

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.



KOORI LEADERSHIP DAY

On Wednesday 19th November, we went on our fourth Koori leadership excursion of 2025. We went to Russell's Creek Football Club to celebrate the end of the year.

We played touch football, decorated boomerangs, made jewellery, painted traditional designs on stones and celebrated the grade 6 students who are leaving.

We had a big celebration of the grade 6 Koori students. They got trophies, a Koori designed pencil case and pen to take with them as they move to the next part of their life.

These days are really important. They let us realise there is a big community of Koori kids and lets us see who we are.

No matter what school or grade, these days are a chance to celebrate young Koori leaders and for Koori students to understand more about our culture.

Hailey & Skyhla.



WORN GUNDIDJ NURSERY VISIT



Hi, this is Chase McFarlane and Ttuurann Clarke

Warrnambool West is doing great work in supporting Aboriginal culture and they want to keep doing it.

On Thursday 27th November, the Koori leadership group went to Worn Gundidj Nursery to learn about different types of native and endemic plants.

The excursion helped us by letting us getting plants for the garden and we feel like the garden will support Aboriginal students by letting us develop our understanding and feel more connected to our culture. It will be good for other students and teachers as well because people get to learn which types of native plants and trees are edible, medicinal or toxic.

Thanks to Worn Gundidj for all your support and Gunditjmara Co-Op for supplying the buses. We look forward to sharking the garden and our developing knowledge with everyone.

Thanks for reading.
Chase and Ttuurann



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From the Principal
Ms Karen Holdsworth

As we move toward the end of term, with only three weeks to go, I find myself reflecting on the happiness and growth I have seen in our students across the year. Each day, your children bring energy, curiosity and happiness into our school. They make me smile, they challenge my thinking, and they inspire me to keep doing my very best for their learning and their lives. I look forward to celebrating the end of term with this wonderful cohort of children who remind us why our work matters so deeply.

First Nation's Leadership group

Throughout the year, our Years 5 and 6 First Nation's leaders took part in a program to expand and nurture their leadership skills by providing meaningful opportunities for voice, cultural learning, connection, and responsibility within our network of schools and across the community. The final day celebrated our Year 6 students with a presentation ceremony for their graduation. Thank you to all involved in making the program a valuable experience for our students as inspiring young leaders.

100th Day of Toddle on Hoddle

This week we proudly celebrated 100 days of Toddle on Hoddle, a milestone made possible through our strong partnership with Jill Bourke at the West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House and the many families who join us each week. Bubbles, craft, balloons and cake helped make this occasion even more special. Together, we continue to build early connections, confidence and bring a sense of belonging for our youngest learners. Gratitude is extended to Renae Blake our F/1 teacher who plans, prepares and delivers the popular playgroup each week.

Inclusion Outreach Coaches

Our partnership with the Department's Inclusion Outreach Coaches continue to strengthen the inclusive practices that are a hallmark of our school. Together, we are working towards deeper problem-solving, the consistent implementation of evidence-based practices, and the integration of these approaches into teaching, learning, planning and curriculum development. This work supports the diverse needs of all our learners and reinforces our transition expectations, so every student arrives ready to learn and succeed.

Year 6 Transition to Secondary School

Year 6 transition sessions for some of our students have been successful in offering students important insights into secondary school routines, expectations and opportunities. Sessions commencing in Term 3 helped identify and support a smooth and well-prepared move into Year 7.

All of our Year 6 students attend two full days at their secondary school of enrolment next month. A reminder to families to transport your child directly to the secondary school on **Monday 8th December and Tuesday 9th December**. These days are catered particularly for 2026 Year 7 students and each school prepares a wonderful program for students to connect, familiarise and take part in.

Volunteer Appreciation Morning Tea

We extend our sincere appreciation to all school volunteers for their valuable contributions in 2025. Your commitment enhances the educational experiences of our students and reflects the strong community spirit of our school. We are inviting these special people to an appreciation Christmas morning tea on December 10th at 11am. See you there!

Year 6 Graduation

As Miss Grey and her Year 6s prepare for the Graduation, they are taking time to reflect on the journey they have taken—academically, socially and personally. Miss Grey is working thoughtfully to design a ceremony that honours each student's strengths, efforts and contributions to our school community. Graduation is not only a celebration of what they've accomplished, and presentation of achievement awards but also a moment to look ahead with pride and optimism as they transition to secondary school. The night will commence at 5.30 for a special dinner with the graduates and school staff with the formal proceedings commencing at 7pm in the Multi Purpose Room. Looking forward to this special evening.

