

# The **WATTLE** Newsletter



**Newsletter No. 25**

**16th October 2020**

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## **Welcome back!**

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome our staff and students back to school on Monday as we commence what we hope will be a relatively smooth and 'normal' term. I'm sure that our families breathed a collective sigh of relief at not having to continue to facilitate home learning.

Despite occasional signs of nervousness or anxiety from a few students, which was entirely understandable after such a long time away, we could not have been happier with how the students returned. They were very excited to see their teachers and friends and quickly settled back into school routines and structures.

## **Term 4 changes**

There are a few changes for Term 4. As previously advised, we are having staggered arrival and departure times and I thank-you for how smoothly these have been managed so far this week. As always, if you have any questions about the arrival / departure process, please feel free to contact the office or your child's teacher.

All classes have procedures with regards to washing hands and using hand sanitiser. As mentioned in last week's newsletter every state government school in metropolitan Melbourne must have a 'COVID- Return to School Policy'. This is available on our website. <https://www.wattleparkps.vic.edu.au/page/73/School-Policies>

## **Foundation Information Session**

This Wednesday, Assistant Principal Steve Donohue, Foundation Team Leader, Ms Emma Tan and I participated in a video for the 2021 Foundation Information Night. Some of our current Foundation students spoke about what they enjoyed about Wattle Park Primary School

and two students from 2C, Jasmine and Lena accompanied me while I spoke. The video is currently being produced but the draft that I saw last night was so impressive. So stay tuned! The Foundation students are just delightful!

One of the production crew spoke so positively about our staff, students and physical environment. These are some of Strafford's comments-*Ms Tan is such a patient and caring teacher towards her students. The classrooms are attractive with many samples of students' work on display, even in the older buildings. The school buildings and grounds are clean and organised. Classroom student sizes are small with individual students being supported in their classwork in very calm environments.*

It is interesting to have the view of an outsider who visits many other schools, see perhaps advantages of the school that we take for granted. We often talk about the beautiful grounds that we are so fortunate to have but what makes a school special is what actually happens inside the buildings.

## **Term 4 Calendar**

We continue to review and revise our Term 4 calendar based on the current restrictions and guidelines. Some of our activities / events have been cancelled, others have been rescheduled or postponed, and others will be presented in a modified format. An example of this is the introduction of a State wide 'Thank You Day' on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October as a public holiday. The school has also forgone its usual term 4 Curriculum Day on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.

Important information is always distributed through our Compass portal and on our school website. Alerts are sent through Konnective often directing you to the school website for further information.

## **Parent Opinion Survey**

If you haven't already completed the Parent Opinion Survey available on our school website please do so as the survey will close late tonight. Thank you sincerely to those parents who took the time to complete.

## **Book Week**

The theme of this year's Children's Book Council of Australia (commencing tomorrow, 17 October, and ending on 23<sup>rd</sup> October) is 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'. Library technician Mrs Carolyn Gangell has made a most appealing display in the foyer of the administration building. There will be literacy events through the week, culminating in presentations to

some students.

## **Highlights**

One of the highlights that I will take away from this week is the excited comment from a Year 1 student, Rory, having received a return letter from his reading buddy from Cameron Close. Unfortunately due to the restrictions our 'Jean Gair Cameron Close Reading Program' with the neighbouring elderly residents has not been possible. During term 3 all of the Year 1 students wrote letters to their reading buddies instead. Yesterday, the students received a letter in return. It is these simple pleasures that it is important to celebrate.

