Congratulations to

Thank you to

Special Thanks to

Bus Travel
Walking School Bus
—
Friday 20th May

 9th February—Brendan at West Gipps Principal’s Meeting
 10th February—Curriculum Day—No Students at School
 17th February—Welcome BBQ & Information Evening
 21st February—Building & Grounds Mtg—7:30pm—New Members Welcome
 21st February—School Council Mtg—7:30pm New Members Welcome
 23rd February—Grade 5/6 Leadership Day—Details TBC
 9th March—Whole School Athletics Carnival
 13th March—Labour Day Public Holiday
 16th March—Gr3-6 Athletics
 17th March—Curriculum Day—No students at School
 24th March—Whole School Musical Incursion
 31st March—Last Day Term 1

9th—11th May—NAPLAN Week
Gr 3 & 5 students only

23rd—26th May—Gr 5/6 Phillip Island Camp

22nd—24th November—Gr 3/4 Camp Rumbug

Whole School Swimming Program—DATES TBC

by Dianne Siemon from RMIT University on Understanding and Developing Number Strategies with our students.

Friday Feb 17th—Welcome BBQ and Information Evening—an annual, causal event not to be missed. Save the date. More details to follow.

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.

Thank-you to Barry, Carol, Max and Spud’s Lawn Care for their work over the summer holidays in maintaining our school grounds. Apologies if I have missed anyone.

Thank-you to the families who brought along morning tea to share on the first day of school for our Welcome Morning Tea.

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.

Find us at—
www.willowgroveps.vic.edu.au
Notices Sent Home

Families should have received two addressed letters over the holiday period. The first letter you would have received was in regards to our student interview days and the second contained some back to school information designed to help you and your child/ren transition into the new school year.

Our bus travellers will have also received updated information for the year ahead. **Bus travellers, can you please return your behaviour agreement to Mr Dawson.**

Scholastic Book Club order forms were sent home this week—Please return any orders to school by 17th February.

Families should also have received this week:

- Publicly Published & Displayed Material Permission Form—Due 17th February
- Breakfast Club Expression of Interest Form—Due 13th February

Principal’s Report

Welcome back to all of our students and parents, especially those that have started at Willow Grove for the first time. I trust that this is the beginning of a strong and long lasting partnership throughout the course of your child’s primary education.

The newsletter, now distributed electronically on a Wednesday, contains information for our parents and carers. There are also hard copies available at the office or at the Willow Grove General Store and it is also uploaded onto our website. Our official Facebook page and school wide SMS service are also two other avenues that will help you stay connected with what is happening at Willow Grove Primary School.

I also want to take this opportunity to let our community know that we encourage frank and open discussions with our parents. Please come and speak to your child’s classroom teacher if you have a question or issue. We are approachable and believe that by working together we can ensure the best outcomes for your child. I am also available, feel free to call, email, pop into the office or catch me outside each evening. I would love to hear from you.

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

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**OUR VISION**

At Willow Grove Primary School, we are a community of happy, healthy and resilient learners. We embrace challenges in all that we do and have high expectations of ourselves and others.

**At Willow Grove Primary School we value:**

- **Respect**
- **Resilience**
- **Teamwork**
- **Community**
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?
Does anyone have any second hand **Size 8-10 school dresses** they wish to sell?

Please let the office know if you do.

**Size 8 school hoodie**—’Boothman’ on tag.

Missing since last week of school.

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**Chaplain’s Update**

Welcome to another year at Willow Grove and especially to those parents and students who are new to the school. I know I have met some of you and look forward to meeting all of you.

This year I will be running programs and lunchtime groups, as well as the one-on-one conversations that all the school community have access to. Do not hesitate to contact me at school or catch me when I am in Monday and Thursdays.

I wanted to share some feedback from one of the programs I ran last year, which was directed at Upper Primary Girls. I was so encouraged by their heart for wanting to better themselves and their world.

- My hope for the world is more people help the homeless and there is no more starvation.
- What I learnt about myself was that it doesn’t matter what you look like, you don’t need to impress anyone. (This was after a discussion how media and society puts pressure on girls to be skinny and own certain possessions and brands. This does not make you a better person).
- My communication has improved by knowing I should look the person I am speaking to in the eyes. I have also gained confidence.
- I enjoyed all the activities. It was fun.
- I have changed because I now care more for the world around me.
- What I learnt about myself is that I can be anything I want to be and if I can dream it, I can do it.

This year I will also be running various programs with the Upper Primary Boys.

Watch this space!

Chaplain Deb.
We Have Mulch!

Our playground received a welcomed makeover last week with the rejuvenation and addition of some playground mulch. This will ensure our playground continues to be a safe environment for our students. Thanks also to Benny who chipped in and lent a hand.

