



School Dates:

WEEK THREE

- Wednesday 21st October - Foundation 2027 Session #2 - 9:45 am - 10:45 am
- Wednesday 21st October - Young Leaders at Wallan SC - Network Excursion
- Wednesday 21st October - School Council 6pm
- Thursday 22nd October - Yr 3 Pizza and Movie Night & Foundation BBQ after school

WEEK FOUR

- Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th October - School Review Process
- Wednesday 28th October - Foundation 2027 Session #3 - 9:45 am - 10:45 am
- Friday 30th October - World Teacher's Day

Dear Families,

Term 4 is progressing well, but certainly fast! I cannot believe how close we are to Christmas and the end of primary school for our Year 6 students. Our students have returned from the holidays with a bounce in their step, demonstrating wonderful manners and respect towards others. As you walk through our school, you will see students helping one another, holding doors open and greeting staff and visitors politely. These small actions make a big difference, and we are incredibly proud of our students.

This term, Wallan Primary School will undertake its School Review, which occurs every four to five years as part of the school improvement cycle. We will welcome our Senior Education Improvement Leader (SEIL), Rhonda Cole, an independent reviewer and principals from local schools who will act as challenge partners. This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our achievements over the past five years, reflect on our progress and identify priorities for our next improvement cycle.

Our leadership team and I are excited about the future of Wallan Primary School. I am incredibly proud of how far we have come and look forward to continuing to lead our school into its next chapter. I remain committed to building on our achievements, driving continued improvement and ensuring Wallan Primary School provides the very best opportunities for our students in the years ahead. Thank you to our school community for your ongoing support.

Toys and Fidgets at School – Supporting Learning for Everyone

We would like to remind all families that **students are not to bring toys from home to school**. While we understand that students enjoy bringing their favourite belongings to school, these items can create significant distractions in the

WEEK FIVE

- Monday 2nd November - PUPIL FREE DAY - No School
- Tuesday 3rd November - PUBLIC HOLIDAY - No School
- Thursday 5th November - Whole Schools House Athletics Day - Dress in House Colours

WEEK SIX

WEEK SEVEN

- Student Support Group Meeting Week (allocated students)
- Friday 20th November - FOF - Festival of Fun 4:00 - 7:00 pm (Parents to supervise students)

WEEK EIGHT

- Student Support Group Meeting Week (allocated students)
- Wednesday 25th November - Step Up Day - Classes move as a class to try their 2027 cohort

WEEK NINE

- Wednesday 2nd December - Children's University Graduation - Swinburne University Hawthorn
- Friday 4th December - COLOUR RUN!!!

WEEK TEN

- Monday 7th December - Classes may move rooms - Teachers move to their 2027 rooms
- Tuesday 8th December - Yr 6

classroom and playground. Toys can lead to disagreements between students, items being lost, damaged or taken, and valuable learning time being spent resolving issues rather than focusing on teaching and learning.

Fidget toys should be recommended by an external professional, such as an occupational therapist, psychologist or other treating specialist, to support a student's individual learning or regulation needs. These recommendations need to be communicated to the school so appropriate arrangements can be made.

It is important to understand that while fidgets can be beneficial for some students, they are not necessarily helpful for everyone. In some cases, they can become a distraction rather than a support.

Why does this matter for learning?

Our classrooms are busy learning environments, and students are already managing a significant amount of information throughout the day. Every additional distraction increases the demands on their attention and working memory, often referred to as *cognitive load*.

When students are focused on toys, watching others play with fidgets, swapping items or worrying about their belongings, their attention is taken away from learning. These distractions can also impact the concentration of other students, even when the item is not being used by them.

Our aim is to create calm, focused and inclusive classrooms where every student has the best possible opportunity to learn.

We ask families to **please check school bags and ensure toys and fidgets are left at home**, unless an approved arrangement is in place with the school. If a child brings an item to school that could be or becomes a distraction, it can stay with the classroom teacher and be handed back at the end of the day.

Thank you for supporting our school expectations and helping us maintain positive learning environments for all students. Our focus remains on ensuring every child can engage in their learning without unnecessary distractions.

