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

It’s hard to believe that we’re planning for our final curriculum day and it’s nearly time for the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday. We have seen wonderful achievements throughout the year in relation to the students’ learning and teachers are busily documenting these ahead of end of year reports.

On Curriculum day this Monday, our staff will be collaborating and sharing students’ progress towards their ILP goals, as their class teams 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 focused on aspects of the Victorian Curriculum, its application at our school and impact on how we structure student learning.

Warm regards,
Liz Richardson
Campus Principal

Dress Up Day
On Friday the 28th of October, we will be having a ‘FANCY DRESS FUN DAY’. The children can wear costumes to school and there will be lots of games and fun activities planned. Your child can come in any costume, bring one along in their bag or not dress up at all. If you have any queries please feel free to contact your child’s classroom team.

Curriculum Day this term
On Monday the 31st of October staff have a full day of professional development for curriculum day. There will be no school for the children on this day.

Sausage Sizzle
Bunnings Hoppers Crossing on Old Geelong Road is generously hosting a sausage sizzle for Western Autistic School on Monday October 31st. If you are out and about please drop by for a sausage or just to say hello.

All Ability State Lawn Bowls Tournament
On Friday 21st of October, following 5 weeks of training and preparation, 10 students travelled to the Darebin International Sports Centre to represent Western Autistic School in the All Ability State Lawn Bowls Tournament. The school community should be very proud of these students who, by their display of good sportsmanship and tremendous team spirit, were outstanding ambassadors for our school. As well as having a lot of fun, our team bowled magnificently. Despite being clearly the youngest competitors in the tournament, our team finished second place overall, giving us the prestigious title of being the Number 2 School Lawn Bowls Team in Victoria. The eruption of joy and excitement when our name was announced for Runners Up was a great moment. Well done to all these students and a big thank you to the students from RMIT for their work on the day and over the past 5 weeks.

Swimming Program
Over the past 2 weeks students from classes 6B, 7B and 4A have been attending the Ascot Vale Leisure Centre to develop their awareness, confidence and skills in the water. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying their time in the pool and developing their skills. Students from 7B are pictured having a great time at the pool.
Parent information activities and events

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.

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

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

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

BOOKINGS CLOSE THE 9TH NOVEMBER