End of Year Celebrations

The year is ending with each learning community taking the students on a special end of year excursion. Foundation -2 will celebrate a momentous year at the Warrnambool Botanical Gardens and Years 3-6 are travelling to Sovereign Hill in Ballarat for their 2025 celebrations.

Christmas and Final Assembly

Our end-of-year family assembly will be held on **Tuesday 16th December at 9:30am**. This special assembly will include our *Students of the Term* awards as well as a selection of Christmas items from our students. We will also draw the Christmas raffle, and we warmly encourage families to contribute items to our hamper collection. Raffle tickets have been sent home with students today. Everyone is welcome to attend this special event to end the school year.

Testing Dates

Students will receive a booking time and date to attend school for Mathematics assessments. Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th December are our designated testing days. Students are only required at their nominated testing period. TheirCare will be operating on these days. Please register if you require their service.

Statewide Transition Day

Tuesday 9th December is the statewide transition day where all students across Victoria attend this day as a 'step up'. Students' 2026 classroom teacher is announced on this day and students will familiarise themselves with their new classroom, cohort and teachers from 9am – 12.30pm. This is

an important day for everyone and we assure all of our students that they will be supported and will enjoy their day with their new teacher.

Glasses For Kids

We are excited to provide the free service for eye testing and provision of glasses for all students in Foundation, Years 1, 2 and 3 in 2026. Forms were sent home last term and posters are available through the school for registration.

TheirCare end of service

We do say goodbye to our wonderful partnership with TheirCare at the end of the year. We have enjoyed and appreciated the service across the years, providing high quality before and after school care for our families. I am working closely with the Department of Education to launch a School Council run service in 2026. Further details will be forwarded as plans continue.

How to support your child under 16 with the new social media age restrictions

From 10 December 2025, the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 will require social media platforms to:

- prevent children and young people under 16 from having a social media account
- deactivate or freeze existing accounts held by people under 16.

Delaying access to social media protects the health and wellbeing of young people and gives them extra time to build real world connections and digital literacy skills.

The responsibility will be on the social media platforms, not parents, carers, children or schools, to implement these new restrictions.

Most popular social media platforms will be age restricted. These include Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Reddit and YouTube.

Messaging services and online games, as well as apps and platforms that support health and education, can still be used.

How to help under 16s prepare for the change

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting their children to be safe online.

To help get under 16s ready for the social media minimum age requirements, you can go to the eSafety website to learn more about the social media age restrictions and find tips on how to talk about social media age restrictions with young people.

What the change means for our school

At our school, all age-restricted social media platforms are blocked for student use on the school network.

To keep up to date about the new social media age restrictions, visit the eSafety website and subscribe to their newsletter.

Kind regards,
Karen Holdsworth



From The Office

Parent Payment Policy 2026

School Council have approved the 2026 Parent Payment Policy. Curriculum Contributions will be \$290.00 per student. A copy of the Parent Payment Policy has been sent home.

Student book packs, including classroom consumables, are now available to be purchased online through Campion Education. These online orders need to be placed no later than Sunday 14th December. A copy of the Parent Payment Policy and information regarding book pack ordering has been sent home. Additional copies of these forms are available at the office.

Christmas Hamper Donations

Our wonderful Christmas Hamper Raffle will be on again this year. We ask families to contribute small items for the hampers. Items such as small Christmas gifts, non-perishable food items, bon bons, lollies or Christmas crafts will all be greatly appreciated. Thank you to families who have already brought in items.

This is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year and the more hampers we can make, the more prizes will be on offer to win. Raffle tickets have been sent home today. Sold raffle tickets and money are to be returned to school no later than Monday 15th December.

Uniform Donations

If you have any pre-loved uniform that your child has grown out of, please feel free to bring it into the office. We always appreciate any uniform items donated to school.

Asthma and Allergy Action Plans

If your child/children have asthma or allergies, we require an Action Plan to be completed annually. Copies of these forms are available at the office, and should be completed by doctors. This is important information to keep up to date in the case of an emergency.



