WANGALA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday October 21st, 2022

From the Principal

The last few weeks have been very busy at Wangala Primary School with much happening! We managed to survive the torrential downpour of last week with only a few minor leaks in our buildings and gymnasium. I think about those school communities across the state who have been impacted by the floods with school closures and can only imagine the impact that would have on us if we were in a similar situation.

Last week we had our curriculum day on Friday with all staff in attendance to complete CRP training and 'Cultural Understanding and Safety Training' (CUST) presented by our regional Koorie Education Support Officers. The CUST was an amazing opportunity to hear about the impact of Government policies from the past, to highlight the ongoing trauma caused by these actions, and to further the need to celebrate First Nations culture through our teaching and learning.

I'm really pleased to announce that we will be adding an extra class next year! In 2023 we will be running with a Prep class, 1/2 class, 3/4 class and a 5/6 class. I can also reveal that the soon to be Mrs Beaumont (Miss Margetts) will teach our Preps, our new teacher (see further on in the newsletter!) Miss Longley will teach the 1/2 classroom, Miss Wise will teach the 3/4 classroom, and Mrs Sobczynski will teach our 5/6 classroom.

In preparation for 2023, we have had a delivery of furniture for our fourth classroom, as well as some new furniture for our STEAM room, our classroom kitchen, and for OSHC! We also purchased new chairs and whiteboards for all our classrooms!

Please make sure you put the 'dates to remember' in your diaries so your children don't miss out on anything. There is much happening over the coming weeks, and we wouldn't want anyone to miss out on the exciting events and activities we have planned. We will be sure to put reminders through our Compass and Facebook platforms.

I am writing this newsletter later than normal after spending some time outside today enjoying the Gaga pit! Our Juniors were using the Gaga Pit to play and were being great sports following the rules. I think I'll need to wear my runners next week to join in the fun!

I would like to close by highlighting one of our students, Van. Recently at an assembly I challenged the students to 'see something, do something'. I received a phone call from a Wangala Primary School friend who helps us with the garden who was at the school on the weekend while Van and his family were here enjoying the grounds. Van saw that someone had smashed a bottle on our courts and helped our gardener to carefully pick up some of the pieces to make the place safe for everyone, including the people we enjoy seeing using our courts respectfully after school and on the weekends. I was so pleased to hear that Van stepped up to 'see something, do something' to help others.

Steven King
Princpal

Dates to Remember

Friday 21st October
'Totally Random' program for 5/6s

Wednesday 26th October
Assembly at 2.45pm

Wednesday 26th October
Prep Transition via WebEx

Thursday 27th October
Basketball Clinic for Middles & Seniors

Thursday 27th October
World Teacher's Day (celebrated at Wangala Primary School)

Friday 28th October
'Totally Random' program for 5/6s

Thursday 3rd November
Basketball Clinic for Middles & Seniors

Friday 4th November
'Totally Random' program for 5/6s

Friday 4th November
Newsletter released

Monday 7th November
Two-week Swimming Program begins

Wednesday 9th November
9.30 – 10.30 Prep Transition session

Tuesday 15th November
School Council meeting

Friday 18th November
Newsletter released

Wednesday 23rd November
Whole school Sovereign Hill excursion

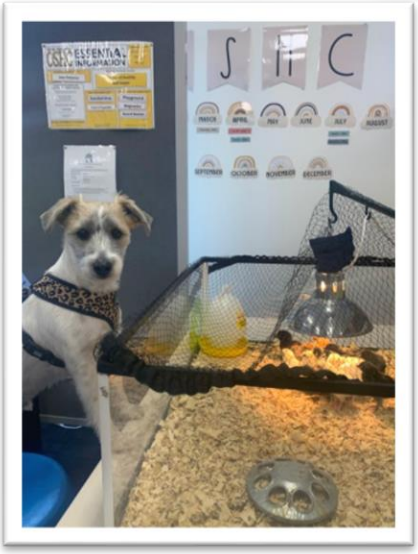
Saturday 26th November
State Election – Polling Booth at the Wangala Primary School Gymnasium

