

JANUARY 31ST, 2023

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

Term 1 Dates

JANUARY

27th Teacher's return

30th Grade 1-6 students
return

FEBRUARY

1st School Council
nominations open

2nd Prep students begin
Smile Squad consent due

6th Dental Van

15th School Values and
Welcome back BBQ

School Council nominations
close

23rd Camp Information Night
6pm, onsite

24th Sugarloaf District
Swimming - students who
have signed up

MARCH

1st Division Swimming at
WaterMarc (for those who
qualify)

9th Yr 6's Leadership Day

10th Curriculum Day - No
students attend school

13th Public Holiday - Labour
Day

14th/16th/20th/22nd/24th
Swimming at ELC

15th/16th/17th NAPLAN

21st Harmony Day

28th Collingwood Children's
Farm P-3

27th/28th/29th CAMP 3-6

APRIL

3rd/4th Life Education
incursion

6th Last day of Term 1 -
School Finishes at 2:20pm

Principal's Report

Hello everyone,

Welcome back! I trust you had a restful break and are feeling excited about starting the school year for 2023.

This term, our students will be learning about "Healthy Living- Mind and Body", and it will be highlighted with learning opportunities from Life Education, swimming lessons, tennis lessons, oral hygiene and care from the dental van, our welcome back to school BBQ and values activities, an excursion to Collingwood Children's Farm and the wonderful opportunity of forming new friendships on Camp

(<https://www.pgladventurecamps.com.au/rumbug/>).

Over the break, Ms de Haan, Miss Elliott and myself attended five days of DATA WISE professional learning, delivered by Harvard University Graduate School of Education. It was extremely valuable, and we are looking forward to using this knowledge to improve the teaching and learning for your children.

At the end of 2022, WGPS became a Visible Wellbeing school, and last Friday all WGPS staff took part in Visible Wellbeing professional learning. Watch the short clip for more information, <https://youtu.be/dQjKzjuJH9I>. The training and implementation will take place over the next eighteen months, and it is being funded by the Department of Education Mental Health initiative. We will be making wellbeing more visible by using the wellbeing cues of what we can see, hear and feel.

School Council nominations open on February 1st, and I am also asking for people to join the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). The PTFA will be responsible for organising community, building and fundraising events. They will meet with me, roughly once a month, at a time that is convenient to the majority of members. I am looking forward to having more parents in the classrooms and working alongside our amazing staff to support our community.

Have a wonderful week,

Mel



School Council 2022/2023: President: BJ McNeilly Vice President: Andrew Spence
Treasurer/OSHC: Megan Staley Secretary: Alison Wylie Grounds: Joel Watson Grants: Andrea Cosentino PTFA: Sarah Suban/Jayde Sheffield DET: Meredith Fell, Michelle de Haan
Digital marketing: Sarah Suban Executive Officer: Mel McLennan

Curriculum News

Your January update about our classrooms!

Upcoming Assessments

- Reading- fluency and comprehension
- Writing
- Spelling
- Mathematics- Number and Algebra

February Lunch time clubs

Minecraft - Monday & Friday
Colouring/Reading - Tuesday
Outdoor Games- Wednesday
Lego - Thursday

What's happening

To start the year we need baseline data to provide your child with learning goals. This February, your child's teacher will spend time allocating assessments, analysing the data and setting goals for reading, writing, maths and wellbeing. Your child will know their goal and will be supported with learning opportunities to achieve it.



Reminders

Organisation Preparation

Upper School- parents please sign your child's diary each week to stay up to date with their home reading and homework. This is also good preparation for keeping your child accountable for their own organisation skills and it encourages good study habits.

Sunsmart!

Please remind your child to wear their hat in term one, hats can be purchased via QKR, or at the school office (limited stock).





Smile Squad is coming to WGPS!

Dear Wattle Glen Primary families,
The Smile Squad team from healthAbility are coming to our school in term one,
2023.

Smile Squad is the Victorian Government free school dental program.
This means all students can get a free dental check-up, preventive services,
and treatment at school.

