

WALLAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



"Working Together for a Better Future"

| Thursday 13th August | TERM 3 2026 | www.wallanps.vic.edu.au | PH:5783 1232

School Dates:

Thursday 13th August
Yr 4A & 4B Excursion
ACMI

Friday 14th August
Yr 1 Camp Activity
BREAKFAST & PJs

Mon 17th - Fri 21st August
Semper Dental Here

Mon 17th - Fri 21st August
SSG Week

Thursday 20th August
Yr 4c & 4D Excursion
ACMI

Thursday 20th August
Yr 6 Excursion
Vic Market

Tuesday 25th August
Student Leaders Network
Day @ Kilmore PS

Wednesday 26th August
Book Week DRESS UP
DAY!

Tuesday 1st September
Healthy Harold arrives!!

Dear Families,

Middle of Term 3 already! One of the greatest joys of being Principal at Wallan Primary School is simply walking around our school each day. I am constantly blown away by the wonderful manners and respect our students show. Whether it's a cheerful "Good morning, Mrs Kirkright," a smile, or the many students who stop to ask, "How's your day going?", these small gestures never go unnoticed.

These simple acts of kindness and respect are important life skills. They reflect the culture we are building together and remind me every day what a special place Wallan Primary School is. I couldn't be prouder of the young people we are helping to shape.

Last Friday was Principal Day, and I would like to sincerely thank the many students, staff and families who took the time to acknowledge our Principal Team. Your kind words, messages and thoughtful gestures were greatly appreciated.

While Principal Day recognises the role of the principal, no school is led by one person. I would especially like to acknowledge our Assistant Principals, Tracey Nihill and Ben Jewell. It is a privilege to work alongside two dedicated leaders who care deeply about our students, staff and community. Leadership brings a mixture of exciting opportunities, complex challenges, small wins and significant milestones, but what makes it worthwhile is knowing that together we are making a positive difference in the lives of our students every single day.

I would also like to recognise the many leaders across our school who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Our Learning Specialists, Leading Teacher, Education Support leaders, administration leaders, Business Manager, PLC leaders and many others all play an important role in ensuring Wallan Primary School continues to thrive. Every member of our leadership team contributes their own strengths and

Yr Foundation to 6 attend
over the next few days.

Thursday 3rd September
Father's & Special
Person's Day Stall

Monday 14th September
Curriculum Day
NO SCHOOL

Friday 18th September
Last Day of Term 3
Finish at 2:15pm
FOOTY DAY
DRESS UP!

Check our website for
more dates.

PLEASE CHECK
COMPASS FOR MORE
INFORMATION.



expertise, and together we are stronger.

It is an incredible honour to be in the role of Principal at Wallan Primary School. Thank you for the trust you place in us, and for the ongoing partnership we share in providing the very best opportunities for every child. Together, we are continuing to build a school community where students flourish, staff are supported, and everyone feels they belong.

Pillow Case Project

The Red Cross Pillowcase Project is a global disaster preparedness education program for children aged 8 to 10. It teaches kids how to prepare for emergencies, cope with stress, and build a personal emergency kit inside a decorated pillowcase. Thank you to Olivera for organising this incursion for our Year 3 and 4 students.



NEW Instructional Model

An instructional model is a shared lesson approach in every classroom. It provides a clear structure for lessons so that students know what to expect and ensures the learning builds step by step. At Wallan Primary School, we have recently updated our Instructional Model to align with the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model (VTLM 2.0), reflecting the latest research and evidence on how students learn best.

Our instructional model guides every lesson, beginning with reviewing prior learning and clearly communicating the lesson's learning intention and success criteria. Teachers explicitly teach new concepts and skills, provide guided practice with immediate feedback and then support students to apply their learning independently. Throughout each lesson, teachers regularly check for understanding to ensure students are progressing, before concluding with reflection and review to consolidate learning.

While our Instructional Model provides a consistent structure for every lesson, teaching and learning is not a rigid, step by step process. Teachers continually check for understanding throughout the lesson and respond to students' needs in the moment. This means they may revisit earlier learning, provide additional modelling or guided practice or move forward more quickly when students are ready. This responsive



DO YOU HAVE A NAME FOR OUR PODCAST?

**Drop ideas at the
office!**

EPISODE #3 Out NOW!

[Check out our intro here.](#)



approach ensures every student receives the support and challenge they need to be successful.

These conversation starters are linked to our Instructional Model and can help your child talk about the learning process, not just what they did at school. We encourage you to try them out at home.

