

## Principal's Report

Dear Families,

Welcome to Week 3 of Term 4.

I wanted to begin by expressing how impressed I have been with the enthusiasm still being shown by teachers and students at this point in the year.

In the past week I have been privileged to be invited into the P-2 class. The class have been learning to share their opinions in a debate style of "for" and "against" the concept of Zoos. The students showed high levels of maturity in their approach to delivering their opinions in front of the rest of the class, even using a microphone! Equally impressive was the respectful way the audience listened and encouraged the speakers. This was a fantastic example of debate being introduced with respect given to all opinions. I am looking forward to the next time I am invited to join the class!

Work has also begun on the "top secret" Grade 6 movie. This tradition is something that I have never been a part of before. It is incredible to work with these students who have innovative ideas and a grasp of technology that seems to come as second nature to them. I am sworn to secrecy, as are the class, but I will share that we are all excited to create this movie together!

### World Teachers Day:

Friday the 27th of October is World Teachers Day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful teachers and support staff we have at Willow Grove Primary School. Teaching is not the same profession as it was 10, 20 or 30 years ago. Times have changed and these incredible individuals have adapted and moved with the times year after year, for the love of learning and providing your children with the greatest opportunity to succeed in life. While all jobs are important and special, teaching is truly one of the most important for our children's future, and I believe that they deserve this day of recognition. Happy World Teachers Day!

Have a great fortnight,

Tamara Halket

<mailto:tamara.halket@education.vic.gov.au>

2023	OCTOBER
19	Lunch Order Day
25	MARC Van Lunch Order Forms Due—12pm
26	Lunch Order Day
27	Prep Transition Session No. 1—9am to 11:30am World Teacher's Day Halloween Disco—6pm to 8pm
2023	NOVEMBER
1	MARC Van Lunch Order Forms Due—12pm
2	Lunch Order Day
6	Student Free Day
7	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
8	Student Free Day
10	Prep Transition Session No. 2—9am to 12pm
22-24	Grade 3/4 Camp Rumbug
27-30	Whole School Swimming Program
2023	DECEMBER
1	Whole School Swimming Program

## Reminders & Notices

- Information and consent forms for the **Halloween Disco** taking place next Friday, 27th October have been issued via Compass. Consent and payment for this event is due by Tuesday, 24th October.
- Information and consent forms for **Grade 3/4 Camp Rumbug** have been issued via Compass. Consent and payment for this event is due by Tuesday, 7th November. If you wish to take up the available payment plan, please provide consent before Friday, 20th October to avoid missing the first instalment.
- Unexplained absence letters** will be sent home with students this week. If your child receives a letter please follow the instructions included later in this newsletter.
- Scholastic **Book Club** orders are due back at school by tomorrow, Thursday, 19th October.
- Our first **Prep 2024 Transition Session** will be taking place next Friday, 27th October. Further details are included later in this newsletter.



**COMPASS**  
School Manager

Login at:

<https://schools.jdlf.com.au/>

Find us at—

[www.willowgroveps.vic.edu.au](http://www.willowgroveps.vic.edu.au)

### TERM DATES 2023/2024

Term 4	2nd Oct to 20th Dec
Term 1	29th Jan (teachers start to 28th Mar)
Term 2	15th Apr to 28th Jun
Term 3	15th Jul to 20th Sep

# Willow Grove Primary School Student Acknowledgments

## GRADE P/1/2



Aleara R.

For focussing on her own learning.

## GRADE 3/4



Grace D.

For her consistent positive behaviour while Mrs. Secombe is away.

## GRADE 5/6



Lily B. & Ebony B.

For taking the bins out every week.

## SPECIALIST

### JAPANESE



Erica K.

For having confidence to go first to perform a morning greeting and weather chart.

RESPECT Resilience TEAM WORK COMMUNITY

## Grade 5/6 News

Recently we have been trialling a new approach to maths problem solving. This is based on research by Peter Liljedahl. It involves working in a randomly selected group of three to find the possible answers to a problem. All students must contribute whilst working on a vertical whiteboard. So far, the favourite problems have been a ski trip, tax collector and palindromes. Whilst we do problem solving every day, Friday is our major day. Feel free to pop in and see it in action.



## Anthony Wilson Memorial



Thank you to all of the parents and friends that attended our memorial to commemorate the 1 year anniversary of Mr Anthony Wilson's passing. I would especially like to extend thanks and gratitude to the Wilson family for joining us on Friday.

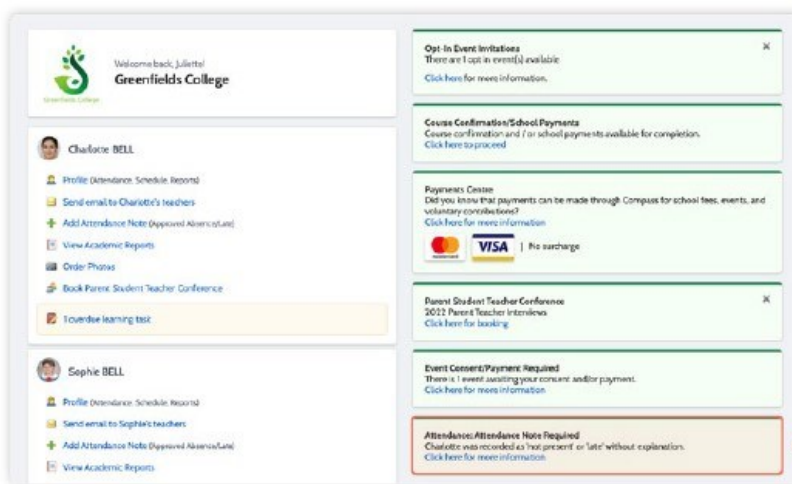
The new bench at the front of the school will now serve as a permanent reminder of the impact that Mr Wilson had at this school during his time here. The seat faces the school entry and can be used by anyone who would like to quietly sit and think in this space. I am sure that the Willow Grove Primary School community will treat this space with the respect that it deserves.

