Dear Parents and Carers,
Hello, Namaste, Hola, Kia ora, Caio
Welcome to this edition of the bulletin.

School Strategic Plan 2016-2019

School leaders are putting the final touches to the new School Strategic Plan which provides the road map for WAS over the next four years. The Strategic Plan identifies new goals and key improvement strategies in the areas of Student Behaviour Support, Curriculum, Parent Engagement and Transitions. The draft of the Strategic Plan will be discussed at School Council and sent to the Department of Education for their review and approval. We will let you know when the Strategic Plan is available on the school website.

Autism Teaching Institute 2015 Graduation Ceremony. Tonight is the graduation ceremony for teachers graduating from the ATI with the Graduate Diploma of Teaching Students with ASD. The ATI vision and mission is to build the capacity of schools across the state to provide inclusive practices to meet the educational needs of students with ASD. The ATI is delighted that Ms Maree Edwards, Ambassador of the Government’s Special Needs Plan, will be in attendance at the graduation ceremony. “It really makes a difference to our graduates to be acknowledged and validated by the attendance of someone so pivotal to systemic change” said Steve Ahern ATI Director.

Well done and our heartiest congratulations to WAS teachers Holley Beckermann, Laura Ibic, Liv Jackson and Dolores Quinn who are graduating at the ceremony tonight. Also we thank and congratulate the ATI leaders, admin staff, assessors and supervising teachers who help teachers achieve this special education award, and to all the hundreds of schools, students and teachers in the classrooms in Victoria where the ATI students complete their practicums.

News from Essendon Keilor College- Niddrie. This year the students who previously attended the WAS Base room at EKC Niddrie enrolled in the main school. Campus Principal Heather Hawkins and Eveline Hudson WAS Education Support staff member (Ev is staying on at EKC to support the transition 2016) (pictured) report that everything has gone very well with the students inclusion into the wider school program. The Baseroom is used as a Study Room for homework, tutoring and respite. As well as attending mainstream classes, a highlight for the students with ASD is the ‘Y Challenge' program (work experience). One student has been working in an Op Shop a half day per week sorting and cataloguing books, another in Technology working the 3D printer program and another in Aged Care. These work experiences link the students to interests in VCAL subjects and ultimately an employment pathway.

Mary Thomson

Harmony Day at WAS
A celebration of Australia’s cultural diversity, Western Autistic School is celebrating by holding a morning tea for families to attend. Bring along a plate celebrating your culture and share morning tea with other families and staff.

Date: 21st March 2016
Time: 10:30am
Venue: Laverton & Niddrie Campuses
Student Artwork
Students have been having fun getting creative making artwork at the Laverton Campus.

Niddrie Campus Information
Could all parents who drop their children off in Block B at Niddrie in the morning, please make sure that the doors to the building are shut behind them when they leave. Thank you everyone.

Last Day of Term 1
The last day of Term 1 is Thursday 24th of March 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 2 on Monday 11th of April.

Transition to Mainstream Schools – Information Night

Parent Information Evening

Topic: Transition to Mainstream Schools
Date: Tuesday 19th April 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 Hinde
This evening will provide parents with more information about the process of transition to a Specialist Setting, including question time. All parents are invited to attend, not just parents involved in the process in 2016.

Room 4B doing play and sensory exploration
Kevin is enjoying playing with the farm animals and has constructed a train track to take them for a ride. Hugh is holding his hand out to catch a big bubble. Vedika’s big smile shows just how much she enjoys using the outdoor play equipment. Completing an alphabet puzzle takes lots of concentration!

Parent Information
If your child may be interested in joining Auskick please have a look at the flyer below and contact Greig Donald on 0409 257 199 for more information.