



WARRINGA PARK SCHOOL NEWS



TERM 2 | 4TH JUNE | WEEK 7
PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Dear parents and carers,

From Reconciliation Week activities, Active learning in classrooms, play based/applied/project-based learning and more, there has been no lack of opportunities for students at Warringa Park School to be active and learning recently. The activities in the last month have been a celebration and achievement in so many ways. With staff completing the mid-year assessments, we proudly acknowledge the growth that students have made this semester. This is a shout out to the students and to the staff who have supported them. Although your child may not receive a written report this semester, numerical progress towards achieving ILP or CAPs goals will be reported on. You will also have an opportunity to discuss your child's report with the teacher during the upcoming SSGs in week 10.

During National Reconciliation Week, students and staff had various opportunities to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements. We focused on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have looked after our land and waters for over 60,000 years. All campuses got into the theme "All In", in several ways including singing, painting murals, dot painting on rocks, making a mosaic birdbath, sensory play with clay and talking about what the land means to them. The celebration was a great success across all four campuses, and we are already looking towards how to do even more during NAIDOC week later in the year. I encourage you to check out the song on our socials by the school choir on our socials.

PASS Conference

Earlier this month, some of our key leaders attended the PASS (Principal's Association of Specialist Schools) conference with leaders of other special schools in Phillip Island. Leaders learnt new information and were challenged in their thinking, listening to keynotes on innovative ways that special schools are delivering curriculum and maintaining wellbeing and engagement. This year's conference theme was: Building Skills for Life-Pathways, Possibility and Power of Connection. The professional learning, collaboration and reflection centred on leadership, wellbeing, inclusion and future pathways for our young people.

We also had the opportunity to attend the Government Schools Principals Conference last week in Melbourne where we continued our learning on how students learn best.

Student Opinion Survey

Students in Upper Primary and Secondary campuses are nearing completion on the Attitude to School Survey (AtoSS) which is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education to assist schools to gain an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school.

UPCOMING DATES

Friday 5th June
Report writing
day - pupil free
day

**Monday 8th
June**
King's Birthday
Public Holiday

**Friday 26th
June**
Last day of
Term Two



PROTECT



Principal's Newsletter

Students have shared their thoughts and feelings in relation to their school, their learning, peer relationships, resilience, bullying, health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general in this survey. We are proud of how honestly students have responded to the questions and look forward to sharing the outcome of the survey with you. This survey closes next week on 12th June.

Education Week

Education Week is celebrated annually in Term 2 in Victoria. This year's theme was, 'Showcase our School' and WPS wanted to highlight the power of schedules for schedules in supporting student learning at school. We had many families join their child in their classrooms to create an individual schedule and have extended to using these at home for their child. Schedules help students by increasing predictability, setting expectation and reducing anxiety. The positive feedback from classroom staff and families around using individualised schedules with their child/student has been overwhelmingly positive.

Swimming program

Our five-week swimming program at Warringa Crescent is complete. We are very proud of our young people for their skill development and more importantly, for braving the cold to make it to swimming consistently. Thanks to the PE team, leaders, Allied Health and classroom teams for their support of this program. It has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces going to and from the swimming pool each week, knowing that our students are receiving invaluable lessons on water safety. Well done to all involved. Bethany Road Campus started their swimming program last week and I look forward to seeing their progression.

A reminder that tomorrow is pupil free day as it is Report Writing Day for our teachers. Monday is also a public holiday. Looking forward to students returning on Tuesday.

Have a safe long weekend.

Ashwini Sharma
Principal





Curriculum report

Independent Writing

Generating Ideas- Why is this skill so important for Writing Development?

Generating ideas is fundamental to writing because it is the process of deciding what to communicate before focusing on how to communicate it. Strong idea generation provides the content that writers draw upon when composing, organising and refining their message.

When students can generate and develop ideas, they are more likely to:

- Write for longer periods and with greater independence.
- Create meaningful texts that reflect their experiences, knowledge and interests.
- Organise their thoughts into coherent messages.
- Select relevant vocabulary, symbols, AAC options or written language to express their intended meaning.
- Engage more deeply in the writing process because they have something purposeful to communicate.