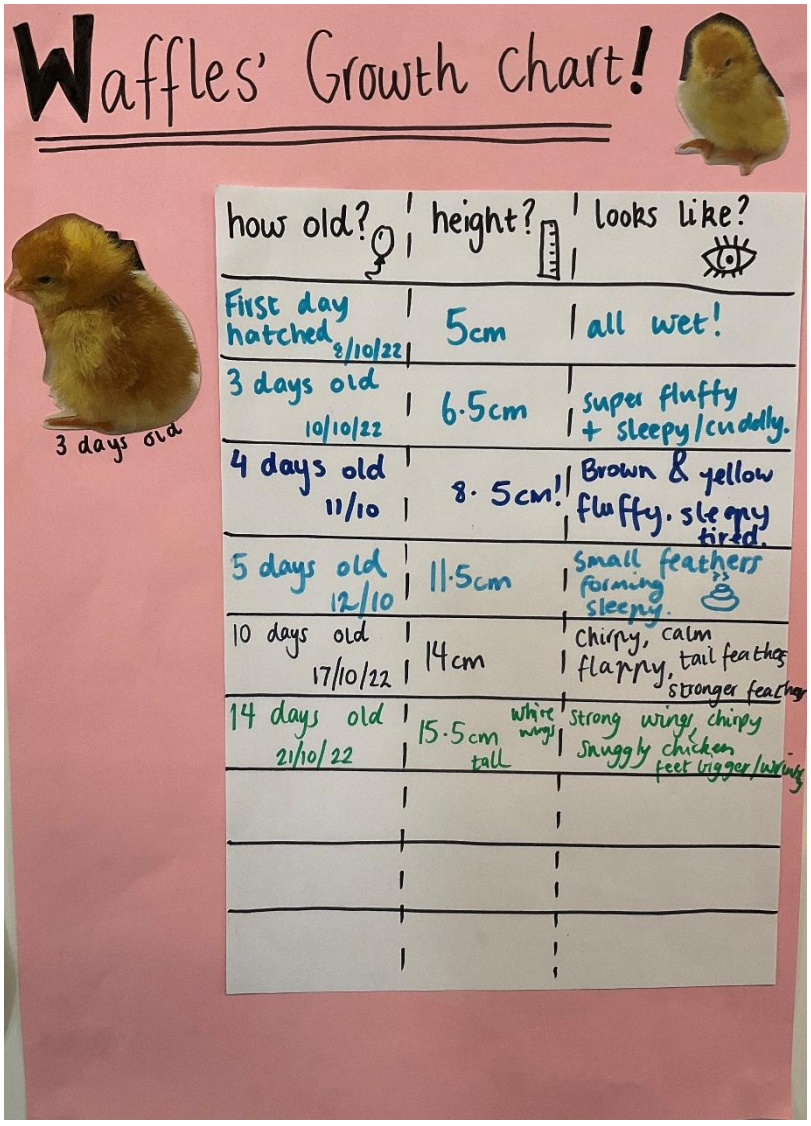
Wangala Primary School acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land we are on, the Wadawurrung people, and thank them for sharing their long lasting culture with us as we learn and grow together.

Checking in with our Chicks!

Our gorgeous chickens are continuing to grow! Amazingly, all fifteen eggs hatched! They are beginning to grow small feathers on their wings and are becoming taller, hungrier, and more active. On Friday, Phil from Henny Penny collected some of the chickens, because we couldn't keep them all. We were lucky to receive two extra chickens from Phil that have 'butterfly' type wings. We have named them Muffin One and Muffin Two, both adorable! We also have a visit from Mrs Sobczynski's dog, Albert who was very interested in our chicks!

Take a look at some of the work the Juniors have completed to track the growth and development of chicken favourite, Waffles!





