## Willow Grove School and Community Newsletter

**V O L  1 7 :  I S S U E  0 2**  
**1 5 T H  F E B R U A R Y  2 0 1 7**

**SUPERVISED HOURS: 8.45AM—3.30PM**  
**February 2017**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
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<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Rest Day</td>
<td>Prep Rest Day</td>
<td>Welcome BBQ &amp; Information Evening</td>
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### Reminders

- **Friday Feb 17th** – Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Night
- **Each Wednesday during February is a Prep Rest Day.** Grade 1’s attend school as normal. The first full week for Prep students starts Monday 27th of February.
- **Thursday 23rd Feb** – Grade 5/6 Student Leadership Cluster Day @ Rawson PS. Please return permission notes and payment to the office.
- **Book Club** orders are due back at school this Friday 17th February.

### Notices Sent Home

- **Grade 5/6 Student Leadership Cluster Day** Permission Form—Due 21st February.
- **Publicity Form** – this is very important as it tells us what information we can publish about your child—Due 17th February.
- Acceptable Use **Agreement for Internet and Digital Technologies** – we need this form so that our students can use and access the internet and our ICT equipment at school—Due 17th February.
- **Bus Traveller’s Behaviour Agreement**—Due ASAP.

Don’t forget to search for and like our Official Facebook Page to stay up to date with what is happening at school. This is just another form of communication we use with our families.
Since the start of this year, I have been extremely impressed with our students’ attitudes and contributions towards the implementation of our school values at Willow Grove Primary School. At assembly, when I visit classrooms and out in the playground I constantly see our students showing Respect, being Resilient, demonstrating Teamwork and contributing positively to our Community.

As a staff, we have set a strong ambitious target for all students to be able to articulate our values, when asked “What are our school rules?” or “What are our school’s expectations?” But we know that the most important aspect is ensuring that all students understand these values and how they can demonstrate behaviours that bring them to life.

At the start of this year, each class has begun this process by engaging in focussed lessons that cover our values of Respect, Resilience, Teamwork and Community and will continue this learning on a regular basis into the future. The students have also begun creating a school wide matrix which details the specific behaviours we expect from our students in different settings, such as the classroom, toilets, playground or when playing games at playtimes. Our newsletter will continue to provide updates on our progress as we work together to achieve this goal.

School Council Elections

School Council is responsible for determining the policy framework for our school and provides an excellent opportunity for parents to participate in planning for the future of our young people. There are eight elected parents on our Council each member holding the position for a two-year term.

This year, two-year terms expire for Andrew Balfour, Heather Ferguson, Simon Robinson and Mark Wilms. On behalf of the school community, I wish to thank these parents for their service and contribution to our school throughout their last term. The commitment and support these parents have shown for all our students is very much appreciated.

Our school is now seeking the nominations of 4 parent representatives to fill vacated positions.

We have had very committed people on school council who have worked hard to improve our school for all children attending. You do not need to have experience in schools or with the Department of Education and Training to be on school council. All you need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

Later in this newsletter, I have included details of the elections for Parent and Department of Education employee members of the School Council. Please note that nominations close Monday 27th February 2017 at 4pm. Nomination forms available at the office or via email willow.grove.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au. Please call me on 5635 2271 if you are interested as I would be pleased to discuss your possible participation on the Council in more detail.

Take care and all the best for the rest of the week.

Brendan Dawson
Congratulations
Happy
Birthday
Rory Wilms
Ella Robinson

School Working Bee
—
Saturday

NAPLAN

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 lots 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

Our annual ‘Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Session’ is coming up this Friday, the 17th of February. This is a great opportunity for all of our school community to get together and have a great time in a relaxed social setting, as well as hear some important information about your child’s classroom program. All you need to do is bring along a picnic blanket, drinks, chairs, bikes, scooters and skateboards. The BBQ will be prepared for you!

The timetable for the evening is below:

6.00 – 6.20pm Whole School – Behaviour Management and Values
6.25 – 6.45pm Grade Prep / 1
6.50 – 7.10pm Grade 1/2
7.15 – 7.35pm Grade 3/4
7.40 – 8.00pm Grade 5/6

These information sessions will be presented in your child’s classroom. The sessions are short and will enable teachers to tell you about their classrooms, routines, programs and expectations. It is also a great time to ask questions! The whole school information session is open to all families with a focus on our Behaviour Management Program and Student Expectations.