Grade 6 2017

Our Grade 6 students for 2017 are shown below wearing their commemorative Polo Shirts.
Sports News

Is your child a confident and capable swimmer and would like to compete?
There is an opportunity for any students who are confident and capable swimmers to par-
ticipate in the upcoming Division Swimming trials at the Traralgon Outdoor Pool. In order
to participate, students need to be able to confidently swim in their chosen event. Please
discuss this opportunity with your child to see if they are interested. As we are a small
school, we do not have a swimming carnival within our Tanjil Valley district like we do for
athletics. Please come and speak to Mr Dawson ASAP if you are interested in this oppor-
tunity.

Student Insurances

Student accident insurance, ambulance cover arrangements and private property
brought to school

The Education Department does not carry insurance for accidental injury to or damage to
property of student or members of the public.

Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/
ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured stu-
dents, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other
transport costs. E.g. if your child fell from the play equipment and breaks an arm, parents
cover all medical costs incurred.

Private property brought to school by students or visitors is also not insured. This in-
cludes technology, bikes, toys, sports equipment etc. and the Department does not ac-
cept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

Willow Grove Primary School’s Breakfast Club

We are again fortunate to be able to offer Breakfast Club to our families thanks to Foodbank Vic-
toria and the Victorian Government.

Breakfast Club begins at 8.30am and finished at 8.55am. We are able to offer Breakfast Club
three days a week and we will decide which days are best based on the interest we receive from
our families.

An EOI form went home this week with the eldest child. A re-cap of the form has been included
below.

• Yes, I am interested in my child / children attending Breakfast Club in 2017.

Names of student/s interested in attending Breakfast Club:
1. _________________________
2. _________________________
3. _________________________
4. _________________________

Please tick the days of the week that would best suit for your child / children to attend. You can
tick all days.

◊ Monday
◊ Tuesday
◊ Wednesday
◊ Thursday
◊ Friday

Thank-you for filling out this form. Please return this to school by Monday 13th of February so
we can start Breakfast Club as soon as possible.
School Council – later this month, we elect new parent members to our School Council and so we are seeking volunteers for four parent positions. It is a great group to belong to and very rewarding, especially if you want to understand how our school works, have input into decision making and represent parent views and ideas. Stay tuned for more information, or call the office.

Assembly – held each Monday morning. During summer and when the weather is nice our assemblies will be run outside. Please come and join our assemblies and celebrate the achievements of our students.

Parent Payment Charges – information on Parent Payment charges were sent home in a letter over the holiday period. These charges are for Essential Education items, Optional Extras and Voluntary Financial contributions. Please note if paying Essential Education items in two instalments the amount is $90 x 2, not $85 x 2 as previously printed.

Optional Extra pricings indicated were based on previous years and may be subject to change. You may choose to pay for these items during the year as they occur, rather than up front to avoid over/under payments.

Payment can be made by cash or cheque at the office or by BPAY/EFT. Cindy is in the office each Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. If you are having difficulty, please come and organise a payment plan. Some families choose to pay in monthly instalments as it suits their circumstances.

Some families may also be eligible to access the Victorian Government’s Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund. The CSEF provides payment of $125 to the school for use towards camps and excursions. To be eligible you will need a current Health Care card. Application forms are available at the office.

Office Reminders

Absences: Our school policy is that it is not okay to be away nor to be late! We encourage punctual on time attendance at all times. If however, your child is absent from school due to injury or illness, then it is important that you let the school know and provide a written note explaining their absence. Our school roles are legal documents and information needs to be recorded accurately.

Late Book: the late book is located at the office on the window ledge. Students arriving late are required to come to the office and document when they are late and the reason for their lateness.

Sign Out Book: the sign out book is also located at the office on the window ledge. Please document when and why your child is being taken out of school. Please also ensure you mention this to either your child’s classroom teacher, myself or Cindy.

Visitors’ Book: The visitors’ book is located at the office on the window ledge as well. When anyone, a parent, volunteer or tradesman comes into the school for an extended time to complete a task or help out, they are required to sign in and take a visitor’s badge. For example: if you are completing lunch orders, reading in the classroom or having a meeting with a staff member, you will need to sign the visitors’ book.
Important Information Continued

Sun Smart Policy
Willow Grove is a sun smart school. When you are outside from September to April, you will need to be wearing an approved school hat. Children who do not have an appropriate school approved hat, will be asked to sit and play in the undercover area near the Latrobe Building. Sunscreen is also available to students.

After School Care
After School Care is available Monday to Friday from 3.15pm – 5.30pm. It is great to see the program being used. If you need to enrol your child in the service, please let Brendan, Michelle or Cindy know. Remember that it can be used occasionally and you do not need to have a permanent booking.

