



LINK LETTER



6 FEBRUARY 2020

Lawrence Street, Wodonga, Victoria, 3690

Phone: (02) 6024 1188

Email: wodonga.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

www.wodongawestps.vic.gov.au

Enrolments are welcome for all year levels, including Kinder for 2021

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be A Learner

Yard focus this fortnight: playing by the rules



Dear Parents / Caregivers,

A very warm welcome to the 2020 year and to Wodonga West Children's Centre. We have had a large number of new families enrol from near and far. We hope you have settled in well and enjoy working with us throughout the years ahead. I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday break, although it was quite stressful with the fires, heat and continual smoke. Hopefully the worst is over and some normality can begin to return to the most affected areas.

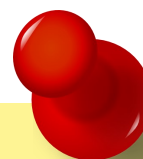
On a far more positive note, I have been visiting classrooms and I am really proud of how everyone (even our new Foundation students) have settled into their school and got stuck into their learning. Classes are very calm and settled, and students have opportunities to make some new friends this year. Great work, everyone. I think that all the work staff put in during the break setting up their learning spaces and preparing for their classes was definitely worthwhile, and has been a huge support to the students.

This year we have welcomed three new staff; Miss Hartley, our new Assistant Principal, as well as Miss Thiele and Mr Celi, both teaching staff. We are indeed lucky to have these wonderful staff join our team and I know I say this time and time again – I am truly blessed to have such a hard- working and skilful staff of teachers and Education Support staff.

School Captains

I am very happy to announce our School Captains for 2020. This year we have selected two girl captains, Amelia Tanner and Bridget Bishop. We certainly had a big job choosing, as we had a large number of written applications to consider. I thank all the year 6 students who applied for the School Captain role, and I encourage you to please consider being on our Student Leadership Council or applying to be a House Captain. These will be announced shortly. There are many opportunities to have a leadership role within the school and we really value your input into decisions we make.

Our new School Captains will be presented with their badges at next Monday's assembly, and they will read out their written application to the audience. Congratulations Amelia and Bridget. I know you will be excellent role models to our school community.



Important Dates

3-7 February	Senior Swimming
11 February	Wander Through West 4.30pm to 5.30pm
12 February	Nude Food Day
12 February	School Council Meeting 5.45pm
4 March	F-6 School Photos
10 March	Kinder School Photos

Playgroup

We are excited to host a 2 hour playgroup in our Kindergarten every Wednesday from 9am – 11am. This is for parents and their children from 0-5 years old (pre-schoolers). This is conducted by Jess Hale, one of our Kinder staff, and sessions include creative play, songs, stories, rhymes, movement and other activities to promote socialisation, personal development and language acquisition. It is a terrific way for parents to meet and make friendships. It is FREE to attend and morning tea is supplied as well. We would love to see you there if you have a baby, toddler or pre-schooler. Yesterday was our first session and we had a really good turnout. Enjoy some photos of everyone having fun.



Wander Through West

Wander Through West provides an opportunity for parents/carers to visit the school with your child/ren and meet their teacher and see the learning they have been doing this year. We invite you to come along on Tuesday 11th February between 4.30 and 5.30pm. Your child will have some special work they would like to show you, and it is a great chance to clarify anything with their teacher, and to meet up with the Specialist teachers. We would love to see you drop by and show your interest in our school and the great things we are doing.

School Council Nominations

We are currently looking for Nominations for School Council. Nomination forms are available from the front office. If you are committed to working behind the scenes making important decisions and learning more about the school / Kinder so that we can make it the best it can be, then please nominate yourself – or someone else for these positions. Nominations close at 4pm on Monday 24th February. Please have a chat with me if you would like to know more. Meetings are held 8 times per year from 5.45pm – 7.30pm approx.

We have 1 x DET (Teacher) vacancy, 2 x Parent vacancies, and 1 x Community (Kinder) vacancy. Those School Councillors who are retiring are; Sharon Mawby, Suzannah Reuben Matthias, Sarah Morrow and Jessica Thompson.

School Council terms are for 2 years, with the exception of the Community (Kinder) position which is for 1 year only. Retiring members are able to re-nominate for a further period on School Council.