Monty the Monstar FUN RUN 4th December 2026

 Get ready to run wild with Monty! It's here - Monty the Monstar Fun Run! Jump in now! Set up your child's My

students go to the Secondary School

- Tuesday 8th December - Students in Yr Foundation to Yr 5 (2026) meet their 2027 class/teacher.
- Friday 11th December - Christmas Concert (Foundation to Year 3)

WEEK ELEVEN

- Monday 14th December - Yr 6 Graduation
- Tuesday 15th December - Class Parties & Movie Day at school!
- Wednesday 16th December - Yr 6 Funfields Excursion
- Thursday 17th December - Last Assembly for 2026. Yr 6 Jumper signing day.
- Friday 18th December - Last day of 2026 - Clean up and pack up day - School finishes at 1:15pm.

Check our website for more dates or further down in this issue.

PLEASE CHECK
COMPASS FOR MORE
INFORMATION.

Profile Page – it's quick, easy and super fun.

We also have some amazing bonuses up for grabs:

- Every student gets rainbow sunglasses and a headband!
- The class with the most profiles at the end of week one will win an ice block party!
- Receive donations on four different days and go into the draw to Slime a teacher!
- Raise \$20 and go into the draw to win a tuckshop voucher!

Together, we can achieve amazing results for our school!



First Nations Connections

On Friday 9 October, we opened our staffroom for a relaxed afternoon tea, inviting our First Nations parents/carers and external agencies to come together, enjoy a tea or coffee and connect with our school.

We are grateful for the people who attended and contributed to the conversations. It was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen relationships, listen to ideas and discuss how we can continue to support and celebrate our First Nations students and families at Wallan Primary School.

One of the suggestions raised was the establishment of a First Nations Parent Consultative Committee. This group would provide families with an opportunity to share their perspectives, offer feedback and contribute ideas about future activities, cultural celebrations, curriculum and learning opportunities for our First Nations students.

We believe it is important that our families have a voice in shaping these opportunities and that we continue to build genuine partnerships with our First Nations community.

We will soon send a survey to our First Nations families to gather further ideas, gauge interest in participating and identify meeting times that would suit the majority of families.



STUDENT LEADER WPS PODCAST?

**EPISODE
Out NOW!**

**FREE Cyber Safe
parent session
funded by the
school!**

Parents & carers: Join Cyber Safety Project's free webinar, **Cyberbullying & Resilience**, on **Tuesday 27 October at 7.30pm AEDT**. Learn practical strategies to help your child bounce back from online setbacks and support their digital wellbeing. Can't make it live? Register anyway to receive the recording.

**LOG IN TO COMPASS FOR THE
CONFIDENTIAL SCHOOL LINK**

We look forward to continuing these conversations and working together to strengthen cultural inclusion, connection and opportunities for our First Nations students.

Transitions at Wallan PS

Throughout Term 4, we continue our school-wide transition program, supporting students as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.

This includes welcoming our 2027 Foundation students as they begin their transition from kindergarten to primary school, as well as supporting our current Year 6 students as they prepare to farewell primary school and move on to their chosen secondary colleges.

Equally important is our **internal transition program**, which supports students moving from one year level to the next. We understand that change can bring a range of emotions, from excitement and anticipation to nervousness and uncertainty. Our aim is to make this process as positive and supportive as possible for every student.

At Wallan Primary School, we follow a staged transition process to gradually build students' confidence and familiarity with their new learning environments.

The first stage involves classroom discussions about moving into the next year level. Students are encouraged to share how they are feeling, explore the different emotions that change can bring and discuss strategies to help them feel confident and prepared.

The next stage involves students visiting their future year-level learning spaces with their current teachers. They will participate in activities with their existing classmates, allowing them to become familiar with the new environment before meeting their new teacher and class.

Friendship requests are also an important part of our transition process. Students have begun identifying five friends they would like to be placed with in 2027. When creating classes, we work to ensure that every student is placed with at least one of their nominated friends. While we cannot guarantee all friendship requests, we carefully consider these alongside student learning, wellbeing and classroom needs to create balanced and supportive classes.

Finally, in December, students will participate in our whole-school transition morning, where they will move into their 2027 classroom, meet their new teacher and spend time with their new classmates. This provides a valuable opportunity to begin building relationships, develop a sense of belonging and feel excited about the year ahead.

We know that successful transitions don't happen in just one day. By gradually introducing change, providing opportunities for discussion and building familiarity, we aim to ensure students finish 2026 feeling confident, supported and ready for a positive start to 2027.

