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
- Responsibly
- 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
So, here we are—my last newsletter! Photos this week are of the beautiful Prep/1 students on their sleepover. And some sleeping actually happened, we promise! The students were absolutely beautifully behaved, and even though lots of little heads were popping up and down like meerkats once the sun came up, everyone was in their beds until 7am and we were still enjoying breakfast when the buses arrived. Well done Miss Jayde for her amazing organization—the whole day/night ran like clockwork!

I have a long list of special thankyou's—firstly to all the amazing students who I have had the absolute pleasure of teaching over the past four and a half years—you have never ceased to amaze me with your curiosity, sense of adventure and fun, kindness, thirst for learning and amazing wisdom beyond your years. Secondly to the staff of Willaura Primary School—some who have moved on before me, some who will go with me, and some who will be here after I am gone (Merrin and Rae!)—your commitment to the school, kindness, support for the students and each other, sense of humour, professionalism and dedication have been appreciated so much. Only other teachers and school staff know what the amazing rewards and incredible demands are like—so to my colleagues, THANK YOU for your friendship and support. To the parent body and wider community, thank you for your tireless support and commitment. You have a school to be proud of. Educating and raising children is a team effort and if everyone is working together what can be achieved is incredible. I know you will continue to support the staff, accept each other's differences, rejoice in each other's successes and make the best contribution you can knowing that your children benefit from everything that you do at your child's school. A special thank you to those parents on School Council for the extra commitment they make. To my past Presidents Russell, Pat and now Sybil, you have all been a joy to work in partnership with.

And finally, a public thank you (which I don’t do very often) to my family—to Soph who has spent countless hours here (mostly reading, but often doing jobs for me), to Greg and my Mum Gwen who allow me to work the way I do, and to my older three who show incredible support and interest in everything that happens at Willaura.

A huge thank you for my lovely morning tea yesterday, the kind words, generous gifts and lovely contributions from staff and students. I am very humbled.
Sybil thanked everyone so well on Tuesday night—Julie and Heather who keep the school spick and span, Lee and Graeme (and Hannah and Dave who we still see on the bus), for driving the children so carefully and with such good humour, and to the parents who keep the grounds and garden looking good.

THANK YOU :)

A couple of quick notes for next year
School Council updated the Anaphylaxis Policy at our last meeting, and unanimously agreed that WPS will be NUT FREE in 2016, 2017 and 2018. It is essential that parents take some time over the holidays to read the labels carefully of items they usually pack in their child’s lunch boxes. This might be a great chance to minimize the commercial purchases—homemade cakes and biscuits, fruit and sandwiches mean you can fully control what goes into your child’s body which is the best outcome for them, AND will make it easy for you to follow the new policy. Food items with traces of nuts, and any food item containing peanuts will not be allowed at school. It is essential that we work together to provide a safe environment for a beautiful little boy starting school with a life-threatening allergy. I know all students are fully supportive of these changes and I appreciate their maturity and sensitivity. Thank you in anticipation of your full support.

Swimming will start for Years 2—6 on MONDAY 1st February, and continue for the first three weeks of school. Year 1 students will start swimming on Wednesday 3rd February, and P/1 students all together from Thursday 4th February. Miss Stephanie will give P/1 parents a roster for walking to and from the pool with students on the testing days.

Every parent should have a time for their child/ren to come to school on either Thursday 28th or Friday 29th January. Miss Steph’s class is a bit big to fit in over the two days, and she will catch up with year Year 1’s on Wednesday’s when the Prep’s are away. While your children are here we ask that you spend

45 minutes outside in the garden—weeding, sweeping, raking, watering, sweeping and tidying. BYO tools. If everyone pitches in the school looks spick and span when the students arrive for their first day on Monday 1st February. Thank you!

To keep the garden alive (and hopefully thriving) we are asking families to volunteer for a week over the summer to come in to water. Again, if this is shared out it will be managed easily. Casey has been working tirelessly to install timers and soaker hoses—so all you have to do is hook those up and turn the timer, then you can head to the pool for a while! Or, you can walk around and water, while your children play, ride scooters, bikes or skates.

I will be in for my last week next week, handing over to Tammie (Acting Principal for Term 1) and packing up, so I will leave the garden well –watered. Send me a text or just let me know which week would suit you.

WATERING ROSTER SUMMER HOLS
Mon 21st-Sun 27th Ms K
Mon 28th-Sun 3rd Jan Casey
Mon 4th Jan-Sun 10th Jan—volunteers??
Mon 11th Jan-Sun 17th Jan—volunteers??
Mon 18th-Sun 24th Jan—volunteers??

