

# The West Express

Warrnambool West Primary School

'WWPS is a Child Safe school'



*On behalf of Warrnambool West Primary School, we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which this school is built, and we recognise their connection to the land and community. We respect the stories, traditions, and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We respect the Elders past, present and emerging on this land, as we continue our learning journey together.*



We have had many fun and exciting activities and excursions in the last fortnight! This includes the LC2 Celebration day where students went Ten Pin Bowling and had lunch at Lake Pertobe, the LC1 excursion to a dairy farm, the whole school end of year excursion to AquaZone, year 5 leadership day and HoL Celebration Day and fishing!

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SAILING TOWARDS SUCCESS





## *From the Principal*

### *Mrs Clare Monk*

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that this is the final newsletter for the 2023 school year! would like to take this opportunity to thank you for what has been another wonderful year at West. As a community we should be extremely proud of our collective efforts in supporting our students and each other to ensure our school is a place full of fun and energy, where wellbeing and student learning is fundamental to everything we do.

As we count the sleeps until the end of the year, I find myself wondering, 'How did we get here so quickly?' This term we have been supporting our kinder children as they learn about school through transition days, but it only seems a few months ago that we undertook the same process for our students who are now moving into Year One. These students have become so grown up and confident.

On the topic of grown up and confident, our Year 6 students will graduate on tonight, concluding seven years of primary education. Celebrating this special milestone is significant as we celebrate the growth of these students in so many ways. These students have grown incredibly, not only in confidence, but in resilience, maturity, understanding and respect. As educators we feel immense pride as we stand back and watch the children we have worked with, supported, nurtured, and encouraged take on new opportunities with a confidence that often belies their age.

It would be remiss of me not to thank every student in our school for their continued efforts towards their learning. Every student in our school has developed greater self-confidence, 'grit' to keep going when things aren't going the way they would hope and have built stronger connections with their peers, teachers, and wider community. The respect and pride demonstrated by students when out in our community is often noticed and as a school, we are grateful to our students for demonstrating our school values.

As a school community we have continued to grow, building networks and friendships through our students, your children. A positive partnership between school and our families is a critical factor to assist students to build connections and pathways to ensure all students can flourish. Across the year our parents and carers have participated in our parent group meetings and

activities, led school governance through School Council meetings, organised numerous fundraising activities and assisted with various learning programs in the classrooms. All school staff appreciate the support we receive and thank parents and carers for another wonderful year at West. Enjoy the holidays with your family.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated and hardworking staff team, (Office, Educational Support and Wellbeing) for their professionalism and dedication towards our students in so many areas. Apart from teaching the Victorian Curriculum, they work above and beyond with extra curricula activities at lunchtimes and out of school hours. I would like to acknowledge Karen Holdsworth for her support and wisdom as Assistant Principal. I feel so privileged to lead a staff that go 'above and beyond' to ensure fantastic learning and experiences for all our students. They work tirelessly to make sure your child is supported in their learning, as well as socially and their wellbeing. Together the staff have created a safe, inclusive learning environment and for every decision, meeting, phone call, email, timetable, smile... thank you! You have well and truly lived our vision of empowering all students to become independent, successful, lifelong learners. Enjoy your break!

#### **New arrival**

Kevin Nguyen and his family recently welcomed a baby boy 'Oscar' into their family. Kevin was very excited to share this wonderful news. Congratulations to proud parents Anna and Eric; we can't wait to meet your baby boy.

#### **Teachers and Classes for 2024**

On Tuesday our students participated in 'Step-up' Day and spent the morning with their 2024 teachers. Currently we have 137 students enrolled for the start of the 2024 school year, with budgets permitting us to operate on a six-grade structure. We welcome Madison Hoy and Daniel Symonds into our West community. Madison is a Deakin University graduate teacher and Daniel has been teaching at Wheelers Hill PS in Melbourne.

Classes and staff positions for 2024 are;

Foundation /1	Meagan Roberts / Renae Blake
Year 1/2	Madison Hoy
Year 2/3	Geraldine Mitchell
Year 3/4	Daniel Symonds
Year 4/5	Sinead Grey
Year 5/6	Mary-Rose McElgunn
PE / F-6 STEM/ 3-6 Music	Heath Hackett
Art	Renae Blake
F-2 Music	To be appointed
Learning Support	Sally Woolman & Zoe Evans (term 1)
Student Wellbeing Mentor	To be appointed

Business Manager	Chelsea Maddocks
Office Assistant	Sasha Suckling
Education Support Staff	Fiona Ludeman, Petra Lammers, Sarah Smith, Ros Templeton, Georga Whiting, Tanya Tampion

Our staff will begin 2024 on Monday 29th January as they focus on classroom preparation and collaborative curriculum planning. Our students, Foundation to Year 6, will commence school on Tuesday 30th January 2024. We ask that you check SeeSaw during the last week of January as staff will be posting information about the upcoming start of the school year.

