WALLAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

"Working Together for a Better Future"

| Friday 13th November | TERM 4 2026 | www.wallanps.vic.edu.au | PH:5783 1232

School Dates:

WEEK SEVEN (16th Nov)

- 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

Dear Families,

We have recently completed our four-year School Review, an important process that provides an opportunity to reflect on our achievements, evaluate our progress and establish the strategic direction for the next four years (2027–2030).

The review panel consisted of an independent reviewer, our Senior Education Improvement Leader (SEIL) and two local principals. Throughout the review, I participated in key discussions and planning sessions as Principal, alongside our Assistant Principals, who also contributed to various aspects of the process.

The panel met with a wide range of groups across our school community, including students, parents, teachers, Education Support staff and school leaders. They also conducted classroom observations across literacy, numeracy and specialist subjects, reviewed staff data, reviewed student achievement and wellbeing data, and engaged in extensive discussions about our school's progress and future priorities.

I am extremely proud of the outcomes of this review and the positive feedback received about our school. The panel identified many areas of success, which we look forward to celebrating and sharing with our community through upcoming newsletters.

Some key highlights included:

- **Student wellbeing and safety:** Strong results in our Years 4–6 Attitudes to School Survey, particularly in areas relating to managing bullying and a reduction in students reporting experiences of bullying.
- **Teaching and learning:** Positive recognition of our consistent instructional practices, particularly the implementation of our structured literacy approach and the smooth transitions and routines evident across classrooms.

may move rooms - Teachers move to their 2027 rooms
- Tuesday 8th December - Yr 6 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.

- **Student support and inclusion:** Recognition of the extensive academic, wellbeing and individualised supports in place to ensure all students have opportunities to learn, grow and succeed.
- **Strategic leadership and direction:** Strong acknowledgement of the school's clear direction, purposeful planning and the significant work undertaken to strengthen our practices and systems over recent years.

One of the most pleasing messages from the review was that our school has a clear strategic direction and solid foundations already in place. Rather than identifying the need for major changes, the panel encouraged us to *stay the course*, continue embedding our current practices and further strengthen the work already underway. This is a wonderful endorsement of the commitment and strategic planning undertaken by our leadership team and staff throughout our previous School Strategic Plan.

The findings from the review will now inform the development of our **2027–2030 School Strategic Plan**, ensuring we continue to build on our successes while identifying opportunities for further improvement.

I would like to sincerely thank all students, families, staff and leaders who participated in the review and shared their experiences and feedback.

As Principal, I am incredibly grateful for and proud of what we have collectively achieved over the past five years. School improvement is a journey that requires commitment, collaboration and a shared belief in what is possible for our students. I am excited to continue this journey with our school community as we move into our next strategic planning cycle, building on our strong foundations and continuing to provide the very best opportunities for every student at Wallan Primary School.

Foundation Team 2027 & Leaders

We have successfully completed three transition sessions for our incoming 2027 Foundation students. Students had the opportunity to engage in activities with staff, begin building relationships and familiarise themselves with the school environment. Each child received a special Foundation T-shirt and a showbag of resources to support their preparation for school. Our Assistant Principals also facilitated parent information sessions, providing families with important information about starting school. Students have now been



STUDENT LEADER WPS PODCAST?

EPISODE Out NOW!







Oli dressed in Rainbow House to support all Houses!

allocated to their 2027 classes, and we have announced our Foundation teaching team for next year.

2027 Foundation Team:

Esma Cay - Foundation A
Aimee Anderson - Foundation B
Erin Cooper - Foundation C (PLC Leader)
Amy Ilic - Foundation D

We would also like to announce our PLC leaders for 2027:

Erin Cooper - Foundation
Carly Whitemoore - Year 1
Emma Bernadone - Year 2
Nick Oakey - Year 3
Olivera Todorovski - Year 4
Michael Robson - Year 5
Emma Conley - Year 6
Karen Keenan - Specialist

World Teacher's Day

We acknowledged and celebrated our wonderful teachers, recognising their dedication, hard work and ongoing commitment to our students. To show our appreciation, we hosted a morning tea and arranged a coffee van to provide complimentary coffees to staff. Families were also invited to share positive feedback through a survey, with their thoughtful messages of thanks displayed on the staffroom tables during morning tea. It was a lovely opportunity to recognise the positive impact our teachers have on our students and school community.

House Sports Day

Our House Sports Day was a great success, with junior students participating in the morning and middle and upper school students in the afternoon. Students enjoyed a variety of activities, including the 100m sprint, egg and spoon race, sack race, throw the chicken and many more. Students proudly represented their houses, dressed in their house colours, with ribbons awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place achievements.