Graduation 2027

An exciting time is approaching for our Year 6 students as they prepare to celebrate their final weeks of primary school! Information regarding Year 6 Graduation and end-of-year activities has now been published on Compass. We encourage all Year 6 families to take the time to read through the information carefully, including details about the planned activities, graduation times and ticketing arrangements.

Please ensure you are familiar with the important dates and any requirements so that you don't miss out on these special celebrations.

We look forward to celebrating this important milestone with our Year 6 students and their families as we farewell the Class of 2026!

Year 6 Jumpers for 2027!

We are currently surveying our Year 5 students to gather their preferences for the **2027 Year 6 jumper design**. This is always an exciting part of preparing for their final year of primary school!

Families are encouraged to **keep an eye on Compass**, as orders for the 2027 Year 6 jumpers will be opening soon. When placing your order, please ensure you carefully check the sizing chart to select the most appropriate size for your child. **Once orders have been placed, sizes cannot be changed, and jumpers cannot be returned or exchanged.**

Please also remember that your child is likely to grow over the summer holidays and throughout 2027. We recommend considering a slightly larger size to allow room for growth and ensure your child can comfortably wear their jumper throughout their final year.

We look forward to seeing our 2027 Year 6 students proudly wearing their jumpers next year!

Kind regards,
Tanya Kirkright -Principal - Wallan PS



Fuel for Learning Program NEW at WPS!

Our fruit program has started this term and the kids are excited! We are providing fruit snacks for students once a week. With the aim to move to everyday. Saving families money and creating healthy habits. Encourage your child to try some new fruits and or vegetables.

World Teacher's Day

On Friday 30 October, we will celebrate World Teachers' Day, recognising the incredible teachers we are fortunate to have at Wallan Primary School!

Our teachers go above and beyond every day to support, encourage and inspire our students. Their dedication, care and commitment make a difference in the lives of our students, and this is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge all that they do.

We would love your help in making this day extra special!

Please follow the link on Compass to complete a quick 2-minute survey, sharing a positive message, thank you or words of appreciation for our teachers.

These messages will be shared with our teachers during their special morning tea on World Teachers' Day. What a lovely way to remind them of the positive impact they have on our students and families!

Thank you for helping us celebrate our amazing teachers and showing them just how much they are appreciated!

UNIFORM REMINDER - Hats, Nails - Safety concern

<https://www.wallanps.vic.edu.au/page/13/Policies> Please check our uniform policy online to ensure your child is following our guidelines. **Please ensure your child has a broad brimmed hat for break times or outdoor learning activities. If they do not have a hat they will need to move to a shaded area.**

Please note that nails are becoming a safety concern in upper years. We would like to remind families that **fake nails, acrylic nails, press-on nails and nail extensions are not permitted at Wallan Primary School.**

While we understand that students may enjoy having their nails done, particularly for special occasions, these can present a safety risk during everyday school activities.

Long or artificial nails can cause accidental scratches or injuries to other students during play, sport and classroom activities. They can also increase the risk of injury if a nail catches on equipment or is pulled or broken.

Our priority is to ensure all students can participate safely in learning, physical education and playground activities.

We ask families to support our school expectations by ensuring students attend school with **natural nails that are kept at a safe, practical length.**

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a safe school environment for everyone.

COMMUNITY NEWS:



Pop Up Audiology Screenings

Free Audiology Screenings for Children (aged 12 months and over)

Concerned about your child's hearing, speech, or listening skills? Book a free 30-minute audiology screening with our Audiologist.

What the Screening May Help With

- Identifying possible middle ear fluid or pressure problems
- Identifying possible hearing concerns
- Children with concerns around delayed speech and language development
- Providing recommendations for further assessment if needed

Screening Dates
Monday 12 October | Monday 23 November
Monday 7 December | Monday 14 December

Times: 9:00am - 2:00pm | **Screening Duration:** 30 minutes per child
Location: Omnia Community Health, 7-11 High Street, Wallan VIC

Limited appointments available. Book early to secure your preferred time.
Helping children hear, learn, communicate, and thrive!
Booking essential. For more information and to reserve a screening please contact Rangi Rodrigo:



Community Health

0438 678 146
rangi.rodrigo@omniach.org.au
omniacommunityhealth.org.au



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