3 and 4 Year Old Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten is currently FULL. This means we have no further spaces to offer this year as we have a limited number according to our Licence of 33 places. This is really positive, as it means families really value the program we offer here, the terrific staff, beautiful facilities, and see the benefits- especially with transition to school. It has become a one stop shop for families! Therefore, if you or someone you know has a 3 or 4 year old child for Kinder in 2021 I strongly encourage you to come into the school and get them enrolled SOON! Yes, even for 2021, as it is first in first served. We have 33 places available only. Taking enrolments for 2021 NOW.

Regards,

Jocelyn



Hi My Name is Britt Hartley and I am the new Assistant Principal.

In 2019 I worked as Acting Principal at Kiewa Valley Primary School and before that I was Assistant Principal at Baranduda Primary for 5 years.

I really love to help children become the best they can be at reading and writing and love spending time in the classroom working with teachers and students.

I have a partner and 3 step children aged 15, 13, and 10. I also have 2 cats names Chino and Latte.

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome at WWCC. Please make sure you come and say hi so I can get to know you and your family too.



Supported Playgroup at Wodonga West Children's Centre



Supported playgroups are free weekly group sessions with a trained facilitator. They are funded by the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

Responsive to the needs and interest of all eligible families, opportunities are provided for parents to:

- Learn about local services and meet other parents for emotional support and friendship.
- Develop the skills and confidence to support their children's learning and development.

The playgroups provide:

- Snack or lunch to encourage healthy eating habits.
- Opportunities to play with a large range of toys, art and craft activities.
- Help to improve children's readiness and transition to pre-school and school.
- A well structured environment with lots of activities to stimulate children's learning and imagination.
- Exposure to the English language and the chance to socialise with other families.
- *Smalltalk*, a program designed to enhance the language and communication skills of your child through parent strategies and play.

Our playgroup sessions will be held on **Wednesdays from 9am to 11am at our school**, 230 Lawrence Street Wodonga, with our facilitator Jess Hale.

Please register by calling the school on 02 6024 1188 or visiting our school office.





Wellbeing Report

Wellbeing

I look forward to catching up with returning students and getting to know new students. As the student wellbeing officer my door is always open for students and parents. Please feel free to drop in and introduce yourself or let me know if you have a concern or require further information on any issue regarding your child or family.

Studio West

Applications are now being taken by year 5 and 6 students who would like to participate in the Studio West program for the first half of the year. This involves going to WSSC and learning about hair and beauty techniques. Students will learn how to give hand massages and about straightening and curling hair among other things. This is a fantastic opportunity for students. Past participants have also said how much fun it was to be involved.



Canteen

Canteen will run on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at lunch time for snacks the same as last year. A slushy or shaky shake cost \$2 and everything else is less than this price. We have wonderful year 6 canteen helpers working in the canteen and I commend students who are already showing fantastic manners when lining up and waiting their turn.



Win a free Slushy – anyone who purchases a slushy in the next two weeks will get a ticket in the draw to win a free slushy. Good luck.

Focus Group

This year anyone in year 4, 5 or 6 has been invited to join our focus group to have a say on topics that affect them and our school. This may be something you wish to discuss with your children. Students are also able to suggest topics to be discussed in the focus group. Our first topic is houses and questions such as what we like/don't like, how to improve it and reward choices. Our first get together for this group will be next week.



Wander Through West

We would like to invite you to 'Wander Through West' on Tuesday 11th February from 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

- Meet our Teachers
- Visit your child's classroom
- Look at what they have been learning
- Visit the Specialist Teachers
- Visit our Kinder
- Clarify anything with staff

Please join us!



Foundation News

It's been an exciting start to the year for our new Foundation students. They have enjoyed getting to know their teachers and learning our school rules and expectations. Below you will find some photos of their morning activities.

A reminder that Wednesdays in February are student rest days and are being utilised for entry assessments. If you have not already booked in an entry assessment or have any questions please speak with your class teacher.



*Private music lessons available
at school every Thursday*



*Instruments taught are Piano,
Keyboard, Guitar, Piano Accordion and Ukulele.*

Contact Heather Wilson on 0459 256 480



This week we had Senior Swimming at Waves in Wodonga.

Below are a few photos from the event and articles written by students from our Year 4 class!

