Congratulations to

Thank you to

Special Thanks to

Bus Travel

Walking School Bus

—

Friday 20th May

Every school year brings with it new opportunities and new challenges for all students. Whether they are commencing their time with us in prep or leaving us at the end of grade 6, there will be much to master in the coming terms.

So that parents are best placed to assist their children with the new academic year, each classroom teacher will be conducting an information session and distributing a class newsletter on 13th February. This is an essential meeting for every parent. The information provided will give parents a thorough outline of the curriculum, expectations for the year and knowledge of a range of policies and procedures that are relevant and important to you and your child.

TIMETABLE

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18 Prep rest day

School Council Meeting

Prep rest day

SCHOOL COUNCIL WELCOME BBQ

WHEN—FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

TIME—5.30 PM ONWARDS

WHERE—OUT IN THE SCHOOL GROUND

SAUSAGE, BREAD & SAUCE PROVIDED

BYO- CHAIRS, RUGS, SNACKS, DRINKS, BIKES, SKATEBOARD, ETC

ALL WELCOME

Information Sessions

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<td>6.00-6.20pm</td>
<td>Prep 1</td>
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<td>6.25-6.45pm</td>
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<td>6.50-7.10pm</td>
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See you at school on Friday evening. BYO chairs. Food available from 5.45pm onwards. Children will be supervised outside when parents attend the meeting.
News from Ann

Throughout the year there will be times when you need to contact your child’s teacher(s) or the Principal. We encourage frank and open discussions at all times and would suggest that any matter, major or minor, is best dealt with sooner rather than later.

In the first weeks of the term there will be plenty of information shared between teachers about individual students, however if there is something you are concerned about regarding your child we would encourage you to make an appointment with your child’s teacher.

Throughout the year we would always encourage parents to make appointments to meet with staff when required. While it may be convenient to catch a teacher before or after the school day this is certainly not the most appropriate time to have an in-depth discussion about your child. So please, do keep in touch with us and remember no matter is too minor, but it will help everyone if we can manage this by appointment.

Education Essential Item

Education Essential Item contribution is due next week—13th February. These fees pay for your child’s classroom materials over the whole year. (Pens, pencils, textas, books, some texts, papers, glues, art supplies, computer needs.)

Please ensure you come in to pay or use the BPay facility. Generally speaking Willow Grove families have been very good at paying their children’s fees, but we need all families to pay.

If you are having financial difficulty please see me or Cathy. Some parents choose to pay in monthly instalments because it suits their financial circumstances. We can accommodate and be very supportive to families but please discuss it with us. Families who have a Healthcare Card valid on the first day of school receive a $70 discount off their fees on presentation of their card.

Assembly

Once again our assemblies will be run by the students. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to develop their leadership skills, become more confident in public speaking and take greater responsibility for programs and initiatives in the school.

We will however change the format. During summer assemblies will be held outside. As the weather becomes colder and less inviting, assemblies will move into the Latrobe building. We are very fortunate to have this large open space to accommodate students and families.

We encourage you to come in and join the assembly. There is plenty of space for us all and the children love to have you there to see them celebrate their achievements.

Can you help?

Birthday

Ella Robinson

Happy

Rory Wilms

A N D  C O M M U N I T Y  N E W S L E T T E R
Parents play a major role in assisting and supporting their child to acquire strong literacy skills. Literacy learning started when your child was born. Parents play a vital role as their children’s first literacy teachers. Consider all the things that children learn before school as they mix with others, observe what others do and try to do the same things. Much of this learning happens naturally and within a social context. Oral language is the foundation of learning to read to write. Encourage your children to talk about and express their feelings and ideas. Provide experiences that expand their concepts and vocabulary. Children do not always need loads of money spent on them. Varied family outings, games inside and out, just pottering around with you as do jobs will expand their notion of the world. They will bring their knowledge and understanding of the world to their reading and writing.

Literacy learning is a social experience because it depends on demonstrations from, collaboration with, and continuous feedback and response from, other people, it happens, at home and at school, when children are surrounded by people who listen, talk, think, read and write. Children need to see the purposes for reading and writing. Here are some ideas for you to support your child develop literacy skills over the year levels.

- Share experiences (a picnic, camping, gardening, cooking, farming) which are then talked about at home
- Share books (especially stories) and talk about them with more experienced readers
- Have plenty of books to handle and read
- See print all around them
- Have models of how people read and write
- Have opportunities to read and write
- Know that people expect them to read and write
- Are given choices about what they read and write
- Feel free to ‘have a go’ at reading and writing (including spelling)
- Are able to talk about their reading and writing
- Experience feelings of success
- Feel responsible for their own reading and writing
- Have confidence in their own ability
- Understand what reading, writing and learning can do for them

We need to work together, parents and teachers, to develop a partnership which will support our literacy learners and to ensure a lifelong learning. As adults we know that literacy provides the keys to life.

