Willaura Primary School’s purpose is to provide programs and opportunities for each student to reach their academic, physical, social and emotional potential in a caring and stimulating learning environment so they are fully prepared for the next stage in their education and able to succeed as active and fulfilled members of their community.

Nine Values for Australian Schools
- Doing Your Best
- Freedom
- Honesty and Trustworthiness
- Fair Go
- Understanding Tolerance and Inclusion
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Care and Compassion
- Integrity

School Rules
- Be Nice
- Be Honest
- Be Safe
- Be Positive
- Be a Learner

You Can Do It!
- Organisation
- Resilience
- Getting Along
- Perseverance
- Confidence
STUDENT AWARDS

Rhys Pevitt: for staying ALL night at the P/1 sleepover. You should be VERY proud Rhys!
Giaan Kumnick: for her beautiful manners and positive attitude. You are a pleasure to teach Giaan!
Natalie Kumnick and Ruby Evans: for both working cooperatively in their joint writing project and producing beautiful work.
Lana Fox: for showing constant intrinsic motivation towards her learning, particularly in literacy.
Scarlett Burmeister: for consistently working to her absolute best across all subjects.

School News

Photos this week are of the Year 2/3/4/5/6 school sleepover. What fun! There are a lot of important learning outcomes from these events—being organised, helping others, working as a team, speaking up, manners, kindness, and bouncing back—especially from the minor bingles we had with so many bikes, scooters and skates at school. A huge thank you to Miss Rae and Miss Forbes, who COOKED dinner for the entire Year 2—6 student group (with three staff that’s 29 meals in total), and also to Miss Jayde for managing 11 super excited little people so beautifully last week. P/1 photos coming next week. Sleepovers are a very important practice for school camps. Going to the snow and Melbourne in particular mean we have to work as a team, concentrate and make good decisions, so learning how to do that BEFORE we go is ideal. I think most parents were impressed at how effortless it all looked in terms of organisation. This is not good luck—it is the result of hard work, great student management skills and sleeping with one eye open. Imagine having a sleepover at home for 25 children—and you will appreciate the planning and organisation involved :)

A note about the End of Year Celebration went home on Monday. Let me know if it didn’t make it home. Each family has been allocated either sweet or savoury plates for supper, a shift either early, late, or the next day for a quick clean; and there are some other important points. Students need to:

- Arrive at 6.50 for a 7pm start. Hall doors won’t be open until then!
- Wear their gold school shirt, jeans and black shoes
- Bring a black OR red t-shirt to school this week if possible
- Bring Christmas hats/antlers etc. if they would like to wear them.

We had The Honourable Dan Teehan at school this week to speak to Years 2—6 students about parliament and being a politician. The Civics and Citizenship curriculum is about contributing to community life and beginning to understand how our democracy works. Students already know quite a bit about our three levels of government and they came up with some incredibly thoughtful questions to ask Mr Teehan. Each student read out one of the following questions:
How old were you when you became a politician?
How long have you been a politician?
Why did you want to run for Parliament?
How did you feel when you were elected?
How old do you have to be to stand for Parliament?
What made you want to be a Politician?
When you were a child did you think about doing this?
Was it hard to get into Parliament?
What type of education did you need to get started?
What do you need to know to be a good Politician?
Is it hard being a politician?
What’s the hardest decision you have made?
How many times do you go to Canberra?
How long do you stay there each time?
Who decides who the Prime Minister will be?
Does the Queen make any decisions?
Do you think we should be a republic?
Have you ever wanted to go to the other side – so vote with the opposite party?
Do you think we should have three levels of government (local, state, federal)?
What do you think is the most important issue in Australia right now? And what should we do about it?

Aren’t those questions amazing? Mr Teehan was so impressed he asked if he could come back :) It is wonderful to see our students interact in such a sensible and thoughtful way with visitors to our school.

We had a wonderful transition day yesterday, with Miss Stephanie and Miss Rae with our 2016 P/1 students for the day. The rest of the students were busy rehearsing and preparing for the End of Year Celebration. The last weeks of school are absolutely vital—attendance is as important as ever. Students are learning up until the very last day ;)

School Council met last night. Agenda items included our Arborists Report, where trees in the school yard were inspected (a couple have been flagged for removal due to age and borers);

a new Facebook policy to set up guidelines for a school Facebook page (this will be used to communicate with parents, send reminders etc. Photos of students will not be used); Parent and Student Codes of Conduct (these will go home before the end of the year for every family to have to keep and read over the break); and the general finance reports. School Council is now operating three sub-committees: finance, grounds and policies and this means those parents with particular expertise or interest in an area make a contribution on that sub-committee. School Councillors are a very important contact point for parents—if you have ideas, concerns or thoughts about school speak to your School Councillors. Current serving Councillors are: Sybil Burmeister (President), Amanda Kumnick (Secretary); Terry Walker (Vice President), Glenn Price, Nick Anderson, Janie Evans, Kelly Evans, John Jenkinson, Anna Gray.

I think that’s it! Enjoy the week, hopefully you are managing with this pretty brutal weather—it is shockingly dry, although I know anyone harvesting doesn’t want rain now.

Ms Knight
**December 2015**

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<tr>
<td>30th Nov MARC (final visit)</td>
<td>1 Life Education P-6</td>
<td>2-6 BMX excursion, Moyston PS</td>
<td>3 Prep/1 Sleepover</td>
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<td>7 MP Visit Years 2—6</td>
<td>8 Prep 2016 Transition</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>15 <strong>END OF YEAR CELEBRATION</strong> Town Hall 7pm</td>
<td>16 Morning Tea 10am</td>
<td>17 <strong>Student’s Last Day!</strong></td>
<td>18 Pupil Free Staff only</td>
<td>19 HOLIDAYS!</td>
<td>20 Whoo Hoo!</td>
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<td><strong>21 Holidays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>28 Still holidays</strong></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31 <strong>Happy New Year</strong></td>
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**January 2016**

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<tr>
<td>4 <strong>And another week of holidays!</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10 Ms Knight’s Birthday—30 years old today?</td>
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<td><strong>11 Second last week of holidays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>18 Last week of holidays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>25 Get ready for school!</strong></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 <strong>Teachers back at school</strong></td>
<td>28 <strong>Testing days for students</strong></td>
<td>29 <strong>Testing days for students</strong></td>
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**February 2016**

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<tr>
<td><strong>1 Students first day of school</strong> Swimming 2—6</td>
<td>2 Swimming 2—6</td>
<td>3 No school Preps Swimming Year 1—6</td>
<td>4 Swimming P—6 from now on</td>
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