

# ***The West Express***

Warrnambool West Primary School

'WWPS is a Child Safe school'



## **WELCOME PREPS OF 2023**



**From Little Things, Big Things Grow**



To acknowledge the first day of school for 2023, the students in Mrs Roberts and Mrs Blake's Foundation/Year 1 class planted some new seedlings.

Just like our seedlings, we look forward to watching these amazing little people grow and flourish in their learning journey at Warrnambool West Primary School.



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**Great School | Great Community | Great Future**



## *From the Principal Mrs Clare Monk*

Welcome back to ALL Warrnambool West Primary School students, staff, and families. It has been wonderful to have all the students back this week, enjoying catching up with their teachers and friends. The atmosphere across the school has been buzzing with energy and classes have very quickly settled in. I hope the transition back to school is a smooth one for your child/children.

Special welcome to all our 15 new Foundation students in their very first week of school who have confidently settled into their new classrooms and routines. From arriving, saying goodbye at the door, unpacking, getting organised, learning how to follow instructions, play, learn and even complete some tests- they have all been amazing! The students have already met their Year 5/6 buddies who proudly introduced them to the wider school community at our first assembly on Monday. What an exciting time for them and their families, as they begin their formal education journey. Well done to Mrs. Meagan Roberts and Mrs. Renae Blake for their work in facilitating a smooth start for our newest school members. A warm welcome also to all new students and families who have relocated to Warrnambool West Primary School in all other year levels.

The staff and I look forward to another productive year for our students. I commend our teachers for the work they have done over the holidays to ensure that the start of the year has been a positive experience. The focus initially for our teachers will be on 'Connection'- settling the students back in, building positive relationships with them and their classmates, helping students get back into classroom routines and reviewing expected learning behaviours. Our Zones of Regulation framework will once again be part of our everyday practice in all classes with a focus on teaching and re-teaching what each zone means, the emotions that sit within each zone and strategies to manage the emotions. Over the next week students will then we move into introducing our regular learning routines.

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome new staff members; Welcome to Scott Cooper, who is very excited to be teaching year 4/5. Scott has joined us from Merri River School and brings with him a wealth of knowledge about Learning and Wellbeing. Sarah Smith has also joined our staff in the role of education support. Sarah is currently studying her Bachelor of Education and will predominately working in the Foundation /one classroom. Our administration staff is looking a little different this year with Vanessa Attrill taking some personal leave, and we welcome Veronica Madden as our temporary Business Manager. Our new trainee, Sasha Suckling will be supporting staff in the front office and assisting teachers in the classrooms. Sasha recently completed her VCE at Emmanuel College and will use 2023 as a gap year, before heading to university in 2024. We also welcome back Makayla Lowther who is working part time in the office to support new staff with administration tasks.

Thank you to students and families for the effort that is being made to ensure learning can commence at the first bell (9am) each day. Coming to school on time, every day, ready for learning are fundamental elements that underpin successful academic achievements, as well as building a sense of belonging to their teachers and friends. If you are having difficulty with your child's attendance, please make contact as we welcome the opportunity to work with families to remove barriers that impact on school attendance.

I trust that all students and families will find their time at Warrnambool West rewarding in many ways. Warrnambool West is an inclusive community that encourages all students to treat each other with respect, achieve personal excellence and take ownership for behaviour. Parents and Carer's are most welcome at school If you have time to volunteer your time we would love to hear from you. We are proud of our school, and I wish all students a very satisfying and successful year.

Warmest  
Regards,

Clare Monk





**ANNUAL REMINDERS****Uniform**

All our students looked splendid in their full uniforms as they came through the school gates last Monday. We ask that you ensure your child is in uniform each day in order to continue the high standards we set for ourselves. Hats are to be worn until the end of April so please ensure your child has a broad brimmed hat (named) available every day. Those students without a hat must remain under cover, for the duration of recess and lunchtime. Hats can be purchased from the office. We do have sunscreen available at school, however if you believe your child may have an allergy to certain sunscreen, please supply your own.

**Student Supervision Before and After School**

Teachers commence yard duty supervision of the playground at 8:45am each day. Please be aware that children who arrive prior to 8:45am may be unsupervised in the playground. After school there are teachers on yard duty until 3:45pm. After 3:45pm children who have not been collected will be brought to the area outside the office, where every effort will be made to contact parents or guardians. We understand that from time-to-time emergencies do happen, please let the office know if they can support you

**Communication**

We have made the decision to move to a printed fortnightly newsletter this year and this will be distributed to families every Thursday. Our newsletters keep parents informed of what is happening at our school and important information about upcoming events. Between newsletter publications Compass messages, Seesaw and Facebook are other ways to stay in touch with what is happening around the school. Please make contact with staff if you need support to log into any of these platforms.

