



"Working Together for a Better Future"

FRIDAY 24th February

TERM 1 2023

www.wallanps.vic.edu.au

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School Dates:

Fridays in Term 1

- Interschool sport Year 5/6 students
- Swimming Year 5/6 students

Monday 6th March

- Whole school House Cross Country - Dress in your colours

Tuesday 7th March

- Semper Dental Van Arrives

Wednesday 8th March

- Meet and Greet 4-6pm

A Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

New School Values!

This week we will focus on one of our new school values; **DO YOUR BEST!**

Primary school is an important time in a child's academic journey. It lays the foundation for their future education and helps to shape their attitudes towards learning. As parents and educators, it's important to encourage children to 'Do Their Best' in school. Here are some tips on how our students can 'Do Their Best':

1. **Stay organised:** Encourage your child to keep track of their belongings by placing their items such as drink bottles, lunch boxes and jumpers back in their bag when they have finished using them. Also, encourage them to pack their school bag each day so they are organised for school.
2. **Develop good learning habits:** Encourage your child to set aside a regular time for home reading. This helps to establish good study habits and can make it easier for children to focus on their learning. This can be done using our new school diaries which will arrive soon. Create a schedule to ensure you allocate time to read at home each evening.
3. **Get involved:** Encourage your child to get involved in school activities such as clubs, sports, and events. This helps to foster a sense of belonging and can provide opportunities for children to develop new skills and interests.
4. **Ask for help:** Encourage your child to ask for help when they need it. This can be done by talking to their teacher or working with a group of friends. By seeking help, children can better understand their learning and stay on track with their academic goals.
5. **Stay motivated:** Encourage your child to stay motivated by discussing their goals and celebrating their successes. This

Monday 13th March

- No School - Public Holiday

Wednesday 15th March

- NAPLAN begins for Year 3 and 5 students

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ashley Ruth who is one of our teachers who is on maternity leave and welcomed beautiful baby Hurley last week.

helps to maintain a positive attitude towards learning and can help children to stay focused long-term.

By staying organised, developing good study habits, getting involved, asking for help, and staying motivated, children can "Do Their Best" in school and set themselves up for success in the future.

Celebrate

I am so proud of our school community and how we have settled in for the year. Our 'foundies' are enjoying their classrooms and visiting specialist classes. This week they will begin to attend school full-time as the Wednesday testing sessions have been completed. Thank you families for your support during this period.

We have lots of new families this year and it is lovely to see our students in the yard, meeting new people and helping our students who may be needing a little support in the yard to find a buddy, return to their learning space or even find the toilets. Go team!

I think the highlight for me last week was hearing our Year 5/6 students walk up the hill for Interschool sport singing our school song '...mighty, mighty Wallan!' It brought a positive vibe to the yard to see teachers and students chanting and our junior children welcoming our upper school students back onsite after their games. *Wallan PS is a great place to be, in 2023, the year of opportunity!*

Kind regards,
Tanya Kirkright - Principal



REMINDER:

MONDAY 6th MARCH

Dress in your House colours.

Support your team and ensure you are in SunSmart clothing that you can run in as students will be running around the oval in Year Foundation - Year 2. Year 3 - 6 students will run around the area in close vicinity to the school, supervised by staff and volunteers.

Meet our School Council President

Hi, my name is Liarna. I'm the mother of 2 students at Wallan Primary. I was a member of the School Council in 2022 and in 2023 I have been nominated for the role of School Council President. I am very passionate about ensuring the best education for my children. I decided to take part in the School Council to keep myself informed and to be able to help out and give back to the school that is giving so much to my children.

Meet our School Council Vice President

My name is Rochelle, our family moved to Wallan in 2018 when my daughter joined WPS as a yr4 student. I joined the school council in 2019 to be a bit more involved with the school and also our new community. My youngest son is now in year 3. I have made great relationships over the years with other parents, teachers and the support staff faculty, who are all amazing people supporting our kids to achieve their goals. I am proud of the school and how far it has come. There is still great potential under an incredible, enthusiastic leadership team.

Being on the council allowed me to get to understand the challenges that were faced and also the successes achieved in a relatively short time. I get to know our school community and offer ideas or suggestions in a supportive environment. I would recommend to anybody considering being more involved, to give it a go. There are other sub-committees like family and friends (FAF) that are always looking for volunteers to get amongst the fun!

