Dear parents, students and friends of Willaura Primary School,

Welcome back to Term 3! I hope your mid-year break was restful and you managed to stay warm and dry! Our start to the new term has been very smooth, with both students and staff settling comfortably back into school routines– despite the fact that we’re dealing with a water-logged playground. Speaking of playgrounds, you may have noticed some changes around the yard and school since the end of Term 2. We have had a new fence installed, to replace the very sad fence that used to be next to the playground. We have also had a very large and dangerous gum tree removed and a wall erected in the Grade 2/3 classroom, which makes it much better to learn in. On an exciting note, the Buildings and Grounds Committee acknowledged that the old chook shed was a dangerous risk for our students and a small group of our dads have removed it to pave the way for our brand new ‘Penthouse’ chicken coop. We were able to purchase this coop through the hard work shown by a small group of families who have sold large quantities of wood to raise money for the school. We can’t wait to have chickens soon! Thanks to those who volunteered their time– your efforts have been invaluable.

Also a big thankyou to the Walker and Anderson families, who braved the very cold conditions to prepare our school for Day 1 on the weekend with mowing and yard tidying up.

Looking after the school grounds is a huge task and we would like to remind families to keep an eye on their gardening roster so you will know when to come in and help out.

Planning for the 2017 school year is underway, and we are particularly keen to finalise our Prep enrolments as soon as possible. We are required to forward 2017 indicative student numbers to the Department of Education and Training early in August, and they depend very much on the size of our Prep intake. If you intend to enrol your child in Prep at Willaura Primary School for 2017, we would appreciate you completing the enrolment process as soon as possible, please. Forms and advice are available from the school office. Please note that this year’s Prep Transition Program will commence Monday 25th July, with the staging of our initial Parent Information Session, commencing at 5:30pm in the Prep/One classroom. We look forward to catching up with you at that time.

Parent Opinion Survey time is with us again. Every year we conduct an anonymous opinion survey for parents and guardians, and use the information gained to drive school improvements. The use of parent opinion data to monitor school performance is a very important step towards making our school the best that it can be. On Monday, July 25th, randomly selected families will receive a Parent Opinion Survey through the post, and we ask those families to please complete and return the information to school by Friday, July 29th. It is important to our school community that you complete the survey as honestly as possible, seal your completed survey in the envelope included, and write your child’s name and year level on the back of the envelope. Your child’s name will only be used to record the fact that you have returned the survey. The sealed envelope will not be opened at school - please be assured that your responses will be de-identified and totally confidential. We value your opinions very highly and look forward to a strong response from our community to the 2016 Parent Opinion Survey.

Here’s to a wonderful Term 3, with many of those personal learning targets being reached for our students.

Tammie Meehan

Dates for the family diary.....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19th July School Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>25th July Prep Information Night @ 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>15th August Grade 4/5/6 Leave for Snow Camp – Mt Buller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>17th August Grade P-3 Choir to perform at Willaura Hospital Day Centre @ 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>18th August Grade 4/5/6 Return from Snow Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>15th August National Science Week</td>
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Gardening Roster

11th-17th July: Burmeister Family & Anthony Kumnick’s Family
18th-24th July: Phillips Family & Glenn Price’s Family
Miss Stephanie

Welcome back! I hope you have all enjoyed your time away and are ready to get back into the swing of things!!

As with every term the first week back is the hardest, early starts combined with freakishly cold mornings certainly don’t make it any easier that’s for sure!

The good news is we’ve all made it and it’s been great to see a near perfect attendance for the first week, We have a couple of introductions with Bella (Grade 4) and Daniel (Grade 5) becoming the newest members of our classroom. A special welcome to Daniel as he puts the 5 in our 4/5/6 classroom!

A challenging week to begin with due to some minor IT issues which now seem to be behind us and a big thank you to the students who showed tremendous patience during this period. Week one has been about re-establishing routine and the establishment of reading and maths rotations which now seem to be in full swing and should add an extra dimension to our learning.

Our Numeracy focus has been on Place Value with the students showing some real progress, they have loved the Wishball game on ABC Splash (which can be accessed at home via the internet) which is a great tool to enhance and experiment their skills in this area.

Our Writing focus has moved on to the Narrative text type and our next "Big Write" is scheduled for Wednesday so we have been preparing ourselves for that, stay tuned for more information on the "Big Write"!

Mr B

Prep/ One World

Welcome back to school, we are full steam ahead already! In Literacy we are checking that we have ‘just right books’, students are being levelled and they are choosing books that they want and love to read and can learn from. We are also focusing on recalling narratives such as ‘Barty’s Scarf’, looking at the beginning, middle and end of stories and what information we need to include when writing our own. In Numeracy we are working with patterns of shapes and numbers. Preps are learning their numbers 11-20 back to front, and starting to count by 10’s up to one hundred. Year ones are mastering counting by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s, and starting to challenge themselves by doing this from any number. Later on this week we have been constructing number lines, locating numbers, spacing out and placing the numbers in order. This helps with counting in patterns, such as 5’s and 10’s.

Last but not least, in Discoveries this term our highlight is….. What would you like to be when you grow up?…..Miss Steph

Hello Family and Friends of Grade 2-3 Students,

Welcome back from one wet and wild winter break! I am sure many of you enjoyed relaxing by the fire and watching the sky unfold in all its glory...including snow! Here we are half way through the year and ready to take on some new learning.

This week in Reading students are setting goals for Accuracy, which is reading words correctly. Some of the strategies students are focusing on is making sure they slowly check through unknown words, sounding them out and making sure they make sense. Students are also building their vocabulary by using dictionaries to define unknown words. They are also learning synonyms for words they already know. In Numeracy we are practicing skip counting numbers under 10 which is helping Grade 3 students understand multiples, or groups of the same number, as they begin learning their multiplication facts.

Kelly and Natalie challenging each other to order multiples

Miss Rae

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Mr E
12-HOUR STANDARD MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE
This course teaches adults how to assist other adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis or developing a mental health problem.

August 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2016
Moyston
Moyston Recreation Reserve, Moyston-Great Western Road

This course is available at NO COST as part of the State Government Drought Relief Package supporting drought affected farming communities
Courses run from 9am-4pm with catering provided.
The Standard Mental Health First Aid Course is an accredited course by Mental Health First Aid Australia

For more information or to register for a course please contact Lauren Dempsey:
(03) 5352 6204 or email pcphp2@grampianscommunityhealth.org.au

www.mhfa.com.au

Buildings and Grounds Progress
Winter is well and truly here! We have had many students getting a little wet at recess time. It would be a great idea to pack your child a spare set of clothes just in case, especially dry socks!

Willaura Primary School has begun using the ‘BounceBack!’ program this week. All students will have a session fortnightly on BounceBack! with Mrs M. BounceBack! is a program that supports children in developing a stronger sense of wellbeing and be more resilient, confident and successful. This term, our students will be focussing on learning about emotions.