

WARRINGA PARK SCHOOL NEWS

TERM 1 | 21ST FEBRUARY 2024 | WEEK 4
PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Dear parents/carers,

Meet The Teacher Evening

It was great to see many families join us last week, with a great turnout at all campuses. Thanks to the IT team, Specialist team and the NDIS navigators who made themselves available for individual support to families on the evening.

If you need any assistance with COMPASS or Seesaw login, please feel free to get in contact with our IT team by contacting the school.

For any questions and/or assistance with NDIS for your child, contact Ciaran Barter or Irene Kerr.

I encourage every parent and carer to engage with the school through the many avenues that are available to do so. Warringa Park is an excellent school with fantastic students, excellent facilities, great staff and a school community that is supportive and appreciative of the school.

School Council

Thank you to those who have put in nominations for School Council. We welcome staff members Tim Hilton and Danielle Heckmann and parents Bev Emmett, Maricel Soriano and Jannatul Fardowski who filled the available vacancies when the original nomination period closed. We will be going to a ballot for our remaining parent position, and we welcome the nominations of Saurav Banerjee, Leslie Diamond and Martine Morrison. Families will receive a nomination ballot that is being mailed today, this will include a nomination form, information about the three candidates, a ballot paper envelope and a return envelope. Please ensure you write your name and address on the back of the return envelope, otherwise your vote will be invalid. Place the completed ballot inside the ballot envelope and then put the ballot envelope inside the return envelope with your name and address, and post or arrange delivery to your student's campus before closure of the ballot at 4pm on Friday 28th February 2025.

Student Support Group Meetings (SSG's)

Each year we have at least three SSG meetings, where teachers, parents/carers, along with any Allied Health or Support Workers, meet together to plan, discuss and review students Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals. This term we will be scheduling meetings over a week beginning Monday 31st March with the late-night sessions on Tuesday 1st. The SSG meetings are now a prerequisite for the new Disability Inclusion Profile and the minutes of the meeting is key documentation in the process. In order to provide ample time for discussion, students will finish at 1:00 pm. PLEASE NOTE THIS EARLY FINISH ON TUESDAY APRIL 1st. More details to follow. It is likely that you will be invited to other SSG meetings as required during the year.

UPCOMING DATES

Monday 10th March
Labour Day Public holiday

Friday 21st March
Harmony Day

Monday 31st March – Friday 4th April
SSG week

Tuesday 1st April
Students finish at 1pm for SSGs

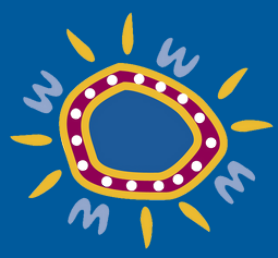
Tuesday 1st April
Late night SSGs

Friday 4th April
School assembly & Last day of Term One

PROTECT

Protecting children & young people from abuse is our responsibility





Photography, Filming and Recording

To ensure privacy is maintained for members of our school community, we request that parents/carers, students and invited guests who photograph, film or record school related activities, only do so for their own personal use and do not publish the images in any form, including on social media such as Facebook, without the prior consent of the people that appear in the images.

Student Mobile Phones Policy

Government policy requires that all schools have a 'Student Mobile Phone' policy where a student brings a mobile phone to school, it will be stored securely and collected at the end of the day. The policy is attached to the COMPASS post of this newsletter. To see the rest of our school policies, [click here](#).

Staff Curriculum Days

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, staff participated in a whole day Professional Learning on PODD training. This year, we have implemented PODD books for communication as we learnt that for many of our students, it was difficult and confusing to use Proloquo2Go app for everyday communication. Students who use the app or any other communication device as their primary means of communication will continue to use their devices.

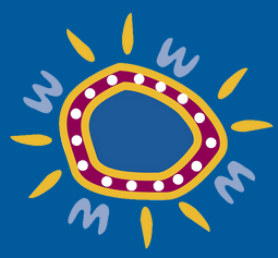
Staff feedback from the PL was very positive and I am pleased to see that staff have the PODD books with them at all times. Staff spent the day learning about the 'why' and the 'how' of using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). Our consultants are supporting staff in using this and the first step is to have the PODD books accessible at all times. Once this is achieved, adults will be modelling using the first two pages: 1a and 1b.



A reminder that our AGM will be held at Warringa Crescent Campus on Monday 17th March at 6pm. You are all invited!

Ashwini Sharma

Principal



Wellbeing & Innovation

The Wellbeing Team has been excited to reconnect with students and families and settle back into the school routine. The return of students has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their enthusiasm for being back in a structured learning environment.

