Welcome to term four. We hope you can manage to find a little time for yourself with the children now back at school.

This bulletin contains information on the School Review and other school news.

School Review
The school is currently being reviewed by the Education Department. An Accredited Reviewer who is registered with the department conducts the School Review. The date for the Review is the 22nd October 2015. There is a Review Panel whose role is to identify areas for school improvement and provide direction for our new strategic plan 2016-2019. The new strategic plan will draw on the recommendations of the Review Panel and the work we undertook in the Self Evaluation over the last two years. The School Self Evaluation took into account the Parent Opinion Survey conducted every year by the department and the findings of focus group meetings with parents, asking about their experience of transitioning to a new school, their expectations of the educational program, especially in respect of academics and homework, and their views about the Wattle program.

In next week’s bulletin we will provide information on student learning programs and curriculum which is fundamental to the School Review.

Children moving to new schools in 2016.
The teachers are busy supporting the children who are moving on from Western to new schools in 2016. In line with our transition policies and procedures, each child has an individual plan developed in consultation with parents and staff from the receiving school. In 2016 WAS will contact every school that our children have moved to. We will offer the receiving school a visit from a teacher who has taught your child this year to support a successful outcome for both the school and the child.

World Teachers Day
World Teachers Day, organized by UNESCO and Education International, is celebrated on the 5th October. Let’s take this opportunity to thank our teachers and acknowledge the great teaching, dedication and care they provide for the children at our school.

Sausage Sizzle
Bunnings in Hoppers Crossing – Old Geelong Road, is generously hosting a sausage sizzle for WAS on November 2. If you’re out and about, please drop by to enjoy a sausage or just to say hi.

Thank You
Special thanks to Cassie and Phillip Holland, parents of Ben in 6B. They kindly donated computers to WAS, which have now been allocated to the classrooms.

Mary Thomson

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Premier Daniel Andrews signed an agreement to roll out the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Victoria.
The NDIS will be rolled-out across Victoria over the next three years including:
From July 2016: North East Melbourne including Banyule, Darebin, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra local council areas.
From January 2017: Central Highlands
From May 2017: Greater Bendigo
With the rest of the state to follow after.
The Government has stated that young children under the age of six will receive priority help in recognition of the developmental needs of young children.

Royal Melbourne Show
For the 3rd year in a row students from the Wattle Program entered their garden wheelbarrow into the Royal Melbourne Show’s design competition. They did an amazing job and placed 1st. Congratulations to the Wattle students!
Warmer Weather Approaching
As we are all aware our weather is starting to heat up, please be mindful and enjoy the sun safely and don’t forget to Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide.

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.

Events of Possible Interest for Families

Student Swimming Program
Jett from room 1.5 enjoying his first swimming lesson

Events of Possible Interest for Families

Positive Behaviour Support Workshop
For Parents and Carers of Children and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Aspect Victoria is pleased to offer our highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based three (3) day Autism specific Positive Behaviour Support Workshop at Sunshine Heights Primary School PD Centre

More than 1200 families have participated in Aspect’s Positive Behaviour Support workshops across Australia. Post workshop evaluations showed an effectiveness of the workshops, with participants reporting decreases in challenging behaviours and increases in confidence and capacity to support their children and young adults.

When: Tuesday November 10th Wednesday, November 11th, Thursday November 12th
Where: Sunshine Heights Primary PD Centre 1-19 Mailey St, West Sunshine VIC 3020
Time: 9:30am-2:30pm (9:15am for Registration)
Cost: FREE (Tea, coffee & biscuits and lunch provided
Registration: walker.maree.m@edumail.vic.gov.au or 0412960550

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