WANGALA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday July 22nd, 2022

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 26th July
100 Days of School – Prep Celebration

Wednesday 27th July
Assembly in the Gymnasium

Friday 29th July
Schools National Tree Day (National Tree Day 31st July)

Thursday 4th August
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

Friday 5th August
District Athletics Day

Friday 5th August
Newsletter released

Wednesday 10th August
School Assembly

Thursday 11th August
Professional Practice Day – no students at school

Thursday 18th August
Geelong Music and Movement Festival

Don't Forget!

Our Professional Practice Day will be on Thursday, 11th August with no students in attendance on that day.

Meet Larkie, Kim and Kate from GELC

From the Principal

Yesterday was our 'Student Led Conference' day where many of our students had the opportunity to celebrate their work with their parents or carers. Students spent time in the classroom preparing a presentation document to guide their discussion and selected items of work they were proud of to share at the conference. We encourage those parents and carers who did not book a conference, to contact their teachers so your child has the opportunity to share their achievements with you.

Term Three has started well at Wangala Primary School, although we've had some very chilly mornings! Many students have been absent from school due to illness. We remind you to inform us if your child is away to ensure that the correct absence reason is recorded for the Department of Education and Training. You can log into Compass to record the absence, selecting from the varying reasons listed. You may also contact the school and select the option to leave a voice message reporting the absence. We encourage everyone to take caution when unwell, as we know there are many varying flus and viruses circulating at this time. We also encourage you to continue to do twice weekly COVID tests, with RAT tests available through the office, should you require them.

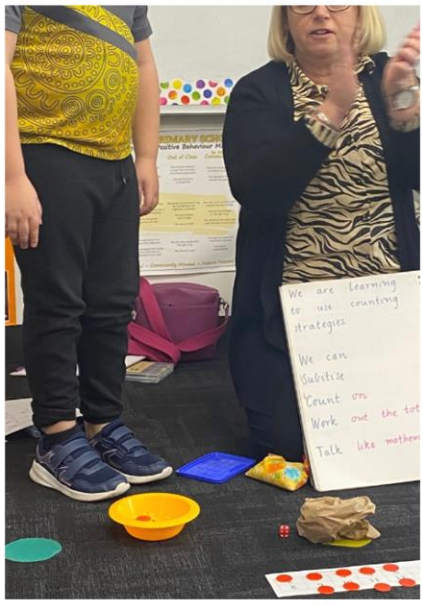
Many of you may have noticed the new faces around Wangala Primary School, with the 'Geelong English Language Centre' (referred to as GELC) class now established at our school. While you will see many students, who are wearing different school uniforms', and their special people during drop off and pick up, you may also notice some new staff members who are teaching this GELC class. We welcome Kim and Kate who are the classroom teachers, and Larkie, Hawko and Cathy for are multicultural education aides.

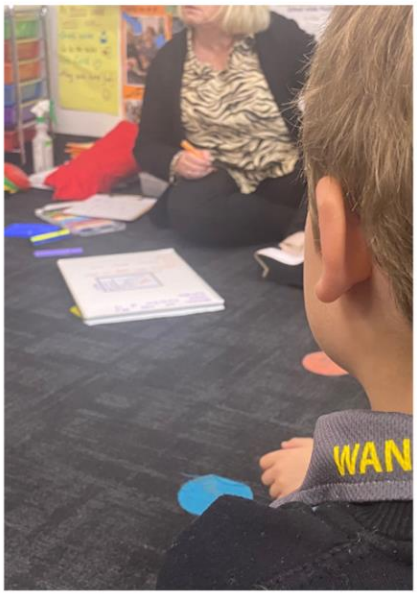
The Department of Education and Training are providing Victorian schools the opportunity to take another whole school 'Professional Practice Day' again this term. Normally these are taken by individual teachers, but this has created a further burden on the system with shortages of relief teachers across the state. The School Council have approved the 'Professional Practice Day' to be held on Thursday, 11th August. This means that there will be no students at school on this day. We will be offering a 9.00am – 4.00pm 'Outside School Hours Care' session for students enrolled in the service with limited places. If this is something you would like to book in for, please contact the school office on 5243 2997 to secure your place by 4.00pm on Friday, 5th August. Please note that only students who are enrolled in the service will be able to access this on the day. The session will cost $50 per child which will cover lunches and snacks, as well as activities on the day. For qualifying families, part of this fee will be subsidised through the Child Care Subsidy system.