From the Assistant Principal

It's hard to believe how quickly the end of the school year is approaching. It has gotten me to think about how my family and I will spend our days in the holidays. We have lots of routines that we complete every day or week during the school term, and this helps us be organised and ready for our busy days. I have been thinking about how routines are so important in the holidays as well, and how our brains are wired to crave the predictable nature of routines and how these are still so important in the holidays.

Routines are one of the simplest and most effective ways to support positive behaviour in children. When children know *what* to do, *when* to do it and *how* it should happen, they feel more confident and are more willing to cooperate. For example, if tidying up after dinner is always your child's job, they're more likely to do it without a fuss because it's simply part of the family routine.

Routines are especially helpful during busy or challenging parts of the day – like school mornings. When children know exactly what needs to happen before leaving the house, such as packing their lunch or putting on their shoes, the whole morning runs more smoothly for everyone.

Routines also help support children's wellbeing. Regular times for sleep, meals and play help children feel settled and ready to behave in positive ways.

Of course, many things influence children's behaviour, and it's important to think about *why* your child might be acting in a certain way. When we understand the reasons behind behaviour, we can respond more effectively.

Tips for Creating Helpful Routines

- **Plan routines for busy times of day.** Mornings and after school often feel hectic, but routines can help keep everyone on track.
- **Include downtime.** Quiet time, rest or free play can make a big difference to children's mood and behaviour.
- **Link activities together.** Pairing tasks helps children remember them – for example, putting dirty clothes in the basket when brushing their teeth.
- **Set limits within the routine.** For example, homework first, then one TV show.
- **Explain routines clearly.** Even young children understand simple instructions like "First teeth, then story."
- **Talk about why routines matter.** For example, "We have dinner early on Thursdays so we can get to gymnastics on time."
- **Use child-friendly language.** Instead of time limits they may not grasp, try naming the program or activity: "We're watching one episode of Little Lunch."

Routines help children feel safe, learn new skills and develop healthy habits. They also help families stay organised, reduce stress and make more time for fun.

Helping Children Follow Routines

- **Use visual reminders.** A simple poster with pictures can show each step. Creating it together makes it even more meaningful.
- **Build independence.** Simple prompts like music from an alarm clock can help children know when it's time to get started.
- **Give children responsibility.** Young children can do small jobs like setting the table, helping them feel capable and involved.
- **Praise their efforts.** Specific praise works best: "Great job remembering your lunch box today!"

Remember, routines don't have to be strict or unchanging. Life happens! Flexibility is part of every family's rhythm. Routines simply give children a steady framework that helps them thrive.

Ms. Jodie Abbott

Big Life in F/1RB



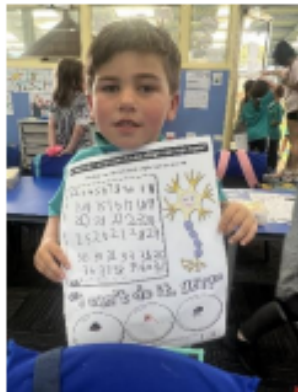
During Week 7 and 8 our focus has been to understand the difference between growth and fixed mindset. When we use a growth mindset and change how we think and talk, it helps us to try new things, reach our goals and become stronger and more resilient.

We have been practicing to 'power up' our neurons to make our brains grow! We enjoy the 'Peace and Ok' challenge and we are improving each day that we practice it.

Cheyda and Tim are doing the Peace and Ok challenge.



On Monday we focused on a skill 'I can't do yet' we then identified people who can help us.



Harper would like to master handstands. Blayd and Katelynn are focusing on writing numbers to 100. Tanishka is aiming to write by herself. She identified that her Mum, Dad and Mrs Blake can help her with this goal.

Big Life

Term 4
Weeks 7 & 8

This fortnight in Big Life, students are learning that our mindset shapes how we approach challenges. A **Growth Mindset** means believing we can improve with effort, practice, and learning from mistakes. A **Fixed Mindset** makes us think our abilities can't change. Understanding the difference helps students dial up their curiosity, keep trying, and feel proud of their progress.

You can support this conversation & learning at home by:



Model growth mindset - share your own challenges & how you kept trying.

Reframe "can't" with "yet" - "You can't do it yet, but you're learning."