“I like swimming because you get to learn more things and swimming is very good with Asthma! Swimming is a very good sport. I like swimming because it helps to keep you cool. The end.” - Nayte

“During the last week we have been doing swimming. We started on Monday and end on Friday. It was pretty hard for 5/6S and 2/3G because we had to go to Waves straight away after the bell went in the morning.

After Mr Stagg did the role the classes went on the Bus and went to Waves. It was pretty hard getting into the pool straight away because it was very cold so it was really hard for us. But at the same time it was still really fun because we got to go and jump off the diving board and we also got to play with a light black brick.

There was also a good thing doing swimming lessons because you will learn how to swim better than before. Another thing is you also gain strength and you also get more fit and that’s why you should do swimming lessons.”

- Sharnaea

“This week we did swimming, it was really fun. Our swimming teacher was really nice and I learnt a lot like back stroke, survival backstroke and freestyle. In my team we always had to practice our freestyle because we weren't that good. I enjoyed it when the swimming teacher dropped a block and we had to find it under water. I like going swimming because they don't just teach to swim they actually teach us some survival tips if we drown underwater.

At school we do maths, spelling, reading and writing. We are mostly working on our spelling. At PE we are learning about teamwork. We are also doing a Nude Food Day next week on Wednesday and you can only bring containers, no gladwrap or sandwich bags, just no single use plastics.”

- Rhon





Do you hold a concession card?

If you hold an eligible Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card you are able to bring this in and complete an application for CSEF funding which is an amount of money that helps families cover the cost of some of the user pay items on your charges list. This includes sports levy, swimming, cultural events, excursions and camps.



Student Medical Ambulance Cover

This is a reminder that The Department **does not provide** personal accident insurance ambulance cover for students. Parents/Guardians of students who do not have student accident insurance/ ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for an injured student, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.

Parent payments are now due for 2020.

Payment options include Cash, EFTPOS or BPay.

If you need to set up a payment plan please contact the office.



Our school photo days are:

Foundation to Year 6: Wednesday 4th March.

Kinder: Tuesday 10th March

Order forms will be sent home with children, please remember that money and order forms are due **on photo day**. We would like everyone to please make an effort to be on time and presentable on photo day.

**CHILD
SAFE
HOT
TOPIC**

Attendance

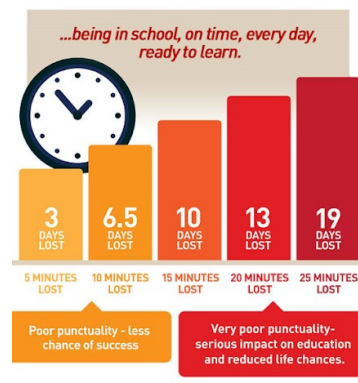
We are working hard to ensure that every day at school we are maximising the chance your children have to learn. Missing a day or two here and there or arriving ten minutes late doesn't seem like much of an impact however every day counts. Take a look at the following chart to see how much of an impact missing school can have.

When your child misses just...	That equals...	Which is...	And therefore, from Prep to Year 12, that is...	This means the best your child can achieve is...
1 day a fortnight	20 days a year	4 weeks of school	Nearly 1.5 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days a year	8 weeks of school	Over 2.5 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days a year	16 weeks of school	Over 5 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days a year	24 weeks of school	Over 8 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 4

When we talk about concerns regarding being absent, we are definitely not talking about children coming to school when they are sick and should be at home. Sending children to school when they are sick can easily make others sick—including our teachers! We are also not talking about the odd family holiday where children are given life-long opportunities through experiences. Absenteeism, and lateness, are about the habits and routines that form life habits of commitment and punctuality.

A smooth morning routine helps your child arrive at school feeling ready to make the most of the first few hours of the day. Here are some top tips to help your child succeed:

- Think about what you need to achieve in the mornings and try to do most of it the night before.
- Make your child a list of what needs to be in their bag so they can help with getting ready
- Try and find out ahead if there is anything special happening
- Think about having weekly schedules and reminders
- Bath/Shower the night before where possible
- Ensure breakfast is eaten everyday as this helps your child concentrate better at school.
- If there is something that you know causes conflict in the morning, like not wanting to eat breakfast, talk about it the night before.



DID YOU KNOW? If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed a full 2 weeks of school in one year?

