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

Welcome back to the new term. It’s hard to believe it is already week three. The students have settled back into the school routine. By this stage of the year the staff and students know each other very well, and the children feel safe to build their relationships with teachers and classmates. I hope you have taken the opportunity to meet with your child’s teachers to discuss the learning program for the next half of the year at the midyear SSG. For those families whose children are moving on from Western in 2017, I hope you have managed to attend one of the transition information sessions at the school. As always please feel free to drop by or call if you have issues or concerns for your child’s schooling.

There is a lot happening at school this term.

Niddrie Art Show: Niddrie is having an art show later this term with the theme ‘The World through our Eyes’. This a community event and all parents, staff, families and friends are invited to come along to the ART show on the date yet to be confirmed. Thanks to Alyssa Spargo and the parent team for arranging this event, not to be missed!

We are once again participating in the annual student art show at Stockland Point Cook (Festival of Visual Arts- FOVA). All local preschools, kindergartens, Primary and Secondary schools have been invited to participate in FOVA, which opens on the 1st of August to the 14 August. If you have time, drop into see the kind of art works that children in the district can produce. FOVA is held at the same time as FOPA- the Festival of Performing Arts. All schools and pre-schools in Hobson’s Bay and Wyndham have been invited to perform at the 28th annual FOPA which is a series of concerts occurring at 10.30am and 1pm on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursdays 11th August. Our Drama Club have written and choreographed an item for FOPA! If last year’s performance is any indication, you shouldn’t miss this one. More details to follow. Carranballac College in Point Cook arranges both these annual events.

Niddrie and Laverton are celebrating BOOK WEEK on August 20-27 with a lot of different activities including a ‘dress up’ day as your favourite character. The teaching teams will soon send home information on these events. We look forward to seeing parents and families then.

Stay warm,
Mary Thomson

Junior School Council Disco
The Junior School Council would like to thank all students for attending the school disco last term. It was lots of fun and raised $167 which will use to choose some new books and DVD’s for the school library.

We would also like to let parents know that in week 7 we will be celebrating book week. On Friday 26th August we will be having a dress up day with students being asked to dress up as their favourite book character.

Circus Oz
On the last day of term 2 many students from Niddrie Campus went to see Circus Oz in a relaxed environment, in the Big Top at Birrarung Marr in the city. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to go out into the community and participate in the culture of our city. All of the students greatly enjoyed this spectacular event which included juggling, diving through hoops, balancing acts and tight rope walking. Our students sat patiently for the full hour and engaged with the action in the ring. The staff of Circus Oz were well organised in catering for our students with their special needs and we thank the Arts Centre for providing the tickets.

Thanks, Lise Kosmides 6A
Transition to Special Schools

Parent Information Session
Topic: Transition to Special Schools Information, Question and Answer.
Date: Friday 5th August
Time: 1.30 pm - 2.30 pm
Where: Laverton Campus, Burnley Street Laverton
Presenters: Laverton Campus Assistant Principals - Michelle Sanders and Sam Hindes
Hear local Special Schools share information about their school.
On the day we will also share the experience of a past Western Autistic School parent, who will tell her transition experience when her son began at their local special school in 2015.
All welcome to attend.

Spotlight on Teaching Teams

Room 6A
Lise, Alan, Tricia and Vera
This term the staff and students in 6A have joined the Math’s groups and for 3 sessions a week are going off to our various math’s groups to explore Shape and also do some number work. We have been playing ‘shape games’, learning the labels of new shapes, counting how many sides different shapes have and taking photos of shapes that can be seen around the school. Later in the term we will be looking at 3D shapes. We are also planning excursions to Bunnings to buy some bulbs and do some planting at school.

Room 2.3
Dusko, Inoka, Mandy, Van and Carmela
Our team has the pleasure of teaching a lively group of seven boys in Blue Pod. This year to date, we have been visiting various local venues around the community such as the library, supermarket, play centres, parks and McDonalds, where the children have started choosing and ordering their own food at the counter.
The children have been developing some IT skills in class and a number of students have successfully started using the numeracy website ‘Mathletics’ to build their understanding of various numerical concepts.
In our classroom, the children respond well to movement based activities and have been developing many skills, both physical and social, during bike riding, sports sessions and social games. They are currently very excited to participate in the weekly swimming lessons.

Many of our sessions are focused on the development of communication skills and, with the support of our amazing speech pathologist Nicole Henderson; the children have been making great progress. We regularly introduce different storybooks into our program and are currently doing a variety of activities based on ‘The Gingerbread Man’.

Parent Activities and Events

Niddrie Fundraising

Parent Committee Meeting
Come and join us to discuss the activities for this term and the remainder of the year, in our exciting venture to raise funds for the school. A great chance to meet/catch up with other parents and become actively involved in the school. If you would like to assist with the events or donate, please leave your details with Sandra (at the Niddrie office) or text/call Alisha 0430166488.

‘The World Around Us’- Children’s Art Show
The teachers and students have busily been working on special art pieces to display at our Art Show at the end of Term.
The night will be a celebration of the talents of our wonderful children and a chance for parents to get together. More details to come in next week’s newsletter.

Father’s Day Movie Night
A chance for special male figures in the student’s lives to take some time out and relax for a Father’s Day Movie night.

Alisha Spargo, Niddrie Parents Committee

Bringing up Great Kids is a free six-week program for parents and carers run by the Salvation Army. There is a program flyer on our school website.

When: Tuesday, 9.30am-11am August 2 – September 6 2016
Where: Laverton P-12 College Staff Room 91 Bladin Avenue, Laverton
Margi Itsines, Social Worker, is available to attend this program with WAS families, or can provide information for families on what the program covers. To register please email, text or call Angela Clark on 0475 976 071 or angela.clark@aus.salvationarmy.org.au

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 Tweddie in the west on the school website.