Dear parents, students and friends of Willaura Primary School,

The first three weeks have passed smoothly and the students have settled in well. We are excited about the year 2016 being one of extraordinary learning and positive experiences.

**Every Day Counts – School Attendance**

We all want our students to have a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

**Student Accident Insurance**

At the start of the year, I would like to remind our school community that the Department of Education and Training does not cover the cost of student accidents. However, there are some companies which can offer you inexpensive student accident insurance if you wish to cover your children while they are at school. Use the following address to the insurance company link below: [http://www.studenthealth.com.au/](http://www.studenthealth.com.au/)

I also inform you that the Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Just a reminder that it can be a very busy and dangerous place at the front of the school at school pick-up time.

It is extremely important to supervise your children at all times when they are leaving the school, whether they be on bikes, walking or getting into cars. Bike riders must stay on the footpath when waiting for parents and must wear a helmet to and from school.

**School Captains, Class Captains, House Captains & Bus Captains**

One of the most exciting aspects of being a school Principal is that I have the privilege of witnessing and sharing the amazing accomplishments of the children – in every facet of their schooling. They simply never cease to amaze me with their ideas, lateral thinking, willingness to give things a go, attitude towards learning and one another and so on.

On Friday morning we will announce the names of the children who have been bestowed with the honour and privilege of being selected as their class representative for the 2016 school year and will subsequently form the Junior School Council (JSC). The JSC is responsible for many things throughout the school but most importantly it is a vehicle which will enable the children to develop their leadership skills - skills which they will be able to use for many, many years to come.

Congratulations to these students for being selected, I look forward to working closely with you and also wish you well with your leadership journey in 2015!

Congratulations to the Term 1 School Captains: Erica Evans and Ben Kumnick!

**Balloon Launch**

We have decided to hold our balloon launch at our school BBQ on Thursday, instead of Tuesday morning.

Tammie Meehan

**Student Free Days**

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

**TERM DATES 2016**

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<th>Term 1</th>
<th>1st February—24th March</th>
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<td>Term 2</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
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<td>3rd October—20th December</td>
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We are finishing off our last week of quality beginnings as students are beginning to relax and becoming settled with their new group of friends. This week the students have been looking at patterns in mathematics, recounting stories in reading and continuing with ‘Kids Writing’ where the students have been writing about their own interests.

The children will continue to inquire about “Who am I?” This week students will explore who they are as individuals and learn about other members in class.

Good luck and have a great day at the swimming sports this Friday!!

Miss Stephanie

Hello Family and Friends of Grade 2-3 Students!
Here we are in Week 3 of our term and in our final week of the swimming program. As you know this Friday is our Swimming Carnival and we are looking forward to sharing our skills and enjoying a great day at the pool. Just a reminder to that your child will need lots of small nutritious snacks on the day, a water bottle, a spare towel and sunscreen for the event…and of course a positive attitude. I would like to congratulate all the staff in their ability to ensure that this important part of our Term 1 curriculum has been done to an excellent standard and thank them for their enthusiasm and dedication to what is a rigorous start to the year.

This last week, I spent 2 full days of professional development which provided my advancement as a Numeracy coach at our school. The program is called Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) and involves a whole school approach to ensure that all students are being extended in the Numeracy knowledge and ability. EMU has been shown by detailed research to improve children’s learning and confidence with mathematics. I can say with enthusiasm that it was two of the most powerful days of extending my own skills to provide another great program at our school. Our inclusion in the program will see all students being targeted to their needs and ability. A big part of the program also will involve me coaching all staff in implementing strong mathematical understanding. Can you tell how excited I am?? I also attended the initial Reading Recovery ongoing professional learning to select the students who will be coming to Reading Recovery this term, which will begin next Monday. I am excited and grateful to have the opportunity to work one on one to help our Grade One students become confident and independent readers. Bring it on!

Miss Rae

Congratulations to all students for all of their hard work during swimming over the last three weeks. They have all tried their best and have proven that when having a growth mindset, you can make wonderful progress. In English this week, we have been focussing on recounts and in particular, experimenting with sequencing words. Students have also shown dedication when learning about addition and subtraction in Maths. Keep up the great work!

Miss Gibson

Swimming Sports– TOMORROW!

Events will run from 11.00 – 12.30pm with a short lunch break from 12.30 – 1.00. We aim to finish before 2.30pm so that students will have time for a free swim and then either go home with parents or return to school to be dismissed as usual at 3.20pm.

REMINDERS
• There will not be a BBQ provided at the swimming sports tomorrow. Please ensure that students are supplied with plenty of food and water, as the canteen will also not be available for food or drinks. The bakery will be open if parents would like to purchase anything for their children, however, students are not to leave the pool area without permission from their teacher.
• Parents please bring along a seat to sit on for your comfort.

Miss Stephanie
Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) - Are you eligible?

The Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF), is being provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school camps, excursion and sporting activities. To be eligible for the fund you must:

- be a holder of an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or
- be a holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, or
- Pensioner Concession Card, or
- be a temporary foster parent, and

CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of Term 1 (27th January 2016) or Term 2 (11th April 2016). If the application is successful $125 will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. If you wish to apply, application forms can be downloaded from our website (Go to ‘For Parents), or collected from the office. Please return application form along with your Concession Card to the office.

Curriculum Day

As a learning-community, we're very proud of our extensive professional learning agenda and commitment to student engagement and wellbeing. That commitment will continue during the next few months with **Monday, February 22nd** set aside as a student-free day by the Ararat and district schools to work on the implementation of the "Whole School Positive Behaviours Framework". Please note that February 22nd and May 20th have been approved as student-free by the DET and School Council.

SWIMMING CAPS AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM OFFICE

$6.50 each

Farm to Pub

Run, Ride or Walk 2018

Saturday 27 February

Main Street - Willaura
www.farmtopub.org

Enter online at: https://regonline.activepglobal.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.

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

Willaura Health Care

OUTDOOR MARKET

Sunday 6th March 2016
10am - 2pm

Willaura Health Care

FOR SALE

Point of Lay
Pure Bred Pullets $20
Kathy – 0407 541 238
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<td>22 CURRICULUM DAY – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</td>
<td>23 Balloon Launch – 9am. Parents invited</td>
<td>24 No school Preps</td>
<td>25 FAMILY BBQ @ POOL Starts 5pm.</td>
<td>26 Assembly 9.00-9.30am</td>
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**Head Lice**

A few families are finding that head lice are a problem. We ask you to check your child’s hair and those of all members of your family today and once a week after that. The best way to do that is by combing through each person’s wet hair with a fine tooth comb. Pull the comb through each section of the hair, starting at the scalp. Conditioner can make this easier to do. We thank you for your support in combattting this issue.