Dear parents, students and friends of Willaura Primary School,

It is hard to believe that this is our final newsletter for Term 1. This term has been full of wonderful learning opportunities for both the students and the staff.

We managed to complete:
- 3 weeks of our Swimming Program for P-6
- Grade 6 attend a Drug Education session
- Staff attended a full day School Wide Positive Behaviours professional development opportunity
- Our school BBQ
- Grade 4/5/6 attend the Balance Transcience Workshop
- Responsible Pet Program for P-6

And on top of that, we managed to provide a wonderful Numeracy and Literacy program and introduced our specialist class rotations 3 afternoons a week, including Art, Music and Kitchen Garden. A busy, but very fruitful term.

On Monday we farewelled Miss Gibson. She is living her dream and has flown off to London to teach. We will miss seeing her smiley self every day, but think it is wonderful that she is fulfilling her dreams.

Assembly Awards

Our assembly awards winners last Friday were:
Rowan Jenkinson – For having faith in himself and trying his hardest in class.
Victoria Clarke – For doing her best and staying on task.
Sinclair Burmeister – For constantly persevering in Numeracy and strides every day.
Nick Norman – For being a caring classmate and a responsible role model for younger students and his peers during whole school reading sessions.

School Council AGM

We had our School Council AGM meeting on Tuesday night and are very pleased to announce our 2016 office bearers.
President: Sybil Burmeister
Vice President: Terry Walker
Secretary – Amanda Kumnick
Assistant Treasurer – Rae Perry

We wish them all the best in their official roles. On behalf of our School Council, I’d also like to express sincere thanks to our retiring council member, Glenn Price, who has worked tirelessly for our students and school during his term in office.

The following committees of Council have been established for 2016: Finance, Buildings and Grounds and Policy Committees. These committees meet regularly and make recommendations for action to Council. Their meetings are open to all members of our school community, and we encourage your involvement. Details of committee meeting times and venues are available from the office. We invite you to take an active role in the leadership and governance of Willaura Primary School into the future.

End of Term Assembly

Our End of Term Assembly is at 11.30am Thursday 24th March. All families, relatives and friends are invited to attend. Parents may take children home following the assembly.

We hope all families have a wonderful and safe Easter break.

Tammie Meehan

Term 2 Begins

MONDAY 11TH APRIL
Dear parents and friends of Grade 4/5/6

It is hard to believe that term one has already come to an end. It has been a busy term but we have also had a lot of fun and learnt a lot along the way.

In preparation for the excursion in Melbourne next term, students will be engaging in literacy tasks based on the book ‘The 52 Story Treehouse’.

In Maths, we are continuing to explore division and its relationship with multiplication as well as the order of operations.

On a personal note, I have really enjoyed being a part of the Willaura community. It is wonderful to have parent support and it has been lovely getting to know the students of 4/5/6.

Enjoy the remainder of the year! I look forward to bumping into friendly faces on my return.

Miss Gibson

Hello Prep/One families!

This term has been so busy and it is hard to believe that it is over already! Over the last two weeks we have been encouraging the children to write and sound out as many sounds as they can using following sounds: Preps: r, s, t, v Year One: e – said, any, head. I am hoping they are coming home singing their new sound of the day followed by the dance! We will be reviewing Term 1 sounds this week.

In Mathematics, we have been learning to read and write numbers, looking at patterns and numbers before and after. Throughout Discoveries and Art we have been creating and making Easter creations, as it is Easter this weekend! We have been concentrating on using patterns, shape and colours when making Easter eggs in our art session.

Lastly to all parents who have time to come in the mornings to help with reading, instead of having a roster, please feel free to come in any morning of the week at 8:50am until they have all read to an adult. The more the merrier! I want the children to read as much as possible! My door is open for the children to come straight off the bus to get straight into it! Miss Steph

Hello Family and Friends of Grade 2-3 Students!

Well, well…we’ve made it to the end of the term. Although it is the shortest term this year, it still feels like we’ve managed to fit an amazing amount of engaging learning into those 8 weeks. It does seem like a long time ago that we were swimming every day! This week in our classroom we are using Lego as a learning tool. This idea spawned from the students requesting a Lego day on the last day, and the more I thought about, the more I wanted to explore Lego as a learning tool. Since its creation in 1940, Lego has grown into a worldwide phenomenon. Lego provides tools that develop lateral thinking, problem-solving, organization, and planning. It improves creativity, literacy as kids work with instructions and enhances communication and critical thinking…not to mention it is heaps of FUN! This week in Numeracy we are focusing on fractions, and Lego provides a great tool to explore whole and part, equal fractions and adding fractions. As this Thursday is our last day of the Term, students have decided to celebrate by bring a small Lego of their own to class to share. We have discussed that they will be kept in our room, but to only bring a small one as they are quite expensive…I will be bringing some of my own collection and there are some at school in case you don’t have any at home.

In closing, hope you all have a fabulous Easter and glorious break, this is personally my favourite time of year in Victoria and I am looking forward to sleep-ins, watching the leaves change colour and bin fires. Take Care, Miss Rae
Owning pets can be a lot of fun, and pets can provide us with company, stress relief and unconditional love. Pet ownership also teaches children responsibility, and helps them develop their social and nurturing skills.

Did you know that the average lifespan of a small dog is 11 years, and 12 years for a cat? Responsible pet ownership involves:

- choosing the right pet for your family’s lifestyle
- caring for your pet’s daily well-being
- complying with the law and ensuring your pet doesn’t cause problems in the community

It is important to understand that dogs are not little humans and that they do not think or naturally behave like us. To help prevent the instance of dog-related accidents and injury, it is important for children to recognise:

- times when we should leave dogs alone
- the warning signs given by dogs
- how to safely approach and greet a dog
- what to do if approached by an aggressive dog

As part of the Victorian Government’s drought assistance package, all Willaura PS students are eligible for a drought assistance payment through the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

This includes parents and independent students that do not hold a means-tested concession card, but are experiencing financial hardship as a result of drought conditions. Families who receive the means-tested CSEF payment are also eligible. A “one off” amount of $375 per student will be paid to the school to be used towards educational expenses for the direct benefit of your child.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete a CSEF Drought Package application form and return it to the school office.