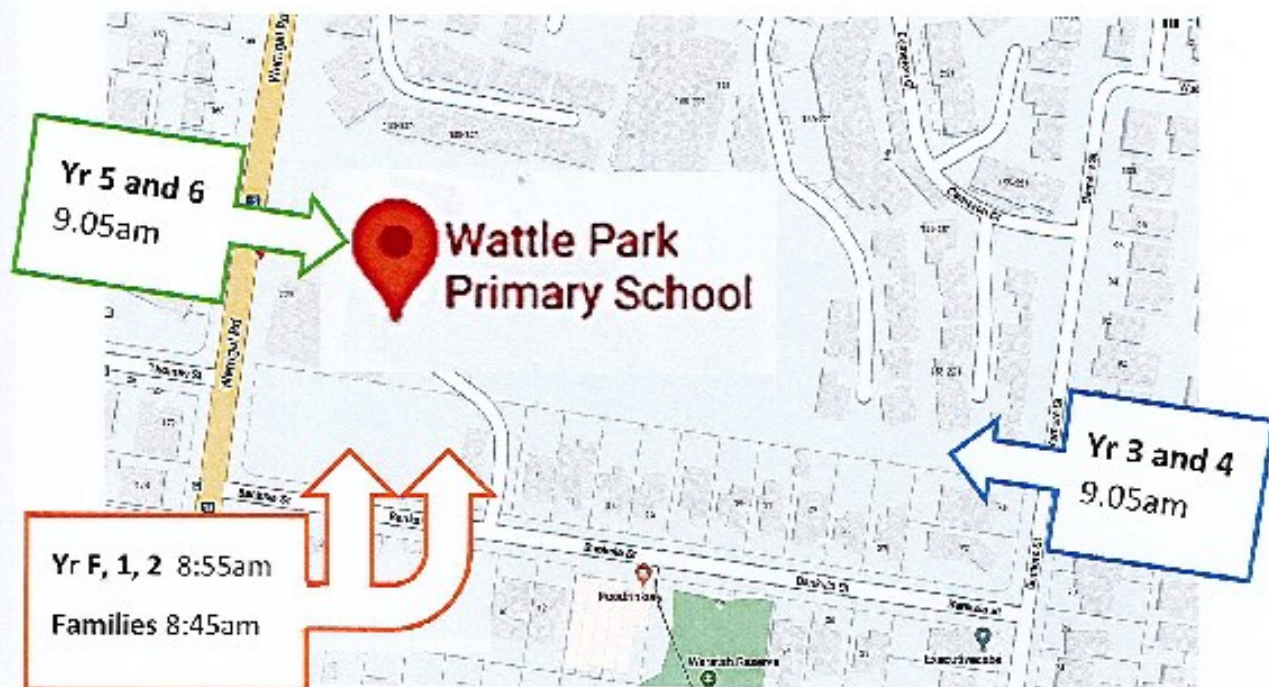
Enjoy the weekend. I know that definitely the teachers are physically and mentally tired after a full face to face week of attending school and I'm guessing that many students will be too!

***Warm Regards***

***Gayle***

# All Classes Return to School Onsite 12.10.2020

## DROP OFF



## PICK UP - from the same gates the students entered

- 3:20pm Families, Yr 4, 6
- 3:30pm Yr 1, 2
- 3:40pm Foundation Yr 5, 3

## Remote Learning

- Will cease at 3.30pm on Friday 9.10.2020
- Year level sites will be reconfigured as digital classroom notice boards

## Hygiene

- Every student must bring a named drink bottle to school
- No taps used for drinking
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all teaching spaces
- Students will wash hands regularly; before and after eating and coming in from break times and after toileting
- Playground cleaned before and after school

## Due to the DET Operational Guidelines there will be no:

- Parents allowed onsite
- Canteen
- Excursions
- Swimming Program
- Assembly in the gym
- Camps
- Individual music lessons or choir
- Interschool Sport

# School Dates/ Holidays changes

**2.11.2020** The Monday before Melbourne Cup Day, is a normal school day. This has traditionally been a Curriculum Day at WPPS.

**23.10.2020** Grand Final/Thank you Day. Declared by the Premier's office as a Public Holiday this year. WPPS will be closed.

**NO Canteen  
Until further notice**

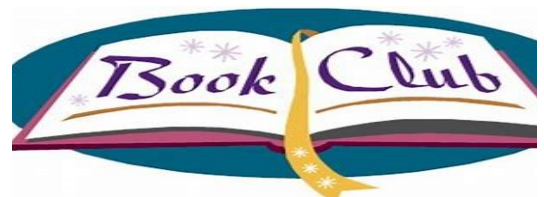


It's that time of year, when all students are required to have on a hat for outside play. Children will be required to play in the shade if no hat is worn, and being a Sun Smart School its important to have sun protection from now till May.



**Scholastic Book Club.** Please be aware that it is ordering **ONLINE ONLY**. *Deliv-*ery will be **POSTAGE ONLY** for this issue.

**Deadline** for ordering is by **Monday**, 26th October 2020. See Compass for online link to the catalogue.





# Attention Parents/Guardians

Just a reminder to send in enrolment forms for Foundation students in 2021.

If you know of any family/friends who are wanting to enrol, please remind them as well to get their enrolment in as soon as possible.

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website at: [www.wattleparkps.vic.edu.au](http://www.wattleparkps.vic.edu.au) or click [here](#)

A copy of a Birth Certificate and Medicare Immunisation Certificate is required to complete the enrolment process.

Please ring the office on 9808 2165 if you have any questions.





## Student Enrolments and Exits

We are well underway in planning for facilities and staffing for 2021. All planning is based on our student enrolment and exit numbers and we urge parents to complete an enrolment or exit form (see below) as soon as possible. Enrolment forms can be obtained from our website or from the office.

### Exit Intentions for 2020/2021

I wish to advise that my child/children as listed below, will not be returning to WPPS in 2021.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Class \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: We would very much appreciate your comments/feedback to assist with future planning.

- Moving house
- Family moving suburb/interstate/overseas
- Transferring to an independent school. The School is \_\_\_\_\_
- Transferring to public school. The School is \_\_\_\_\_
- School does not adequately cater to the needs of my child/children
- Other

I am happy for a member of the school community to make contact with me:      Yes      No

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE ASAP**