For many students, difficulties with writing are not solely related to handwriting, spelling or sentence construction; they can also stem from challenges in generating, recalling or expanding ideas. Explicit teaching of idea generation helps students build oral language, vocabulary, background knowledge and communication skills that underpin successful writing- this is where AAC (PODD, Proloquo2go, LAMP, etc) are so key for many of our students.

Across the writing development stages, idea generation may look different for different learners. Some students may generate ideas through play, experiences, photographs, objects, drawing, gestures or AAC systems, while others may brainstorm, discuss, plan or research. Regardless of the mode of communication, generating ideas enables students to develop authorship, voice and purpose as writers- they see themselves as writers!

AAC plays a critical role by ensuring students who use alternative communication systems can actively participate in generating, sharing and expanding ideas. AAC provides a means for students to express opinions, recall experiences, make connections and communicate messages.

Ultimately, writing begins with having something to say. Generating ideas is the bridge between thinking and composing, making it a foundational skill for all writers. This week we celebrate the writers of Warringa Park School and all the ideas they have generated and thus communicated through their writing.

Amy Byrne

Assistant
Principal





Wellbeing & Innovation

Our staff have recently completed training on the updated PROTECT guidelines. These guidelines help schools keep children safe by ensuring all staff understand their responsibilities in identifying and responding to concerns about child safety and wellbeing.

Thank you to all the families who participated in our Education Week activities. This year's focus was on visual schedules that support students in getting ready for school and building confidence in their daily routines.

We were delighted to receive such positive feedback from parents about the strategies being used in classrooms. Visual schedules help create calm, predictable learning environments and can reduce anxiety for many students.

In Term 3, we look forward to exploring this work in greater depth and introducing additional types of schedules and supports that further promote student wellbeing, independence, and successful learning experiences.

We are excited to announce that OzHarvest will soon begin at our Warringa Crescent Campus. This program helps reduce food waste while providing opportunities for students to learn about healthy eating, sustainability, and community connections. We look forward to sharing more information as the program gets underway.

Later this month, female students at our Cayleys Road Campus will participate in the Menstrual Health and Pelvic Pain Education Program. This important program provides age-appropriate information to help students better understand menstrual health, recognise when to seek support, and build confidence in managing their wellbeing.

Danielle Heckmann

Assistant Principal

A note from the school nurses

Please keep me home if ...

- ✗ I have a temperature of 38°
- ✗ I have had diarrhoea more than once in the past 24 hours
- ✗ I have thick green mucous coming from my nose or throat
- ✗ I have head lice
- ✗ I have vomited in the last 24 hours
- ✗ I have an undiagnosed rash
- ✗ I have a bad cough
- ✗ I am generally unwell and unable to participate in the daily activities





Dates for the diary

Term Two 21st April - 26th June

Friday 5th June

Report writing day - pupil free day

Monday 8th June

King's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 26th June

Last day of Term Two

Term Three 13th July - 18th September

Monday 13th July

First day of Term Three

Friday 18th September

Last day of Term Three

Term Four 5th October - 18th December

Monday 5th October

First day of Term Four

Tuesday 3rd November

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Thursday 17th December

Last day of Term Four

2026 School Bus information

To help our bus runs operate smoothly, please ensure a parent or carer is at the bus stop on time for pick-up and drop-off. If a student is not collected by the end of the route, they will be returned to the main campus in line with our Transport Policy.

If your child will not be catching the afternoon bus, please let your Campus Admin know as soon as possible.

Please be aware that a change of address may affect your child's eligibility for bus access if the new address is outside the Warringa Park School zone.

For new bus requests or if you are moving house, please complete the form here:
<https://secure.aul.adobesign.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABlqZhAZCcOTyrIHxhJwAy.TylAUdVt...>

For other transport questions please contact transport@warringapark.vic.edu.au

State School Relief

Warringa Park School are partnered with State School Relief to support families experiencing financial disadvantage with school uniform and essential resources. Applications are considered for school uniform shop vouchers and/ or direct supplies from the SSR store. Please see [fact sheet](#) for more information.

If you have a current concession card and/ or are requiring support with school uniform, please contact us on 9749 5774 or email Shenol.Ross@education.vic.gov.au to apply.