Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,
Namaste, Hola, Kia Ora, Chao Chi, Yasou

This week is a busy one for Laverton, with all classes getting ready for the excitement of book week. We have assemblies, parades, dress-up days and a staff morning tea, all to celebrate our love of literacy, reading and stories. This provides us with a fantastic opportunity to celebrate student achievement in the domains of reading, writing and communication.

Alongside our focus on book week, staff members at Laverton have also been meeting this week to discuss the new Child Safe Standards for Schools, and reviewing what they will mean for Western Autistic School. Our school has a zero tolerance for child abuse, and student wellbeing is at the center of everything that we do. We have clear policies and processes in place to protect the care and welfare of children, and these are being strengthened to ensure we are doing absolutely everything possible to guarantee the safety of all children at the school.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding child safety, please contact Michelle Sanders, who is the designated Child Safety Person at the Laverton Campus.

Warmest Regards,
Sam Hindes - Assistant Principal - Laverton Campus

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.

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.

Spotlight on Teaching Teams
Room 3.1
Lia, Helen, Kaylene and Cathy
Hi everyone!
We are room 3.1 and we are super busy every day! We have a group of 7 boys and 2 girls who do a Literacy and Math’s session each day as well as a session of Art, Music, Structured Play, Gross Motor, Bike Riding, Cooking or Board-games/Games.

Over the last few weeks we have been enjoying the Olympics. We have been watching clips of Olympic sports and talking about different countries, flags, geography and customs. The students participated in several ‘Olympic’ events over a week including:
- Long jump – standing jump from the side into the sandpit measured with crepe paper;
- Equestrian – timed ride on a stuffed unicorn around the courtyard obstacle course;
- 400 m sprint – timed run around the bike track;
- Diving – pencil dive into the pool during Wednesday swimming lessons;
- Shot put – bean bag throw and measure with footsteps;
- Basketball – shooting hoops in the playground;
- Trampolining – 10 jumps in row on the tramp during Gross Motor sessions.

The students participated in a very ‘sportsman’ like fashion, congratulating the Gold Medal winner student with a high-five and “awesome!” We integrated several curriculum areas into our Olympic theme, including Math’s, Literacy, HPE, Art and most importantly Social Skills.

25 August 2016 Laverton
This week is Book Week and we are doing lots of activities around the book, “Seven More Sleeps” by Margaret Wild – fun! We are looking forward to Dress-Up Day on Friday.

Room 3.2
Karina, Bridget and Lisa
In 3.2 we focus on learning about a different theme each week that is reflective of our students’ interests and strengths as well as different areas of learning that we would like our students to build more understanding in. We incorporate the theme into various activities across the week including art, cooking, story time, sensory, TV time, music as well as literacy and numeracy activities. This creates opportunities for our students to build communication skills (like extending conversation skills and expanding vocabulary), make connections with the work they are doing across the week and connect with the world around them.

For example, during ‘About Me’ and ‘My Body’ week, our students were able to share and watch their favourite shows with their peers during TV time, learn songs about the body ("Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes", "Dem Bones" and "Hokey Pokey"), engage in reading picture books about our body and make our own "This is me" books in literacy. With our photos and drawings, we found a common interest in the food we like amongst our peers and make everyone’s favourite food (chicken nuggets) in cooking. We also took photos and make self-portraits in art where we were able to identify similarities with our peers like who has the same eye colour or hair colour.

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

Parent Activities and Events
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: 03 9479 3271

Parliamentary Inquiry into Services for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder
The Family and Community Development Committee’s Inquiry into services for people with autism spectrum disorder will commence public hearings next Monday the 29th of August in Melbourne, at 9.15 am. These hearings are open to the public.

The Committee will be holding hearings in Melbourne and regional Victoria from August to December. Please see the link below to the Committee website for details of current and future hearings.

Please note that witnesses at public hearings appear by invitation only. You are welcome to attend and watch proceedings. Please contact the Secretariat prior to the hearing if you have any special needs, on the website below.

Committee website:

Wattle Update
Wattle has successfully completed our transition to Ascot Vale – we are settled and focused on moving positively towards the end of 2016.

The students have demonstrated great responsibility and pride in meeting the challenges of travelling to and from this location. A number of exciting events are in the pipeline. The camp is approaching and we are planning for some instructional and investigative excursions within the local community. The local Youth Resources Officers from the Moonee Ponds Police Station have offered to present some workshops around cyber safety and community responsibilities as a way of establishing trusting relationships with the students.

Staff would like to remind parents that if there are any questions about the program to contact one of the Wattle staff or the school.