Can you help?

News from Ann
This term we are working on **COURTESY**

Over the week the classroom teachers have been focusing on **Smiling and having fun**.

As we welcome everyone back for the new year we could hardly do better than focus on smiling and having fun as an introduction to the new year.

Smiling is such a wonderful friendly thing to do. It’s fun and contagious and you can’t say that about too many things! It is a great way to break the ice with new friends and classmates, parents and staff.

So plenty of smiles all around!

And why can’t school be fun? Sure there is plenty of hard work to complete and more than the odd challenge along the way but there is so much fun to be had.

Where else do you get to see and enjoy so many friends every day? So make the most of your time while you are at school – have as much fun as you can!

As parents you can reinforce the importance of smiling and the message that it sends to those around us. Smiling means that we are happy, feel good about ourselves and friendly to towards others. It is also important that children learn to say ‘Hello’ when they are greeted or meet up with people. These little displays of courtesy need to be taught and reinforced early in children’s lives.

**After School Care**

It is fantastic to see the After School Care program being used. Some days we have 7 and 8 children attending. If you need to enrol your child in this service, please see Ann. Remember it can be used occasionally. You do not need to have a permanent booking. For the cost of $12 children are supervised on school grounds, given opportunities for play and provided with afternoon tea. Great value for 2 1/2 hours care.

**Absences**

Just a reminder: if your child is absent from school it is essential that you inform the school, typically with a brief explanatory note, via the class teacher or the office. Absence notes can be located on the school website. Parents can either send a note with their child when they return to school or email through a note to the school email address—willow.grove.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au. Our school rolls are legal documents which can be requested by authorities for examination. It is important that all information is recorded accurately, including the documentation of student absences.

**Late Book**

This book is located at the office on the window ledge. Please document when your child is late and the reason for this lateness.
Sign Out Book

This book is also located at the office on the window ledge. Please document when and why your child is being taken out of the school. Please also ensure you mention this to a classroom teacher, Cathy or myself if you are taking a child during school time.

Visitors’ Book

This book is also located at the Office on the window ledge. When anyone (parent, volunteer, tradesman) comes into the school for an extended time to complete a task or help out they are required to sign in and out and take a VISITOR’S BADGE. You might come in for lunch order duty, to help out in a classroom or to attend a meeting so please record your name in the book.

Sunsmart

Willow Grove PS is a sunsmart school and as such we require all children to wear broad-brimmed hats when they are outside in terms one and four. Children who come to school without hats are not allowed to play in the open and will be asked to move to the undercover breezeway.

I was recently given a huge bag of hat toggles (thanks Thea). If your child has lost their cord and toggle, please see us at the office and we can give you a replacement toggle. The hats need to have the cord and toggle to stay on.

Lost

Late last year, Logan lost his hoodie. It is brand new and has his name on the front. Please check your children’s hoodies and return if it has accidentally made it to your house.

Fantastic to See

- Most children with a piece of fruit or vegetable for Fruit and Serial time
- Lots of children with Nude Food. There are some fantastic lunchboxes around that reduce packaging and promote healthy foods.
Last week the Prep/ Ones began their alphabet cooking. Our focus letter was ‘s’ and s is for smiley face biscuit. We wore our aprons and made sure we kept the germs away by washing our hands before we started. Thank you to Kate and Brooke for helping us.

Tomorrow will be ‘M for Milkshake’ and next Friday is ‘F for fruit salad’.
HILL END & GROVE ROVERS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB 2015

TRAINING STARTS

Wednesday 25th of February at 5.00pm to 6.00pm (U14 5-6.30PM)

Second Night Training: Friday Night’s 5.00 to 6.00pm T.B.C

Registrations and Payments all on line COMPULSORY

WILLOW GROVE TENNIS CLUB
2014/2015

DATES for rest of season.

Juniors - 5 rounds to go starting January 31st.
- 14th March – semi-finals (knockout format)
- 21st March – Grand Final at Traralgon

Seniors - 5 rounds to go starting January 31st.
- 14th March – semi-finals
- 21st March – preliminary final
- 28th March – Grand Final

NO TENNIS MARCH 7TH – long week end

Good hitting everyone!!!

Lions Club of Willow Grove & District Inc.

Are holding an open meeting

WHEN: Monday 23rd February 2015. 7pm for a 7.30 start

WHERE: Football Club Social Rooms, Blue Rock Road, Willow Grove

WHY: A guest from the Beyondblue organisation will be the guest speaker.

All members of the community are invited to attend.

A light supper will be available after the meeting