Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians, Namaste, Hola, Sawasdee, Kon’nichiwa, Mahlaba

A Community Screening of LIFE, ANIMATED
On Wednesday evening 170 people came together to see a special community screening of the documentary film Life, Animated at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville in what was a wonderful community and autism awareness raising event. Everyone – parents, friends, carers, professionals and people with autism - gathered for the biggest event of the year for the autism community in Melbourne’s West. Stella Lillywhite (mother of Jett) and Siobhan, a friend, did an amazing job in organising this event. We extend to Stella and Siobhan our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

It is Camp time!
The sense of excitement at Niddrie and Laverton for the students and staff who are going on camp this year. The teams are preparing the students for their one or two night camps to Portarlington. Recently the Wattle Program had their camp at Lady Northcote camps in Bacchus Marsh. Thank you to Rueben for the editorial enclosed, recounting the camp experience, written for the Wattle program. Check it out further down in the bulletin. Enjoy!

We look forward to seeing many parents and families at the end of year concerts and celebration days that are coming up at Laverton and Niddrie to celebrate the student’s achievements this year.

Warm regards, Mary Thomson

Classroom Readers and Library Books; Laverton
Please return readers or library books which have gone home with your children throughout the course of the year.

End of Year Celebration
We are very excited to announce that between the 6th-8th of December parents will be invited to come and visit the school to tour an exhibition of students work and achievements from 2016. Stay tuned to the school newsletter as we will send home more details about this event in the coming weeks.

Parent networking coffee morning at Laverton
On Wednesday the 16th November Western Autistic School hosted a parent networking coffee morning. This was an opportunity to get together with other parents/carers and share experiences of caring for children with autism. The morning was hosted by Western Autistic School staff, and Emma Murphy, a regional student support services psychologist. We would like to thank everyone that came down and made this morning tea a huge success.

Parent information activities and events
Additional Needs Playgroup
Are you interested in joining a playgroup designed for children with additional needs? Focusing on kindergarten and school readiness this playgroup will promote activities that support:
- Social skills
- Speech
- Fine motor skills
- Pre academic skills
- Working independently

It’s a great opportunity for parents/ carers to meet new people, make friends and develop support connections. WHEN: Due to commence in 2017. The group will be running during the school term in school hours. WHERE: Taylors Hill Neighbourhood House 121 Calder Park Drive, Taylors Hill
REGISTER INTEREST: Phone: 9747 5424 closing date to register your interest, Friday 9 December 2016.
Wattle Camp 2016

During the first week of term four the Wattle Program went to Lady Northcote camp in Bacchus Marsh. Our leader for the three days was Ash. She was funny and friendly.

Our first activity was the flying fox. Lots of people had a go, it was awesome. After that we did the low ropes course. None of us were ninjas.

For dinner we went to La Porchetta restaurant in Melton. We ate pizza and pasta and all sorts of different stuff. We went to bed at about 10:00. Jamie and Jood kept f*rling so none of us got much sleep, then Hayden started running up and down the hallways knocking on peoples doors at 4:00 am?! Sheez... we were all cranky on day two of camp.

The first activity of day two was the giant swing. It was 21 meter’s up in the air and I loved it even though it was so high.

Next was archery, Ash won overall, but Wayne won the bullseye competition. I scored my first bullseye. Julie and Charlie burst the balloons with arrows.

After archery we went canoeing on the lake and I capsized. Nearly everyone did, actually. After that we went yabbing. All together we caught 19 yabbies. They were tricky to catch. I had one on the end of my line but it dropped off just as I pulled it up.

That night we had a BBQ dinner and then Eti and Steven arrived and brought the dogs for a night activity of search and rescue. Day 3 began with more of the dog program, using a catapult to fling stuff into the sky. After that we packed up and left, stopping at McDonalds for lunch on the way back to school. Overall, camp was amazing.

Thanks, Reubz