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

I am amazed we are planning for curriculum day already and it is the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday next week. The term is moving very fast. We are seeing wonderful achievements in the school with our student’s learning and are documenting these now that we are beginning our report writing.

On Curriculum day this Monday, our staff will be collaborating and sharing student’s achievement toward their ILP goals, in their class teams to begin the report writing process. Our teachers will also be sharing with each other their work and achievements, from the last six months working in Professional Learning Teams. In these teams we have been focusing on becoming familiar with the Victorian Curriculum and its application at our school and the impact on student’s learning.

I have also attended many final SSGs for our students transitioning to mainstream primary school this term. It is wonderful to note the children are demonstrating many of the skills learnt at WAS to the new classroom environment. I have heard on many occasions also how quickly our students are learning from their peers about the new expectations for learning and understanding and applying the new class rules and how to be a part of a larger class group.

I hope families all enjoy the extended long weekend.

Kind regards,
Michelle Sanders

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 when convenient.

Dress Up Day - Junior School Council
The Junior School Council is planning a fun dress up day for Friday the 28th of October. Students may come to school dressed in their favourite costume for some mid-term fun!
**Current Research Projects**

At one time or another, many families at Western Autistic School have participated in Victorian research projects. A list of research projects which are current and looking for participants can be found on the Amaze website at [http://www.amaze.org.au/get-involved/autismresearch/autismresearch-currentprojects](http://www.amaze.org.au/get-involved/autismresearch/autismresearch-currentprojects).

Current projects include topics such as ‘The effect of pet ownership on the social skills and empathy of people with ASD’ and ‘Are girls less likely to be diagnosed than boys with Autism Spectrum Disorder?’ If you are interested in participating or learning more, please check out the website for opportunities to get involved.

**New strain of norovirus [vomiting and/or diarrhoea]**

**Update on general hygiene and school policy**

Western Autistic School has noticed a higher number of staff and students away with vomiting and/or diarrhoea; we thought it was the ideal time to send out an update to families. The Department of Health and Human Services has recently communicated they have identified a new strain of norovirus that may lead to gastroenteritis outbreaks.

Norovirus is characterised by acute onset of nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Other symptoms may include fever, headaches and muscle aches. Symptoms usually resolve after 48 hours, but if a parent is concerned about their child’s symptoms they should seek medical attention.

Throughout the year it is important to remind staff, families and students of the importance of good hygiene at school and at home.

To help prevent the spread of norovirus, everyone, including all staff, families and students, should:

- avoid attending work or school when experiencing gastroenteritis symptoms and advise the school of their illness
- stay away from school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours
- maintain strict hand hygiene procedures at all times. Hands must be washed with soap and water, especially after going to the toilet and before eating or preparing food
- if staff and families are required to help attend to children with gastroenteritis symptoms, use of personal protective equipment such as aprons or gloves is recommended.

**Notice to the school community**

**A Community Screening of LIFE, ANIMATED**

23 NOVEMBER 7PM AT SUN THEATRE IN YARRAVILLE

Dear Families, friends and staff,

We are so thrilled to bring to Melbourne’s West this beautiful, award-winning movie - Life, Animated showing at The Sun Theatre, Yarraville for ONE NIGHT ONLY on Wednesday 23rd November at 7pm.

It follows the inspiring journey of a young boy with Autism until he reaches adulthood and his exceptional way of communicating with his family and the world around him through Disney film characters.

WE NEED YOUR HELP - This event can only go ahead if we reach the required number of seats reserved, so come along and INVITE those who would be interested to attend! Raising awareness for those with Autism is vital and this is just one small way to offer insight, highlight acceptance and develop an understanding of our amazing children within our community.

A portion of the profits will be donated to Dogs for Kids with Disabilities.

To BOOK tickets and for more info go to the Facebook event below; [https://www.facebook.com/events/525972300928012/?ti=icl](https://www.facebook.com/events/525972300928012/?ti=icl)

Or here for a direct web link to reserve tickets - [https://tickets.demand.film/event/1211](https://tickets.demand.film/event/1211)

Alternatively feel free to contact Stella (Jett’s Mum 2.2) on 0423548993.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE THE 9TH NOVEMBER**