### Farewell

As any school year draws to a close, it is often time to farewell staff members. We have two staff leaving us at the end of the year.

Mark Robinson, our Student Wellbeing Mentor is heading off to teach at Anglesea PS in 2024. Mark has been a terrific asset to our school, supporting our students with their social and emotional needs and connecting families with external providers. Mark has also stepped into the classroom to fill the void of casual relief teachers on many occasions. The learning and wellbeing support that Mark has provided over the last two years is truly appreciated by students, parents, and teachers. On behalf of the West community, I wish Mark all the best in both his professional and personal pursuits.

Scott Cooper has taught our year 4/5 students and has also had the responsibility of our learning support program for second semester. Together with Sally Woolman, Scott has assisted his students to focus and engage in their learning tasks and helped students feel comfortable and connected to their learning environment. Thank you, Scott, and on behalf of the West community I wish you the best as you return to Merri River School in 2024.

To our families who are moving on from Warrnambool West, we hope that in the time you have been with us you have enjoyed the wonderful learning opportunities available to your children. I wish the children involved all the best and I'm sure they will take some very fond memories of WWPS.

Finally, I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year - one filled with good health, exciting memories, and great happiness. I'm certainly looking forward to spending time with my family and friends over the festive season, especially with my delightful grandchildren. Life is so hectic, and the years are flying past so it's important to spend quality time with your family.

Enjoy the summer break and I look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

Best wishes,

Clare Monk  
Principal



### Reminders

- Graduation Ceremony tonight. Student /staff dinner at 5:30pm. Family and Friends ceremony commencing at 7pm.
- Reports home- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December
- Final Assembly / Christmas Concert/ Family Picnic Lunch- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 12 pm. At this assembly 2024 leaders will be announced.
- Individual testing days- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Allocated times are in report envelopes. TheirCare is operating.
- Last day for teaching staff- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December. Office closes at 1pm.
- Book collection day 29<sup>th</sup> January from school office.

## *From the Office*

### **Book List Collection 2024**

Book lists will be available to collect on Monday 29th January 2024 from 12pm-4pm. Families who have pre-ordered their book lists from Darrians Office Choice will be able to collect their book orders on this day.

We will be able to assist with Parent Payment Contributions, CSEF Applications, Centrepay and Uniform on this day. If you have any further questions, please contact the office on 5561 3161.



*From the  
Assistant Principal*

## **An End of Year That Shows Connection and Fulfilment**

As we come to the end of our 2023 year, we should take the time to reflect on our achievements as a whole school community. Our year has provided us all with precious memories that are truly priceless.

It is everyone who walks through our gates... our students, volunteers, staff and families. It is the relationships that have provided us with these memories.

From the first day of school, seeing our Foundation students tumble, laugh and yawn their way through their first week of school to now, 11 months down the track, students who are capable, caring and avid learners ready to embrace their next steps in primary school.

Memories are made through experiences we shared. From the experiences of mid year camps, excursions, buddy activities, sports days, concerts, community events to classroom 'aha' moments. These are the days that build our connections, extend our minds and challenge our sense of self. And these days represent the Warrnambool West community. A community with heart, zest and conviction.

It is difficult to capture every significant event or experience we have provided this year, and this makes our school so unique. As every decision, plan and action has our students at the centre. The work of a teacher is a nourishing one. One that cannot be defined in a succinct way. Students are significantly at the core of teachers' actions, the target of the teacher's thoughts, and motives of the teacher's schedules.

We have indeed taught our students; however it is also true that we too, have learned so much from all of them as well. Teacher and student relationships significantly shape our culture at Warrnambool West. A culture of respect and mutual partnering in education and wellbeing.

*I reflect on our graduating year 6 students and see ambassadors of what success is defined as, both personally and academically. This significant time of transition in their lives is an exciting one. And an emotional one as we say goodbye to these wonderful students.*

*To leave the school with a sense of pride, I ask all our Year 6 graduates to do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*

*Good luck to our Year 6 students.*

As I say goodbye, Merry Christmas and take care, I am proud to have been a part of the Warrnambool West community in 2023 and I wish everyone a safe holiday break.