CLASSROOM HELPERS WANTED!!

Are you able to help out in classroom for reading, writing or maths sessions?

If you would like to be a classroom helper we will be running a training session to support you in how to best help students with their learning.

The session will be held on

Friday February 21st

9 am - 10 am

School Library

and is run by our Assistant Principal Britt Hartley & Naomi Beasley

Please confirm with the office if you can attend or return this flyer with your contact details.



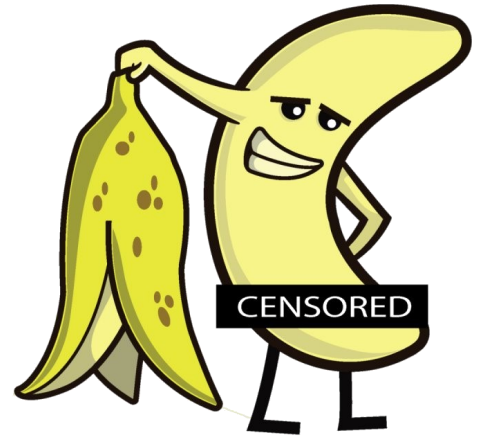
There has been changes to our canteen menu. I have included a copy of the new menu with this Link Letter and hardcopies are available from the office.

Please ensure you are using the new menu when placing your orders.



PFF will be starting back on Monday 10th February after assembly in the Childcare building.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



F—Year 6: Wednesday 12th February

Kinder: Thursday 13th February

DO

Pack snacks in reusable containers

Pack drinks in reusable bottles

Pack reusable utensils when needed

Pack your food in reusable containers or bags

DON'T

Avoid lunches packed in plastic bags, cling film or foil

Avoid disposable drink bottles, cans, cartons and bottles

Avoid disposable forks and spoons

Avoid pre-packaged lunches or single serve items

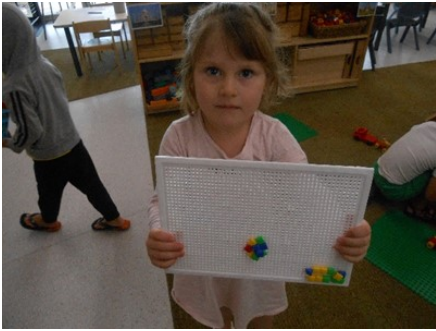
Our Plastics Police will be inspecting lunch boxes and giving out stickers to those with nude food!

KINDER REPORT

Welcome back all our families from last year as well as our families who are new to our kindergarten this year.

As a whole the kinder children have settled in really well. They have been busy exploring their new learning space, and are starting to learn the routines and expectations which come with kindergarten.

We have been going for walks around the school grounds to become familiar with our surroundings. We even got to watch the big kids board the Bus to swimming.



Your
Hat

DON'T
FORGET

Wander
Through
West

Plastic
Day

CANTEEN MENU 2020

AVAILABLE MONDAY—FRIDAY

Please place your order / money in the special canteen front in the front office by 9.00am

Sandwiches (White & W/G bread)

Ham	2.40
Chicken	3.50
Cheese	1.80
Vegemite	1.50
Cheese & Tomato	2.00
Cheese & Vegemite	2.00
Egg & Lettuce	3.00
Ham & Cheese	2.70
Ham, Cheese & Tomato	2.80
Chicken, lettuce & Mayo	4.00
Plain Salad	3.50
Ham & Salad	4.00
Chicken & Salad	4.50
Wrap/Roll	0.30 extra

Hot Food

Nachos with salsa & cheese	4.00
Pizza (Ham & Pineapple)	3.00
Chicken Burger w/ Lettuce, cheese & mayo	4.00
3 Chicken nuggets	1.50
6 Chicken Nuggets	3.00
3 Gluten Free Nuggets	2.00
6 Gluten Free Nuggets	4.00
Steamed dim sims	0.90
3 Steamed Dim Sims	2.50
Party Pies	1.00
Pie	4.00
Sausage Roll	3.00
Hot dog plain	3.00
+ sauce	3.20
+ cheese & sauce	3.40
Lasagne	4.00
Pasta	4.00
Fried Rice	4.00
Sweet chili chicken wrap	4.00
Corn on cob	1.00