Consent forms

We are now using an electronic consent form for Smile Squad, making consenting
to services even easier.

How to access free dental care

We need your consent before we can provide services. Consent is usually provided
by a
parent or guardian.

Sign up to Smile Squad at: <https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic>
OR use the below QR code:



Please complete and submit the consent form by the 2nd of February 2023.
The healthAbility Smile Squad look forward to seeing you soon.

School council elections – information for parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have nominee members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the Public Administration Act 2004.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- act with honesty and integrity – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- act in good faith in the best interests of the school – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- act fairly and impartially – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest

- use information appropriately – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- exercise due care, diligence and skill – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- use the position appropriately – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage
- act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same electorate that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate)

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Consider standing for election to school council.

Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.

Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

FORM 2: NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
(Formerly Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nomination)

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of

.....Wattle Glen Primary School.....

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school, from Feb 1st, and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on:

.....15..../...02...../...2023..... (insert day, month and year).

The ballot (if required) will close at 4.00 pm on:

... ..01..../...03..../.....2023.... (insert day, month and year).

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2023... to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 2025	3
School employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2023... to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 2025	1
Community member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2023... to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 2025	1

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Melanie McLennan.....
Principal signature

JOIN US FOR A WELCOME BACK BBQ

All students and their families are invited

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY
15TH

4:30-6:30

IN THE UNDERCOVER AREA

Sausage sizzling BBQ will be cooking your dinner while the children participate in activities that focus on our four school values;

Respect, Kindness, Resilience and Curiosity

Sausage in bread, drinks and icy poles available for purchase.



RSVP: Wednesday 8th of February



RESPECT

RESPECT PEOPLE,
PLACES + PROPERTY



KINDNESS

Be kind + fair



RESILIENCE

BELIEVE, ACCEPT +
ADAPT



CURIOSITY

BE A LEARNER - SEEK
+ EXPLORE



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families. Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students.

Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child. It is important that funding made available in 2023 supports students to participate in school trips, camps and sporting activities this year rather than being held for future years. This funding can also be used in conjunction with any funding accrued from previous years. If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 9438 1259 and ask for an application form. You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page ([Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\) application form \(education.vic.gov.au\)](#)) or use the QR code below. Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.





Wattle Glen
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Come and play the Wattle Glen way!

Wattle Glen Primary School invites all children starting school in 2024 to three afterschool play dates in term one!



Session One:
February 16th
3:45pm- 4:30pm

Session Two:
March 8th
3:45pm- 4:30pm

Session Three:
March 28th
3:45pm- 4:30pm

This is a great opportunity to see Wattle Glen Primary School, meet the friendly staff and form new friendships.

All sessions are supervised by current staff members.

Call or email the office to enrol in these exciting sessions.



wattle.glen.ps@education.vic.gov.au



Wattle Glen Primary School



03 9438 1259



www.wattlegps.vic.edu.au

Meet the staff

Caitlin O'Kelly, Education support

In 2021, I started my certificate III in School based Education Support, through the Australian College of Teacher Aides and Childcare. When it came to completing my placement, I came here to Wattle Glen Primary. I was lucky enough to be able to join this amazing team!



I believe that all children deserve to feel not only safe at school but also that their words and feelings are being heard. I will work hard to allow each student to grow confidence within themselves and all they do!

Outside of work I live at home with my parents, who have always been my number one supporters. I have two older brothers who I am quite close with and two little dogs that have far too much energy.

Meet the staff

Natalia Gainsmith

My name is Natalia and I will be teaching Prep/1 on Thursdays at Wattle Glen Primary School.

I'm also a casual relief teacher at other local Primary schools. I love children and have four of my own; Mia 15, Evie 13, Zac 11 and Jax seven. My husband's name is Rick.

When I'm not in the classroom, I'm at sport with my kids. I love sport and play basketball and do CrossFit myself, but my favourite is to watch American Football.

I also love to travel and read. I can't wait to meet you all and have a fantastic fun filled year.

Nat.

