Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to this second last edition of the Bulletin for term two.

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-year reports will be sent home with the children this Friday the 19th June 2015. The reports aim to communicate your child/ren’s learning progress at the half way mark of the school year.

Student Support Group meetings (SSG)

Notices will go home soon inviting parents to SSG meetings at school. At the SSG meeting you have the opportunity to discuss your child/ren’s Mid-year report in depth and to discuss and identify shared future learning goals for your child/ren.

An extra SSG is being offered to parents to discuss schooling options for 2016

This year parents will also be offered a separate SSG meeting to discuss schooling options and transition to a mainstream school or another special school in 2016. A Leading Teacher or Principal class member will sit in on this meeting.

In the past schooling options for when the children leave Western was discussed at the same time as the report on the children’s learning progress. This year, a dedicated meeting about future schooling options can be arranged, if parents so desire. A notice will be sent home on how to book a separate SSG meeting to discuss schooling options for 2016.

End of Term

The last day of term two is on the 26th of June, 2015. School will be finishing at 2:00pm on this day, we ask parents to collect your child an hour earlier from school or your designated bus stop.

Group News

Niddrie Farm Visit

On Thursday 11th June the Animal Farm visited the Niddrie campus. For some of the classes this provided a special focus for their Family Day activities in term 2. The children were invited to interact with the animals and learn more about their care and diet. 3B enjoyed petting, brushing and feeding the animals and completing farm themed artwork in the classroom.

The Education State

The Victorian Government is building the Education State – supporting all Victorians to live the lives they want to live and get the jobs they need, securing our state’s economic and social future.

Every Victorian has an equal right to the knowledge and skills to shape their lives, regardless of their background, their personal circumstances and where they live.

We want to hear from all Victorians - their experiences and aspirations for learning – in and out of the classroom – to make Victoria the Education State

To have your say, visit The Education State Consultation http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/

Events and services of possible interest for families

Social Skills Program

A Social Skills Group for children alongside a Behaviour Management Program for their parents is being offered by Psychology students at Victoria University. The programs will be run by Provisional Psychologists and supervised by a registered Clinical Psychologist.
Social Skills program continued:

**When:**
8 week program from July 30th to September 17th running after school on Thursdays and again in Term 4 2015.

**Where:**
Victoria University Psychology Clinic  
VU MetroWest  
47 Paisley Street, Footscray  
Cost: $20 Registration. Program is free.

Please phone 9919 2353 for more information.  
A flyer advertising the program can be found on our website.

**Irabina Autism Services present**

**Date:** Saturday 21 November 2015  
**Time:** 9am – 5pm

**Where:** Melbourne Park Function Centre. The Park and River Rooms  
Cost: Parents and Carers $120

For more information or to register follow this link:  

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**Parent Activities and Events**

**Parent Group Sessions**
Mental Health and Wellbeing – June 23rd – Laverton Campus  
There is no cost to attend and childcare is available.

If you require any further information on these events please contact Margaret on 9097 2000 or itsines.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

**Information Session – Transitioning to a Special School Setting**
Parents who want to find out more about the process of transitioning their child from Western Autistic School to a Special School Setting are invited to attend an information session presented by the school leaders.

- 22nd June 1:30pm-2:30pm: Laverton Multi-Purpose Room  
- 23rd June 11am-12pm: Niddrie Multi-Purpose Room

We ask that parents return the RSVP if they are coming to the parent information session. Thank you. We look forward to seeing you then.

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**Parents as Co Educators Program (PACE)**

Parents are invited to a Forum Discussion to put their ideas forward for a new program to be offered at the school called Parents as Co-educators program or PACE. At the parent information evenings early this year we mentioned that the school will work with the Autism Teaching Institute to design a program to directly support parents who wish to follow up with what their children are learning at school to home and the community. So to get the ball rolling we invite parents to meet with school and ATI staff to discuss parents priorities for such a program.

The dates of the Parent Discussion Forums are:

- Wednesday 24th June 1:30pm -2:45pm at Laverton in the ATI building  
- Wednesday 22nd July 1:30pm -2:45pm at Niddrie in the Multi-purpose building.

Please return this slip by the 22nd of June if you wish to attend the Parent Discussion Forum Name of Parent/s attending ________________________________

Please circle the location and date you wish to attend:

24th June – Laverton OR 22nd July - Niddrie

My child’s name is ____________________________ and is in Rm____

I would like an interpreter Yes/ No Language required________________________