Thank you for a wonderful year, especially to our amazing staff and students.

*Ms. Karen Holdsworth*

## Important Dates

DATES	
Friday 15th December <b>2023</b>	Students final day for 2023. 3:20pm finish
Mon 18th - Tues 19th December <b>2023</b>	Student testing for 2024. Students have been given times they need to come in on one of these days. Please contact the office if you need to
Wednesday 20th December <b>2023</b>	Office closes for the year from 1pm
Monday 29th January <b>2024</b>	Office opens from 9am. Book box collection from 12-4pm.
Tuesday 30th January <b>2024</b>	Students return for term 1

## Students of the Week - Week 10

Name	Class	Reason
Remi-Jay Young	F/1 - Mrs Roberts and Mrs Blake	Remi-Jay enters the room with a smile each day, a warm greeting and in the Green Zone. You make us all feel happy to be around you Remi with your connectiveness. Well done, Remi!
Gavin Gilligan	1/2 - Mrs Mitchell	For starting each day in his green zone and ready to learn. You are able to play and interact with your peers in a fun and playful manner at recess and lunch time. It has been wonderful to see. Keep up the good work, Gavin.
Tuurann Clarke	2/3 - Miss Grey	For showing our behaviour intention this week through positive behaviours, connecting with other students and teachers in a respectful and kind manner. Tuurann shows a genuine interest, is supportive of others through questioning, giving feedback, problem solving and checking in. Well done, Tuurann!
Sieanna Pearson-Leone	3/4 - Miss Evans	For being a pleasant student who demonstrates our school values. Sieanna completes her work to a great standard, is well respected by her peers and is always kind to everyone. Well done, Sieanna!
Tyller Prescott	4/5 - Mr Cooper and Mrs Woolman	For being a learner this week and showing connectedness with his peers by always showing respect. Tyller is developing his own motivation towards his learning which is pleasing to see leading up to grade 6 next year. Keep up the good work!
Ruby-Jean Jennings-Richardson	5/6 - Ms McElgunn	Andy always comes to school ready to learn and uses his learning time effectively. He enjoys being challenged and works hard when he is in the learning pit. Andy's questioning is great, his creative thinking is improving.
Chevy Hurse	Visual Arts - Mrs Blake	For sharing his ideas during our art lessons and completing his chalk pastel Christmas light piece effectively. You have fitted into the Visual Arts room well and are showing enjoyment with your achievements. Well done, Chevy!





## WEST WARRNAMBOOL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

### SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2024












#### Important Holiday Program Information

**Bookings are Essential! Phone/Text: 0418 944 276:**

**E: [jbourke@warrnambool.vic.gov.au](mailto:jbourke@warrnambool.vic.gov.au)**

Children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult

**COST: \$2 per child / Morning and Afternoon Tea Provided Every Day!**

Tuesday January 9	Wednesday January 10	Thursday January 11
<b>PLAYGROUP (0-5YRS)</b>  <b>10.00 - 11am</b>	<b>WALKING GARDENS (5-12YRS)</b>  <b>1.00 - 3.00pm</b>	<b>MOSAICS (7+ YRS)</b>  <b>1.00 - 3.00pm</b>
<b>BRICK CLUB (5-12YRS)</b>  <b>1.00 - 3.00pm</b>		
Wednesday January 17	Thursday January 18	Friday January 19
<b>EXCURSION (8+ YRS)</b> <b>Warrnambool Mens Shed</b>  <b>10.00 - 12noon</b>	<b>UNDER THE SEA (5-12YRS)</b> <b>Multi Media Composition</b>  <b>10.00 - 12noon</b>	<b>CREATIVE COOKING (8+YRS)</b>  <b>10.00 - 12noon</b>
Monday January 22	Tuesday January 23	Wednesday January 24
<b>PLAYGROUP (0-5YRS)</b>  <b>10.00 - 11am</b>	<b>EXCURSION (8+YRS)</b> <b>Pickle Ball @ The ARC</b>  <b>10.00 - 12noon</b>	<b>STITCHY FELTS (7+YRS)</b>  <b>1.00 - 3.00pm</b>
<b>MAKE &amp; FLY A KITE (5-12YRS)</b>  <b>1.00 - 3.00pm</b>		