

Principal's Report

Hello everyone,

Wow, what a great afternoon we've had. Delicious sausages, icy poles, cool drinks and an abundance of fun. It was fantastic to see so many families taking part in the Kaboom Sport activities. (I've included some photos at the end of the newsletter.)

I have been very busy since school started hosting school tours. We have 18 grade six students graduating at the end of the year, so ideally we would like to match the outgoing numbers, with incoming numbers. However, I think we will be enrolling more than 18 preps for next year. Students in our zone will always have a place at our school, so will siblings. We will continue to accept out of zone students while we have the capacity to do so.

Ballot papers for our school council nominees went home with the eldest student in the family this afternoon. I was pleased to see we have so many people offering their time to support our community. The ballot papers need to be returned to the office, where we will record your name on a register. Your ballot (in the unmarked envelope) will be put in the ballot box. The votes will be counted at 4:00pm on Tuesday February 27th. The successful nominee will be told shortly after the count has been concluded.

We have 10 grade 3-6 students representing WGPS at the division swimming sports on Friday. Good luck to the competitors, I am sure you will swim your best.

Our grade six leaders have also arranged for a fun event at school on February 23rd, Crazy Hair Day. The leaders will be awarding prizes for various reasons, such as the craziest hair, most original design etc.

We've had quite a few people reach out to join the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). Sarah Suban will be contacting you shortly to work out the best time to meet.

Have a wonderful week,
Mel



Term 1 Dates

FEBRUARY

20th Kaboom Sports and
Welcome back BBQ

21st Science of Reading
parent information night

23rd Sugarloaf District
Swimming - selected
students
Crazy Hair Day

27th School Council
ballots due back by 4pm

28th Division Swimming -
students who have
qualified

MARCH

8th Curriculum Day - No
students attend school

11th Public Holiday -
Labour Day

13th/14th/15th NAPLAN

21st Harmony Day

25th School Council AGM

28th Last Day of Term 1 -
School Finishes at 2:20pm

29th Good Friday

APRIL

15th Term 2 starts



Stars of the Week

Week 2

P/1D	Thomas	P/1E	Neeva
1/2.	Eddie	2/3	Rhylee
3/4	Liam	4/5	Carla



Learning Showcase

In week two, our grade 2/3 students shared their wonderings about space and a new fact they had learned.



Dear families,

Earlier today your eldest child brought home a ballot paper for our upcoming school council election. We have five places available. To assist your decision making, nominees were given the opportunity to provide some information about themselves, attached below.

What you need to do...

1. Put a cross beside five names (on the Form 10 Parent Ballot Paper your child brought home)
2. Place your ballot sheet in a plain envelope (provided)
3. Return your envelope to the office by 4pm, February 27th, 2024.

Thank you, WGPS

Isabelle Thomson

We joined the Wattle Glen community last year when our daughters (Grade 1 and Grade 4) started at Wattle Glen in Term 3. In the time that we've been here, I've seen the difference that the learning philosophy, the approach to learning and the quality of education at Wattle Glen can make for our children. I believe in the ethos of the school and want to play a role in supporting Wattle Glen Primary School into the future. I am undertaking the MSL accreditation in 2024 with a view to enhancing my ability to support both my children and the school more broadly. I have committee and governance experience, having served on not-for-profit Childcare centre and Kindergarten management committees in past years.

Sarah Suban

I am writing to express my interest in joining and being a part of the Parent-Teacher-Family Association (PTFA) committee. As a parent deeply invested in the success and well-being of our school community, I believe that active involvement in initiatives like the PTFA is crucial for supporting our students and enhancing their educational experience. Throughout my involvement in various school activities and events, I have come to appreciate the significance of collective efforts between parents, teachers, and administrators. I am eager to contribute my skills and experience to further the goals of the PTFA and contribute to the continued improvement of our school. I am excited about the opportunity to work again alongside fellow parents and educators to make a lasting impact on our school community. I have really enjoyed being a part of the committee. Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the possibility of serving on the PTFA committee again and contributing to the success of our school.