Celebrate persistence: Notice moments when your child doesn't give up.

Praise effort and progress during the learning process, not just the final outcome.

Big Life with Mel

On Tuesday of week 7, the Grade 1/2 students learned about **body safety** and **Early Warning Signs (EWS)**. Students thought about feelings they get in their body when someone makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable, and who they can go to for help if they need it. The Grade 4/5s learned about the **No, Go, Tell** model for help seeking and role played asking for help from a trusted adult. The Grade 5/6s learned about key terms in relation to **gender & identity**, and explored what it can feel like when a person with **power** or **influence** does not respect the rights or needs of those they have power over.



2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 9 1st - 5th December	01 5/6 Surfing	02 9:30 Toddle on Hoddle 2:15pm 2026 Foundation transition session 5/6 Surfing	03 5/6 Surfing	04 5/6 Surfing	05 5/6 Surfing
Week 10 8th - 12th December	08	09 Statewide Transition Day	10 3-6 Sovereign Hill Excursion	11	12 LC1 Botanic Gardens Excursion
Week 11 15th - 19th December	15 7pm Year 6 Graduation	16 Students Final Day	17 2026 Testing Day	18 2026 Testing Day	19 Staff Final Day

Student of the Week - Week Seven


Name	Class	Name	Class
Bodhi Leslie	F/1 - Mrs Blake and Mrs Roberts	Indigo Fitzpatrick	5/6 - Miss Grey
Tina N Lin	1/2 - Miss Hoy	Sienna Cowland	PE - Mr Fitz
Gavin Gilligan	2/3 - Mrs Mitchell	King Baje	Music - Mrs Fitz
Amelia Gilgen	3/4 - Mr Symonds	Letisha Freeman	STEM - Mrs Fitz
Kingston Hawkins	4/5 - Ms Kavanagh and Ms Evans		



CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

CDS → VIC

WARRNAMBOOL WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL IS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR THE CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME!



FAMILIES / COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN USE AND NOMINATE OUR SCHOOL WHEN DEPOSITING YOUR CONTAINERS!

THE SCHEME REWARDS VICORIANS WITH A 10 CENT REFUND FOR EVERY ELIGIBLE CAN, CARTON AND BOTTLE RETURNED.

SUBMIT YOUR CONTAINERS AT YOUR NEAREST COLLECTION POINT NOW TO BENEFIT OUR SCHOOL

For further information, call the front office on 55613161

CELEBRATE THE END OF SCHOOL

FOUNDATION, YEAR 1 & 2 PARTY!

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER 9.15AM-12.15PM

We are heading to the Botanical Gardens for a morning of fun! Activities include Parachute Play, Nature Walk, Bark Rubbings and much more!

CONSENT NEEDED ON COMPASS BY DECEMBER 5TH

NO COST, A MOVIE AND TREATS WILL BE PROVIDED BACK AT SCHOOL! SNACKS, LUNCH AND DRINKS WILL BE REQUIRED

GLASSES FOR KIDS SIGN UP TODAY!

The Glasses for Kids program will be visiting this school to provide Foundation (Prep) to Year 3 students with **FREE** vision screening, then testing and glasses (as required)



SIGN UP HERE
Scan this QR code to sign up now

STATE SCHOOLS RELIEF
GLASSES FOR KIDS
VICTORIA Department of Education

A Victorian State Government and State Schools' Relief Initiative
Questions? Please contact the GFK team via info@gasesforkids.com.au

The Dennington Carols

have moved to
St John's Primary School
Russell St, Dennington
Friday 5th December at 6pm

Entry is a gold coin donation | Gates open and food and drinks are available to purchase from 5:30pm

Gold coin donations to Wish Collective
Brought to you by the **Warrnambool Lions Club** in conjunction with the Dennington Community Association
This is a smoke, vape and dog free event

FROM 8TH TO 23RD DECEMBER

SANTA PHOTOS

@ EMERALD VILLAGE PICTURE FRAMING KOROIIT

HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN WITH SANTA

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY EMERALD VILLAGE PICTURE FRAMING

