24th March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,
Hello, Namaste, Ola, Kia ora, Chao Chi
Welcome to the last parent bulletin for this term. It is hard to believe that it is the end of the term; how the time has flown by. We hope that your experience of school has been positive so far and that your children are now settled into school at WAS.

Spotlight on Staff at WAS
In this bulletin we put the spotlight on our admin team! Next term our Campus leaders will introduce themselves to the parent community. Best wishes for a safe and happy Easter holiday break. We look forward to seeing you in the new term.

Mary Thomson

Family Days
Family Day is an important event at Western Autistic School for families, students and staff. Children are often excited about their Family Day event as they enjoy having their family members in their classroom and proudly share an activity with them.

It is also an opportunity for them to introduce their class mates to their Mum, Dad, Grandparents and Carers. Staff look forward to this day as a chance to share their students' achievements over the school term with family members and talk about their learning. Staff can also learn more about their students, their interests and skills when their families are present. We hope you and your child enjoyed your family day event.

Harmony Day
Parents and staff across both campuses enjoyed Harmony Day on Monday 21st March this week. It was a great celebration of culture and friendship over morning tea.

Autism Teaching Institute Graduation
Last Friday a ceremony for teachers graduating from the ATI was held at the Treacey Centre in Parkville. Officiating was the Hon Maree Edwards Member for Bendigo West and Ambassador of the Special Needs Plan, and Convenor of the parliamentary inquiry into Autism Spectrum Disorders. Twenty-two teachers from primary, secondary and special schools around the state were awarded the Vocational Graduate Diploma of Teaching Students with ASD. Congratulations to all graduating teachers and the ATI on their great work. A wonderful celebration was enjoyed by the audience of colleagues, family and friends.

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 Hindes
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.
Parent Information
SEE SPECTROSPETIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN! In celebration of World Autism Awareness Day, Spectrospective Principal Partner, Village Cinemas, will be screening Spectrospective in Sensory Friendly Sessions on Saturday 2 April. To be screened with the Disney family holiday blockbuster ‘Zootopia’, there’s no better way to celebrate the diversity of autism with friends, family and colleagues. Check out Spectrospective + Zootopia Sensory Friendly Film session screening times and purchase your $5 tickets here: http://villagecinemas.com.au/events/sensory-friendly-films

Spotlight on Administration Staff
SARAH TESTA works as the Business Manager and is located at the Laverton Campus of Western Autistic School. Sarah has been at the school for over 5 years and enjoys crunching the numbers in finance and working with staff in HR.

SANDRA DELLEVERGİN works full time in administration at the Niddrie Campus and has been with WAS for 5 years. Sandra is responsible for the school’s administration needs and manages a smooth running office supporting the leadership team in maintaining daily school routines.

NOREEN FINDLING works Monday/Tuesday in reception at the Niddrie Campus and enjoys co-ordinating uniform orders and classroom orders and has worked with Western Autistic School for over 10 years.

EBONY LACEY is the full time receptionist at the Laverton Campus. She enjoys greeting all our parents morning and afternoon and organises notices for parents, buses, events and student files.

CHARLENE HOBBS works full time in administration at the Laverton Campus. Charlene enters all student information into the school database and also looks after emergency management and local payroll.

NICOLE SMITH is the Assistant Business Manager and based at the Laverton Campus full time. Coordinating future Prep enrolments and organizing payments in finance are Nicole’s passion.

LOIS MAURER is currently on family leave from WAS but was the full time Business Manager based at the Laverton Campus up until the end of 2015 and will return later this year.

Local Government Resources

Brimbank City Council
Phone: 9249 4000
www.brimbank.vic.gov.au

Hobsons Bay City Council
Phone: 9932 1530
www.hobsonsvic.gov.au

City of Мaribyrnong
Phone: 9688 0103
www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

City of Melbourne
Phone: 9658 9542
www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Shire of Melton
Phone: 9747 7200
www.melton.vic.gov.au

City of Moonee Valley
Phone: 9243 8806
www.mvcc.vic.gov.au

Wyndham City Council
Phone: 9742 8114
www.wyndham.vic.gov.au

Disability Services & Respite Care
DHS Disability Intake & Response
Phone: 9412 2741 or 1800 783 783

Baptcare Family Services
(East Keilor, Brimbank, Moonee Valley)
Phone: 9373 3800
www.baptcare.org.au

Annecto After Hours Emergency Response Service
Phone: 1800 727 280 (after hours)
http://annecto.org.au/

Care Connect Footscray
Phone: 9362 8000 or 9362 8013
www.careconnect.org.au

MacKillop Family Services Footscray
Phone: 9680 8444
www.mackillop.org.au

Parent Information
This term Joel Crucitti has been conducting assessments at the Laverton campus of WAS as part of a PhD study on the link between motor skills and social development. This is a great opportunity for WAS to contribute to research about effective teaching and learning, and aligns with our commitment to evidence based teaching. Joel is still looking for further families and students to take part, and would ask any interested parties to contact him at joel.crucitti@deakin.edu.au for more information.