SCHOOL WELCOME BBQ & BALLOON LAUNCH

Please note, our BBQ is on tonight!
Thursday 25th February

EAT AT 5PM

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
Dear parents, students and friends of Willaura Primary School,

Our newly appointed House Captains had their first ‘outing’ yesterday, as they coordinated their House members for our Swimming Sports. It was wonderful to see the House Captains and older students in our school take on leadership roles on the day with a high level of enthusiasm. We’re pleased to announce that Henty House was the overall points winner on the day. Congratulations to all of our students on their courage and efforts, thank you to our Sports Coordinator, Miss Gibson, for putting together a brilliant day, and to our outstanding team of staff, family assistants and supporters.

**Welcome BBQ and Balloon Launch**

We are excited to be holding our Welcome BBQ at the Willaura Outdoor Pool tomorrow evening. All students are invited to stay at school and we will eat a snack then walk to the pool for a fun, free swim. Parent are invited to meet their child for the BBQ at 5pm. We will finish at 6pm – all students will need to be collected by their families by this time.

The cost of the BBQ is $5 per family for BBQ and Ice cream. Families are still required to pay for the usual pool entry.

We hope to see you all there!

**Growth Mindset Parent Information Session**

All of our students have begun the year learning about having a growth mindset and learning how our brains work. In an effort to maximise this learning, we are running an information session for families, so that we can be partners in the learning of your child.

All families are invited to attend a ‘Growth Mindset’ Information Session in the Multipurpose Room on Wednesday 9th March at 6pm – 7pm.

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**Swimming Sports Recounts**

On Friday, Willaura PS was doing the swim sports. We got to school and we all sat down in the open area and Miss Rae told us about sportsmanship. After that we did posters for Henty and Mitch-ell. Then we walked down to the pool and got changed and went to the tent. The events I was in was backstroke 25 metre, freestyle 25m and treading water for 60 seconds. It was awesome!

**Sinclair Burmeister**

On Friday, at Willaura, it was the school swim sports. It was on Feb 19th. The teams were Henty and Mitchell. The House Captains were Nick and Max. I was in backstroke, freestyle and treading water. It was a cold day!

**Harry Evans**

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All of our staff attended a professional development day at Ararat College on Monday. We came back to school very inspired and will begin planning for the implementation of the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program at the beginning of Term 2. You may see some work done, in preparation over the next few weeks of term.

As part of the implementation of the program, we will be forming a SWPBS Lead Team that includes the Principal, one staff member, two students and one parent. The lead team will meet each Tuesday morning until the end of term from 9am—10 am and wish to invite any interested parents to contact Tammie as soon as possible. Our first meeting will be next Tuesday 1st March.

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**Student Awards**

Congratulations to the following students for being awarded a student award at last week’s assembly:

- Max Pederson– For having a positive attitude and always trying his best. This has been particularly notable during swimming!
- Jasmine Richards– For always trying her best! Miss Gibson has been very impressed with her persistence in class and in the pool.
- Sophie Walker– For always doing her best and being helpful to students and staff.
- Kelly Fitzpatrick– For returning to school with a positive attitude and sense of humour.

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**Dates for the family diary**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>25th February</td>
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<td>School Welcome BBQ &amp; Balloon Launch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>1st March</td>
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<td>Black Ranges Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9th March</td>
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<td>Family ‘Growth Mindset’ Information Session @ 6pm</td>
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<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>School Council AGM meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>24th March</td>
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<td>End of Term Assembly– 11.30am (Parents welcome to collect children following)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Last Day of Term 1– Early Pickup 2.20pm</td>
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We have had a flying start to the 2016 year and I am excited to really get stuck into the academic routines that our class has gradually been setting up! We have a new addition to our class… let me introduce ‘Pengu’, who will be going home with a new student every night and will travel back each day to tell us about his adventures! This week we are starting the Soundwaves program in class, working on sounds, blends, spelling and handwriting. This is a very comprehensive program that I am eager to work with. I am also looking for parents or helpers to help out with reading each morning 9:00 – 9:30 am Monday- Thursday and 9:30 – 10:00 Fridays. The more helping hands in our classroom and the more one-to-one reading opportunities we have, the better our readers will be!

Miss Stephanie

Hello Friends and Family of Grade 2-3 students!
Hip! Hip! Hooray! for another great swim sports and great turnout of family and friends. I was so proud of all our students, not only for their have a go attitude and positive mindset, but also not one complaint about the less than ideal conditions. I am looking forward to our final swim this Thursday.
This week in Reading we are focusing on asking questions while we are reading. To aid their comprehension, skillful readers ask themselves questions before, during, and after they read. Successful reading is not simply the mechanical process of "decoding" text. Rather, it is a process of active inquiry. Good readers approach a text with questions and develop new questions as they read. I have been reading stories to the children to model this behaviour and the students are so engaged in the process. Students also wrote recounts of the Swim Sports as part of our whole school writing.
In Numeracy we are digging into addition and subtraction, concentrating on the "strategies" we use to make adding easy, efficient and more automatic. The basic strategies we use include counting all, counting on, adding zero, adding 1, doubles, near doubles, tens facts, near ten and finally known facts. We made kebab sticks to help visualize each strategy. Ask your child to explain these strategies and which one they would use for a given equation.

Miss Rae

Hello parents and friends,
Students have continued to work hard in addition and subtraction in anticipation of the MKR challenge, which they began this week. With the swimming sports fresh in their minds, students have written some impressive recounts showing a greater understanding of the structure. In spelling, we have been exploring prefixes and suffixes including how their meanings can alter the meaning of the root word.
Specialists have also begun this week. In Kitchen Garden, the Grade 4/5/6’s have replanted the pots at the front of the school with some lovely herbs, including: chives, basil and parsley. Not only do these look great, they will also add lots of flavour to the delicious dishes that we will be preparing next week. Along with planting these herbs, we have also explored the ideal conditions needed for them to grow, such as, the appropriate Ph level of the soil.
I am looking forward to another busy week of learning next week!

Miss Gibson

Willaura Market 2016

Just a little reminder that all Grade 4/5/6 students need to return their blue Willaura Market slips. If you have lost yours, please contact the school and we can give your child another one.
Want a NEWSLETTER emailed to you?
Please email willaura.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au to let us know.