SANTA SESSIONS

Monday 8th 12pm - 2pm (L) 4pm - 7pm (B)	Tuesday 9th 12pm - 2pm (B) 4pm - 7pm (L) SENSITIVE	Thursday 11th 11am - 2pm (L) 2:30pm - 5pm (B)
Friday 12th 12pm - 2pm (B) 4pm - 7pm (L)	Saturday 13th 11am - 2pm (L) PETS 4pm - 6:30pm (B)	Sunday 14th 11am - 2pm (B) 4pm - 7pm (L)
Monday 15th 11am - 2pm (L) 4pm - 7pm (B)	Tuesday 16th 11am - 2pm (L) 4pm - 7pm (B) PETS	Thursday 18th 11am - 2pm (B) 4pm - 7pm (L)
Friday 19th 11am - 2pm (L) 4pm - 7pm (B) PETS	Saturday 20th 11am - 2pm (B) 4pm - 7pm (L)	Sunday 21st 11am - 2pm (L) 4pm - 7pm (B)
Monday 22nd 11am - 2pm (B) 4pm - 7pm (L)	Tuesday 23rd 11am - 2pm (L) 4pm - 7pm (B)	Key: Barn (B) Lounge (L)

PHOTO PACKS

- Snowy Pack \$20**
6x8 (1)
- Nutcracker Pack \$30**
4x6 (2)
5x7 (2)
- Jolly Pack \$40**
4x6 (2)
5x7 (2)
6x8 (2)
- Festive Pack \$50**
4x6 (2)
5x7 (2)
6x8 (2)
8x10 (1)

For bookings:

Contact our page and send us a message
 Give us a call on 0415 272 755
 Pop in store at 133A Commercial Rd Koroit

NO ALTERATIONS TO PACKS AVAILABLE

2026 FOUNDATION STUDENTS

SCHOOL TRANSITION SESSIONS

2026 Foundation students attend 1 hour sessions with their teacher in their future classroom. They will explore a range of literacy and numeracy activities as well as Music, Visual Arts, Auslan, and P.E. We encourage the children to attend by themselves if they can.

- Tuesday 18th November 2:15pm-3:15pm
- Tuesday 25th November 2:15pm-3:15pm
- Tuesday 2nd December 2:15pm-3:15pm
- State-Wide Transition Day Tuesday 9th December 9am-12pm
3 hour session without their parent/guardian. They will receive a 'showbag' of goodies and information for 2026, including a new school t-shirt and school sunhat.
A parents information session will be held in the library from 11:30am-12pm

Classrooms Sports Art Music Auslan

Contact for any queries 55 613161 Warrnambool West PS

STORY DOGS PROGRAM

PAWS FOR A CAUSE

Help Us Shave Mr Yates!

Pip and Cheryl from Story Dogs, a non-profit organisation kindly share their time at WWPS.

Your donation will support the program further, so that many more students, dogs and owners in the program continue reading at school.

Take part in losing Mr Yates' beloved hair, Friday 28th November at Assembly!
 Donate to share the shave!

Warrnambool West Primary School's

PLEASE DONATE **CHRISTMAS** CHRISTMAS **RAFFLE** ITEMS!

This season is the perfect time to win and celebrate. Join our raffle and enjoy the chance to take home hamper prizes for your family.

- ACCEPTING ITEMS NOW, PLEASE HAND TO THE FRONT OFFICE.

Raffle drawn at the final assembly, Tuesday 16th December 2025

Raffle tickets sent home soon.

WELCOME TO PENNY, WWPS' NEW WELLBEING DOG.

I am Penny, and I am a miniature Dachshund
 Daisy had to say goodbye to WWPS but I know you will love me!
 I like going for adventures and love cheese!
 I make sure I let my family know when we have visitors.
 I love the Winter season because I have a special couch in front of a fireplace. This is my favourite nap time!

Toddle on Hoddle Term 4

Join us for lots of fun with friends! Tactile activities, art and craft, story time, sing-a-longs, play areas, special themes, dress ups and much more!

Date	Theme	Date	Theme		
28 th October	Halloween 	11 th November	Remembrance Day 	25 th November	100 th Session of ToH!
4 th November	Melbourne Cup 	18 th November	World Children's Day 	2 nd December	Last session! Christmas Party

When: Tuesday mornings 9.30-11am Provided: Fruit platters for morning tea
 Where: WWPS Multi-Purpose Room Cost: \$0
 Bring: Water bottles and a smile! We can't wait to see you! Renae and Jill ☺