



*"A history of putting children first"*

February 5, Issue 1 2009



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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### DATES FOR 2009

Preps will have Wednesdays at home for the first 5 weeks.

Preps will attend their first full week commencing Mon 9 March. (Labor Day)

**Term 1 2009** Mon 2 Feb to 3 April

**Term 2 2009** Mon 20 Apr to Fri 26 June

**Term 3 2009** Mon 13 Jul to Fri 18 Sep

**Term 4 2009** Mon 5 Oct to Fri 18 Dec

### Wednesday, 11 February

- Bully Busters Parent Information Session 7.00pm—8.30pm

### Monday, 16 March

- Young Leaders Day—Year 6 students

### Monday, 30 March

- Cultural Performance

## PARENTS PLEASE NOTE

### MONTY LUNCH ORDERS FOR 2009

New order forms are on yellow paper. Please note there has been some price increases.

## MONTY'S AWARDS WENT TO

**Jaylen Dale  
Ella Corrigan**

**Congratulations**

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### WELCOME TO 2009

A warm welcome is extended to all members of our school community to what promises to be an exciting and high achieving 2009.

A special welcome to our new families of children in preps and in other year levels. We hope that you will quickly feel part of the Wangaratta Primary School community.

The school has commenced extremely smoothly. The children are eager to learn and full of holiday adventures to share. The Preps have settled incredibly well, proudly wearing their new uniforms and already demonstrating their reading and writing skills!

During this extreme heat we have implemented our hot day timetable where children remain indoors or have reduced time outdoors.

Please ensure your child has a hat each day. Sunscreen is provided in every classroom.

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Lots of school improvements have occurred over the January break. Our new front fence provides easier access for children entering school with bikes and parents with prams. We now have

an appealing front entrance which is in keeping with our beautiful old school building. Thanks to David Pahl and Rob Rowland for your work in driving this school improvement.

Two new interactive whiteboards have been installed in year 1 / 2 D and year 5 / 6 L. Our aim is to have every classroom equipped with this engaging technology.

Our senior toilet has been relocated and now opens up our school yard for further play areas. A shade sail will provide necessary shade at some future date.

### STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 - 2012

**Our focus this year is numeracy.**

Our school has invested in an engaging online program called Mathletics. Children in years 4 to 6 would certainly have trialled this program last year and you may have shared your child's excitement in working with this program. This year all children in Prep to Year 6 will have the opportunity to engage with Mathletics and you will hear more about the program at parent information nights. If you have internet access at home, children can practise their mathematics skills at home.

Michael Ymer who worked with teachers, parents and children last year will be back working with teachers later in the year.

Staff attended a full day professional development on numeracy prior to children commencing school.

Our school has set targets and goals

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to improve student outcomes in mathematics for 2009.

### **FAMILY BUSH DANCE**

To welcome the new school year and provide an opportunity for our families to come together for a fun evening, we are holding a bush dance. We will wait for some cooler weather. *Please look out for details in next week's newsletter.*

### **BULLY BUSTERS**

Wangaratta Primary School is committed to ensuring a zero tolerance to bullying. To ensure we maintain a safe and happy learning environment at Wangaratta Primary School, every second year we invite Amelia & Carla to visit our school and work with children, teachers and parents.

**Wednesday 11 February 7 pm - 8.30 pm Parent Information Session.**

This presentation will give your family many new insights into bullying behaviour and offer easy to implement procedures to handle problems associated with bullying. The session will provide helpful strategies and life skills for children to build resilience and be free of victim thinking.

The best of schools have to deal with bullying behaviour and the most effective school anti-bullying strategy is one which is supported at home and understood by parents.

#### **Find out:**

- How to help your child to handle peer group pressure
  - What to do when your child is being bullied
  - How to teach your child assertiveness skills
  - How to approach your school with a bullying issue
- How to teach your child to be a proactive bystander

Amelia & Carla will work with children in classrooms to ensure a whole school approach to bullying.

These engaging speakers, renowned for their work on bullying, come to our school at a huge expense. However we believe the issue of bullying is critical and I strongly encourage your support of this evening.

Child care is available. Please return the flyer included in the newsletter to indicate your interest in this parent evening.

### **PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

We are keen to hold these interviews early in the term. Our aim is to meet all families to discuss your child's goals for learning. We will confirm this date in next week's newsletter.