Welcome back to Mrs Sobczynski who arrived back from Europe to some of our coldest winter days! It's great to have you back. A big thank-you to Mr Mulgrew for filling in while she was away.

Steven King
Principal

Wangala Mathematicians are amazing!





Check out some of the photos of our special visit from Educational Consultant Andrea Hillbrick (or Mrs H to the kids!) who is working with the school on improving our teaching and learning in mathematics. In the session with our junior classroom yesterday, Mrs H explored efficient counting strategies, and the students played a new game, 'Eggs in the Nest', creating their own special nests. As part of the game, students were to use the strategies of subitising, counting on, and talking like a mathematician. We're excited to have Andrea returning to help us revise the 'Wangala Way' of teaching and learning in mathematics for the remainder of the year, while having a lot of fun learning maths along the way!

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Working Bee

Thanks to everyone who braved the weather last Sunday to help out at the Working Bee. It was great to see so many of you here to help keep our school looking great. Despite a heavy downpour that stopped progress, we managed to clean up some of the garden beds and areas along Kidman Avenue, as well as pick up a substantial amount of rubbish. We also managed to work on the 'Hands on Learning' area, dismantling an old green house, and clearing up the space. Many of the chairs in the gymnasium were also cleaned up and had felt applied to the legs to ensure our court surfaces were not damaged. A special thanks to school councillor, Trent Griffiths for his organisation and for his and Rebekah's supply of donuts, muffins and fruit to keep us all going!

Changes to our Assembly and Newsletter

Our assembly will now be held every fortnight on a Wednesday at 2.45pm, beginning next week. The school leaders and Mr King met during this week to discuss this and felt that Friday morning did not work as many of the senior events fall on this day, and other days during the week would not work for other reasons. Our friends from GELC will also be joining us. We invite you all along to our assembly which will be held outside or in the gymnasium depending on the weather.

Our newsletter will also now come out on a Friday fortnightly. See the dates on page one of the newsletter for which days this will occur.

Learn Auslan with the Juniors!

Hello!

How are you?

Good!

Dispensing Medication

If your child requires prescribed medication, a signed parent/carer Medication Authority Form is required. Medications such as antihistamines and paracetamol are not stored or dispensed to students unless they are supplied from home with a signed Medication Authority Form.

Face Masks

A reminder to students and families that the current advice from the Victorian Government is that it is strongly recommended that face masks are worn in indoor settings (except for close contacts who must wear a mask indoors unless an exemption applies. A letter to parents and carers was shared through Compass earlier this week.

Prep 2023

Over this term we will conduct regular prep enrolment tours. If you know of anyone in our community who is considering enrolling for 2023, encourage them to make an appointment to come in for a tour or collect an enrolment form from the office. Parents and carers can visit findmyschool.vic.gov.au to find their local school.

COVID Update

Isolating at Home

Just a reminder to all parents and carers that the isolation protocols still apply. If your child tests positive, they must isolate for seven days and you must inform the school for our reporting purposes. It is important that you contact us via phone or email, so we can collect the information needed for our attendance data. If you email us, we do need the date your child(ren) tested positive, if they have any symptoms, and what kind of test you used.

Vaccination Requirements

There are no longer any mandatory vaccination requirements for staff or visitors working or attending main stream schools. This came into effect from 11:59pm on Friday, 24th June.

Rapid Antigen Tests

The Victorian Government is providing up to three further deliveries of rapid antigen tests (RATs) to schools in Terms 3 and 4. RATs have been sent home with every present student today. If your child was absent and you require a RAT, please let us know. We encourage you to test twice a week, and when symptomatic.

Expanded Eligibility for Fourth COVID-19 Vaccine Dose

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has updated its recommendations around fourth doses of COVID-19 vaccination. ATAGI recommends that people aged 50 to 64 should have their fourth does, while those aged 30 to 49 can choose to have a fourth does. For further information, refer to the ATAGI website.

