Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this edition of the bulletin. It is a very busy time at school. The teachers are completing their reports on the children’s learning for the year. The reports will go home with the children on 27/11/2015, before parent meetings with the teachers to discuss the report at a Student Support Group (SSG) meeting. Parents are encouraged to raise any queries they have about their child/ren’s learning or aspects of their child’s schooling at SSG meetings.

Other news from around the school:

- Jeannette Purkis gave the last guest lecture at the Autism Teaching Institute for the year. Jeannette is an inaugural lecturer at the ATI since 2006 and next week is on stage with Temple Grandin and Tim Sharp (Beak Man) at the Melbourne Convention Centre. ATI staff are attending this conference and we hope to share information from the event in next week’s bulletin.

- The School Review has been completed. Staff are now involved in discussions about the goals the Review Report recommends for the next four years. A School Review Report will be placed on the school website for the information of families.

With the end of the school year just over four weeks away there will be lots of opportunities to visit the school and take part in class parties, and the concerts the Pods and Sections and Arts program are arranging. The dates and details of all the events will be sent home soon. We look forward to seeing families visiting the school for their SSG meetings and for these events.

Mary Thomson

Rock Concert – Performed By Carranballac College

All of us Wattle kids were very happy when we found out another band that had resources and talent was coming out to our school, I know I was. The first thought that came to my head was “maybe we can jam!” But then I realised it doesn’t quite work that way so I sort of forgot about it, but the week passed and all of a sudden it was Friday. We were told that the other band might need some help to setup and I was eager to help. Then I was told about the possibility of me and Jamie (we started our own band called PsychNet) performing before and or in-between the other bands performances. We were very excited, so I talked to one of their teachers and we were fortunate enough to get up onstage and perform. Even though it was organised at the last minute, me and Jamie with the help of our music teacher Wayne got up onstage and played a few songs. At first I felt nervous, very nervous. As soon as we started to play, something just took over, it was like we were the only people in the world, just us. The crowd and the other musicians. It was right then when I got off the stage that I realised why most famous musicians don’t just perform for the money. They do it because there is no better feeling than the almost euphoric feeling of getting off stage and hearing the people clapping from that moment on I can’t wait to perform again.

By Jude Bentley – Wattle Senior Student
Animal Assisted Intervention
The 2A Class showed their natural affiliation with animals during their Friday Pet Therapy session. The dogs, Muffin and Tassi along with their trainers, Yarif and Stephen brought so much laughter and positive social interaction amongst the children. Friday has never been the same since Muffin and Tassi came to 2A’s life!

Excursions
Last week 4A went for an excursion to Werribee Open Range Zoo. We saw lots of African wild animals and went for a ride on the zebra striped bus to the Safari station. It was a very hot day and some of the animals were resting in the shade. We learnt about where they live and what they like to eat. We all had a great time.

Play it Safe by the Water
Play it Safe by the Water is a Victorian Government initiative that aims to increase community awareness of water safety and change Victorian’s behaviour in and around water. Water Safety Week is the main feature of the 'Play it safe by the water' campaign, running from Sunday 29 November - Sunday 6 December 2015.

The objective is to increase awareness of the risks associated with swimming and recreational activities. The annual campaign has linked a number of aquatic-related industries with a common objective of reducing the number of drowning’s in Victoria and increasing community awareness about water safety.

Get Involved
- Be aware and prepared for conditions
- Read safety signs to understand dangers
- Swim between the red and yellow flags wherever possible
- Never swim alone
- Children 5-14 years should always be in sight

Support for Families
Highpoint and the AMAZE organization have joined hands this Christmas to host a special experience for children with autism. Photo sessions with Sensitive Santa are available from 24th of November every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 19th of December. Bookings are required, visit the customer service desk on Level 3 or call 9319 3344 for more information or to make a booking.

![Sensitive Santa Hours](image)