Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

Namaste, Hola, Kia Ora, Chao Chi, Yasou

Welcome to this edition of the bulletin.

**Our students are performing at FOPA!**
(Festival of Performing Arts)
When: Thursday the 11th August
Time: 10.30am to 12.00
Where: Carranballac College
Jamieson Way Campus
85 Jamieson Way, Point Cook
FOPA showcases the amazing talents of students from schools in the Hobson’s Bay area.

We have 20 students participating in Drama Club. The students will attend school on that day as usual, and will be transported by our mini buses to and from FOPA with their teachers.

All parents and friends are welcome to attend and entry is free.

**Semester 2 Individual Learning Plan**
Very soon, we will be sending home your child’s Individual Learning Plan, which reflect the learning priorities for your child and the goals you have identified with the school staff during the recent Student Support Group meetings. We look forward to working with students and families in the second half of the year to support each child’s learning.

**Victorian Autism Conference - 1 and 2 September**
The full program for VAC2016 is now live on the Victorian Autism Conference website. The conference features the following sessions: - Embracing Sexuality and Gender Identity - Optimising the NDIS - Discovering the Online World - Lessons from the Female Spectrum...

Best regards,
Mary Thomson

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**Junior School Council Update**
We are very proud to show you some of the books and DVD's they have purchased for the library. These were purchased with the money raised from the school disco last term.

**Entry Parent Survey 2016 Enrolments [Yellow Pod]**
In order to continue to make improvements to our Orientation Program at Western Autistic School, we would greatly appreciate your participation in completing the following short survey.

You may fill in the hard copy that has been sent home with your child or you may respond online by using the following link:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016entryparent

Please complete survey by Friday 12th August.

**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.

**‘The World through our eyes’ Arts Show**
Western Autistic School, Niddrie Campus, welcomes all family, friends and community members to a showcasing and celebration of our student’s artistic talents with our Art Show.
Where: Multipurpose Room, WAS Niddrie Campus, Garnet St
Date: 15th September 2016
Time: 5.30-7.00pm  
Details: $5 entry per family (light snacks, refreshments and entertainment provided)  
Student’s artwork can be purchased for a gold coin donation. A raffle will also be run on the night. We hope to see you all there to support and celebrate our children.

Curriculum Day this term  
On Friday the 9th of September staff have a full day of professional development. There will be no school for the children on that day. The staff will focus on the Victorian Curriculum that we will implement at WAS from the start of 2017.

Spotlight on Teaching Teams  
Room 2.2  
Laura, Emma, Chinh and Cathy  
2.2 have an active and energetic classroom, made up of a delightful group of 7 boys. The children in 2.2 love music, imaginative play and literacy sessions. In these sessions, we are able to focus on communication skills, such as making requests and following instructions, as well as turn taking, waiting, fine motor, play and social skills.  
This term, 2.2 participate in a swimming session every Thursday and the children are always so excited! We have also started working on the book, 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?’ in literacy, to develop our vocabulary around animals. Our next theme after animals will be food, and we will focus on 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' to explore this!  
The boys in 2.2 love trains, dinosaurs, Minecraft, going on the swings, and playing in the sandpit. In their downtime, they like to listen to stories by Dr. Seuss and Eric Carle. Their favourite movie at the moment is Wall-E and the songs that are on repeat in our room are Five Grey Elephants and Shake Your Peanut (from Playhouse Disney).

Room 2.5  
Maria, Jacqui, Kelly and Cathy  
This term in 2.5 we are working hard on our literacy and numeracy skills. We have been learning letters and their sounds, high frequency sight words, how to make sentences, story comprehension and sequencing. We also take home readers every week to share with our families at home. In math’s we are learning location words and the days of the week and how they relate to our schedule. We practice these skills during our fine motor sessions, music, art and investigations. When we read the book Wombat stew, we cooked wombat stew (veg/ noodle soup), made a collage and acted out the story. Socially we are learning how to be kind friends and have fun role playing shops and restaurants together. Swimming is fun and we are very good at following the teachers’ instructions.

Parent Activities and Events  
Free two day workshop for parents and careers  
Positive Partnerships are hosting two day workshops. The workshops intend to: increase understanding of the impact of autism on learning, introduce a planning tool that can be used to share an understanding of your young person, explore ways to work in partnership with your school, etc.

Werribee Workshop  
Where: Werribee Racing Club, 2-10 Bulban Road  
When: Tues 30 & Wed 31 Aug, 9:15 - 3:00pm  
Contact: 1300 881 971 or parentcarer@autismspectrum.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 Tweddle in the west on the school website.

Sensory friendly screenings at Village Cinema  
Village Cinemas are hosting two sensory friendly screenings across August and September. The screenings will take place at the following cinemas: Airport West, Eastlands, Fountain Gate, Geelong, Karingal, Knox, Southland, Sunshine and Werribee. Alice through the Looking Glass will be shown on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 August at 11:00am  
Finding Dory will be shown on Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 September at 11:00am  
Tickets are $5 and can be purchased online or at the ticket box.

Connect with DET on Twitter for the Latest News  
Tweet of the week:  
Students – win great prizes by entering @ACMI’s Screen it! Filmmaking competition for primary and secondary students  