So we only have THREE weeks that we need some families to volunteer for. If you are around for one of those weeks, send me a text, or call in next week when I am here and I will show you around. It is not something to stress about much, we are just trying to keep things alive! Any watering you can do over a week would be great. THANK YOU!

So...this is it! Have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends, stay safe (sun smart, around water, and fire safe), and I will see some of you at the pool at some stage I am sure. AND, on Snow Camp in 2016 :)

Ms Knight
Classroom Reports

Hello parents, carers and friends of Prep/One,
Wow, we made it. What a fabulous year we have shared. We have had so many wonderful times together and formed a lasting bond. What a wonderful job we all did at the School Concert, Bravo Prep/One. Thank you to the Jenkinson family for having us at their lovely farm on Wednesday. Even with all those tired eyes we had massive smiles and were so excited. Thank you all for your continued support this year. I feel so lucky to have been welcomed with such open arms in to this amazing School and Community. I will treasure my time spent at Willaura Primary School always. Thank you to Ms Knight, Miss Rae, Mrs Albert, Miss Forbes and Merrin for being a wonderful team that will be so hard to leave. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miss Jayde

Dear Family and of Grade 2-3 Students,
Well we made it to the end of 2015, and as you know I am the last woman standing. I appreciate the support and encouragement you have given me this year, and especially your trust in caring for your beautiful children. I have thoroughly enjoyed moving into the Grade2-3 Level, and have seen such positive growth in all students. The Grade 3 students, will always hold a special place in my heart, as they were the first class I had here at Willaura Primary School. I am looking forward to watching them move into the “Big Kid’s Room” and seeing them take off! I am excited about next year, having the Grade 2 students again and welcoming new students, as well as having a few more girls! Together with our new enthusiastic staff, we will continue our hard work with student learning and well-being. I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday season. Hope there are plenty of sleep-ins and an adventure or two. May the Force be with you!
I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Miss Forbes and Miss Jayde for their hard work. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with such amazing women. I wish them all the best in their teaching journey. I would also like to give a special thank you to Ms Knight for your support, encouragement and belief in my teaching. It has been a privilege to work together and your new school is so fortunate to have you coming their way…all the best.

Miss Rae

Senior Classroom

Hello parents and carers of the senior classroom!
It is hard to believe that it is now Week 11 of Term 4, 2015 and therefore my last newsletter article at Willaura Primary School. I have absolutely loved spending the term here, working with wonderful staff, an inspirational Principal and supportive parents and of course, an incredibly special group of children. Every one of the 14 students in this classroom has left a lasting impression on my career and I have loved getting to know each of your children. Indeed it is not easy beginning at a new school for a teacher or the children but it is thanks to these students’ positive, hardworking and genuine natures that we have been able to have a successful end to the year. Coming from a Melbourne school to the country has been hugely influential and having had a little taste now of both urban and rural schools, I can honestly say that there are so many fantastic things about Willaura Primary School, the opportunities that your children have, the care that is given to them and the parental involvement. Today, as well as a visit to the pool, which the children are incredibly excited about (!!!) the 4,5,6 students will also be going to the Willaura Hospital to perform Michael Jackson’s ‘Thriller’ and the Christmas songs that many of you would have had the privilege of seeing on Tuesday night at the school concert! I think this citizenship that these children continue to be given the opportunity to develop right up until the final day is essential for the town to keep flourishing but perhaps more importantly, to continue developing your children into the wonderful role models that they are becoming. I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and summer holiday. Wishing you all a very successful and happy 2016 and once again, a huge thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your community.

Miss Forbes
### 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 END OF YEAR CELEBRATION Town Hall</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 Student's Last Day!</td>
<td>18 Pupil Free Staff only</td>
<td>19 HOLIDAYS!</td>
<td>20 Whoo Hoo!</td>
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<td>21 Holidays</td>
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<td>28 Still holidays</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>31 Happy New Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 And another week of holidays!</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>11 Second last week of holidays</td>
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<td>18 Last week of holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Get ready for school!</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Teachers back at school</td>
<td>28 Testing days for students</td>
<td>29 Testing days for students</td>
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### February 2016

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<tr>
<td>1 Students first day of school 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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<td>10 No School Preps</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 No school Preps</td>
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<td>19 House Swimming Sports</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>24 No school Preps</td>
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