers and great teaching at WAS.

PARENTS AS CO-EDUCATORS PROGRAM (PACE)
Attached to this week’s bulletin is an invitation to families to register their interest in taking part in the new PACE program. This is a trial program for 2016. Gail Prunetti will coordinate the program. The development of the PACE program arose from Focus Group meetings with parents at Niddrie and Laverton last year and the Parent Opinion Survey.

Our parents have identified a desire to reinforce the skills their children are building at WAS at home. A particular focus will be on academic preparation for mainstream and transferring functional social and communication skills to home and community. The invitation attached to this bulletin also contains further information.

Mary Thomson

Transition to Specialist Schools – Information Night

LAVERTON Parent Information Evening

Topic: Transition to Specialist Schools Information, Question and Answer Night
Date: Tuesday 21st June 2016
Time: 5.45-6.45 pm

Where: Laverton Campus, Burnley Street – Multi Purpose room, please use this entrance.

Presenters: Laverton Campus Assistant Principals - Michelle Sanders and Sam Hindes

Parents from each campus can attend their own or an alternate campus evening and it will provide parents with information about the process of transition to a Specialist School, including question time. All parents are invited to attend, not just parents involved in the process in 2016.
Classroom Learning
Technology is a great way to engage our students here at Western Autistic School and iPads are a powerful learning tool to use in the classroom. Everyone learns differently and iPads allows our students to explore their own learning in exciting and engaging ways.

Teachers are able to give more independence to students and personalise the learning for each student using the iPad in their classroom. Teachers can tailor the iPad to fit the level and learning style of their students enabling success in their learning. At WAS iPads are used for teaching literacy, numeracy, sharing, exploring, drawing, thinking skills, communication and much, much more.

Curriculum Day and Public Holiday.
Please note that Friday the 10th of June is a Curriculum Day, and Monday the 13th June is a Public Holiday. Students will not be required at school on Friday 10th June and Monday 13th June 2016.

End of Term 2
The last day of Term 2 is Friday 24th of June 2016. School finishes on this day at 2:00pm. Please remember to pick your child up 1 hour earlier from their bus stop. School resumes for Term 3 on Monday 11th of July.

School Photos
2016 School photos for Western Autistic School will be taken at each campus on the dates shown below by Arthur Reed Photos. Payment envelopes with more information will be sent home soon.

Mother’s Day Stall
We would like to thank everyone who supported this year’s Mother’s Day Stall. We hope all the Mums had a wonderful Mother’s Day and that your child/ren bought you a beautiful gift from the stall.

A BIG THANK YOU to Kannika and Fred Gath who kindly organised all the gifts for the stalls at both campuses. Your generosity is very much appreciated in supporting WAS students to buy a gift for Mother’s day

Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea
Thank you to the Niddrie Parents Group for the experience of high tea last Friday afternoon. What a wonderful afternoon tea we had!!

The staff room was transformed and everyone that attended had a fantastic time. Mums, Dads, Grand mums, Aunties, some girlfriends and even a few dads came along and enjoyed cups of coffee, dainty cakes, and tasty savouries, all sharing the opportunity to catch up with friends and making new ones.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this fundraiser with delicious food, their time and gifts for the raffle, all your efforts are appreciated and helped in raising over $280.00 for the students at WAS.