### **PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS**

These will be held prior to our parent teacher interviews. Each unit - junior, middle & senior school will provide parents with information relating to the expectations of each year level, homework requirements, camps & excursions. You will be able to obtain our school policy on student management, internet access and homework. An opportunity to indicate issues you would like to be addressed will be provided prior to the evening. Dates for information sessions will be finalised in next week's newsletter.

### **NEWSLETTER ON THURSDAYS**

The newsletter is published each Thursday and sent home with the eldest child. However, if it gets lost on the way home, you can always find it at

[www.wangarattaps.vic.edu.au](http://www.wangarattaps.vic.edu.au)

### **CURRICULUM LEVIES & FEES**

We have reviewed our charges for 2009 to ensure they are in line with Department Policy and provide a clear and transparent approach in providing the best possible opportunities for your child's learning.

*Charges have remained the same as in 2008.*

- **Essential Educational Items** - Our school bulk orders materials to obtain the cheapest prices for items such as stationery.

- **Optional Educational Items** - covers extra-curricular programs or activities such as sailing, music tuition.

**Voluntary Financial Contributions** - parents are invited to donate to the school to contribute towards such things as grounds beautification or extra computer equipment.

Every family will receive a letter outlining their costs for the year. These can be made in instalments if parents so wish.

No child will be disadvantaged from attending an excursion, camp or program due to financial difficulty, however there needs to be communication with the principal to outline some financial commitment.

### **ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

This is a Federal Government initiative to encourage children to engage in healthy recreation after school. Trained deliverers provide opportunities for children to engage in a number of activities. Fruit is provided to children before they commence the program which operates from 3.45 pm - 4.45 pm two days a week.

**Roller Blading - Year 3 - 6 commencing Tuesday 17 February**  
**Gymnastics & Movement to Music - Prep - Year 2 commencing Thursday 19 February.** The program runs for 7 weeks. The program is free for all children. Numbers are restricted so get in quick to avoid disappointment. Registration forms are available on our school website [www.wangarattaps.vic.edu.au](http://www.wangarattaps.vic.edu.au) or from the front office.

Anne Fahey  
Principal



# WORLD OF CHILDREN



Do you know these faces?

**FOR SALE****PIANO**

German iron frame; great student's instrument \$495.00

Phone Mr. B 5722 9842

**TEARS AND CHEERS**

Thankyou to all those who contributed to the day. Kim Brown, Sue Stewart, Ann Clarke, Claire Whitten, Shabnam Khan, Claire Zara, Lisa Toohey and Joy Smith

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS CLUB**

Our first gathering for 2009 is **Tuesday 10th February at 7pm** in the staff room.

Please come along to share ideas and make new friendships.

This meeting will involve planning for 2009 - our social and fundraising activities as well as setting our future meeting dates and times.

We would love to see as many old and new faces as possible, remember 'many hands make light work'.

Don't be shy—we're a friendly bunch who need **YOU** to inspire us.

For more details ask at the office.

**ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM  
TERM 1 ACTIVITIES**

Tuesdays - Year 3 - 6 Roller Blading commencing 17 February

Thursday - Prep - Year 2 - Gymnastics commencing 19 February

We have 30 available places for each program. Registration forms are available from the office.

**VISION PORTRAITS**

Is coming to Wangaratta Primary School

**Saturday, 14 March**

\$12 (sitting fee), each family will receive either a colour 10x13 portrait with a timber frame or black & white 10x23 portrait with a timber frame. Invitations and brochures will be handed out with next weeks newsletter. Please note: every \$12 sitting fee is given to Wangaratta Primary School to help us buy more playground equipment. We need a minimum booking of 25 families.

**TEE BALL**

Resumes after the holidays at Targoora Park on Saturday, 7 February at 10.00am.

New players welcome. Every Saturday for 6 weeks and its free to primary school age children.

For further information phone 5721 3315

**PIANO, KEYBOARD**

LESSONS FOR TERM 1.

FAMILY RATES APPLY

PHONE ANDREA KENNEDY

57223613/0448196419

**GUITAR LESSONS**

Those interested in guitar tuition with Mr. Bianco at school, please complete the slip below and return it to school next week. (no cost for lessons).

My child, ....., in .....(class), would like to take guitar tuition.

Signed .....