



"Working Together for a Better Future"

THURSDAY 5th December

TERM 4 2024

www.wallanps.vic.edu.au

PH:5783 1232

School Dates:

Tues 10th December
Meet the Teacher

Mon 16th December
Grade 6 Graduation

Tues 17th December
Colour Run

Thurs 19th December
Year 5 & 6 Funfields
Excursion

Thurs 19th December
Year 1- 4
Class Parties

Check our website
for more dates.



Dear Families,

We would like to acknowledge and celebrate our local network's well-being team. Our school is part of the Mitchell and Murrindindi network which consists of 20 local schools. The teachers across these 20 schools meet for Community of Practice teams for different foci across the year. In 2024 the

M&M network well-being CoP was nominated for the Victorian Education Excellence Awards. Not only was this amazing team nominated they were also shortlisted as finalists. Unfortunately, they were not successful in the final award however we are extremely proud as a school to be part of this great team and to be nominated and shortlisted in this category as a team against other individuals is a credit. Congratulations to our representative on the team Sandra Allison for all her work and time to build connections with other schools. This in turn benefits the Wallan primary school and most importantly benefits the well-being of each and every student.

We are in the final weeks of the year but it is still important to make sure students have a hat at school each day. Teachers will remind students to wear their hats before breaks but it is also important for our students to take some responsibility with this. Please chat with your child/ren at home about the importance of wearing a hat when outside. Thank you for your support.



Mitchell & Murrindindi Network Wellbeing Community of Practice team

Reminders for parents:

- BREAKFAST AND LUNCH CLUB MESSAGES
 - Recently we have implemented a message from Compass to inform you if your child attends our Breakfast or Lunch club. This is to keep families informed and for data tracking for our school to see if we have particular days that are more popular and how much we need to order. We have had lots of positive feedback around this as now parents are saying they are now aware if their child attends. We also had some feedback that families may be concerned that if they have students accessing food this may be seen as a wellbeing concern and 'judged' or a 'negative.' This is not the case at all. Wallan PS is committed to supporting families in various ways. One of these is offering food to fill hungry tummies as we know kids learn best when they are well hydrated (water) and not hungry. Please continue to encourage your child/ren to attend if they choose.
- RESPECT AND TRUST THE PROCESS
 - We are coming to the end of the school year and it can be a busy time for some. Just a friendly reminder around the respect we need to show each other. We understand families can be frustrated and want to voice their concerns around their child/ren. It is important to remember:
 - your classroom teacher is your first point of call
 - your child needs to report any concerns to their teacher straight away
 - please do not approach other families or students about a concern and ensure older siblings do not become involved
 - the school has a process to follow which is designed to support all students and families at the school
- ANTI RACISM
 - In 2024 the school completed a lot of work around anti racism. This was identified as a need by our student school leaders in 2023. We have run a 6 week program in year 4-6 and had general conversations from Foundation to 6 in regard to this topic across the year. We thank families for supporting the school with this focus. Thank you for modelling anti racism practices and thinking about the language and conversations at home and in the community. Please continue to inform us of any concerns and we will follow up.

Thank you for all your support in these last few weeks and throughout all of 2024. When the school and family work closely, it really does make a difference for the student at school.

Kind regards,
Tanya Kirkright - Principal

Transition at Wallan PS

Some people believe transition in a school only occurs when students are entering foundation and exiting at the end of year 6. Transition at Wallan Primary School is a more detailed process to ensure support is in place for all our students, staff and families.

All of our 2025 foundation students have had the opportunity to attend multiple transition sessions so that they can see their classroom and meet our teaching team and their 2025 classmates. The next step in the process for our 2025 foundation students is a staggered start on the 30th and 31st of January.

Our year six students going into Year Seven in 2025 will need to make contact with their selected schools to ensure that families are aware of the transition process for these children. Our year 6 teachers have been working hard communicating with your selected secondary school to ensure that they are aware of your child's strengths, friendship groups and areas of need. A big thank you to our year 6 team for the extra time it has taken to complete multiple face-to-face meetings and phone calls to ensure that our students have a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary School. The next step is the Statewide transition day which occurs on Tuesday, December 10th and the majority of secondary schools will invite their 2025 year 7 students to attend on this day. If your secondary school is not running a transition program on this day the students are welcome to still attend Wallan Primary School on this day for an altered program.

Any new students coming to our school have the opportunity to join us on Tuesday the 10th of December at 11 a.m. to meet their class and teacher for 2025. We also encourage new students' families to pass on any information about your child's academics or well-being to our administration team who will pass this on to our leaders.

All students in years one to six in 2025 are currently completing a Step Up transition program. These began with conversations in their current classroom and a question and answer session in the previous weeks to settle any nerves and also spark excitement. Last week we had all cohorts participate in the step-up morning. All 2024 classes stepped up in the next cohort for the morning to see what it's like being in the next year level. This also gave the teachers time to make some observations and check in on how our students are feeling about transitioning. The next step for these students will be our meet the teacher session on Tuesday December 10th where they will find out their classroom teacher and meet their classmates for 2025 in their planned room.

Any students in our PSD/DI group will be contacted by our wellbeing team in the coming weeks to organise a conversation about the extra steps in our transitioning process to support students with additional needs. In recent weeks we have announced our foundation team and specialist team for 2025. We can now announce our full staffing profile for 2025.



Cohort	Class Name	Teacher / s
Foundation	Melanie Gibson (Assistant Principal & Executive Team Member)	
Foundation	Foundation A	Blair Lightbody
Foundation	Foundation B	Esma Cay
Foundation	Foundation C	Greg Boddam & Keira Gibson
Foundation	Foundation D	Cassie Moustakas
Foundation	Foundation E	Lilly Matthews - PLC Leader
Foundation	Foundation F	Jessica Murtagh & Keira Gibson
Year 1	Katelyn Shephard (Learning Specialist & Executive Team Member)	
Year 1	1A	Tammy Macmullan & Robyn Richards

Year 1	1B	Tim Azaris - PLC Leader
Year 1	1C	Taylor Muir
Year 1	1D	Michael Robson
Year 1	1E	Carly Whitmore
Year 1	1F	Melanie Lowe
Year 2	Taylah Bryne (Learning Specialist & Executive Team Member)	
Year 2	2A	Lauren Lancaster - PLC Leader
Year 2	2B	Elyse Bruce
Year 2	2C	Erin Cooper
Year 2	2D	Courtney Leatham
Year 2	2E	Amanda Radford
Year 2	2F	Sarah Papadopolous
Year 3	Paul Kearney (Learning Specialist & Executive Team Member)	
Year 3	3A	Nick Oakey
Year 3	3B	Jessica Curtis
Year 3	3C	Rachel Zundovskis & Carla Smith
Year 3	3D	Olivera Todorovski - PLC Leader & Carla Smith
Year 3	3E	Dylan Georgievski & Jessica Petrovski
Year 4	Ben Jewell (Acting Assistant Principal & Executive Team Member)	
Year 4	4A	Aimee Anderson
Year 4	4B	Ashley Ruth
Year 4	4C	Jenny Neri & Mary Blazevic
Year 4	4D	Sheridan Millichip
Year 4	4E	Rachael Noble - PLC Leader & Shanae Chambers
Year 5	Rhys Gibbs (Learning Specialist & Executive Team Member)	
Year 5	5A	Brenton Allan
Year 5	5B	Adam McNamara - PLC Leader
Year 5	5C	Tom Thorneycroft
Year 5	5D	Dani Florian
Year 5	5E	Lauren Somerhayes
Year 6	Tracey Nihill (Assistant Principal & Executive Team Member)	
Year 6	6A	Erin Woodhouse
Year 6	6B	Hayley Sanders
Year 6	6C	Bree Taylor
Year 6	6D	Amber Coade
Specialist	Nez Yon (PSD/DI Learning Specialist & Executive Team Member)	
Specialist	Food Year 3-6	Karen Keenan - PLC Leader
Specialist	PE Year 3-6	Leah Stacey

Specialist	PE Year F-2 & 1 PE Yr 3	Lachlan Mozina
Specialist	Bush Foundation to Year 2	Julie Graham
Specialist	Auslan Yr 1-4	Sandra Hosking
Specialist	Performing Arts F - Yr 2 & Auslan F	Emma Conley
Specialist	Explore for Yr 5 & 6	Eddie Ridewood
Specialist	Visual/Media Art Yrs 3-6 & 1 x Yr 2 VA	Elise Frankenberg
Specialist	Visual/Media Art F - Yr 2	Jessica Phoenix
Tutor	Ben Jewell (Acting Assistant Principal & Executive Team Member)	
	Sarah Bird , Sharon Merogi , Angus Wiseman, Chris Marsh , Lauren Twigden, Jessica Petrovski	

The following staff are leaving Wallan PS or on Leave in 2025. We will celebrate these wonderful educators in our next newsletter.

Emma Braham	Rebecca Spadijer	Kylie Radovic
Molly Stevenson	Dimitrij Spadijer	Shahni Clancy
Jessica Vines	Cassandra Laracy-Cowland	(ES) Amanda McKay

Long Service Leave for 2025 - Sandra Allison
Retiring in 2025 - Luisa Mclean

Leaving in 2025

We are getting very close to the end of the year, if your child is not continuing at Wallan Primary School in 2025 as they are relocating to a new school please ensure you have updated the current classroom teacher and the administration team. This ensures that we can pass on any relevant information and academic reports to the new school. Thank you to the families that have already informed us so that we can ensure a smooth transition process for your child.

Year 6 Clothing.

Our new design for 2025 includes our school's indigenous image 'Our Future.' Thank you to Nakia for working with our students to create this piece. 2025 Year 6 students (2024 Year 5 students) can now order their optional Year 6 commemorative T Shirt and/or Jumper. Please see Compass to place your order now. Please ensure you check your sizing and we recommend ordering a little bigger as the students will grow next year and we cannot exchange for the wrong size. Year 6 students can also wear black bottoms (shorts, pants, skirts) but these need to be plain black (no logos). The length of shorts also needs to be midway between the hip and knee. Please keep this in mind when shopping for 2025.



2025 - Course Confirmations

The traditional practices of the school have been that we collect permission annually for certain activities. In 2025 the Department policies changed so that we can get permission once when the child starts school and parents complete permission forms that last the whole time your child attends Wallan PS. To tidy up the system we are setting up our permissions for you to complete on Compass and these will cover your child for all of their schooling at Wallan PS. We will send Compass alerts when this feature is ready to go.

FOF - FESTIVAL OF FUN!

What a night we had on Wednesday the 27th of November. It was time for FOF! That is right it was our Festival of fun which was a new initiative that began in 2023. One of our education support members Jade Griggs was a key driver into 2023 and again in 2024 kick started an important event to bring our community together. A huge thank you to our Assistant Principal Tracey Nihill who stepped in and put so much time and effort in to ensure the event was a success for all involved. A big thank you to all our staff for their time to develop stalls with their students and then run them on the night. You may have noticed that we had a number of staff volunteer to be participants in the dunking machine which was a highlight to many students and families. Thank you to our out of school hours care team Big Childcare for supplying the dunking machine and running a stall at our special event. Thank you to our food trucks who attended, Smokin' Joes Pizza, Santa Claus from the emergency services as well as the SES.

Congratulations to all the students that won prizes such as guessing the lollies in the jar and our scavenger hunt winner. We are still running the raffle and will draw these at our final assembly. We will announce our fundraising total at our final assembly. Thank you to all our students' families and community members who donated to the school.



LOVE IN ACTION - FUNDRAISERS

Thank you for all the donations on our recent out of uniform day. We dropped down over 10 big trolleys of food items as well as cash donations to Love In Action Wallan. We are also currently collecting to support their Christmas efforts. A BIG thank you to Michelle Preston for coordinating this during Term 4 and Sandra Allison for her work across the year. We would also like to thank our families that continue to support this great charity and our student leaders for driving this and delivering all the goodies! Wallon PS is helping to make a difference.



SUPPORT FOR OUR FAMILIES - THE HUB 3756

Thank you to the HUB 3756 for supplying students with free fruit snacks this week. If you are after some support or extra services please reach out to the Hub who are located in Wallan and operate out of Wallan PS once a week.



YEAR 1 EXCURSION - Have a look at our curious Year 1 students who visited the Botanical Gardens this term as a flow on from their unit on mini beasts.