Dear Parents and Carers,
Namaste, Hola, Kia Ora, Ciao

Welcome to this edition of the bulletin.

By now most families will have met with teaching teams to talk over the children’s learning goals for the next semester. For families whose children have just started at WAS, you will have the opportunity to talk with the teachers about the individual learning plans to be developed for each of your children. These meetings are called Student Support Group meetings or SSGs. You will soon be invited to an SSG meeting.

Wattle program is moving to 98 Ascot Vale Road in Flemington for 2016

As you know WAS currently runs the Wattle program at Laverton.
As you may also know we had the Wattle program independently assessed by Dr Barry Coughlan in August last year. Barry recommended that the Wattle adolescent unit should move to a more central location with easy public transport options for the students. Unlike Laverton, the Flemington site, which was where WAS was originally located, is quite suitable for these purposes.

The WAS School Council is happy for the Wattle program to be housed at Flemington, reconfirming that our priority is accommodating our early years students at the Laverton campus. Consequently, the decision has been made, and approved by the Department, that the Wattle program will be relocated to the Flemington campus, from next week. The provisional transport arrangements for the Wattle students for the rest of Term 2 are that the students will take buses to Laverton, as per current arrangements, and then will be transported with Wattle staff from Laverton to Flemington on school owned buses.

A reminder of the Curriculum Day on Wednesday.
Wednesday the 4th May and Friday 10th June are Curriculum days, when the children do not attend school. Dr Deb Marks is the guest speaker on the Curriculum Day this Wednesday. Deb is a Paediatrician at the Royal Children’s Hospital and will talk to staff about child development including the important subject of play development. Play has an important role in teaching our students communication, language and social skills.

Mother’s Day High Tea
A reminder that all our mothers and grandmothers and carers are invited to an afternoon tea on Friday 6th May 2-3pm at the Niddrie campus. We look forward to seeing you at the afternoon tea on Friday.

Transition to Specialist Schools – Information Night

Parent Information Evening
Topic: Transition to Specialist Schools
Date: Tuesday 10th May 2016
Time: 5.45-6.45 pm
Where: Niddrie Campus, Garnet & Teague St – Niddrie Staffroom.

Presenter: Niddrie Campus Assistant Principal – Liz Richardson
Parents from each campus can attend their own or an alternate campus evening and it will provide parents with information about the process of transition to a Specialist School, including question time. All parents are invited to attend, not just parents involved in the process in 2016.

Curriculum Days – Term 2
Please note, the following Curriculum Days in Term 2. Students will not be required at school on these days:
- Wednesday 4th May 2016
- Friday 10th June 2016
Bike Riding

Bike Riding is an important part of the school program at Western Autistic School. A fun program has been designed to teach our students how to ride. The program teaches skills such as: starting, pedaling, stopping and being aware of space and others.

Bike riding helps to develop coordination and strengthening. For some students riding a bicycle or tricycle at school also helps them to concentrate better in class. Bike riding also assists to reinforce skills such as taking turns and sharing and is a great play activity children can do outside of school as well.

Spotlight on Staff at WAS

JOHN

John has worked at the Laverton Campus in the Maintenance Department since early 2015 and has played a big role in getting the sandpits refurbished and swings installed for students to play on and enjoy.

ERNESTO

Ernesto works at the Niddrie Campus in the maintenance department and enjoys keeping the grounds tidy and the school safe.

VICTOR AND EMILY

Victor and Emily have been the cleaning staff at Laverton since it opened in 2010 and work tirelessly to ensure the school always looks clean and tidy.

JOSH AND KARIM

Josh and Karim are the cleaners at the Niddrie Campus and they work hard to keep the school looking spotless and sparkling each day.

Classroom Learning

Room 6B have been learning about carnivores and herbivores in their classroom. On Tuesday they also experienced video modelling on how to make a dinosaur with plasticine and made some wonderful brachiosaurus.

Mother’s Day

A big thank you to past parents Fred and Kannika Gath for offering to run the Mother’s Day stall again this year.
Children can bring in between $5-$15 if they would like to purchase a gift.

School Photos

2016 School photos for Western Autistic School will be taken at each campus on the dates shown below by Arthur Reed Photos. Payment envelopes with more information will be sent home 2 weeks before school photos.