Sincerely, Sarah Suban

Mark Thomson

I have two daughters at Wattle Glen and having seen the difference the quality education at this school makes, I want to join the school council. I have existing oversight experience given my current position on the Wattle Glen Tennis Club Committee. I have a strong sense of community and want to be part of this amazing school community moving forward. (I also love long walks on the beach...)

Anthony Read

My name is Anthony Read, and I am writing for your consideration as a parent member on the WGPS school council. I am a Secondary English teacher with 10 years of experience in both the government and Catholic sectors. I have worked mainly in the secondary space and have also worked at a significant K-12 school as well. I have had several leadership roles in the schools I have been at, including being the Head of Department (Senior English) and the Daily Organiser (a key administrative role in the daily life of a school). In particular, the Daily Organiser role entailed my attendance at the school's Consultative Committee, in which the group made significant decisions regarding staffing, educational programs and wider community engagement. My son has just recently started Prep at WGP and has had an incredibly smooth transition to this new learning environment. This is an absolute credit to the hard work and management of the whole WGPS community, and I am keen to see this wonderful, positive environment maintained and developed over the coming years. I am keen to see the continued growth of WGPS as a primary school of choice in the local area, and my expertise in the area of education and school leadership will be of significant benefit to our thriving school community.

Katherine Pye

Hello Wattle Glen Families, I am excited to express my interest in joining the school council and contributing to the vibrant community that has already been so supportive of our son, Louis, currently in Grade 3. Our family joined the Wattle Glen PS community last year, and I believe that serving on the school council is a meaningful way for me to give back and be actively involved in shaping our children's educational experience. Having previously served on the council at our former school, I found great satisfaction in offering input, participating in strategic decision-making, and connecting with other school families. I'm a paediatric speech pathologist, currently a lecturer/researcher at La Trobe University, and my focus is supporting autistic children and their families. However, my role at Wattle Glen Primary School is really as a parent, navigating the transitions from one academic year to the next and aspiring to foster a village around my family. We don't have any family in Victoria, so the local community is really important for us. I am keen to deepen my understanding of Wattle Glen's operations and future plans and contribute my insights to enhance the school's overall experience. My commitment is rooted in building a supportive and inclusive environment where every family can thrive, and their voices are heard. I look forward to the opportunity to learn more about each of you and work collaboratively for the benefit of our children and the entire Wattle Glen community. Thank you! Pye

BJ McNeilly

Hi, I'm BJ McNeilly (aka: Ivys Dad). I have been a member of the Wattle Glen school community since 2016 when my eldest son started school (now at DVC), my daughter (Ivy) is currently in year 5 with Miss G at WGPS. Throughout my children's primary school years I have taking an active role in my children's education, you will often see me at school pickup throughout the week, I have had the privilege of assisting with school excursions, and attended school camp on one occasion!

For the past 4 years I have been a member of school council, and for the last 2 years I have had the honour of leading school council in the elected role of School Council president. This role has given me the opportunity to work closely alongside other school council members and the staff of Wattle Glen to align the needs of our school community and the requirements of the department of education, setting and reviewing our school goals.

In my professional life, I lead a team of IT professionals for an energy company. As a leader, I most value the wellbeing of my team, over many years I have recruited staff around the globe with an emphasis on personal qualities before technical abilities, ensuring that a great team culture is maintained.

Outside of work, I am involved with sporting groups through my kids, primarily St Andrews Pony Club and Diamond Creek Junior Football Club.

As a parent of WGPS, I am passionate about preserving the community culture that has fostered over many years, I feel this is one of our biggest assets as a smaller school in the Diamond Valley area. If re-elected to school council, I would like ensure that we retain our community culture as we grow and welcome new families, whilst continuing to ensure that our school meets its set goals and provides a safe and friendly learning environment for all to be included.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to represent the you, the school community.

Outside School Hours Care

Newsletter



20/02/2024

Camp Australia Wattle Glen Primary school OSHC

Your
OSHC.