While you attend the information sessions your children will be supervised out in the yard by staff and the BBQ will be fired up ready for children and adults to eat. In the past children have brought their bikes, scooters and skateboards. Please note that helmets will need to be worn. The BBQ is a relaxed evening for all of our community.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
WELCOME BBQ
WHEN—FRIDAY 17th FEBRUARY
TIME—6.00 PM ONWARDS
WHERE—OUT IN THE SCHOOL GROUND
SAUSAGE, BREAD & SAUCE PROVIDED
BYO- CHAIRS, RUGS, SNACKS, DRINKS, BIKES, SKATEBOARD, ETC
ALL WELCOME
Details regarding the start date, days and operation of Breakfast Club will be sent home later this week to those families who expressed an interest in attending.

- Thank-you to Glen Byrne who completed several odd jobs for our staff and students last week. We now have doors that easily open and shut!
- Ms Jane Mersey, Principal of Trafalgar High School got in touch last week to inform me and the school community that our former Grade 6 students had all made a positive start in their first year of high school. We are all proud of our past students and enjoy hearing the success that they have. Well done!

Car Park and Bus Safety

It is very important that we utilise our drop off and pick up zone out the front of the school in a safe manner. Please make sure that under no circumstances students walk in front of the bus to go to their car. Students, even if accompanied by an adult, need to walk around the back of the bus to go to their car.

It is also important that we ensure that the parking signs at the front of the school are followed. Please do not park in the loading zone as it makes it impossible for our bus to swing into the car park. Parallel parking zones are shown on the map below.

Car Park safety is everyone’s responsibility, please take care!
Our fabulous Parent Association will again be offering lunch orders on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week. It is important that orders are clearly labelled in an envelope, with correct money enclosed, and placed in the lunch order tub in each building at the start of the day. This helps to reduce interruptions to our learning programs. Our lunch order menu is below. If you are interested in helping with the lunch order roster, please return the lunch order helper form sent home last week.

### Lunch Order Price List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sausage Rolls</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party Pies</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party Pasties</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dim Sims</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icy Poles</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cakes</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoghurt Tubs</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primas</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk—choc, strawberry</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato Sauce</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy Sauce</td>
<td>0.10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please write your child’s name on a brown paper bag and safely secure the correct money inside the bag (place the money inside foil or glad wrap—as the food is delivered to the classroom in the paper bag).

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**Look-Alike?**

Can you pick the two look-alikes shown here?

The answer is printed at the end of the newsletter!
CONGRATULATIONS HAPPY BIRTHDAY RORY WILMS

Ella Robinson

NEWS FROM ANN

School Working Bee — Saturday

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NEWS FROM ANN

Student

Phew! What a mixture of weather we have had.

Thursday the children could not go out because of the heat and Monday because of the rain. It is good for us all to remember that our life is full of seasons and no matter what anyone is going through, it is only for a season, then the rainbow appears.

My Chaplain’s Choice Student of the Week goes to all the Prep students for settling in so beautifully. Well done!

See you next week.

Chaplain Deb.

FOR A HEALTHY LUNCHBOX

SOMETHING FROM EACH GROUP

1. FRUIT
2. VEGETABLES
3. GRAIN AND CEREAL FOOD
4. MEAT OR MEAT ALTERNATIVE
5. MILK, YOGHURT AND CHEESE
6. WATER

Developed in conjunction with the Healthy Together Achievement Program to support a whole-school approach to healthy eating. Healthy Together is a program of the Victorian Government.
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:
• A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
• A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
• An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider
• standing for election as a member of the school council • encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
Information for Parents Continued

Nominations for School Council
The Principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

Nomination forms are available through the school office. You can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent Category. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the office by the date below.

Nominations close with the Principal – 4.00pm on Monday 27th February 2017.

Voting Procedures
If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

If voting is necessary, Ballot Papers will display all names of both parents and teachers who have been nominated for vacancies. If the number of nominations is equal to the number of vacancies there will be no vote for that category.

Vacancies

We have 4 Parent Member Vacancies to fill in 2017.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION TIMELINE

Wednesday, February 15th – Call for nominations.

Monday, 27th February - Nominations close 4.00pm with the Principal.

*Week beginning Monday, 27th February - Issue ballot papers/envelopes to school community/staff, if required.*

Friday 3rd March - Close of Ballot at 4.00pm.

Friday 3rd March – Counting of Votes after 4.00pm

Monday, 6th March- Declare result of ballot.

Tuesday, 21st March - School Council Meeting for 2017 School Council - 7.30pm
Playground Award
Emily & Mikayla O

Student of the Week
Charli G

Specialist Award
Heidi D
for P.E.

ART

P.E.

LOTE

LOOK-ALIKE ANSWER:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Hannah & Noah

At Willow Grove Primary School we value:
RESPECT
Resilience
TEAM WORK
COMMUNITY