If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please contact the office for an appointment or alternatively write a note to arrange a meeting time. Please note: Staff are often very busy in the mornings prior to instruction time, preparing for the day ahead. Staff also have meeting commitments after school on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 3.40 onwards and therefore it is not always possible to meet with you after school on these days. If you have an urgent concern about your child regarding any start of year questions or concerns, please make contact with me through the office.

**Assembly**

Our weekly assembly is held each Friday afternoon commencing approximately 2:50 pm. Families are welcome to join students and staff to celebrate the week's learning and student achievements.

Our assemblies are held in the multi-purpose room.

**Collection of students from school during school hours**

The Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) has policies and guidelines for the collection of children during school hours from government schools. Students must only be collected by their parents (subject to any specific court orders) or by a person who has been authorised by the parents to pick up their child. An authorised person is anyone who has been identified by the parents on the enrolment form such as Adult A or Adult B or anyone listed as an Emergency Contact. If the authorised person signing the child out early is not known to the office staff, they can expect to be asked for photo identification. If any of your family personal contact details have changed over the holidays, including emergency contacts, please office staff. It is vital that we have current information for each family on file as part of our emergency management procedures. If you wish to collect your child from school before dismissal time, they must be signed out at the office. This ensures all students can be accounted for in the case of an emergency. If you have any questions about these procedures, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or any of the office staff.

On a related topic, if there are or have been any family court orders in place that are relevant to your children can you please ensure that we have the latest copy on file, so we are aware of any custody or access restrictions that are in place.

**Late Arrivals**

Students arriving after 9am should report to the office first. Office staff will record their attendance as a late arrival and students will then go to class. DET monitor daily attendance of each school and if lateness is becoming a problem contact will be made with families.

**Named Clothing**

Parents are asked to check that clothing is clearly named. If you have 2nd hand clothes, please check that the name has been changed. If clothes are correctly named, we have some hope of returning items to the correct owners.



## *From the Assistant Principal*



The first day at school is a rite of passage. It's a **tradition that everyone experiences in his or her own, very personal way**. Yet it creates a common ground from which all of us can share.

Going to school is one of the most exciting occasions in a student's life. We remember or have the family photographs of our first day. I remember mine!

I stood in the front garden of our brown brick, 1970s style house. Hair in two pig-tails, a fringe and a toothless grin saying 'Bye Mum!' I was quite smart in my blue checked dress, with white long socks and black T-Bars (some things never change). But one thing that I will never forget as I launched into my schooling life that day, was the brand new orange squared suitcase I had for my school bag. Well wasn't I proud of this! You see, these things we never forget, and the day of firsts was exactly the rite of passage I know I will have in my bank of memories forever.



Some things may seem menial to us as parents, but we are definitely influencers in how our children recall their first day. This year there will be many mini rites of passages for our students. And these are equally as important as the big milestone moments in life, such as the marker of a first day of school.

Think about your first day, and the days that followed. Friendships, new books, new shoes, a new classroom and a new pencil to learn how to write your name. All important 'minis' that make up your memories, and ones that shape your academic and social journey throughout life.

Of course, some memories may not be all positive but it is important to remember that these experiences are not reflected on to what you expect your child to experience. Your little human will collect and gather their own experiences, and their own mini rites of passages as they navigate this new school year. And that is very exciting!

So, whether it's starting the first day of school, your child making their first ever school lunch, turning 10 or walking home from school for the first time. Let's revel in our children growing up, and becoming future leaders but also take the time to recognise your sadness that they've growing up and becoming independent little humans.

I am excited for the year ahead, and I have noticed a peaceful, positive and productive hum in all classrooms. Your children are in the best of hands in 2023 at Warrnambool West PS! Welcome to our new families and welcome back to our wonderful community!

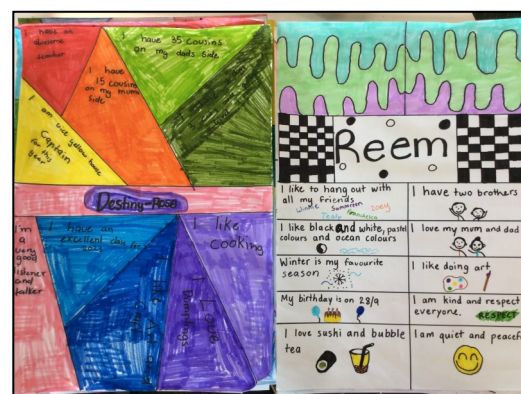
*Ms. Karen Holdsworth*  
**Assistant Principal**





## Welcome back for 2023!

The start of the School Year has been very exciting. It has been wonderful to catch up with our friends again and meet new students in our class. We have been working on setting up a positive classroom and making it a happy, safe and learning environment. We are getting to know each other again and having fun doing it. 2023 is going to be fantastic and lots of fun being in Year 5/6. We have more responsibilities now but we know we can do it.





