Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

Namaste, Hola, Kia Ora, Chao Chi, Yasou

We are half way through term 3 and can feel the weather turning which is lovely for our students to be able to be outside for their play times. We also hope the illness’s our children have been experiencing lately will go with the cold weather; we thank you for keeping your children home when they are unwell.

I am very busy at the moment attending many transition meetings for our students who are preparing to move to a mainstream school. The students involved will visit their new school with their teacher on two occasions this term and then begin in term 4 on their own for one to two days which is very exciting. We wish our students well with their transition to their new Primary School.

During term 4 we will commence our transitions to Special School settings including Jennings St School for those students who are leaving us at the end of the year. We will supply more information as it comes to hand.

I had the privilege of attending the FOPA performance this year and it was wonderful to see our students display their talents on the stage. We were the audience for all the other performances on the day, many of our students/staff sang and danced along to the acts that came before us from other local schools.

We have Book Week day coming up on August 26th and look forward to seeing our students coming to school in the favorite book character.

Best regards, Michelle Sanders

Curriculum Day this term
On Friday the 9th of September staff have a full day of professional development. There will be no school for the children on that day. The staff will focus on the Victorian Curriculum that we will implement at WAS from the start of 2017.

Entry Parent Survey 2016
We would like to thank all our entry families who completed our recent survey. We truly value the information you have provided. Your response will contribute to improving the pre-enrolment information for 2017 families, transition day, the orientation week and information sharing.

FOPA news
Congratulations to Peter, Ava, Ryan, Kimmy, Tayyibah, Brandon, Roman, Jay, Parker, Yahiya, Victor, Boston, Aiden, Ethan, Lucas, Koupah, Albert, Connor and Aaron for putting on a great performance of the children’s story, “I’m Green and I’m Grumpy”. The students have been rehearsing very hard this term and it was fantastic to see their hard work transfer into confidence talking, performing and having fun on the stage at Carranballac College, Point Cook.

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Best regards, Michelle Sanders

Father’s day stall
The stall will be held in the conference room on Thursday 1st September in the morning for Laverton and afternoon for Niddrie. On Wednesday 31st at Laverton they will be setting up so if teachers wish to come early to purchase items on behalf of students there will be an opportunity. Items will be available for fathers and grandfathers for $5.00 to $10.00. If your child would like to purchase something from the gift stall please send money in a marked envelope, either before or on the day. We would like to thank the Gath family in advance for this kind service they provide to the school community and are sure there will be many lovely gifts for children to choose from.

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The students have been rehearsing very hard this term and it was fantastic to see their hard work transfer into confidence talking, performing and having fun on the stage at Carranballac College, Point Cook.

The students enjoyed watching the performances of the other schools before it was their turn. They all remembered to clearly read out the clues about their costumes and to take turns reading the rhyme to call their friends in the cupboard. Well Done Everyone!
Spotlight on Teaching Teams

Room 2.8
Danni, Elise, Vanessa and Maryanne
In 2.8 at Laverton, we have an energetic and boisterous group. Our favourite sessions are bike riding, where we are all making big improvements at story time, especially audio stories which we can sing along too and learn new words. We also love painting and music sessions where we can learn actions and sounds.

This term we have been reading The Gingerbread Man. We enjoy all the different characters in the story and retelling it with pictures and settings which we made. It is especially fun to pretend to be the characters and chase the gingerbread man!

We have really enjoyed swimming this term on Thursday afternoons. We are all learning to: sit and wait on the edge of the pool until an adult tells us to get in, take turns, float, tread water, jump in and swim to the edge. We really enjoy playing at the end and collecting coloured balls.

Room 2.9
Keda, Leisa, Lauren and Anamika
This term in room 2.9, we have been studying a unit about Fairy Tales. The children have completed some impressive reading and writing tasks such as story sequencing and recount writing activities. We also enjoyed baking Gingerbread Men during an integrated cooking session.

On Tuesday mornings 2.9 have been visiting the local shopping center to purchase ingredients for the cooking program. The children are becoming familiar with the supermarket layout and the process of paying for goods at the checkout. Following our shopping, the children enjoy their morning tea in the food court before returning to school on the excursion bus.

Parent Activities and Events

Free two day workshop for parents and careers
Positive Partnerships are hosting two day workshops. The workshops intend to: increase understanding of the impact of autism on learning, introduce a planning tool that can be used to share an understanding of your young person, explore ways to work in partnership with your school, etc.
Where: Werribee Racing Club, 2-10 Bulban Road
When: Tues 30 & Wed 31 Aug, 9:15 - 3:00pm
Contact: 1300 881 971

My Time parent peer support groups
There are My Time groups in Avondale Heights, Sunshine, Point Cook and Williamstown. Please find information about locations and days of the groups run by Tweddle in the west on the school website.

Are you the grandparent of a child or young person with Autism?
We acknowledge the contribution of grandparents, when one or more children with Autism are part of the family. If you would like to know more about Autism, and the research undertaken at the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre, we invite you to attend a FREE event. You will hear from our researchers and be able to ask questions.
Friday 9th September from 9.30am – 12:00pm
The Chamber, John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe University, Bundoora
RSVP: Friday 26th August 2016
Telephone: 03 9479 3271

Parliamentary Inquiry into Services for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder
A series of Public Hearing begin on Monday 29 August 2016.
Time: 9:15am - 4:15pm.
Where: 55 St Andrews Place East Melbourne, Room G7.
A list of witnesses will be posted on the parliament website www.parliament.vic.gov.au
Members of the public are welcome to watch the hearing. Please arrive 5-10 minutes before the start of the hearing to allow time to go through security. The Committee will hold a number of hearings in Melbourne and regional Victoria. Details of further public hearings will be posted on the parliament website.

Connect with DET on Twitter for the Latest News
Tweet of the week:
Did you know a #VIC teacher is on the Aussie Olympic water polo team? Good luck Mr Stanton & all the athletes in Rio http://bit.ly/2b7H2Vi