Welcome Back!

Firstly, can I extend a warm welcome back to the 2018 school year to all of our new and existing families! We are all so pleased to be back at our wonderful school working with your children, and incredibly proud of the way all students have managed to return to school and exhibit the same high standards of respectful language, safe behaviour and dedication to learning we have come to expect from them. I certainly hope you all had a safe and festive Christmas season, although it does seem like a long time ago by now. I for one am very pleased to have the most recent cool change give us some respite from the string of near 40 degree days during the first few weeks of school! We have started the school year with 161 students which is yet again a new record number of enrolments for our school. This year we also for the very first time have two satellite classrooms, which some of you may have already heard about or read about in our local newspaper. These two junior school classes are operating out of empty classroom space within Appin Park Primary School which is located right next door to us.

Staffing

Three new teaching staff have commenced with us this year – Brydie Bromley joins us from Belvoir School and is working in the middle years with the Stanley students. Daine Porter joins us from Cragieburn South PS and also works in the middle years, with the Morgan students. Gretta Porter joins us from Galen College and works two days a week in the junior school, sharing the Cobbler class with Lisa Detlefsen. We have had a number of staff return to us also this year, including our AP Alysha Jackson, who has returned from maternity leave to her substantive position at 3 days a week. We have also for the very first time in my memory employed a past student – Jade Alty. Jade completed her Cert II in community services with us last year and has secured 3 days a week work as an ES in our Junior School.

Bluearth

We are fortunate enough to have secured continuing sponsorship for our Bluearth program which is now available to students on a Monday. Each year, we receive sponsorship to ensure this program continues and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Wangaratta Business Group who contribute $1500 to our school along with its members – Elders Insurance, Financial Momentum and Floyd industries who each contribute a further $333 - $2500 in total! We could not be more grateful for this ongoing support from our local community – please feel free to thank and support them in return!

Book Fair / Lit Fest coordinator

Some of you may remember the Wangaratta Rotary Club Book Fair which was held over the Queen’s Birthday long weekend last year and raised over $4000 for our school. Well this year, it is back and even bigger than before, incorporating a young writers competition among other things. Our school once again stands to benefit a great deal from this community fundraiser and as a result, we are seeking more support from parents and carers to help with organising in both the lead up to and on the day of the event. In particular, we are seeking an interested person to be our key parent and carer contact for this event - to help drum up volunteer support and liaise directly with the Lit Fest volunteers subcommittee. If you are interested in helping out in this role, please contact me at school.

Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>O.T. - Paula - Monday to Thursday</th>
<th>Speech - Shannon - Monday to Friday</th>
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<td>12th March - Labour Day - Public Holiday</td>
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Welcome back for another school year. It is hard to believe that we are concluding week 4 already. We commenced the year by welcoming Francis and Elijah to both our school and our class.

Since returning to school we have been enjoying reading; we have read “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and even made the caterpillar from pasta and string. We also all worked together with the girls from Bogong to put together a puzzle of the caterpillar.

We got to help Darren celebrate his 9th birthday and we naturally had to have a cake to celebrate the occasion.

Elijah and Noah have been enjoying taking part in some bike riding some afternoons. They have been focusing on being safe by wearing their helmets.

The Bogong girls have been very busy learning all our school’s expectations. This year in Bogong we have three learning tables. Each table has a Leader, the ‘Brilliant Butterflies’ leader is Montana. The ‘Learning Ladybird’ leader is Akasha, and our ‘Busy Bee’s’ leader is Mia R. During each learning sessions the students earn table points for their best learning, following instructions, being safe, and being respectful at all times. At the end of term the table with the most points will have a special reward to celebrate their achievements.

Last Friday 9th Feb, Akasha got student of the week for being such a fantastic leader and helping all of her class mates being learners, she is a great role model for us all.

Positive thinking = Positive Student!
**Buller - Kate, Mab and Jodie**

Buller room students have settled in well to their new classroom after the long break.

We have assessed students’ reading levels, so we give them reading books at their level. We are working on developing individual learning programs to meet the academic, emotional and physical needs of each student.

Mab reading a book to Emily, Kara-Lee and Ava.

Buller’s cooking program has started. We have made cakes, zucchini slice, sausages and baked custard.

**Taminick- Sarah, John, Belinda**

Welcome to a new year at WDSS. This year in Taminick we have Erynn, Jean-Luc, Aiden, Damon, Jhett and Madeleine.

We are enjoying doing things together like going to the park, art and swimming.

This year, Madeleine will be sharing her great sense of fashion.

**Madeleine’s Fashion Tip:**

To look good in summer you can wear a floral dress with combat boots. Tie your hair into a ponytail and leave some of your fringe out. Wearing rings on your fingers will make your outfit look good.
**Buffalo - Phillipa, Lisa, Jill and Andrea**

We’d like to welcome our new Buffalo friends; Kathi, Izobel, Ethan, Chase, Edwina and Jason. We hope you enjoyed your holidays spending time with your family and friends.