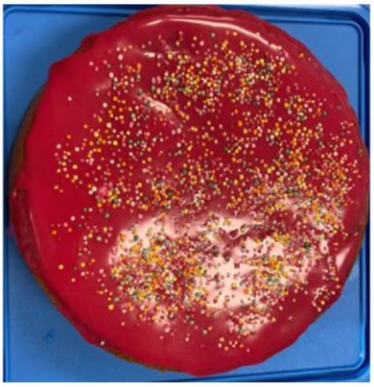
Welcoming Miss Longley in 2023

We are so pleased to welcome Miss Rebecca Longley to our teaching team for 2023! Miss Longley will be teaching our 1/2 class next year and will join her new class later in the year for our 'Step Up Day'. Miss Longley has taught for the last few years at Saltwater P-9 College in Point Cook. We look forward to having Miss Longley with us next year.

A REMINDER THAT ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE WEARING HATS WHEN OUTSIDE!

We have a strict 'no hat, no play' policy that will see students without the correct broad-brimmed hat, needing to sit under the shade sail in our outdoor assembly area.

Fractions Fun with the Juniors!



The Junior Class have been learning about fractions. They have been talking like 'mathemagicians' using the words, 'whole', 'half' and 'quarters'. The Juniors also enjoyed a special 'fractions cake' make by Miss Margetts!

The focus on fractions is a whole school focus as part of our 'Professional Learning Communities', looking at research based teaching and learning of fractions, and analysing the data from our pre-assessments. We know our students will grow in their knowledge, especially with tasty lessons like this!

Buildings and Grounds Update

Our gymnasium carpark will soon be completed. During the week they have asphalted and should complete the line marking for the parking bays. Unfortunately, the weather has really held this project up, so we will be very pleased when this is completed. Our gymnasium hirers during school hours and after school hours will access the facilities through the Pickett Crescent entry as soon as this project is completed.

Over the coming months a new building project will begin with the establishment of a ramp which will be adjacent to our current grand-stand decking. This will be a major project and will see part of this space fenced off as a building site. Part of this project will also see some of our doors replaced with automated doors, and a hoist installed in one of our toilet rooms.

We are also really excited to announce that we will be receiving a modular building onsite to house our friends from the Geelong English Language Centre (GELC). At this stage we're unsure where and when this will be installed.

State Election Fundraising

The Wangala Primary School Gymnasium has been selected as a voting place for the State Election coming up on Saturday, 26th November. This provides us with a unique opportunity to fundraise for our school!

School Council have discussed the possibility of holding a barbeque up at the school on the day, potentially selling 'breakfast burgers' until they sell out, and sausages etc. for the majority of the day, as well as drinks and other goodies people might enjoy while waiting in line to vote.

Keep an eye on Compass in the coming weeks for our request for volunteers on the day!

Congratulations, Airlie!

On Tuesday, Airlie travelled to Melbourne to compete in the Western Metropolitan Regional Track and Field Carnival at Keilor Athletics Track. We could not be prouder of Airlie for making it to this level of competition and know that she represented our school amazingly!

Airlie competed in the 200m sprint and the long-jump events. She came 4th in the 200m spring, and 5th in the long-jump, which is an awesome effort! Well done Airlie, you've done Wangala Primary School proud!

Wangala Primary School Intensive Swimming Program 2022

This term all students will have the opportunity to participate in swimming lessons at the Geelong Aquatic Centre in Newtown. The program will run across two weeks with a total of ten sessions with sessions running for 45 minutes each.

The program is an integral part of our Physical Education program at Wangala Primary School. The program cost is heavily subsidised by the school by approximately 50%.

All students are encouraged to participate unless they have a medical condition that prevents them from attending.

The cost of the program is $40 which includes the cost of the bus and entry to the pool for lessons. This must be paid by today please. Please contact the office if you're unsure if you can access CSEF to subsidise the cost.

DATES AND TIMES

Week 6 7th – 11th November	45 min 1:45 – 2.30pm
Week 7 14th – 18th November	45 min 12.00 – 12.45pm

2023 Prep Transition Information

The following dates and activities have been set for our 'Prep Transition Program' and we encourage our new 2023 Prep students to attend each session.

Wednesday, 26th October 3.30pm – 3.45pm – Join Mrs Beaumont (Miss Margetts) for an online session and listen to a story and share some things about you!