What did you already know before today's lesson started?

What did your teacher show or explain before you had a go on your own?

Did you need extra help with anything today? What helped you understand?

What was the learning intention today, and how did you know you were successful?

Celebrating Literacy Growth at Wallan Primary School

Over the past four years, our school has made a significant investment in strengthening the way we teach literacy. We have gradually introduced evidence-based approaches, including Little Learners Love Literacy (LLLL) and Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, alongside explicit teaching practices that align with the Victorian Department of Education's approach to reading instruction. We are pleased to see that this work is making a real difference for our students.

Our recent assessment data shows encouraging growth, particularly in our current Year 3 students, who have benefited from these approaches since Foundation. This cohort has shown strong improvement in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Numeracy, with fewer students requiring additional support and a significant increase in the number of students achieving in the higher performance bands. Our Year 3 Reading results are now performing above both similar schools and our local network, providing further confidence that the work taking place in our classrooms is having a positive impact.

While we celebrate these achievements, we also know that improvement is a continuous journey. Our Year 5 results remind us that different cohorts have experienced different learning pathways, particularly those whose early years of schooling were impacted by COVID-19. This reinforces the importance of continuing to provide targeted teaching and support for every student.

The next step is already underway. Our teachers are carefully comparing this assessment data with their professional judgement and classroom evidence to identify students who



may benefit from additional support or further extension. This ensures every child continues to receive teaching that meets them at their point of need.

Thank you to our dedicated staff for their commitment to continually improving teaching and learning, and to our families for your ongoing support. Together, we are building strong foundations in literacy that will benefit our students well beyond primary school.

Glasses for Kids!

Wallan Primary School was delighted to once again participate in the **Glasses for Kids** program, providing families with the opportunity for their child to have their eyesight checked by a qualified optometrist here at school.

A total of **195 students** participated in the program and received an individual outcome letter following their assessment. Some students have been recommended for further testing, while **more than 60 students** were provided with a free pair of prescription glasses through this fantastic initiative.

Good vision plays such an important role in learning, confidence and wellbeing, and we are incredibly grateful to be able to offer this service to our students and families.

A huge thank you to **Michelle** for coordinating the program and ensuring everything ran so smoothly. Your organisation and commitment have helped many of our students access the support they need to see, learn and thrive.

100 Days of Foundation!

What a wonderful milestone to celebrate! Our Foundation students recently marked their 100th day of school, celebrating 100 days of learning, growth and new friendships.

In the lead-up to the day, students explored the number 100 through a range of fun numeracy activities, counting each day they had been at school and building their understanding of number in meaningful ways.

The celebrations were full of smiles and laughter as our Foundation students arrived dressed as 100-year-olds. There were plenty of walking frames, walking sticks, grey hair and glasses, and it was hilarious listening to our youngest students explain that they had sore hips, needed to walk much slower or were "too old" to move quickly!





The highlight of the day was our special celebration in the gym. Our Year 6 students formed a guard of honour, creating an archway for the Foundation students to walk through before taking part in a parade, singing their 100 Days of School song and proudly receiving their official 100 Days of School Certificate. Families also enjoyed capturing the occasion at our photo booth, creating special memories of this important milestone.

A huge thank you to our Foundation teachers and Education Support staff for the incredible care, dedication and hard work they have invested in our newest learners throughout their first 100 days of school. Thank you also to our families for embracing the celebrations,

supporting the dress-up day and joining us to celebrate this special occasion.

Congratulations to all of our Foundation students on reaching your first 100 days at Wallan Primary School. We can't wait to see what the next 100 days bring!

Gratitude!

I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank our Administration Team for the outstanding work they do each and every day. They consistently show initiative, professionalism and genuine care in supporting the day-to-day operations of the school. For many of our families and community members, they are the first point of contact and the welcoming face of Wallan Primary School. Their commitment to providing exceptional support to students, staff and families is greatly appreciated, and they play an integral role in ensuring our school runs smoothly.

Next time you are in the school, please share your gratitude for a staff member with them; it means a lot!

Celebrate!

We were incredibly proud to receive feedback from community members who witnessed a group of our senior students at a local sporting event signing the Australian National Anthem in Auslan as it was being performed. It was wonderful to hear that our students demonstrated respect, inclusion and pride beyond the school gates.

Moments like these reflect the values we strive to instil in all of our students, and we congratulate them on being such outstanding ambassadors for Wallan Primary School.