Vaccinations for Students

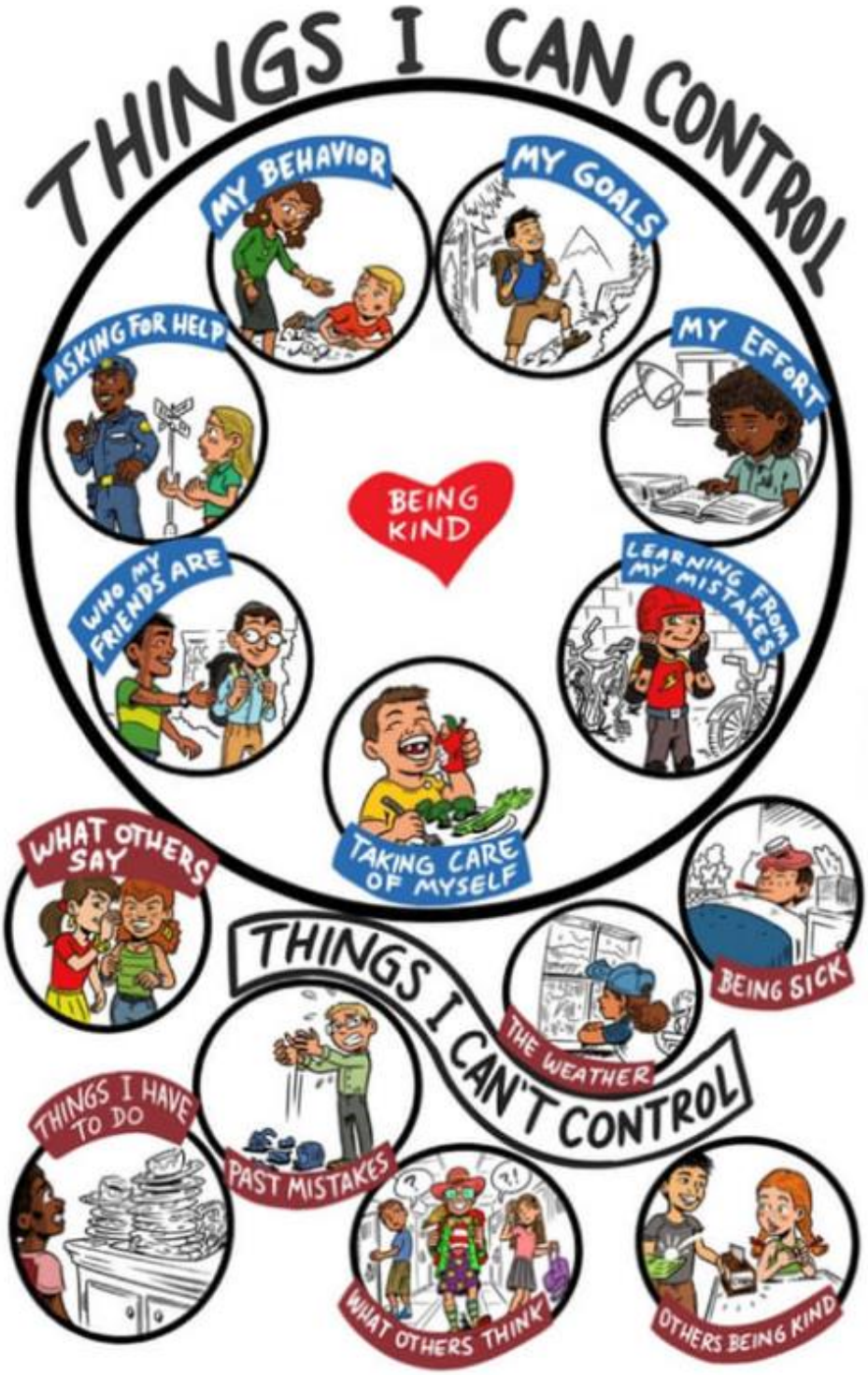
Vaccination remains the best way to protect our students and staff in school settings. We encourage families of children aged 5 to 11 to get vaccinated.

Geelong Music and Movement Festival 2022

Our budding performers will be taking stage at the 'Music and Movement Festival' at Costa Hall, Deakin University on Thursday, 18th August 2022. Tickets are now available through the 'Geelong Schools Music and Movement Festival Concert 2022 – Geelong Arts Centre'. When booking please note that our school is booked for session 7, 18th August 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Tickets are five dollars each.