Here at school we have had fun meeting our new friends and enjoying our class activities, music and exploring the playground. Starting a new school year is always difficult but we have enjoyed being able to come in everyday and share some wonderful experiences.

**Cobbler - Lisa, Greta, Jo, Alicia and Ranni**

We have started swimming in Cobbler. The boys had a great lesson, listening to the instructions and doing their best. Afterwards they enjoyed mucking around on the mat. It was a great start to my time with them. Lisa is taking long service leave till the end of the Term, and I will be filling in for her on Wednesday – Friday.
Stanley students have spent their first few weeks back at school exploring their new room, building friendships and settling into their learning programs. As this is my first year at Wangaratta Special School, Stanley students have enjoyed showing me around and discussing our favourite things about being back at school:

**Noah:** My favourite thing about school is me! I also like to go on the egg chair.

**Jack:** I like looking at the mountains on the board while lying on the bean bags during quiet time.

**Aiden:** I like to eat my lunch and do jobs with Simon like the washing.

**Shaneevah:** My new teacher and I like to do maths.

**Jordan:** I like to help Toby and I like my new teacher.

**Toby:** I like to play with my trains and I like to talk to my friends in the couch area.

This year, we also welcome a new student to our school, Olivia Preston. Stanley students have been quick to make her feel welcome!

Both Simon and I are looking forward to see all that our Stanley students can achieve this year!

On Friday the 9th of February the VCAL classes visited Yarrawonga to participate in the ‘Open Water Learning Experience’ run by the Victorian Royal Life Saving Association. Students participated in a range of activities including CPR, using a boogie boards and rescuing classmates using a variety of equipment including an esky, cricket bat, cricket stump, ropes and a bike helmet! Thankfully the hot weather made getting wet more enjoyable. A special thanks to Physical Education Teacher Ian McCormick for organising the day.
**Warby - Naomi and Jack**

Things have been very busy in Warby this year. Students have displayed their maturity and resilience as they have coped with many changes. In class we have been working our way through the book, Towards Solo Driving. We have commenced practice tests on line and the students have taken to the task like a duck to water.

Here are some of Warby students attempting the on line Learners test. Blake Brown scored a perfect 32/32 he achieved this score twice, well done Blake be on the road in no time at this rate.

All the Warby students will take part in Structured Workplace Learning. We have been studying all about Occupational Health and Safety in the work place. We have spoken about Job Interviews, what to wear, and what to say.

These students are now senior students and the school work reflects that but there is still time for a bit of fun. We had a freaky Friday last week, with Haley. A prize of 5 goldies if you can identify the student being mummified by Nick.

**Mt Beauty - Kate and Lis**

Are very excited to be back at school and even more excited to be in our new classroom at Appin Park Primary. We have been getting used to our new room and really love getting out for a run and play on the new playground. Mt. Beauty students have also been eager to start their activities and be Learners. We can’t wait to share all the new and fun activities we will be doing in our new room!
Mt Pilot - Jacqui, Cat and Lea

We welcome all of the Mt. Pilot students to the new school year and our new learning space. We are settling in very nicely to our new classroom and are getting familiar with staff and students of Appin Park Primary. Some of our students have recognised some familiar faces which is great. Every Wednesday we have a session timetabled in the Appin Park Library and as you can see from the pictures it is a lovely space. Lea, Cat and I are very excited about the year ahead.

In art we have been learning about Alexander Calder, an American Sculptor, Painter and Impressionist. We have been creating colourful and interesting mobiles and art work.

Art
Alexander Calder
1898 1976

In art we have been learning about Alexander Calder, an American Sculptor, Painter and Impressionist. We have been creating colourful and interesting mobiles and art work.
Music has got off to a great start in 2018 and it is wonderful to be sharing it with students both old and new!

It is great to have a number of students keen to join Choir again this year and I was very proud of their performance in Assembly last week. There will be a number of opportunities for the Choir to perform throughout the year both in and out of school. I will keep you posted.

I mentioned last year the Combined Primary Schools Band run by the Wangaratta High School. There is an opportunity for our students to take part in this program again this year and Jenny and Chris from the High School are visiting us this week. They are bringing a number of instruments along with them, offering students the opportunity to try them out.

Students in Mt. Beauty experimented with the sounds that instruments make and discovered that some instruments sound better played softly, for example the xylophone and others like the drums sound great when played loud!

African drumming continues to be a big part of the Music Programme at WDSS and the Warby students pictured here are demonstrating the correct way to sit and hold the djembe ready for playing. When the djembe is struck with a flat hand in the centre of the drum, a base sound is produced. Tone is played by striking the drum around the outside edge as pictured.
Welcome back everyone!