Bullying No Way Week – Small Acts, Big Impact

Next week, Wallan Primary School will recognise Bullying No Way Week, running from Monday 17 to Friday 21 August 2026. This year's theme, 'Small Acts, Big Impact', is a valuable reminder that creating a safe, respectful and inclusive school community is something we all contribute to every day.

At Wallan Primary School, we know that friendships and relationships can sometimes be challenging for children as they learn to navigate different situations, manage emotions, solve



problems and understand the impact their words and actions can have on others. We also know how important it is that students feel safe to speak up and seek support when something doesn't feel right.

Throughout the week, we will continue to reinforce the importance of kindness, inclusion, respect and looking out for one another. Small actions, such as inviting someone to join in, checking if someone is okay, choosing respectful words, speaking up or asking an adult for help, can make a significant difference.

Bullying No Way Week also provides an opportunity to remind our students that everyone has a role to play in creating a positive school environment. Our staff remain committed to listening to students, responding to concerns and working in partnership with families when issues arise.

Creating a safe and supportive school is ongoing work, and it takes all of us, students, staff and families, working together.

Sometimes, the smallest actions can have the biggest impact.

Parent Reminder: Toys and 3D Printed Items at School

We would like to remind families that toy weapons, including water pistols, toy guns, toy swords and similar items, are not permitted at school.

In line with Department of Education policy, if these items are brought to school, staff are required to confiscate them. Please be aware that these items cannot be returned to students or families and must be disposed of in accordance with departmental requirements.

We are also seeing an increase in students bringing 3D printed toys and novelty items to school. While many of these are created with good intentions, some have sharp edges or resemble weapons, making them unsuitable for the school environment. These items fall under the same department guidelines and, if confiscated, cannot be returned.

We ask for your support by ensuring your child leaves these items at home. By working together, we can continue to maintain a safe, calm and inclusive learning environment for all students.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

2027 Student Placement Requests are now OPEN!

Planning for the 2027 school year is now underway. If you have a child starting Foundation (Prep) in 2027 and have not yet completed their enrolment, please contact the school as soon as possible. All Foundation enrolments are now processed online, and we have begun to confirm enrolments with families.

We are also starting to plan our 2027 class structure. If your child is currently (2026) in Year F - 5 and will not be attending Wallan Primary School in 2027 due to a family relocation or

transfer to another school, we would appreciate you letting our Administration Team know as soon as possible to assist with our planning.

In the coming weeks, students will be asked to nominate 5 friends they would like to be in a class with in 2027. Feel free to discuss this with them at home. We then work on each student getting at least one of their selections.

We ask that any families who have any class placement considerations and student friendship requests as part of our class planning process to email them to wallan.ps@education.vic.gov.au by the end of Term 3 2026. Please note we do not take teacher requests.

How do we create classes? Your child's 2026 teacher then works with their current team to develop classes. We work through a process where various members of staff (eg. specialist teachers, leaders and our wellbeing team) collaborate, taking into consideration many factors such as academics, wellbeing, social skills, etc and develop classes. Students meet their new class at the end of 2026, ready for the 2027 school year.

H5 Bird Flu Update

Cases of H5 bird flu have been confirmed in birds across Australia, including in south-west Victoria.

Our school has steps to follow if sick or dead birds are found at or near our school.

If you see a sick or dead bird at or near the school, please let us know. If you find a sick or dead bird in the community, the advice from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is to:

1. avoid contact and keep your distance
2. record date, time, location and take photos
3. report it to using an [online form](#) or through the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline: 1800 675 888.

For current information about reporting, refer to DEECA's [H5 bird flu page](#).

For more information, you can check out these [bird flu resources from the Australian Government](#).

We are in the process of setting up a chicken coup on site. We will continue to work on this but hold off on welcoming chickens at this stage.

CYBER SAFETY - FREE Parent Session

We pay for this, so it is **FREE for all Parents/ Carers** to attend online in the comfort of your own home. Log in to compass to register and get the special access link!



PARENT & GUARDIAN WEBINAR

cyberbullying & Resilience

LIVE ONLINE

Join us to discover simple strategies to help guide young people to manage their wellbeing online.

27 OCTOBER 2026
7.30PM AEDT

CAN'T MAKE IT LIVE?
Register to receive the recording & resources.

PRESENTED BY
CYBER SAFETY PROJECT

The poster features a young boy looking at a smartphone, surrounded by colorful icons representing online communication (speech bubbles, heart, plus sign) and a circular 'LIVE ONLINE' badge.