Wednesday, 9th November 9.30am – 10.30am – Our 2023 Prep students will head into their new classroom and engage in some play-based activities with Mrs Beaumont and other staff in the school. Students are encouraged to bring along a teddy bear to share with everyone. Meanwhile, parents and carers are encouraged to stay for the hour and have a cup of tea or coffee with teacher Mrs Hueston and our Wellbeing Officer, Kim Dugan to get to know us and the other new parents and carers.

Thursday 24th November 11.30am – 1.30pm – On this day Mrs Beaumont will be away preparing for her wedding the following weekend so Mrs Hueston and Ms Whytcross, our specialists teacher, will take the students where they will be participating in some STEAM, music, art and physical activity sessions. On this day parents and carers will be dropping their child off at school and picking them up later.

Wednesday, 7th December 11.30am – 1.00pm – Students will head back into the classroom with Mrs Beaumont and their buddies and will engage in lots of fun activities. Meanwhile a 'Parent and Carer Information Session' will be held for all of the adults to help them best prepare for the starting school. On this day, students will be given a showbag of activities to help them prepare for school in 2023 over the summer break.

Tuesday, 13th December 9.30am – 12.00pm – Our 'Our Step Day' will see the new Prep students joining all of their Wangala Primary School friends as they 'step up' into their new classrooms for the first time.

During the various Prep Transition sessions, our new Prep students will be introduced to their buddies who will meet them and help them during the transition programs. These buddies will also be there for our new Prep students throughout their first year at Wangala Primary School as someone that will look after them and be a great new friend!

Ga... Ga... GO!

This week in Physical Education lessons we discussed the rule of Gaga. We spoke about the importance of having consistency across the school with rules and the importance of always following the rules and being a good sport person. It was so much fun to see the students in action. We spoke about how lucky we are to have this amazing facility at our school, and that it's even more special because it was made by our 'Hands on Learning' students.

Our senior students are currently writing out the rules and guidelines for Mr King to have put on a sign which will be attached to the side of the Gaga pit for everyone to see.

THE GAGA PIT

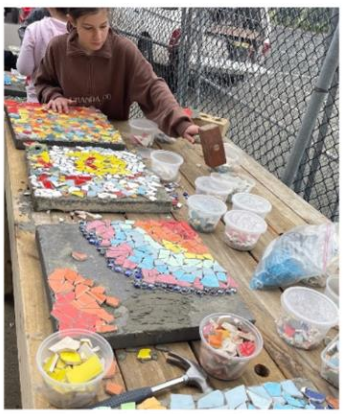
Hands on Learning News

Our HoL construction area is in the process of being renovated following significant vandalism earlier in the year. The inside painting has been completed, as has the carpentry work. New flooring is being laid in the coming weeks, followed by the external painting. We can't wait to show you the end results. We are so lucky to have this creative space to run our 'Hands on Learning' and 'Kitchen Garden' programs!

Speaking of creativity, check out some of the amazing mosaics created by our HoL construction crew.

The HoL construction crew have also been busy painting planter pots for some local indigenous plants as well as some tyre artwork for the garden area.

Kim's chook, Elsa, helped to keep the pesky plovers away while we were working in the HoL space last week. She was welcomed with open arms! We look forward to inviting our own chicks into the purpose built coop early next year.



Wildlife Incursion for our Juniors and GELC!

On Monday morning we had some very special visitors in the GELC classroom. We had Bronte from WildlifeXposure and her furry, scaly and slippery friends! They included a betong, rainbow lorikeet, a tree frog, stumpy tail lizard, dragon lizard, an albino python, a black headed python, a long-neck turtle and a crocodile named Johnny!

Middle Class Excursion to the Marine Discovery Centre

Our Middle class visited Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff today, making a special visit to the Marine Discovery Centre as part of their inquiry learning around Biological Sciences.

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

2022 Deakin University Diwali Festival

Friday 28 October, 6pm–9pm, Geelong Waurn Ponds Campus

This is a free, family-friendly community event with:

- cultural performances
- DJ
- food and market stalls
- free activities and henna art
- rangoli artwork display
- and a spectacular fireworks display!

Please register early to guarantee entry

deakin.edu.au/diwali

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW

FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.

PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.

SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.