Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have come to the end of what is the longest term of the year. How it has flown by.

By now all families will have received the children’s mid-year reports. The reports show progress on the important learning goals identified with you at the start of the year for each child. You will have had time to read the report before meeting with the classroom teachers to review the learning goals and ask questions about the mid-year report. The Student Support Group meeting will refine the goals set for the children’s learning for the next half of the year. We trust that families are pleased with the gains the children have made in the first half of the year, particularly with their communication, social and emotional skills and learning.

Transitions Q & A at Laverton

21st July Parent Q and A on Transitions to Special School 6pm- 7 pm

28th July Parent Q and A on Transitions to Mainstream School 6 pm - 7 pm.

Could parents notify us if interested in a place at Jennings Street School in 2016.

Essendon Symphony Orchestra at Niddrie

ESO treated the children to a series of mini concerts this week.

Members of the orchestra visited the school to introduce their instruments to the students. The musicians played the trombone, a bassoon, cello, clarinet and violins. The children particularly loved the music from the Carnival of the Animals. The musicians played the instruments to represent different animals. The trombone played the roar of ‘the march of the lions’, which delighted the children.

ESO have an Inclusive children’s concert on the 23rd of August at the Clocktower in Moonee Ponds.

More information is to follow. Please look out for the flyer on the website for details.

A very big thank you to Catherine Schmidt, musician with the ESO, who sought and won funding for the inclusive music concert coming up in August, and their partnership with WAS to develop the concert program.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability

All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability this year.

The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving educational adjustments to support their participation in education on the same basis as students without disability.

All education agencies are now required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.* Data will continue to be de-identified prior to its transfer to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. The collection of this information from states and territories will inform future policy and program planning in relation to students with disability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Helen Manning on 9097 2000 the Victorian Department of Education and Training Data Collection Hotline on (03) 9651 3621. For questions after 7 August 2015, please call the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on 1300 566 046.

*For more information on Schedule 3—Amendments for the collection of data on students who are persons with a disability Australian Education Regulation 2013 see: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014L01723/Html/Text#_Toc404934419
**Events and services of possible interest for families**

**Social Skills Program**
A Social Skills Group for children alongside a Behaviour Management Program for their parents is being offered by Psychology students at Victoria University. The programs will be run by Provisional Psychologists and supervised by a registered Clinical Psychologist.

**When:**
8 week program from July 30th to September 17th running after school on Thursdays and again in Term 4 2015.

**Where:**
Victoria University Psychology Clinic
VU MetroWest
47 Paisley Street, Footscray
Cost: $20 Registration. Program is free.
Please phone 9919 2353 for more information.
A flyer advertising the program can be found on our website.

**Arts Centre Melbourne** will provide those on the Autism spectrum with access to a ‘relaxed’ performance of some wonderful shows this winter. This is a great school holiday activity for little children to go along to a live performance.

**Grug**
When: Thursday 2 July at 3pm
Where: Fairfax Studio
Who: Children aged between 1-5
Cost: $24
Duration: 35 minutes

**The Education State**
The Victorian Government is building the Education State – supporting all Victorians to live the lives they want to live and get the jobs they need, securing our state’s economic and social future.

Every Victorian has an equal right to the knowledge and skills to shape their lives, regardless of their background, their personal circumstances and where they live.

We want to hear from all Victorians - their experiences and aspirations for learning – in and out of the classroom – to make Victoria the Education State.
To have your say, visit The Education State Consultation [http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/](http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/)

**Group News**
Jarrod, a Senior student at Wattle, is currently enjoying his work placement at Pro Gamers in Caroline Springs. Jarrod has had the opportunity to perform a number of duties at the gaming and collectables shop ranging from general cleaning and sorting stock to assisting and serving customers. Emmanuel, the owner of Pro Gamers, is very pleased with Jarrod’s work so far and has described him as a very polite and conscientious worker.

The school would like to congratulate Jarrod for the way he has conducted himself at work and we are proud to have him represent our school in the community. We would also like to give a big Thank You to Emmanuel and staff at Pro Gamers for the way they have supported Jarrod with his first big step toward employment and life post Western Autistic School.

**End of Term**
The last day of term is tomorrow. School will be finishing at 2:00pm. We ask parents to collect your child an hour earlier from school or your designated bus stop.

Best wishes for the school break. We look forward to seeing you all in the new term starting on the 13th July 2015.

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**Introduction to Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy at Western Autistic School**
The Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists will be hosting the next parent coffee morning/afternoon at both the Laverton and Niddrie campuses on Thursday the 23rd July, 2015. Therapy staff will be speaking about how they work with your children and classroom staff to enhance the students’ educational programs. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to learn more about the Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy services and meet the therapists.

**Laverton Campus: 9.30am to 11am – Multi-Purpose Room**

**Niddrie Campus: 1.30pm to 3pm – Multi-Purpose Room**

I / we will be attending the **Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy** session for parents and carers on Thursday 23rd July, 2015.

Parent/Carer name: ________________________________________________________________

Your child’s name and class: __________________________________________________________

Campus: Laverton (AM) Niddrie (PM)

Do you require an interpreter: YES / NO  Language required: __________________________

Do you require babysitting: YES / NO  If yes, how many children: ______________________