WANGALA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Thursday June 9th, 2022

From the Principal

It's been a busy few weeks at Wangala Primary School with this edition of our newsletter jam packed full of information and reports on the many happenings over this time.

Last week we underwent our 'School Review' which saw the goals of the last four years unpacked and discussed with a panel of Department of Education and Training representatives, a school review, myself and our School Council President, Tamara Lake. It was a very busy but productive two days which saw the panel visiting all of classrooms on two occasions to watch a literacy and a numeracy lesson. The panel also met with all staff members, a selection of parents/carers, and our students to discuss the school and namely the teaching and learning and wellbeing approaches of the school. The panel were very complimentary of our community and noted how friendly and open everyone was. I would like to thank the teachers for opening their classroom doors for the observations and for our students for sharing their learning with us. I would also like to thank all of the staff, students and parents/carers for their input into the panel discussions. Lastly, I would like to thank Tamara for her commitment to the two days of the review and for her commentary on the last four years, and her input into the new goals set for the next four years. I hope to share these with you in the coming weeks once that have been ratified through the Department of Education and Training, and really look forward to seeing where the next four years take Wangala Primary School!

In other exciting news, I can announce that next term we'll be hosting an outpost of the 'Geelong English Language Centre' (GELC). GELC provide a specialised teaching and learning program for new arrivals to Australia with students coming from local primary schools to attend for a period of six to twelve months, four days per week. The current GELC outposts are all in the northern suburbs, with this outpost being the first of its kind on this side of Geelong, servicing the many newly arrived families who have moved into Belmont and our neighbouring suburbs. GELC will begin operating out of the current Outside School Hours Care room, in between our Junior classroom and kitchen while they wait for their own portable building to be built and delivered onsite. The GELC students will join our students in some events and will also be included in our recess and lunchtime activities. We look forward to welcoming our new friends at the beginning of next term!

Our teachers have been busily assessing and writing student reports which will be made live on Compass on the last day of term, Friday, 24th June. This year we will be holding 'Student Led Conferences' on Thursday, 21st July from 11.30am to 5.00pm, with bookings to be made for these through the Compass portal. The booking system will go live at the beginning of term, with more information to be sent out. Please make sure you have access to the Compass system to ensure you do not miss out!

Steven King
Principal

Dates to Remember

Friday 10th June
Professional Practice Day – student free day

Monday 13th June
Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 14th June
Curriculum Day – student free day

Friday 17th June
School Assembly

Friday 24th June
School Assembly
Last day of term, early dismissal 2.30pm
Reports available

TERM THREE

Sunday 17th July
Working Bee 9am – 12pm

Thursday 21st July
Student Led Conferences

Friday 22nd July
100 days of school prep celebration

Friday 5th August
District Athletics Day

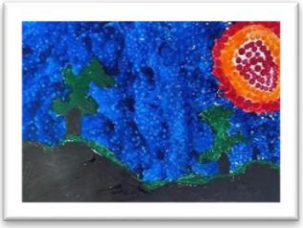
Don't Forget!

Friday, 10th June is a student-free day with the school staff participating in a 'Professional Practice' day.
Next Monday, 13th June is the 'Queen's Birthday' public holiday, followed by Tuesday, 14th which is a Curriculum Day.
We will see everyone back and rested on Wednesday, 15th June!

GELC Geelong English Language Centre

We will be holding a working bee on Sunday, 17th July from 9.00am to 12.00pm to tackle a few tasks across the school. We are hoping to prepare garden beds in the HoL area to plant out some fruit trees, to spread some mulch around garden beds, and to do some general ground clean ups. If you are able to come, even for a short time, we would love your help! We would encourage you to bring along some gardening gear and get stuck in!

Visual Arts



In the past few weeks, the students at Wangala P.S. have used the inspiration of our custodian people and their art, to foster their exploration of colours, symbols, story and techniques. Using mixed medium, they have created landscapes, habitats and art stories about 'Bunjil' the Eagle and other dream time characters. The students had the choice of using brushes, sponges, cotton buds or our fingers.

Painting boomerangs at Narana Aboriginal Culture Centre was the perfect opportunity to apply the skills they had been developing.

We are now exploring the winter theme with line, shapes and monotones.
ART SMOCKS Don't forget that your child can bring their own art smock or shirt to school, for our Thursday sessions.

Performing Arts

After applying for an education grant last year, Wangala P.S. was successful in becoming part of the DUET Music Program. Miss Margetts & Ms Whytcross will be working with Erin McIntosh, one of the Song Room's talented team, to further develop expertise. This entitles our school to also be able to purchase $4000 of wonderful new music equipment!

