Dear parents, students and friends of Willaura Primary School,

We have finished our first full week of school and the staff could not be prouder of the manner in which all students have begun settling into the 2016 year.

Also completing their first full week with their new classes are our new staff, Stephanie Schulz, Susie Gibson and myself! We have all enjoyed meeting all of the wonderful students and families at Willaura PS.

The word on everyone’s lips right now is “Swimming!”. We have had some cool mornings that have turned into gorgeous days and we are thoroughly enjoying the program. We are now in a great routine and we are managing to get to and from the pool and most of us are making sure that we don’t leave anything behind! Our preps have joined the program with HUGE enthusiasm and are loving every minute of it. A HUGE thank you to Angela Brain for her help with the swimming program. Thanks also to our parents who have helped out.

We are holding our ‘School Captain’ meeting this afternoon and Friday morning’s assembly will be a very special occasion, as our School Captains, Vice Captains and House Captains are presented with their badges of office for 2016. We invite all families and friends to join us at 9:00am.

Please help your child make sure they have their HAT every day. It is so much easier if every part of your child’s school uniform is named, hats and jumpers especially. It is just TOO dangerous to be outside without a hat on during recess and lunch and it is fairly boring having to stay in the shaded area near the bubble-taps. It’s easier if hats just stay either in school bags or in lockers at school (where students keep their bags). Having a couple of hats is also a great idea.

The dreaded head-lice are around. Please check and treat your child’s hair if necessary.

Please note that lunch orders will not begin until we finish our swimming program. It is very hard to coordinate lunch, hot food and timing as we are all over the place. Lunch orders will be on Thursdays after the completion of swimming.

Looking forward into the term, please note that Monday, February 22nd is a student-free day at Willaura Primary School. Our staff team will be involved in a Whole School Positive Behaviours training program with other Ararat and district schools. We are looking forward to the training and the impact it will have on learning in our school.

Hoax phone calls to Victorian schools
An update in light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days—Willaura Primary School has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year. Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority. If you have any questions please contact me.

Camps/Sports/Excursion Fund
Could all parents who have not yet returned their form, please send them in as soon as possible?

Thanks

School Council
We currently have 5 retiring parent members in our School Council. If you are one of those members, or another family member of our school, and are keen to self-nominate for another term, please drop into the office to collect a form to fill out.

Finally, we’re all very much looking forward to another exciting and productive year at Willaura Primary School, as we support our students to be the best that they can be! Please feel free to contact me if you have school-related concerns or issues that you wish to discuss.

Tammie Meehan

Student Free Days
Please note the following Student Free Day:
Monday 22nd February—Whole School Positive Behaviours Framework PD

TERM DATES 2016
Term 1—1st February—24th March
Term 2—11th April—24th June
Term 3—11th July—16th September
Term 4—3rd October—20th December
What a great week we have had getting familiar with our routines, swimming and getting our minds ready for learning! I have started sending home readers each day with one or two books. The books are to come back daily in reader bags with reader books displaying all the active fun reading we have had at home with our parents or siblings! When our children read to us, they first read through the pictures, then starting sounds, ending sounds and finally words. I cannot wait to hear about all the feedback from parents about our little readers!!

If there are any inquiries about how to prepare for our readers, feel free to pop in at drop off or pick up, through the diary or give me a call. More than happy to hear from you!

Miss Stephanie

Dear Family and Friends of Grade 2-3,

Well we are off to a roaring start, with a few hiccoughs...mainly a student breaking his arm second day of school. I have always felt lucky to have made it through my childhood without a cast, and a bit ripped off I might add. The safety of our students is paramount at our school, and although we take concerned effort to ensure a safe environment, accidents do happen and it reminds us how important it is to have policies in place to assist students in making good decisions and for staff to know how we handle these situations. This week in Reading we are focusing on knowing the high-frequency sight words and how they are important for helping speed up our reading and allows students the skills to focus on more complex words. Most of you will remember these words as the Rainbow Words, these 100 little words that are not always easy to decode but make up over half of what we read and therefore they are important in both reading and writing. I will be assessing their knowledge of these words this week as well. If you are interested in the list I am happy to send them home. In Maths we are concentrating on Place Value, or the value of a digit in a number...we are all still amazed to realize that 10 digits can be used to write any number and that 26 letters are used to write all words. The weather has been superb for swimming and I am thoroughly enjoying being in the pool with the students, we are blessed to have that facility.