Food Specialist @ Wallan!

The Year 5 & 6 students have recently taken part in their first cooking classes as part of the Kitchen/Garden program. Students had the opportunity to choose their own ingredients to create 'Ants on a log'. They practised using different cutting techniques and prepared their healthy snacks independently. It was fantastic to see so many students trying new things and saying how excited they were to be able to take part in these lessons at school. We can't wait to see what other dishes they create in the future.



NEW devices!

In 2022 we purchased 200 new devices to ensure our Year 3-6 students were one-to-one. This year our numbers have increased and due to this our Year 4 students are not there yet. However, thank you to the School Council who have approved the purchase of another 20 devices to increase this pool. By the start of Term 2, we will have school-supplied devices for each child in Years 3-6 and one device between two in Foundation to Year 2! WOW look at what we can achieve in a year.



Success with attendance

As the saying goes, "every minute counts", and this is especially true when it comes to students being at school. There are several reasons why it's important for students to be at school every day and to make the most of every minute they spend there.

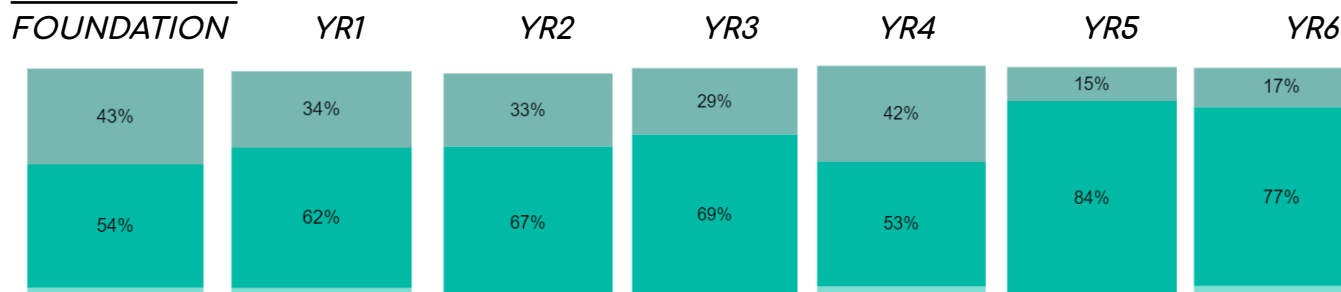
Being at school every day ensures that students don't miss out on important information and instruction. Even if a student is absent for just one day, they can miss out on key concepts and lessons that are crucial for their academic progress. This can make it difficult for them to catch up and can have a negative impact on their academic results.

School is not just about academic learning, it's also about social and emotional learning. When students are absent from school, they miss out on opportunities to develop social skills and build relationships with their peers. This can impact their overall well-being and sense of belonging.

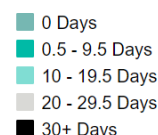
Being present in school every day helps students to develop good habits and routines. Consistent attendance helps to establish a sense of responsibility, punctuality, and commitment, which are important qualities that will serve them well in their future academic and professional endeavours.

Attendance is a major focus for our network and our school. Our well-being team have been working hard to ensure students are attending school and if supports need to be put in place our team can assist students and their families.

Absences 2023



We are tracking our data and are excited to see the improvement in our attendance and the percentage of students attending school so far this year. As you can see above our Year 4 students and Foundation have more students who have not missed a day of school!



A big thank you to our teachers for their engaging teaching and the learning they are planning for. Another important part of this team is the family, you! THANK YOU for pushing through in the morning if you get the 'I don't want to go today' or 'can I stay home today?' and ensuring your child still makes it to school each day! It's essential for students to make the most of every minute they spend at school.

Do you want your child to learn an instrument?

Thank you for all the enrolments last week. We have increased our sessions again.

Whittlesea Music is back for 2023!

Go to our website: www.whittleseamusic.com/enrolment/

Complete the online enrolment form, ensuring you choose the correct campus, preferred lesson duration and preference of instrument.

We will then be in touch between 12-5 Monday to Friday with enrolment confirmation and to chat about your child/children's needs.