Jaffles

Cheese	2.00
Cheese & tomato	2.20
Cheese & Vegemite	2.20
Ham & Cheese	2.90
Ham, cheese & tomato	3.00

Salads

Salad Bowl	5.00
Caesar Salad	5.00
Chicken Caesar Salad	6.00

Sushi (Available Mon & Thur)

All \$3.70 each
Teriyaki & chicken
Tuna
Avocado & cucumber



Our sites

Wangaratta
45-47 Mackay Street
Wangaratta Vic 3677
T: (03) 5723 2000

Wodonga
155 High Street
Wodonga, Vic 3690
Freecall: 1800 657 573
T: (02) 6022 8888

Myrtleford
32 Smith Street
Myrtleford Vic 3737
T: (03) 5731 3500



Parent & Relationship Education Programs Term 1 - 2020



www.gatewayhealth.org.au
www.facebook.com/gatewayhealth1



V5 16092019

Parent & Relationship Education Programs –Term 1, 2020 (bookings essential for all programs)

Program	Venue	Date	Time	Phone:
Positive Parenting Telephone Service (PPTS)	Free call telephone service	Ongoing	day & evening appts	1800 880 660
WODONGA				
Tuning in to Kids – emotionally intelligent parenting (2-10 years)	Gateway Health - Training Room G10 155 High St, Wodonga	Tuesday 25th February to 24th March 2020	6pm - 8pm	Intake Team (02) 6022 8888
Mother Goose (0-2 years)	Gateway Health - Conference room 155 High St, Wodonga	Wednesdays 5th February to 25th March 2020	10.30am - 11.30am	
Emotion Coaching Teens (2 hour workshop)	Gateway Health - Training room G10 155 High St, Wodonga	Monday 16th March 2020	1pm - 3pm	
TALLANGATTA				
Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)	Tallangatta Memorial Hall	Tuesdays 18th February to 17th March 2020	10am - 12pm	Intake Team (02) 6022 8888
Engaging Adolescents Workshop	Tallangatta Library	Wednesday 4th March 2020	11am - 1pm	Intake Team (02) 6022 8888
ALBURY				
Mother Goose (0-2 years)	Albury Community Health	Mondays 3rd February to 6th April 2020	9.45am - 10.45am	Intake Team (02) 6022 8888
RUTHERGLEN				
Emotion Coaching: Connecting With Our Kids (2 hour workshop)	Rutherglen Kinder 169 High St, Rutherglen	Wednesday 4th March 2020	4pm - 6pm	Intake Team (02) 6022 8888
WANGARATTA				
Tuning in to Kids – emotionally intelligent parenting (2-10 years)	Pangerang Community House 38 Ovens Street, Wangaratta	Thursdays 27th February to 26th March 2020	10am - 12pm	Intake Team (03) 5723 2000



Presents

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

2ND FEB

@ Targoora Park, Wangaratta

9TH FEB

@ Springdale Baseball Field, Albury

16TH FEB

@ Benalla Racecourse, Benalla

23RD FEB

@ Porepunkah Baseball Field, Porepunkah

1ST MAR

@ Gayview Park, Wodonga

2020 JUNIOR
COME AND TRY DAYS FEATURING:

- Hand-eye drills for batting and fielding
- Ages 7-15 | All abilities
- Teamwork and Inclusivity
- BBQ Lunch
- All equipment supplied



For more information contact Owen Godenzi - 0419 514 695

Each session will run from 10am - 12:30pm. Come along to one or all of our sessions, cost is absolutely FREE!



REMINDERS



Wearing a helmet is compulsory when riding a bike or scooter.

“NO HELMET NO RIDE”



Payments for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program in Term 1 are due by Friday 7th February to ensure your child is able to participate in the program.



Students must wear a broad brimmed hat at school in Term 1. If you do not have a broad brimmed hat please see the office to purchase one for \$15.00.



Please remember that the school carpark is for the vehicles of staff, authorised parents/visitors and Disabled Permit holders only. This is not a drop off/pick up zone.



Our school uses Compass School Manager for ALL communication. If you require log in details, assistance or have any questions relating to Compass please see office staff.



School banking occurs each Friday. Please ensure you return your banking by Friday morning.



If you use Facebook please like and follow our page to receive our updates and reminders