Dear Parents and Carers,
Namaste, ni hao, Kia Ora, Salem, Hello

Welcome to another edition of the bulletin.

Playgroup Parents Forum
We had a terrific roll up of parents to the Playgroup meeting last week to discuss the future development of the program. The parents popped out of the playgroup session and came together over for a cuppa to give their views about the Monday Playgroup program. Playgroup is for children aged 2-5 who have autism or like characteristics. The parents said that playgroup
- Gives parents more choices
- Give parents confidence
- Gives parents a support group
- Is safe for the children
- Give parents goals and strategies to work on at home.

The parents agreed on the importance of the predictable routine and structure of the program that works well for all the children. They also said that having the support of other parents who do not judge them or their children but rather offer support for each others’ parenting was important. Playgroup also plays a role in the training of early childhood educators in mainstream settings, as well as allowing our own staff to see family-centred practice and individualized learning and teaching for very young children with autism. Next steps: the feedback from the parents will be presented to the school executive and school council. The development of the Playgroup is one of the school goals. Further information will be provided in future bulletins.

Sustainable gardens at Niddrie
The students at Niddrie Campus are making plans for a sustainable garden containing herbs, vegetables and fruit trees. We have received generous donations towards this project from Bunnings – Taylors Lakes, Green Centre and Vasili’s Garden. Thank you to these businesses for their generous donation and to the Parent Groups for organising it.

Family Days
As always, it is great to catch up with families visiting the classrooms to see the children and teaching staff at work and join in the activities! It is also an opportunity for families to meet the other parents of the children in the grade. Please know that teachers and campus principals are always able to talk with you about queries you may have about the children’s learning program.

Jim Kinniburgh – Guest speaker
At campus staff meetings this week, Jim Kinniburgh will talk with staff about reading and writing strategies of our students. Jim is a former principal and teacher and has been literacy consultant in Victorian schools for the last number of years, after spending five years in New York doing the same job. Jim is one of our grandfathers and recently conducted a literacy lesson with our students. Jim will show videos of the lesson he gave, and will share reading and writing strategies to enhance the literacy programs at WAS. Many thanks, Jim.

Enjoy the long weekend
Mary Thomson

Curriculum Day and Public Holiday
Please note that there is a Curriculum Day on Friday, and the children are not required at school on Friday, and Monday the 13th June is a Public Holiday. We look forward to seeing the children next Tuesday.

End of Term 2
The last day of Term 2 is Friday 24th of June 2016. School finishes on this day at 2:00pm. Please remember to pick your child up 1 hour earlier from their bus stop. School resumes for Term 3 on Monday 11th of July.
Auskick Information Evening  
Date: Tuesday 21st June 2016  
Time: 5:15 pm  
Where: Laverton Campus, Burnley Street – Multi-Purpose room, please use this entrance. Jodie Donald from Auskick will be doing a presentation on 21/06 along with another parent for families who may be interested in their child starting Auskick in the local area. Please come along on the night or call 0409 257 199 for more information.

Paul Sadler Swimland - Laverton  
ONE ON ONE PRIVATE SWIMMING LESSONS  
Paul Sadler Swimland Laverton is now offering 1 on 1 private lessons* to all WAS students. Private lessons for 30 minutes once a week with a qualified teacher. Swimming helps build independence and confidence in the water. Please call 9369 7838 for more information  
*subject to availability

Spotlight on Teaching Teams

Room 4A  
Linda, Joan, Debbie, Nicole.  
4A strive to provide a rich and stimulating learning environment focusing on the key learning areas of communication, social skills, numeracy, literacy, science the world around us, health and physical education, art and music.  
4A’s motto is ‘Give it your best shot – you can do it!’  
This term students have been learning all about plants. We have looked at deciduous trees and how they drop their leaves in autumn. We have planted bulbs and beans and are watching them grow. We bought a Venus Fly trap Plant. His name is Fang. Learning about plants is fun!

Room 1.5  
Michelle, El, Bhagya  
In 1.5 the children enjoy a variety of activities such as music and art. In music we have been focusing on movement, number songs and using musical instruments. Music is a great way to facilitate student’s ability to attend during group activities and to encourage and develop student’s verbal communication skills.  
This term in art we have used the book We’re Going on a Bear Hunt to introduce a range of art activities. The children have created collages to represent long wavy grass, thick oozy mud and a swirling snowstorm. They have used different techniques and textures to make their collages. For example they used cotton balls for snow and crepe paper for grass. The children also collected leaves to make a dark forest collage and enjoyed creating a river with finger painting. The children have also used the collage display in the classroom to retell the story during literacy activities.

Room 1.6  
Eliza, Shona, Kirsty  
The children in 1.6 have happily settled into their first year at school. They are making strong friendships not only with the other children in our room, but with children from the other rooms we play with in the playground. 1.6’s favourite game outside is chasey, which is played almost every day.

We are currently reading the book “I went walking”. It is a great book with repetitive, predictable text which allows the children to read along with the teacher. Each week we read the book, and then complete a literacy activity related to the book. Most recently, each child made their own version of the book with pictures of different animals.

In 1.6 we have been having great success with our Structured Play sessions. We have explored various play themes, including; train play, car play, and construction/building. The children enjoy watching real life videos of the play theme. For example, when playing with trains, we watched videos of trains going through stations, through the boom gates, and picking up passengers. We then watched videos of older students at our school playing with the train track, setting it up and interacting with each other. After the videos, the children played with the trains. We videoed them playing and then showed it back to them at the end of the session. The children were all very excited about seeing themselves on the TV!

We look forward to our parents coming in for Family Day over the next couple of weeks to see the great work that their children are doing at school.