Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to term three. We hope the winter break with the children at home went well for your family. No doubt there was lots of inside play days as there were lots of wet wintery days! It was great to see the children return to school for the new term.

Term three is shaping up to be a very busy one. Student Support Group meetings continue this week and next. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity for you to work with the staff who are planning your child’s learning goals for the next half of the year.

Parents as co-educators proposal

You may recall that we invited parents to meetings to discuss a school-home education program in conjunction with the Autism Teaching Institute. We have one more discussion group to have with Niddrie families. After that we will tell you about the ideas for a home-school program stemming from those meetings.

Past parents experience with transition of their children to another school

We have recently been meeting with families whose children moved on to other schools at the start of this year. We met with the parents to find out what the transition process was like for them and the children and what further improvements can be made. Again, this information will become available in coming weeks.

In July and August there are a number of census collection dates. You will have already received notices with information about the census dates.

There are three:

1. Nationally Consistent Data Collection asks that you opt out if you don’t wish for your children to be part of the census data being collected by the federal government. The data collected intends to provide the federal government with information on the number of children with disabilities in schools in Australia, and also the types of modifications and adjustments teachers make to meet the needs of children with additional learning needs across all school sectors. Our teachers will fill in the census form for your child/ren by August 7, 2015.

2. All families of Prep age children at WAS will have received a letter about the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). If you have any queries about the AEDC please contact Helen Manning by calling the main reception number.

3. School Family Occupation census. This is a state government census and the information collected in this census affects the funding each school in Victoria receives each year. Again if you have questions about the SFO form please contact the office.

The staff have a busy professional learning calendar again this term with weekly presentations on evidence supported practices (ESP) that can be matched to the goals identified in the children’s learning plans. Last term we featured classrooms using ESPs. We’ll continue to feature classroom practice again in the weekly bulletins.

I hope you can attend the Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy (SPOT) session at your campus on the 23rd July. Information on the session is over the page.

Look forward to seeing you again soon.

Mary Thomson

Parent Activities and Events

Transitions Q & A at Laverton
21st July Parent Q and A on Transitions to Special and Jennings Street School 6pm- 7 pm
28th July Parent Q and A on Transitions to Mainstream School 6 pm- 7 pm.

All families welcome, no RSVP required.

We will answer any question you may have about your child’s transition to Mainstream, Special or Jennings Street School for this year or future years.
Events and services of possible interest for families

Essendon Symphony Orchestra presents Animal Antics Kids’ Concert.

Come dressed as your favourite animal!

**When:** Sunday 23rd August – 2:30pm

**Where:** Clocktower Centre – Moonee Ponds

**Cost:** $15 (adults at kids’ prices) tickets on sale 23rd July.

For bookings, contact Clocktower Box Office on 9243 9191 or [www.clocktowercentre.com.au](http://www.clocktowercentre.com.au)

**Woolworths Earn and Learn**

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program.

There are collection boxes for your stickers at both campuses.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library.

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**Bus Phone Numbers**

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<th>NIDDRIE</th>
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<td><strong>Bus 68</strong></td>
<td>If you need to contact a staff member in an emergency and it is after office hours please call: 0425 714 095</td>
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**Introduction to Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy at Western Autistic School**

The Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists will be hosting the next parent coffee morning/afternoon at both the Laverton and Niddrie campuses on **Thursday the 23rd July, 2015**. Therapy staff will be speaking about how they work with your children and classroom staff to enhance the students’ educational programs. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to learn more about the Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy services and meet the therapists.

**Laverton Campus:** 9.30am to 11:00am – Multi-Purpose Room

**Niddrie Campus:** 1.30pm to 3:00pm – Multi-Purpose Room

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I / we will be attending the **Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy** session for parents and carers on **Thursday 23rd July, 2015**.

**Parent/Carer name:**

**Your child’s name and class:**

**Campus:** Laverton (AM)  Niddrie (PM)

**Do you require an interpreter:** YES / NO  **Language required:**

**Do you require babysitting:** YES / NO  **If yes, how many children:**