School Banking
We offer Student banking via the Commonwealth Bank School Banking Program. School Banking will occur on a Friday this year. If you would like your child to participate in School Banking, please ask Cindy for a parent information pack available at the school office.

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. Car Park safety is everyone’s responsibility, please take care.

Nude Food Program
Willow Grove Primary continues to promote and participate in the Nude Food program. The Nude Food Program, aims to reduce waste and helps keep the school litter and rubbish free by promoting food that is not wrapped in disposable packaging. Children will be asked to unwrap their playlunch in the classroom before they go outside to play. If they have play lunch such as loose chips in a wrapper, they will be asked to eat inside before they go outside. For example, a packet of chips cannot be emptied into a hand or put into a pocket. Children will need to consume these types of snacks on the steps to the Latrobe Building before they head off for recess.
We also encourage parents to think healthy when packing lunches so that children have a wide selection of nutritious foods.
1. Children are allowed to eat play lunches outside when it is not wrapped in packaging such as glad wrap etc. Food that can be stripped ‘Nude’ or food in plastic containers can be taken outside.
2. Fruit can be taken outside.
3. Children with wrapped food will need to eat their snacks on the steps to the Latrobe Building, making sure all rubbish is placed in the bin.
4. Children eat lunches inside, from 1.30-1.40pm every day. Children are always given time to eat lunch. Students who have not finished within a reasonable time frame will be asked to finish their lunch outside on the steps to the Latrobe Building.

Lunch Orders – lunch orders are available each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Lunch orders are organised by PA and rely on parent volunteers. Lunch orders will start on Monday 13th February and we are still needing more volunteers to run this service. If we can not get more help, we may need to look at reducing the number of days we have lunch orders. Please speak to Ella Gillies or speak to any staff member if you are able to help with lunch orders.
Important lunch order news from Parent Association

Lunch orders will start back on Monday February 13.

Lunch orders will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for term 1.

We need more helpers!
We said goodbye to several regular lunch order helpers at the end of 2016 as they increased work hours or their children moved on to high school.

With enough volunteers to help with lunch orders, everyone need only be rostered on once a month.

That’s only a one hour per month commitment!
Adult family members other than parents are also welcome (we currently have some grandparents on our lunch order roster) and you do not need to be a Parent Association member.

Full training is provided - no experience necessary!

Please fill in the form below, and return it to the office by February 17.
Lunch order days will then be decided based on how many helpers we have.
Please contact Ella on 0407 056 520 with any questions.

_____________________________

Name: ______________________________________________________

Mobile phone number: _________________________________________

Please indicate which day/s you can help with lunch orders (12:30pm-1:30pm):

☐ Monday  ☐ Thursday
☐ Tuesday  ☐ Friday
☐ Wednesday
Playground Award
Claire S.

Student of the Week
Alex V.

SPECIALIST AWARD
Emerson for LOTE

ART
LOTE

P.E.

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At Willow Grove Primary School we value:

RESPECT
Resilience
TEAM WORK
COMMUNITY
G&S TENNIS ACADEMY
Glen: 0408762679
Sally: 0403282630

“HOTSHOTS Tennis Program”
A program teaching children aged 4 – 11 the basics of the game.
FREE Come-and-try day on Sunday Feb 5th. Call for times.

“Let’s Play Tennis”
A program for children aged 12 and above. Groups available for those who have never played before and for those that want to improve on their current skills.
FREE Come-and-try day on Sunday Feb 5th. Call for times.

“Cardio Tennis”
A program for people aged 15 and over that want to improve their fitness in a fun, social, group tennis program for people of all ages. Tennis ability is not a factor.

“Mums and Dads Tennis Programs”
A program for adults that want to learn how to play tennis or for those that want to brush up of the cobwebs and get back into it.
FREE trial lesson available for all programs.
Tennis racquets are available if you do not have one.

KidsMatter
Starting school is not only a change for your child. Amid the excitement and preparation it can be important to take a moment to think about how this change affects you and your family.
As you help your child to prepare for the changes ahead, it is important to monitor your own feelings. Having your child start school may lead to a new routine for you and your family. There may also be a period of adjustment as you begin to connect with the new school community and feel the loss of familiar relationships formed at your child's early childhood education and care (ECEC) service. Thinking a little about how things are going to change for everyone can help you to make sure the whole family is ready for starting school. Check out the KidsMatter website will provide you with information on mixed emotions, new family routines, supportive relationships and connecting with your child's school.
www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/starting-school/6-change-whole-family
Anyone can Play
WWW.GOLFTHROUGHSCSHOOLS.COM
REGISTER NOW

With a bunch of your school friends, come and smash the golf ball around 9 holes.

School Bank is the Victorian Primary Schools Golf Program. Get Involved in the School Banking Program.

School Banking is fun, interactive and educational for your Australian kids.

Get involved in the School Banking Program.