Big Art Fridays

On Fridays, we **pARTy!**

Every Friday in After School Care

Book now

A message from your Coordinator

Dear Parents, Teacher, Students and Community Members.

The Big Art program is well underway with our focus being building children's identities, creativity and imagination.

It's been great seeing so many new faces in this first part of the term. I look forward to introducing plenty of new fun Camp Australia activities and experiences over the coming weeks.

As always, we aim to provide a new variety of experiences for the children to explore, discover and build connections.

Parents, please feel free to come in and experience what we do and welcome your questions and feedback.

Just a friendly reminder please pack your child an extra hat if they are attending after school care as we do encourage outdoor play.

New parents please ensure your enrolments are up to date especially any medicals that we need to be aware of.

Thank you so much

Elizabeth OSHC coordinator.

Activities coming up

- Making Damper
- Insect Hunt
- Leaf crafting

Make a booking

School Hours Care activities and experiences with Your OSHC and Rocketeers.

Book now

Register free and book in 24/7 via our app

To attend our program, you must register your child. You can register an account with us at pp.campastralia.com.au or by downloading our Camp Australia smartphone app from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Once registered, it's easy to make bookings and manage your account.



Find out more and book now at www.campastralia.com.au

WGPS PTFA FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENTS

*Term 1 Events- let us know if
you can help*



Easter Raffle

We ask for assistance for

- putting the raffle tickets together and distributing them to the students
- Putting together the raffle prizes

Call out for donations

We ask for assistance for

- emailing and asking for donations for our raffles for the upcoming fete
- collecting donations for select auction



If you would like to help with any of
these events please email the office or
phone 9438 1259

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (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 will probably be the same as 2023, \$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 2024 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](#)) or Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

Come and play the Wattle Glen way in 2024!

Wattle Glen PS is inviting
all children starting
school in 2025 to three
afternoon play sessions.

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

Session one:
13th of February
3:45pm- 4:30pm

Session two:
6th of March
3:45pm- 4:30pm

Session three:
21st of March
3:45pm- 4:30pm

Call or email the office to
enrol your child in these
exciting experiences!

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





WATTLE PLAYGROUP



COME AND JOIN US AT WATTLE GLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL PLAYGROUP. PLAYGROUP IS DESIGNED TO HELP CHILDREN SOCIALISE AND LEARN SOME FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS BEFORE ENTERING PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Starting
back on
February
9th

WHO CAN JOIN US?

We invite all children under the age of 6!

Our playgroup is catered to all ages as we have created a space that encourages free play, while also providing the children with opportunities to learn new skills and concepts. (We do kindly ask that children under the age of 2 to be supervised by a carer at all times.)

WHAT TO BRING?

Please bring along your child's drink bottle and their hat for outside play.

We encourage personal toys to stay at home as we have a large variety of activities and toys for children to play with.

WHEN?

Every Friday during the school term.

11:30-12:30

(New time for 2024)

Fruit will be provided.

WHERE?

Wattle Glen Primary School
16-24 Reynolds Road, Wattle Glen.
Enter the school via gate 1 on Sunnyside Crescent

CONTACT US...

16-24 Reynolds Road, Wattle Glen Vic 3096

Phone: 9438 1259

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

Website: wattlegps.vic.edu.au



Meet the staff

Elizabeth Coventy, STEM Teacher

I grew up in the United States where I earned my Bachelor of Science at the University of Massachusetts in 2002. During that time I studied abroad in Sydney and fell in love with Australia. I went on to complete my Diploma of Education-Primary and Masters of Education from LaTrobe University. I taught primary school for 6 years and after having children, I became a Behavioral Therapist, gaining much experience supporting students with additional needs.



I strive to support all children to achieve their highest individual potential. I believe every child deserves to feel happy, included and challenged. I feel very fortunate to be part of the Wattle Glen P.S. community this year.

I am married with two beautiful children, aged 10 and 12. My husband, Evan, is a local Aussie and is the Head of Health and PE at a secondary school. Our family enjoys playing sports, travelling, spending time at the beach and spotting all kinds of wildlife.