**HELLO! I'M**

**MR. SCOTT COOPER**

**YEAR 4/5 CLASSROOM TEACHER**

**ABOUT ME :**

I grew up in sunny Bundaberg in Queensland. I now live in Port Fairy.  
 I volunteer at the surf club and CFA, so it was a very busy summer!  
 I enjoy playing tennis, and I am a self-proclaimed champion at it!  
 I enjoy working with kids. Finished uni 8 years ago.  
 Love my dog, Sid!

**MY FAVOURITE MOTTO.. NO SUCH THING AS A MISTAKE.**

Can't wait to get to know my fabulous students and families as the year goes on.

## Important Dates: Term 1, 2023

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 2 30th-3rd February	30th Students return	31st	1st	2nd	3rd Assembly
Week 3 6th—10th February	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th Assembly
Week 4 13th--17th February	13th	14th	15th	16th 'Let's Talk' Big Life Forum	17th Assembly
Week 5 20th--24th February	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th Colour Run! 





Warrnambool West  
Primary School

# AFTER SCHOOL ATHLETICS

## TERM 1

### WHEN

Every Thursday from 3:30-  
4:30pm

Starting first week back

### WHERE

WWPS School Oval

With Mr Hackett

### HOW

Sign up at the office, a maximum  
of 25 spots available.



## NEWSLETTER ISSUE

Term1 Week 1



We would like to say thank you to the Peek Whurrong People of the Maar Nation for sharing their land with us. We promise to look after it, the animals and people too.



## Welcome to 2023

### What's on for Term 1 @ TheirCare:

Lots of art & craft, loads of nature play, a pinch of mindfulness, yummy and healthy snacks, science experiments, a great deal of games, performances and heaps more!

Bookings @ [www.theircare.com.au](http://www.theircare.com.au)



Photos by Omar Obied and Claudia Zanette

#### TIMES

**Before School:** 7:00am - 9:00am

**After School:** 3:20pm - 6:00pm

#### CONTACT HEAD OFFICE

1300 072 410

[info@theircare.com.au](mailto:info@theircare.com.au)

#### CONTACT SERVICE

0458 100 401

[warrnamboolwest@theircare.com.au](mailto:warrnamboolwest@theircare.com.au)





## Seesaw App

### FAMILY

This year, each classroom will again be using Seesaw.

In class, teachers will use the app to share resources with their students and see samples of a student's work that they have uploaded. Students will use the work to communicate and share their work with each other.

At home, families can use the app to see photos of their child's work, letters and information from their student's teacher, ideas to help their child at home and much more. Families can reply and send messages to their child's teacher.

Compass will still be used to manage whole school information, approving excursions and informing the school of a student's absence. Seesaw has information specifically related to your child. Your child's teacher will send home a sheet with a QR code. This is unique for each child. Download the Seesaw Family app, select 'I'm a parent,' and then scan the QR code for each of your children. Families can view the work posted in their own child's journal. Families do not see the work of anyone else in the class. If you have more than one child at the school, you simply click on the name of the child whose work you wish to see.

We hope you enjoy sharing your child's learning journey with them in this way!



**Safe Seats  
Safe Kids**

## IS YOUR CHILD TRAVELLING SAFELY?

**FREE CHILD CAR RESTRAINT FITTINGS  
& SAFETY CHECKS**

- St Pius X Primary School, 32 Hoddle St, enter via, Ross Street, West Warrnambool on Tue 28 February between 10am - 2pm  
To book go to: [www.safeseatssafekids.com.au](http://www.safeseatssafekids.com.au)



find out more at [safeseatssafekids.com.au](http://safeseatssafekids.com.au)





**Only a few sleeps left until school starts!**

Make a booking for week 1 and go into the draw to

**Win**


2 x Holiday Program days  
OR  
3 x Before or After School Care sessions



# **HOMEWORK HELP**

**EVERY TUESDAY 4PM-5PM (DURING SCHOOL TERMS)  
AT THE WARRNAMBOOL LIBRARY.**

**EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST  
PRIMARY & SECONDARY STUDENTS WITH HOMEWORK,  
REVISION, SCHOOL READERS OR ENGLISH  
CONVERSATION PRACTICE.**

**HEALTHY SNACKS PROVIDED.**



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