Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the last parent bulletin for this term. It is hard to believe that the school term ends this Friday; 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.

**Last day of term one** is this Friday, 27th of March. Students will be finishing school at 2pm. Parents will need to be at your child’s bus stop or at school an hour earlier than normal.

Best wishes for a safe and happy Easter holiday break.

**Autism Teaching Institute Graduation**

Last Friday a ceremony for teachers graduating from the ATI was held at the Tracey Centre in Parkville. Twenty nine teachers from 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 100+ audience of colleagues, family and friends.

**Geordie from 3B and his parents enjoying a science activity**

It is also an opportunity for them to introduce their classmates to their Mum, Dad, Grandparents and Carers. Staff also look forward to this day as a chance to share their student’s achievements over the school term with family members and talk about their learning. Staff also report to us that it is a time when they can learn more about their students, their interests and skills that are only glimpsed when their families are present. We hope you and your child enjoyed your family day event.

**The graduating teachers**

**News from Students and Groups**

**Family Days**

Family day is an important event at Western Autistic School for families, students and staff.

**Students and their families from 1.4 making music**
Parent Activities and Events

Parent Group Sessions hosted by Margaret and Jacqueline will continue next term.

Grief and Loss continues on Tuesday 14th April, 2015

This is a nice safe place to learn more about the concepts of depression, anxiety and other mental health issues and an opportunity to talk about strategies and learn some new approaches for managing these conditions.

These sessions are at Laverton from 10:30am – 1:00pm, there is no charge for babysitting.

Anger workshops for parents continue on Monday April 20th, 2015.

This is an opportunity to talk about strategies, learn some new approaches for managing and expressing anger all in a safe group environment. These sessions are being run at Niddrie from 10:30am – 1:00pm. There is no charge and childcare is available.

If you require any further information please contact Margaret Itsines or Jacqueline Nixon on 9097 2000 or itsines.margaret.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Parent Information Evening

“Transitioning to Mainstream School”

This evening is presented by the Campus Principals and will focus on transition to mainstream schools.

At this evening the process for the transition from WAS to a mainstream school is explained. The session intends to provide information for parents who are considering a mainstream school as the next school for their child/ren. The session also provides a forum for questions about transition to mainstream school.

- Laverton – 5th May, 2015. 6:00pm – 7:30pm
- Niddrie – 6th May, 2015. 6:00pm – 7:30pm

We will also hold another session later in term 2 on transition to specialist schools.

Teachers from WAS to visit the Exceptional Family Foundations in Bogar, Indonesia in April 2015.

The Rotary Club of Flemington are funding a 10 day visit of two members of WAS staff to schools for children with autism in Bogar, Indonesia. Last year staff from the Exceptional Family Foundation visited the Autism Teaching Institute (ATI) and WAS. The purpose of this visit is to provide vocational training support to classroom teachers and schools including classroom observations and feedback to teachers, and delivering seminars on ASD.

Important Dates for Term 2:

School Resumes Monday, 13th April, 2015

Curriculum Day: Wednesday 22nd of April, 2015. No students to attend school on this day.

Public Holiday: Monday 8th June, 2015. No students to attend school on this day.

Last day of term: Friday 26th June, 2015.

For a full list of term dates follow this link:
t/pages/datesterm.aspx?Redirect=1

Changes to Bus Runs

To better accommodate the needs of the students accessing the bus service there will be some changes made to the existing runs 40, 67, 68 and 69. We recognise that alterations to existing times may be difficult for families to accommodate and have done what we can to keep changes to a minimum. The bus company is currently drafting new timings for the changes and we hope to have these to families affected by the end of the week. While runs are being established early in Term 2 please be advised that times may be subject to change. If you have any concerns or queries please feel free to contact your child’s campus office.

Events and Services of possible interest for families

The Missing Piece Charity Walk
Date: April 19th 10:00am – 3:00pm
Location: Cherry Lake, Altona

The Missing Piece welcomes all to join us to help raise Autism awareness and the importance of physical activity. All funds raised will go to AMAZE to help those with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

For more information or to register go www.tsapd.com.au or phone 0411 848 592.

World Autism Awareness Day

Screening of Spectrotastic; stories of Autism, short film, followed by a sensory-friendly screening of Shaun the Sheep at Village Movies.

Cost: $5 per ticket

When: Thursday April 2, 11:00am.

Venue: Village Cinemas: Airport West, Fountain Gate, Geelong, Karingal, Knox, Southland and Werribee.

Book online at Villiage: