



## School Dates:

Tuesday 31st March  
School Photos

Whole School Assembly  
& Student Leaders  
Badge Ceremony  
Thursday 2nd April  
9:00 am

Final day of school  
Thursday 2nd April  
2:15 pm finish

Term 2 Day One  
Monday 20th April  
Check our website for  
more dates.

PLEASE CHECK  
COMPASS FOR MORE  
INFORMATION.

### TERM 1 FUNDRAISERS

Thank you for supporting our school with the Hot Cross Buns fundraiser and Tulip bulbs fundraiser!

Dear Families,

In the past few weeks, our students in Year 3 and 5 have been working through the NAPLAN testing. It was wonderful to see our students' resilience in persisting through technical glitches and the natural feeling of a 'test.' Our staff have been very supportive, ensuring the setup has been a smooth process for all. Thank you to our Year 3 and 5 teachers as well as our Executive team for their implementation, and a huge thank you to Tracey Nihill for all her preparation and monitoring of the process.

Thank you to our team, and especially to Leah Stacey and Lachlan Mozina, for their work in running our House Cross Country. Leah was super organised and ready to go before we introduced our PINK house, so she spent extra time reorganising name tags and other materials. Thank you, Leah, for your positive attitude and for taking the time to set up an enjoyable event for the school.

### Celebrating the Extra Learning Opportunities at Wallan Primary School

There are so many great things happening at Wallan Primary School, and we are working hard to ensure we share these with our community. If you have not already, please keep up to date with our Facebook page, which will soon connect with our Instagram page, where we will continue to celebrate the many programs, activities and successes across our school.



**BACK IN 2026**  
**See you in May!**  
**MITCH TAMBO**  
*FIRST NATIONS ARTIST,  
MUSICIAN &  
PUBLISHER AUTHOR!*



**TERM 2**  
**FUNDRAISERS**  
*Mother's Day and  
Special Person's Stall  
More Info next Term*



**COOKIE DOUGH**  
**FUNDRAISER**  
*More Info next Term*



Are you aware of the fantastic specialist program we offer? All students participate in four hours of specialist learning each week.

All students take part in **Physical Education**, using our excellent facilities, including our two indoor gymnasiums, as well as our sporting oval, soccer pitch, and netball and basketball courts. Students also attend **Visual Arts**, which includes digital art, in our two purpose-built art rooms.

Students in **Foundation to Year 2** participate in **Performing Arts and Auslan**, as well as our **Bush** program, each week. Bush sessions combine learning about our environment and land, exploring First Nations perspectives, and connecting to science and cultural learning. Recently, students also created chalk paintings, celebrating cultural art and storytelling.



Students in **Years 3 and 4** participate in weekly **Auslan** lessons, while students in **Years 5 and 6** continue **Auslan** and also take part in **Explore**, a program focusing on **STEM** and technology learning.

Students in **Years 3-6** also have the fantastic opportunity to participate in our **Kitchen Garden Program** each week. In these sessions, students work much like contestants on *MasterChef*, using a box of ingredients and a recipe to create delicious meals. Many of these recipes can easily be recreated at home, and we look forward to sharing some of them with families on our website soon.



I am incredibly proud of the amazing specialist program we provide at Wallan Primary School and the work of our teachers and education support staff who ensure these programs and facilities run so successfully.

We are also fortunate to have [Whittlesea Music](#) on site each week, offering optional music lessons for students. These lessons are available at family cost and include opportunities to learn guitar, keyboard, drums or vocals. If you would like more information, please contact [Whittlesea Music](#) directly.



Wallan PS continues to provide a rich range of learning experiences, ensuring every student has opportunities to discover their interests, develop new skills and enjoy their learning.

## Weekly Parent TIPS on Compass:

Throughout the year, we share weekly parent tips on Compass to support families in helping children succeed both at home and at school. These tips may include blogs, links to helpful websites, and short tip sheets with practical strategies and information for parents and carers.

The resources we share are designed to complement the work happening at school and help continue important messages at home. Topics will vary throughout the year and may include cyber safety and technology use, health and wellbeing, the importance of sleep, and strategies for setting clear expectations and supporting children to take accountability for their actions.


We encourage families to keep an eye on Compass for these weekly updates and use any resources that may be helpful for your family. Working together helps us create consistent expectations and support for our students.

## Parent Information Session – Coming in March

As a follow-up to this learning, we will also be hosting an online parent forum one evening in March. Families across our Mitchell and Murrindindi network will have the opportunity to join a 30-minute parent tip session from the comfort of their own home, focused on supporting children's wellbeing and regulation.

Further details, including the date and access link, will be shared with families soon. We encourage all parents and carers to join us for this practical and informative session.

Regards  
Tanya Kirkright - Principal



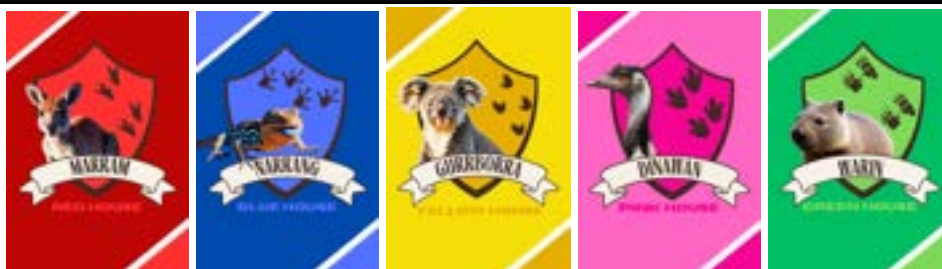
**FREE ONLINE  
PARENT SESSION IN  
YOUR OWN HOME!**  
**BRAIN SCIENCE & WHAT DO  
TEACHERS UNDERSTAND  
ABOUT HOW STUDENTS  
LEARN AND HOW CAN  
PARENTS BE PART OF THE  
JOURNEY.**

**TUESDAY 31st MAY at 7PM  
ONLINE - SEE COMPASS TO  
BOOK**

**SCHOOL POLICY REMINDER:** All school policies are updated regularly and published on our [school website](#), and we always welcome feedback from our community. If you have any feedback or suggestions regarding our policies, please feel free to **email the school**.

Recently Updated:

- Anaphylaxis
- Asthma
- Dogs in Schools
- Cash Handling
- Electronic Funds Management
- Digital User Agreement (on website and Compass)



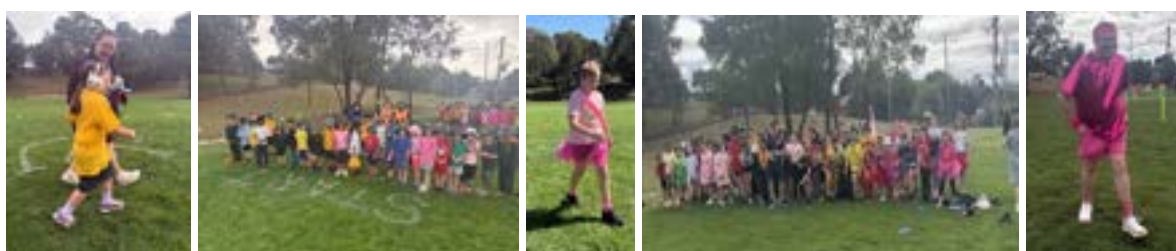
## School House Cross Country

Our Whole School Cross Country was held recently, and the atmosphere around the school was fantastic. Students showed great determination and house spirit as they took to the course, cheering each other on and giving their best effort. Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top three for their race.

<b>Foundation Boys</b> 1st Seb (FB) 2nd Ace (FA) 3rd Mantegh (FB)	<b>Foundation Girls</b> 1st Maiya (FB) 2nd Dakota (FD) 3rd Riley (FB)	<b>Year 1 Boys</b> 1st Oakley (1C) 2nd Deniz (1F) 3rd Maiveer (1B)	<b>Year 1 Girls</b> 1st Sienna (1F) 2nd Ariella (1A) 3rd Amity (1A)
<b>Year 2 Boys</b> 1st Kai (2A) 2nd Royce (2B) 3rd Brodie (2C)	<b>Year 2 Girls</b> 1st Lillie (2F) 2nd Aaleeha (2F) 3rd Lainey (2D)	<b>Year 9/10 Boys</b> 1st Sojad (4D) 2nd Adan (5A) 3rd Alex (4A)	<b>Year 9/10 Girls</b> 1st Zasy (3A) 2nd Ariel (3A) 3rd Sivani (4B)
<b>Year 11 Boys</b> 1st Arylen (6C) 2nd Oliver (5B) 3rd Christian (5D)	<b>Year 11 Girls</b> 1st Caden (6B) 2nd Ariana (6B) 3rd Iylah (4B)	<b>Year 12/13 Boys</b> 1st Chase (6C) 2nd Kaleb (6C) 3rd Braxton (6B)	<b>Year 12/13 Girls</b> 1st Imogen (6B) 2nd Portia (6D) 3rd Naomi (6C)



Congratulations to **NARRANG** (Blue) for finishing as the overall winning house. Thank you to all the families who came out to support our students throughout the day. A big thank you also goes to the volunteers who helped make the event run smoothly. Your support helped make the day such a success. Leah Stacey - PE



## School Council Update - 2026

We would like to welcome our **2026 School Council**, who met for their first meeting this week. During the meeting, members completed their **Child Safe and School Council training**, endorsed the **2025 Annual School Report**, and began reviewing several school policies.

At this meeting, we also confirmed the **School Council roles for 2026**.

Tanya Kirkright	Principal - Executive Officer, School Council
Tracey Nihill	Assistant Principal - School Council Member - Secretary
Julie Grahame	Staff Member - School Council Member
Michelle Preston	Staff Member - School Council Member
Melissa Ackehurst	Parent - School Council Member - President
Rochelle Geary	Parent - School Council Member - Vice President
Amy Ray	Parent - School Council Member - Treasurer
Liarna Talarico	Parent - School Council Member
Genevieve Zuber	Parent - School Council Member
Dean Murphy	Parent - School Council Member
Oluka Dashyantha Gode Kankanamge	Parent - School Council Member
Artika Ben	Parent - School Council Member

I would also like to acknowledge our 2025 role holders, who remain valued members of School Council in 2026 but have stepped down from their positions. A special thank you to Liarna Talarico for her outstanding contribution as School Council President over the past four years. I have greatly appreciated her support and commitment to the school during this time. There is a lot of work as SC President, and on behalf of WPS Community, I thank Liarna for her commitment to our school. Thank you also to Dean for his work as Vice President in 2026 and for stepping in to take the lead when needed. Thank you, Melissa for her work as Treasurer and Tracey for completing the role as Secretary. We really appreciate all the time our team puts in to attend meetings, support fundraisers, come up to approve contracts, documents etc. It is an important role in our school and we thank you!

We look forward to working with our School Council throughout the year to continue supporting the success of our school community.

## Swimming Program - Years 3-6 Complete!

Thank you to Ms Stacey and the teachers for managing our Years 3-6 Swimming program in Term 1. We have run a one-week intensive program for each year level. The students have learnt important water safety skills, which is a key skill to have.



## READY TO LEARN ROOM



NEW in 2026 we have a READY TO LEARN room. This room links with our Zones of Regulation. If you are in BLUE or YELLOW zone and need help getting to GREEN you can pop in here for no more than 8 minutes! Complete one of the structured activities recommended by our professionals to help you be READY TO LEARN. Here is one activity that a student is investigating to demonstrate what a little creative thinking can create.

### Sun Smart at WPS - Protecting Our Students

From mid-August through to the end of April each year, our school follows SunSmart practices to help protect students from the harmful effects of UV exposure. During this time, all students are encouraged to wear a hat whenever they are outside, including at recess, lunch, travelling to and from school, and during outdoor learning activities.

If a student does not have a hat, they will be encouraged to play in shaded areas during that session.

If your child needs a hat, school hats can be purchased through PSW, or families may choose to purchase a bottle green broad-brimmed hat from local stores such as Kmart or Big W. Please ensure your child's name is clearly written inside their hat to help prevent it from being lost.

Teachers remind students to wear their hats before going outside, and the importance of being SunSmart is also discussed with students during our Start Up program at the beginning of each year.

We also encourage families to apply sunscreen to their child before school, and students are welcome to bring their own sunscreen in their school bag so they can reapply throughout the day if needed.

By working together, we can help ensure all students develop good habits to stay safe in the sun while enjoying outdoor learning and play. 🌞

CHECK-IN		
<b>GREEN ZONE</b>	I am feeling • happy • focused • ready to learn	
<b>BLUE ZONE</b>	I am feeling • sad • frustrated • nervous • shy	
<b>YELLOW ZONE</b>	I am feeling • frustrated • nervous • angry or mad • not all attention	
<b>RED ZONE</b>	I am feeling • angry or mad • not all attention • want to yell or hit • refusing to work	



## HARMONY DAY 2026

Last week, we celebrated Harmony and all the cultures we have at Wallan PS. Students completed a lesson in class, and as a school, we are all completing a puzzle piece that will form artwork in our administration building. Staff enjoyed a cultural lunch together.

Our students will also continue our focus on Anti- Racism education. All students have completed a lesson in the start-up TEAM program earlier in the term and will have their second lesson in the next two weeks. We appreciate all the support and reinforcement families are providing at home to support our anti-racism approach, and the language we use when interacting is respectful of all individuals.

Thank you to Olivera Todorovski, who oversees our English as an Additional Language (EAL) portfolio for the school, and managed our Harmony Day activities and display. Thank you to all our families for supporting students in dressing in their traditional cultural attire.



## NEW IN TERM 2 - COMING SOON



Our School Captains and Vice Captains will record a fortnightly Podcast for our community to listen to with updates on what is happening at WPS. More information to flow next term.

## 2 in more to come! Music Instruments are outside.

We have installed 2 new musical composers for our students to enjoy in the yard. The music provided is calming and engaging. We have more exciting items on order to improve our yard space. Keep a lookout to see what arrives next term. If you want to see Mrs Kirkright's skills playing a tune, log into our Facebook page.



## The Orange Door Service - What is it?

Our school cares about the safety and wellbeing of our students and their families. Sometimes things at home or in a relationship are not OK or families can be worried about the well-being of their children or young people. The Orange Door can help you to get the support you need, quickly and easily. It's free and you don't need a referral.

The Orange Door can help families. They provide support for concerns with parenting, relationships, and family violence.

The Orange Door is a free intake and assessment service for:

- families requiring support for their child or young person's wellbeing or development
- families needing parenting support
- young, isolated, or unsupported families
- individuals and families experiencing family violence
- adults using family violence
- young people using violence in the home.

If you contact The Orange Door, they can help by:

- working with you to identify the help and support you need
- supporting you with the wellbeing and development of your child or young person
- helping you make a safety plan if someone is making you feel unsafe
- connecting you to services that can help like counselling, accommodation, mental health and drug and alcohol services, parenting support groups, services for children, financial help, or legal assistance
- supporting you to access funding for basic living expenses and some other costs
- supporting you to change abusive or controlling behaviour.

Each Orange Door location across Victoria has their own phone number and email. Students and their families can also visit their local Orange Door in person for support, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm for support. No appointment is needed. To find your local service, see: [The Orange Door – Support near you.](#)

### How schools connect with The Orange Door

Our school might talk to a student and/or their family about The Orange Door. We might encourage them to contact their local Orange Door to get advice and help if needed. Ideally, a student and/or their family will get in touch with The Orange Door to seek advice and support.

Sometimes, schools might make a referral to The Orange Door without the student or their family's knowledge or consent. Schools will do this if:

- informing a student and/or family increases the risk to their safety or wellbeing
- not linking a student to support increases the risk of their safety and wellbeing.

You can learn more about:

- The Orange Door and how they can help you and your family [here](#).
- how our school keeps our students safe by reading our [Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and our Child Safety Code of Conduct.](#)