We were fortunate to enjoy some sunshine and a fantastic turnout of families and friends cheering on our students. The overall winning house will be announced at an upcoming assembly.

A big thank you to Lachlan for his efforts in organising the

day, Leah for her mentoring and support, and all staff for ensuring the event ran smoothly. While we were a little ambitious with the number of activities planned, those not completed will be incorporated into upcoming PE lessons.

Festival of FUN!

Our much-loved **Festival of Fun** is fast approaching, and we can't wait to welcome our school community for an afternoon of fun, laughter and entertainment!



📅 **Friday 20 November**
⏰ **4:00pm – 7:00pm**

We have so much planned for the whole family!

🎨 **Stalls galore!** Our wonderful staff will be running stalls including face painting, coloured hair spray and showbags, alongside a fantastic range of external stallholders.

🍔 **Food trucks!** Plenty of delicious food options available, with cash and card payments accepted.

🎢 **Rides!** A big thank you to Big Childcare for their support in bringing rides and entertainment to our event.

💦 **THE DUNK MACHINE IS BACK!** Which teacher will you choose to dunk this year? Get ready for some laughs!

🎟️ **RAFFLES AND PRIZES!** Last year, one lucky family won a family holiday to Queensland! Make sure you're there for your chance to win some fantastic prizes.

🎫 **PRE-SALE TICKETS:** Tickets for rides and selected stalls are available to purchase before the event.

💚💛 **CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE?**
If you own a business or know someone who would like to donate an item or prize for our raffle, we would be incredibly grateful! Please contact the school office and speak with Stacey **by Wednesday 18th November**.

A huge thank you to **Stacey and Busra** for all their hard work behind the scenes organising this wonderful community event. We look forward to seeing our families, friends and wider community come together for a fantastic evening!

See you Friday 20 November, 4:00pm–7:00pm! 🎉





Cow - Moolissa

We have officially completed the decorating and painting of our cow, Moolissa! This was a highly detailed process, from the initial application through to the final design and painting.

A big thank you to Emma for all her hard work coordinating this project, and to the students who were fortunate enough to win the opportunity to be involved in painting Moolissa. We also appreciate the staff who generously gave up their lunchtimes to assist with painting and supervision.

Although we were not successful in winning the competition, we received very high scores and positive results, which is a fantastic achievement and something to be proud of!

Moolissa will soon be proudly displayed in our schoolyard for our whole school community to enjoy.

Mental Health in Primary School & STAIR Program

The STAIR (Systems Thinking with Active Implementation Research) Program is a three-year research initiative led by Deakin University in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and other health organisations. The program aims to improve student health and wellbeing by supporting schools to develop healthier environments and sustainable practices. It focuses on physical activity, healthy eating, sleep, screen time and overall wellbeing.

Students in Years 4–6 participated in a survey; now we are using the findings to identify priorities and develop targeted strategies. The program aligns with our ongoing commitment to supporting student wellbeing, engagement and healthy lifestyles. **So far they have had an initial meeting listing all we do at the school for support students' wellbeing and the representatives from Deakin University were blown away!! We have so much already in place. Now it is time to enhance and strengthen our supports.** This is a great project for our student Wellbeing leaders, led by Ms Cay. We will keep you updated on next steps soon!

WE NEED YOUR HELP - Colour Run - Please make a profile.

Our Colour Run is fast approaching, and we need our school community to jump on board!

Unfortunately, only **130 of our 670 students** have created a fundraising profile so far. Without enough fundraising support, we may not be able to run this exciting event.

Creating a fundraising profile is completely FREE! There is no obligation to donate or raise a certain amount. Families can simply create a profile and, if they choose, share it with friends and family through social media. Even a few dollars can make a difference!

We want to make this a memorable experience for ALL our students, with plenty of colour, inflatables and fun. However, making this happen relies on the support of our school community.

We moved our Colour Run to a **biennial event (every two years)** to reduce fundraising pressures on families while still providing these wonderful opportunities for our students.

🌟 **A little extra incentive!** Students who have created a fundraising profile will be given the first opportunity to participate on the Colour Run track and enjoy some extra time on the course.



We understand that families have different financial circumstances, which is why we are simply asking everyone to take the first step and **create a FREE profile today!**

💚💛 Let's work together to make our Colour Run a fantastic experience for all our students!

Kind regards,
Tanya Kirkright -Principal - Wallan PS

Did you see our ART on display at the Whittlesea Show?