If you have any queries about the audience tickets, please contact the 'Geelong Arts Centre Box Office'. Parent/carer consent is required and the cost of this experience is $8. Consent and payment is via Compass. Students are asked to dress in sport gear (sport socks, sport shoes, sport skirt, shorts, leggings, tracksuit, sporting top, sport headband, wristbands in any colours, or exercise gear of your choice), BUT with some 'Halloweeny' spooky head-dress, hair, mask or make up on their head. They will be dancing in this constume so they need to be able to see and have it stay on by itself. No props are to be carried.

Allison Whytcross – Arts Teacher



From Kim

The world can be an overwhelming place at times, especially for children. Recently I came across this great image that can help children to visualise and understand what is and what isn't in their control. Perhaps this visual could be printed off and placed on the fridge as a reminder to focus on the items in the circle.

We also use the 'Zones of Regulation' at school to help our students to recognise and communicate the emotions they're feeling. We have attached a copy of the 'Zones of Regulation' at the end of the newsletter for you to print off and use at home. Our students are all great at using this, so ask them to share what they know about it.

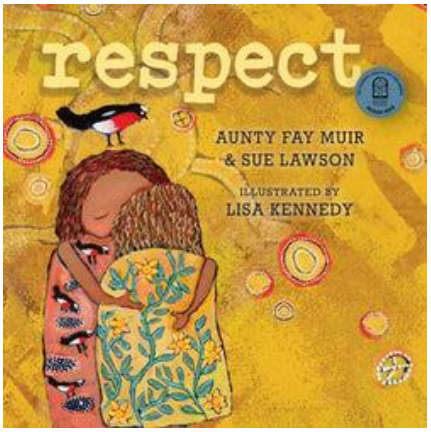
Watch this space! We will soon have an extra Wellbeing Team member for two days per week, with the addition of a Bethany Social Worker who will be based at Wangala Primary School and another local primary school. We look forward to sharing how they can help your families.

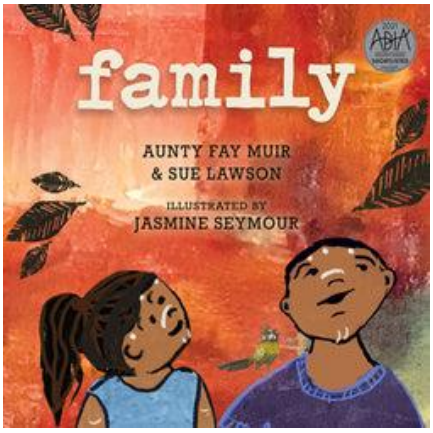
Visit from Aunty Fay Muir

On Thursday, 16th June, we had Aunty Fay Muir visit Wangala Primary School. Aunty Fay is an accomplished indigenous author and storyteller and spent time readying some of her books, and discussing indigenous culture with our students, allowing them lots of opportunities to ask questions and explore topics of interest.

Aunty Fay is also Airlie's aunty!

We thank Aunty Fay for her time and sharing her wealth of knowledge with us.





Hands on Learning Update

Our HoL construction crew have been split into two groups this term. Group one is working on planning and constructing our yarning circle under the trees at the far corner of Kidman Ave. Group two are designing and building a Ga Ga pit and were lucky enough to visit Bunnings on Tuesday to price up their materials.

Our cafe crew have been busy planning and preparing some scrumptious, hearty winter meals, the most recent sausage casserole was a huge hit!

Next week we will plant our winter crops in our veggie boxes, the students have chosen potatoes, leek, lettuce, snow peas, radish and several varieties of carrots! We look forward to watching these seedlings grow and using their fresh produce in our HoL cafe meals!

100 Days of School

This Tuesday the 26th of July our Junior class are celebrating the Preps 100 days of school! We will be dressing up like 100 year olds, enjoying some maths games with parents and carers and lots of other fun activities!

The ZONES of Regulation™

BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
Sad	Happy	Frustrated	Mad/Angry
Sick	Calm	Worried	Terrified
Tired	Feeling Okay	Silly/Wiggly	Elated/Ecstatic
Bored	Focused	Excited	Devastated
Moving Slowly	Relaxed	Loss of Some Control	Out of Control

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