The team has met and is actively working to ensure that a range of wellbeing programs are in place for students. This year, we are offering Boys Group, Girls Group, Art Therapy, My Safe School Helpers, Equine Therapy, Choir, Rhythm to Recovery, Music Movement, Positive Relationships, and Social Skills programs. Music Movement will be introduced to Primary students in Term 2.

In addition to these programs, the Wellbeing Team will coordinate several key celebration days throughout the year, including: Harmony Day, World Health Day, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Bullying No Way, Wear It Purple, R U OK? Day, World Mental Health Day and International Day of Persons with a Disability

We are also collaborating with external providers to establish a Parent Support group to further strengthen family engagement and support networks within our school community.

At the beginning of the year, the Child Safe Standards were shared with all staff, and new teachers and staff were provided with the school's Child Safe Policy. To reinforce these standards, we are highlighting one standard per Learning Centre Meeting and engaging in discussions on how to uphold them effectively in practice.

The Innovation Impact Team has also met and launched an initiative to revamp student iPads. These devices are now restricted to school-related apps only. While this was a transition for some students, the shift has been smooth. In Week 8, the team will facilitate a professional learning session for staff on the use of Apple Classroom. This tool will enhance teachers' ability to manage student iPads, ensuring greater engagement and support during learning tasks.

We look forward to another productive and positive year, supporting the wellbeing and engagement of our students, staff, and families.

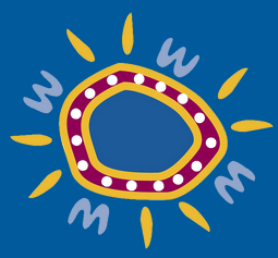
Danielle Heckmann

Assistant Principal

Annual privacy reminder

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice.

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy, attached with this newsletter on Compass, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages: Amharic, Arabic, Dari, Gujarati, Mandarin, Somali, Sudanese, Turkish, Urdu & Vietnamese



Curriculum Update

Dear Families,

It has been a great start to the year in teaching and learning with a focus on another Comprehensive Literacy strategy called Working with Letters and Sounds. This strategy aims to teach student the critical literacy skill of being able to connect letters with their sounds which is needed to ensure they can learn to read and write. Last week our Comprehensive Literacy consultants, Jane Farrall and Helen Tainsh spent 4 days working with staff and students in classrooms to support the introduction of this strategy into learning programs. Jane and Helen also ran a professional learning session to provide staff with further knowledge. This strategy also supports DET's priority of ensuring that students are experiencing the explicit teaching of phonics at school.

Leaders have also been working closely with teachers on setting IEP goals for each student that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound. Teachers will also be working with other teachers in their PLC's when setting goals to promote consistency and collective efficacy. This work will provides teachers with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the updated curriculum which is being referred to as the Curriculum 2.0 by DET. It will take some time for teachers to explore and unpack the changes that have been made and leaders will be providing them with support when doing this.

The primary campuses, WCC and PPC use Inquiry Based Learning is Inquiry-based learning is a student-centred teaching method that encourages students to ask questions and investigate real-world problems. In this type of learning environment, students are actively engaged in the learning process and are given the opportunity to explore their natural curiosities. This type of learning is often hands-on and allows students to connect what they learn in the classroom and the real world. Inquiry-based learning has been shown to improve critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and creativity. This term students will be investigating the question 'What do you like?' Our SWPBIS mascots, Wally the Working Together Wombat, Ricki the Respectful Roo and Lizzie the Learning Lizard will support students to explore this question through a picture story book written by the Wellbeing Team.



Kelly Botha
Assistant Principal



Dates for the diary

Term One 30th January - 4th April

Monday 10th March
Labour Day Public holiday

Friday 21st March
Harmony Day

Monday 31st March - Friday 4th April
SSG week

Tuesday 1st April
Students finish at 1pm for SSGs

Tuesday 1st April
Late night SSGs

Friday 4th April
School assembly & Last day of Term One

Term Two 22nd April - 4th July

Tuesday 22nd April
First day of Term Two

Friday 25th April
ANZAC Day Public holiday

Monday 12th May
CRC School photos

Thursday 15th May
PPC & BRC School photos

Friday 16th May
WCC School photos

Wednesday 21st May
Curriculum Day - Pupil free day

Friday 6th June
Curriculum Day - Pupil free day

Monday 9th June
King's Birthday Public holiday

Friday 4th July
School assembly & Last day of Term Two

Term Three 21st July - 19th September

Monday 21st July
First day of Term Three

Friday 19th September
School assembly & Last day of Term Three

Term Four 6th October - 18th December

Monday 6th October
First day of Term Four

Monday 3rd November
Curriculum Day - Pupil free day

Tuesday 4th November
Melbourne Cup Public holiday

Thursday 18th December
School assembly & Last day of Term Four