We have had a busy couple of weeks in the Mt Typo room.

The boys have been working extremely hard at all set learning tasks and are settling into their new routines nicely.

We have started the term with a focus on literacy and maths and have enjoyed using our classroom computers and iPads for programs such as Reading Eggs and Prodigy.

We were excited to kick start our cooking program and have already had hotdogs and pizzas on the menu.

We also have a new addition to our classroom, Bax the Blue Tongue Lizard, who most of the boys are already quite fond of.

Morgan—Daine and Sharon

Welcome to a new school year. Morgan students have all settled into 2018 well after a restful break. All students in Morgan have made a great start to 2018. They are already showing what independent learners they are starting to become. In the first few weeks, we have started learning lots about Australian history. We have also started reading Harry Potter as our class novel. In Maths, we have begun with place value and addition. The students have loved going out on the bus to get our weekly grocery shopping and for visits to the library.

Cooking is also a class favourite. So far we have cooked spaghetti bolognaise, double chocolate muffins and had a sausage sizzle. The most pleasing part of the opening weeks of term is how well students in Morgan are cooperating and getting along. Each student is displaying attributes that make them likable to their peers. Keep up the great work guys!

James and Kane making sure we have everything on the grocery list

Oscar showing his independence cooking the BBQ for the whole class

Kaya being responsible paying for the whole class grocery shop
**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

We have had two very successful sittings with Occasion Studios taking our individual, class and family photos over the last fortnight. Every student was photographed regardless of orders.

If you missed this opportunity to purchase photos you can call Occasion Studios directly on **1300 729 192.**

**OCCASION STUDIOS**
**80 PHILLIPSON STREET**
**WANGARATTA**
**VICTORIA 3677**

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**SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS**

A Victorian Government initiative in partnership with Foodbank

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Feathertop - Renee and Luke

Zac

Bailey

Renee, Sebastian & Aaron

Josh, Aaron, Shannon & Scott

Fruit delivery on Mondays

Recycling every Monday & Thursdays

Feathertop students in 2018

Aaron, Bailey, Josh, Scott, Sebastian, Shannon, Zac

Together We Will: Be Learners. Be Safe. Be Respectful.
Mt. Emu - Frazer and Emily

We have had a great start to 2018 here in Mt.Emu.

We have started our cooking program where we have already made spaghetti bolognese and sausage rolls.

Every Monday we work out our budget and go through the Coles website, looking at what ingredients we need.

Everyone in Mt.Emu is looking forward to learning a lot and doing some great things in 2018!

Kosciusko - Matt and Lizz

Welcome back to school everyone! Hard to believe we are already 4 weeks in– time flies when your having fun! Kosciusko have been off to a great start, starting the year off with 10 students. We welcomed up Brandon BJ Johnson from junior years, Jack Oates from Wangaratta West Primary school as well as Zack Holmes and Colin Pirret from Mt Emu. We were lucky enough to hold onto 6 of last years Kossie students who have been a great role models and helping other students with the Kosciusko routine. Last week we introduced a new student to our class, his name is Tyrell Sarre. Tyrell is new to our school!

We were also very excited to welcome another new addition to our classroom– a new smart TV!! We have been enjoying using our new technology for almost all of our learning sessions. In class we have been focusing on events in history. Events that we have looked into so far are- ‘The Challenger Disaster’ from 1968 & ‘Ned Kelly’ in 1986. The boys have really enjoyed researching these topics and this is a focus we will be working on for the remainder of the term. Stay tuned!

Together We Will: Be Learners. Be Safe. Be Respectful.
eSafety Information Night

Is your child at risk of abuse through technology?

The Zonta Club of Wangaratta, with the sponsorship of the Rural City of Wangaratta, has organised an information evening with Greg Gebhart from the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.

Tuesday March 6th 2018
Wangaratta PAC
7pm
Free admission

The Presentation will provide information for Parents, Carers and anyone who works with young people. It will give guidance to help manage the risks they may be exposed to in dealing with such things as cyberbullying; sexting; online pornography; inappropriate content and grooming.

It will also provide advice about parental controls, professional support services and available resources.

Commit to your child’s online safety by attending this presentation from one of Australia’s leading online safety experts.

For further information contact Alison or Jen at zontawangaratta@gmail.com
Welcome back to the Hotham boys and their families, we hope you all had an enjoyable break! The Hotham boys have returned to school fresh from the holidays and have made a great start to 2018. The boys have all accepted the new staff, Lori and Fiona into the class with very welcoming and open arms which has been lovely and is much appreciated.

So far we have been enjoying our cooking classes in which we have been practicing our skills with making some enjoyable meals and learning about the five star health rating. We are also furthering our sun smart knowledge by learning about different sunscreen strengths. There is lots of fun and learning to be had in Hotham this year and we look forward to sharing the year together and achieving our goals.