October 30th 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to this edition of the bulletin. Niddrie has been busy this term with a number of classes taking part in one or two day school camps. Inside the newsletter you will find more information about the camp experience.

The transition visits for the children moving to Jennings Street School in 2016 have started this week. A series of visits are planned for term 4. The children moving to JSS will be supported by one of the class teachers at their transition visits. We offer ongoing support to the receiving schools of all our children (both mainstream and special settings) to support a successful outcome for both school and student now and into the future.

School Review
As mentioned in recent bulletins the school has recently undergone a Self Evaluation and a School Review by an Accredited Reviewer. Every four years the department reviews all government schools. Our Review day was held on the 22nd October 2015. The Review Panel assessed our school performance against the goals set in the previous strategic plan 2012-2015, and considered the next steps for school improvements. The review panel was in agreement the school has achieved the goals in the current School Strategic Plan and over the review period has diligently implemented the key improvement strategies and actions for the goals to be achieved. The Review panel found that WAS is an excellent position to develop a new strategic plan and to focus on continuous improvement. The Review panel discussed academic emphasis at WAS and the view of the Panel is that:

The panel agreed that in addition to developing the social and communication abilities of students it was also necessary for student to develop, to the best of their abilities, the necessary academic skills which will enable them to work alongside their peers when they transition to another school.

This led to the suggestion that a goal for the next strategic plan would be to improve student outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

A summary report of School Peer Review will be published on the school website, and future bulletins will include information on school goals for the information of parents and school community.

Carranballac College performance at WAS
Following the highly successful Festival of Performing Arts (FOPA) at Carranballac College this year that WAS children performed in, the senior students from Carranballac College rock band Minor Sensation will visit Laverton campus next week and perform for our students.

Mary Thomson

Niddrie Campus – Camp
Some of the Niddrie students recently attended camp in Portarlington. Some of the exciting activities included the marine discovery centre, the ferry from Queenscliff to Sorrento, the Geelong Carousel, dance parties, La Porchetta visits and BBQs. Camp is a great opportunity for our students to experience a night away from home in a safe, secure environment with staff they are familiar with and to further develop communication and social skills outside the school setting.
Dress up Day
This week certain rooms at each campus held a scary dress up day for the students. There were lots of different outfits on display and a fun day was had by all.

Curriculum Day
Just a reminder that Monday 2nd of November 2015, is a Curriculum Day for Western Autistic School followed by Melbourne Cup Day on Tuesday 3rd of November 2015. Students are not required at school on this Monday or Tuesday.

The School Website
The school website, www.westernautisticschoolvic.edu.au is our main forum for communication with parents/guardians. You can check on the school website for the latest parent bulletins, forms and latest news. If you do not have access to this website then please contact your campus office on 9097 2000 to ask for a printed version of the information you seek.

Have your say!
The Government’s review of the Program for Students with Disabilities.
The Victorian Government is currently reviewing the Program for Students with a Disability (PSD). The aim is to identify if it is meeting the specific needs of students with autism.
Amaze can offer some assistance in making a submission through a the online survey by calling 03 9637 1600 or by email to info@amaze.org.au

Events of Possible Interest for Families
Love playing with Lego? Drop into your nearest branch and be creative with our Lego Sets, no booking required.
Ascot Vale Library – Wednesday 11th November from 4pm-5pm
Avondale Heights Library – Wednesday 11th November from 4pm-5pm
Niddrie Library – Tuesday 10th November from 4pm-5pm
Flemington Library – Monday 9th November from 4pm-5pm
Sam Merrifield Library – Monday 9th November from 4pm-5pm

Meet the Keeper
Each day the Werribee Zoo offers the opportunity to hear about their animals from the people who know them best – their Keepers. Please check the website to see what animals can be seen during what times and days at http://www.zoo.org.au/werribee/whats-on/meet-the-keeper