Welcome to this edition of the Bulletin. In this bulletin is further information about the School Review and school news.

School Review
As mentioned in the last bulletin, our school is undergoing a Review by an accredited Reviewer who is registered with the Department. The Review contributes to a new strategic plan for 2016-2019. There is a Review Panel whose role it is to provide direction of our new strategic plan. The panel meets this Thursday, the 22nd October.

The new strategic plan will draw on recommendations from the Review Panel and the work we undertook in the School Self Evaluation over the past two years. The Self Evaluation takes into account the Parent Opinion Survey and Staff Opinion Survey conducted each year by the department.

Student learning programs and curriculum are fundamental to the School Review. Self-evaluation results for student learning in Foundation skills (the areas of autism that particularly impact the children’s learning, for example expressive and receptive language) were especially pleasing. An impressive 98% of children made Satisfactory or greater progress in these areas. It is clear from the evaluation that parents appreciate their children’s progress at WAS and feel they are kept well-informed of their progress. Parents also expressed that they would like more information on academic learning and how their children are taught literacy and numeracy. Improvement in these areas will be a focus of the Review. The Review will also explore the effective use of assessments to inform ILPs. The Victorian Curriculum Foundation-to Year10 has been developed to ensure curriculum content and achievement standards enable continuous learning for all students, including students with a disability. The Department has indicated that the Abilities Based Learning and Education Support (ABLES) program will be phased in for all students with a disability. Currently WAS has its own specialised curriculum for students with ASD, and will carefully consider how ABLES can be integrated with our curriculum.

Forthcoming bulletins will include updates on the school improvement plans from the Review.

Children moving to new schools in 2016.
The teachers are busy supporting the children who are moving on from Western to new schools in 2016. Transition visits to the child’s new school will have now started or starting very soon. The visits to the new school continue for the remainder of the term, gradually increasing in days in consultation with parents and staff from the receiving school. In 2016 WAS will contact every school that our children have moved to. We will offer the receiving school a visit from a teacher who has taught your child this year to support a successful outcome for both the school and children into the future.

Mary Thomson

Sausage Sizzle
Bunnings in Hoppers Crossing – Old Geelong Road, is generously hosting a sausage sizzle for WAS on November 2. If you’re out and about, please drop by to enjoy a sausage or just to say hi.

Niddrie Artwork
4A have been learning all about insects

5A have been learning all about transport
Need to know medical information
For parents, grandparents, and carers of students. There has been a few cases of Ringworm at the Laverton campus, please read the below information so you are aware.
Ringworm is an infection that is caused by a fungus. It is very contagious and can affect the scalp, face, body, feet or nails. Ringworm affects both humans and animals. Ringworm is a fungal infection that is highly contagious and affects the scalp, the body, the feet or nails. Ringworm is spread by contact with someone who has ringworm, or by touching an object which may contain the fungus (e.g. brushes, showers or towels). Good hygiene is important - wash hands well with soap and water and dry them thoroughly. For more information please refer to the following Web link:
http://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/Ringworm/

Curriculum Day
Just a reminder that Monday 2nd of November 2015, is a Curriculum Day for Western Autistic School followed by Melbourne Cup Day on Tuesday 3rd of November 2015. Students are not required at school on this Monday or Tuesday.

Events of Possible Interest for Families

Have your say!
The Government's review of the Program for Students with Disabilities.
The Victorian Government is currently reviewing the Program for Students with a Disability (PSD). The aim is to identify if it is meeting the specific needs of students with autism. Amaze can offer some assistance in making a submission through a the online survey by calling 03 9637 1600 or by email to info@amaze.org.au

The School Website
The school website, www.westernautisticschool.vic.edu.au is our main forum for communication with parents/guardians. You can check on the school website for the latest parent bulletins, forms and latest news. If you do not have access to this website then please contact your campus office on 9097 2000 to ask for a printed version of the information you seek.

Events of Possible Interest for Families

PLAY EXPO

Anywhere there is children there is play.
Join us to find out what your child is learning through play
Thursday 22nd October
10.00 – 12.30pm
For further information please contact Playgroup Support Officer Wyndham City Council 9742 8159 ext 2146

Playtime in the plaza

WHERE: Pacific Werribee
Cnr. Derrimut and Heaths Road Hoppers Crossing
‘in the Target Mall’
WHEN: Thursdays 10.00 - 11.30 during school terms
COST: FREE
Activities are set up for children and their families/caregivers to enjoy together, with the support of Early Childhood Educators
If you would like more information please contact:
Family Resource Officer 9742 8181
Family Services Unit Leader 9742 8159
www.wyndham.vic.gov.au