Miss Rae

Grade 4/5/6

It has been another busy week in our class with swimming, organising leadership positions and continuing with our Quality Beginnings program. We have continued to explore the importance of having a growth mindset in being successful learner, and how powerful positive feedback can be in achieving our goals. In maths we have been focussing on place value and ordering numbers which we achieved with the 10 second walk challenge. I was very impressed with students’ accuracy with walking for 10 seconds! Their times were extremely close! Thank you for a great week Grade 4/5/6!

Miss Gibson

Swimming Sports – PARENT HELPERS NEEDED!

We have been practising our strokes and our styles are coming along swimmingly. On next Friday 19th March we will be putting our skills into action for a bit of friendly rivalry between Henty House and Mitchell House. In order for the Sports Day to run smoothly, we require some parent helpers to assist with timer/place judges, starter, scorers and an announcer. Parents are welcome to take their children home at the end of the sports day if you wish. The sports will run from 11.00 and we aim to finish by 2.30. If you are interested in helping out please contact Susie Gibson at school or via email:
gibson.susan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au. Your help will be greatly appreciated!
“Is intelligence something inherited or is it something that can be developed? More and more research is revealing that important parts of intelligence can be developed and that the brain has greater potential for growth and change throughout life than anyone ever thought” - Dr Carol S. Dweck

Willaura Primary School is focusing on developing the mindsets and growth of our students through linking our feedback and the feedback that they receive from their peers to their personal learning goals. We give the students feedback on the process they have gone through to learn, for example; instead of saying “You worked hard” we will say something like “You worked hard at ordering those numbers, you practiced every day for the week and now you have achieved your goal”.

Our students are learning about what a fixed/growth mindset is, how their brains work and learn best, establishing values of learning in their classrooms and focusing on how to give and receive ‘process’ feedback.

We wish to share this work with you so that we, as a partnership, can support each other in developing our students belief that they have the ability to learn and that they also have to make mistakes to learn best.

Here is a link to a TED talk that you may wish to watch, if you are able: https://www.ted.com/talks/carol_dweck_the_power_of_believing_that_you_can_improve

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Fixed Mindset vs. Growth Mindset

Based on the work of Dr Carol Dweck

**Fixed Mindset**
- I believe that my [Intelligence, Personality, Character] is inherent and static. Locked down or fixed. My potential is determined at birth, it doesn’t change.
- Avoid failure
- Desire to look smart
- Avoid challenges
- Stick to what they know
- Feedback and criticism is personal
- They don’t change or improve

**Growth Mindset**
- I believe that my [Intelligence, Personality, Character] can be continuously developed. My true potential is unknown and unknowable.
- Desire continuous learning
- Confront uncertainties.
- Embracing challenges
- Not afraid to fail
- Put lots of effort to learn
- Feedback is about current capability

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**Farm to Pub**

Run, Ride or Walk 2018

**Saturday 27 February**

Main Street - Willaura

**www.farmtopub.org**

Enter online at: https://eregonline.activeglobal.com/2016farmtopub

16km Run or Ride

Buses will leave Willaura at 4pm for a 4:30pm race start for the 16km participants. Those wanting a seat on the bus are reminded just make sure this option is requested when completing the online registration process.

For the 16km ride event it will be up to the individual riders to get their own bikes to the starting line for the 4:30pm start.

8.5km Run or Ride

The 8.5km course commences and finishes at the Willaura Hotel with the run commencing at 5:00pm and riders at 5:15pm.

3km Walk (on sealed road for entire distance)

Buses will leave Willaura at 5pm for a 5:15pm start for the 3km participants. Those wanting a seat on the bus are reminded just make sure this option is requested when completing the online registration process.

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**Willaura Health Care**

Outdoor Market

Sunday 6th March 2016

10am – 2pm

Willaura Hospital Grounds

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**SWIMMING CAPS AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM OFFICE**

$6.50 each
# February 2016

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<td><strong>1 Students first day of school</strong>&lt;br&gt;Swimming 2—6</td>
<td>2 Swimming 2—6</td>
<td>3 No school Preps&lt;br&gt;Swimming Year 1—6</td>
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<td><strong>22 CURRICULUM DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</strong>&lt;br&gt;23 Balloon Launch – 9am. Parents invited&lt;br&gt;24 No school Preps</td>
<td>25 <strong>FAMILY BBQ @ POOL Starts 5pm.</strong></td>
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<td>14 <strong>LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY</strong>&lt;br&gt;15 School Council&lt;br&gt;16</td>
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| 21 | 22 | 23 Responsible Pet Education | 24 Last Day of Term Assembly 12pm | 25 **GOOD FRIDAY**<br>26 | 27 | **28**<br>29 | 30 | 31 | 32

# April 2016

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<td>14 <strong>GRIP Student Leader Conference Grade 5/6</strong></td>
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