Meet the staff

Sanaz Peh

Educator Support

In 1998 I began studying for a Bachelor of Engineering.

After completing this degree, I started working for over 10 years in the water and wastewater industry. I completed my Master of Energy in 2013. In 2022, after our first and second period of remote learning, I began studying a Certificate III in Education support through Prace Institute. I completed my placement at Arthur's Creek Primary School and have been lucky enough to be working at Wattle Glen Primary School this year.

I saw how much one-on-one learning helped my daughter during lockdowns and now I love being able to express the concepts and help students learn and grow with extra support. I believe all students are unique and individual. They have a right to feel safe and secure and get enough attention. I love getting to know the students and helping them to point out their learning targets in any field.

I would love to help children and young people who need special support to make the most of education by working with them in the classroom. I'd assist teachers in creating the best environment and suitable lessons for the pupils. They may find it difficult to learn because of a disability or health issue, family circumstances that have disrupted their education, or social, emotional and behavioural factors.

I have 2 daughters Taniya and Anita in which I am very proud of their achievements and how they are following their passions and interests. My partner Matt and I would love to travel, watch movies and participate in different activities as we are so extroverts.



Visible Wellbeing for Parents

An evening with Professor
Lea Waters AM, PhD

Join Order of Australia recipient, Professor Lea Waters, as she showcases the Visible Wellbeing approach used in your children's schools.

Learn about the six pathways that can build mental health in your kids, and simple techniques you can use at home.



DATE: 29 February 2024
TIME: 6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM
LOCATION: Webinar (Zoom)

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/3R6NA6VX](https://tinyurl.com/3R6NA6VX)



COMMUNITY



Community Announcements

SEEKING PLAYERS
FOR UNDER 10S MIXED AND
UNDER 12 GIRLS TEAMS



Twilight Market

Bring your friends and family to the ELTHAM College Twilight Market!

Friday 1 March * **ELTHAM College Oval and Swipers Gully Vineyard**
4:00pm to 8:30pm

- * Local makers and businesses
- * Market stalls
- * Food trucks
- * Live Music
- * Swipers Gully wines
- * BYO kids, family, friends
- * BYO picnic blanket

Where community comes together



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



Is this your daughter?

Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform.

Join us at our FEBRUARY OPEN DAY



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



An experience that goes far beyond the stage!

Girls blossom as members of the AGC, both on and off the stage. Your daughter will develop confidence, public speaking and presentation skills, resilience and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our senior performers have shared the stage with a long list of artists including Hugh Jackman, Amy Shark and Kylie Minogue. You may have seen our girls perform for the FIFA Women's World Cup or AFL Grand Final; or on television appearances on Sunrise, Today, Carols by Candlelight and Carols in the Domain.

Now accepting 2024 enrolments for our rehearsal venues in Berwick, Box Hill, Caulfield North, Essendon, Glen Waverley, Greensborough, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Kew, Mentone, Ringwood and Yarraville



JOIN US AT OUR FEBRUARY OPEN DAY

Register now at ausgirlschoir.com.au/joinagc or phone 03 9859 6499



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS



DIAMOND VALLEY SINGERS
production of

Disney FROZEN JR.

Music and Lyrics by
KRISTEN ANDERSON-LOPEZ & ROBERT LOPEZ

Book by
JENNIFER LEE

Based on the Disney Film written by
JENNIFER LEE
and Directed by
CHRIS BUCK AND JENNIFER LEE

Licensed exclusively by
Music Theatre International
(Australasia).

All performance materials supplied by
Hal Leonard Australia.

EIGHT PERFORMANCES

MARCH 15-24

PERFORMANCES

Friday 15 March 2024	7.00pm
Saturday 16 March 2024	2.00pm
	6.00pm
Sunday 17 March 2024	2.00pm
	6.00pm
Friday 22 March 2024	7.00pm
Saturday 23 March 2024	2.00pm
	6.00pm

Warrandyte High School Theatre,
Alexander Road, Warrandyte

TICKETS

Adult	\$36
Concession / student	\$31
Under 18 years	\$19
Groups of 10+	\$31

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