This term, our current keyboard station, electric drum kit and circus activities have already been a big hit! Our students have been actively learning classic dances such as the 'Nutbush/ Macarena/Chicken Dance/ 5-6-7-8 & the Hand Jive' with Juniors also learning 'The Wombat Wobble.'

Next term, all students will have the opportunity to perform in the 2022 Geelong Music & Movement Festival at the Geelong Arts Centre. We are booked in to perform in the afternoon at 1pm Thursday August 17th. Tickets will be available for families, so please put this on your calendar.

Our students will be creating their theme, performance and costume ideas at the beginning of Term 3.
Stay tuned for more information.

STEAM

The past few weeks in STEAM we have been learning about PLANTS. We have learnt that there are many different types of plants and that they play an important part in our lives for many different reasons. We have enjoyed learning about the different parts of plants and have had fun doing lots of hands-on learning, observing different types of plants using our new microscopes.

We have also used Celery to conduct experiments to find out how plants absorb water and grow but our favourite experiment was the Magic Blooms Flower Experiment where we learnt about capillary action.

We've also been busy this week making Grass Heads and can't wait to watch them grow over the coming weeks.

Winter Lightening Premiership

I could not be prouder of all the students who represented our school in Netball and Soccer in the Lightning Premiership Sports a few weeks back. Special mention to our grade four students who stepped up to the challenge and helped fill our teams.

Although the netballers didn't get a win on the board they continued to grow in confidence each game and showed excellent sportsmanship and resilience doing Wangala Proud. We quickly made our way over to watch the Soccer team as they continued on their winning streak into the finals. They were outstanding on the day winning 3 games and the grand final! A HUGE highlight for many of the students and a testament to their passion for the game and hard work that they have put in. Well done superstars! Mrs Hueston

Hands On Learning (HOL)

With the cold and wet weather, we've been experiencing recently, the HoL construction team have had to come up with some creative indoor projects. We have been busy in the art room, decorating some pebbles that will be gifted to our little friends at Belmont Community Kindergarten. We will also enjoy a community walk when the weather improves and place some rock art along the Waurn Ponds creek for our community to engage in a bit of 'hide and seek'. These will have our logo on them. If you find some on your journeys, we would love for you to send us some pictures!

The cafe crew have continued to cook up a storm, utilising the fresh produce from our garden beds. Last week's menu was roasted hot potatoes with toppings, including fresh coleslaw made with the green and purple cabbages from our garden.

School Photos

On Thursday May 26th we had our school photos! It was fantastic to see everyone with their fancy hair styles and big cheesy smiles! We cannot wait to see what they look like, but until then enjoy this behind the scenes of the Junior Class.

Narana Aboriginal Culture Centre Excursion

On Friday May 20th, our whole school had an excursion to Narana Aboriginal Culture Centre. Our students got to feed native animals, paint boomerangs, throw boomerangs and learn a little more about Australian Aboriginal culture. A wonderful day was had by all. Thanks to Narana for having us!

Grade 4 – 6 Excursion to BioLAB – MADE EXTRA SPECIAL

On Monday the 20th of June the grade 4-6 students have an excursion to BioCATS. BioCATS is run from the Deakin Cats Community Centre at GMHBA Stadium as a full day program. Students and teachers will be participating in dynamic scientific experiments, using problem solving, statistical analysis and observation skills to learn about the science and mathematics of football and career pathways in sport.

The program also reinforces the concepts of health and wellness and the benefits that come from sports participation. This is an amazing opportunity for the students to finish off the term with a day full of fun, integrating all areas of the curriculum.

We have just received some very exciting news that our excursion is going to be possibly a little extra special. At this stage there will also be a staged media event with Patrick Dangerfield (BioCATS Ambassador) and Bisinella (BioCATS supporters). The media release form has him named as being there, but as with all AFL players, their commitments can change without notice. Hopefully, nothing changes and the students get the opportunity to meet with this superstar of the game.

Students will be coming home today with a media release form - it is vital that this is signed and returned to school ASAP so that we can pass on this information to BioCATS. This is such a wonderful opportunity for the students and I'm sure that it will be a highlight for many. Please note, that if you don't wish to sign the media release, your child can still participate in the BioCATS excursion, and they will be removed from any media taken on the day.

Thank you to those that have already returned the permission forms and paid. This is such a wonderful opportunity for the students, hopefully all grade 4-6 students are able to attend ;-)

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks Andrea Hueston.

BioCATS
A partnership program by BioLAB

Our Gymnasium is READY!

We are so excited to report that we now have the keys to our gymnasium, and as of next Thursday, our PE class will have the pleasure of using it! We cannot wait to share the space with you all, but here's a sneak peek of the beautiful flooring in the gym itself.