# Attendance

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

We understand there are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they are ill. We ask that you notify us of all absences to avoid attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer.

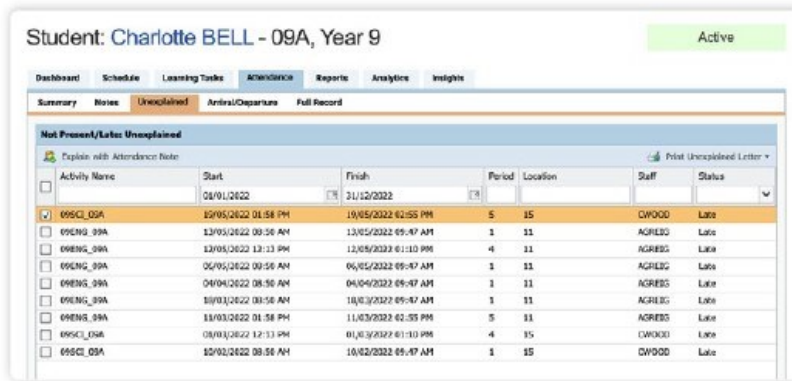
This week some students will receive a letter detailing any unexplained absences from school so far this year. If your child has received a letter, please complete the explanation for the absence, sign the letter and return it to the school office. Alternatively, you can update absences at any time in Compass by following the instructions below (using browser not Mobile App):



If your child has been marked Not Present without an explanation, you will be required to add an **Attendance Note**.

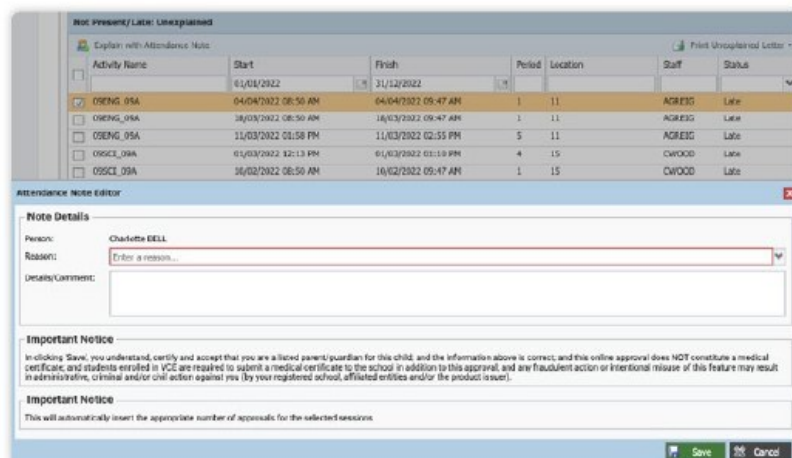
You will see an alert on your homescreen.

Click the alert and it will take you to your child's **'Unexplained'** attendance tab where you will see any sessions listed for which they were marked as Not Present or Late.



Select the session (or sessions) that you are adding a note for and then click **'Explain with Attendance Note'**.

This will cause the Attendance Note screen to pop open.



Select the applicable reason for the absence and add in the relevant details/comment.

Click **'Save'**. This will assign the attendance note to the sessions you selected and they will update to no longer show as unexplained absences.

## Melbourne Stars Visit

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of October, the Melbourne Stars came to visit and run a short clinic, supported by the Willow Grove Cricket Club. They also gave out some prizes.



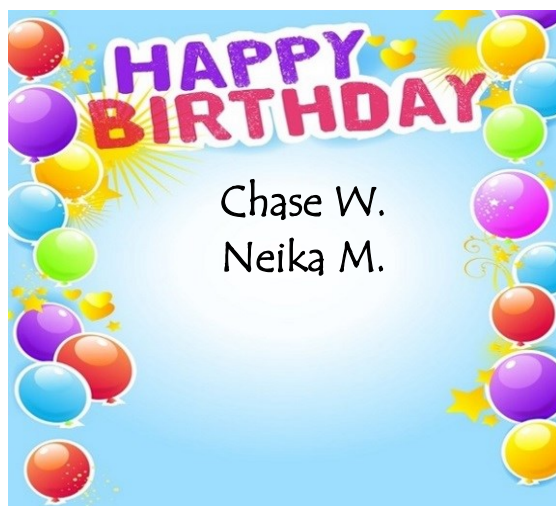


On Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, we have our Halloween Disco being held at the Hall. Please note that this event is only open to our students, staff and volunteers. All parents and siblings of our students will be asked to leave your Trick or Treaters at the door and return later to collect them. Full details of the disco are included in Compass. Parent consent and the entry fee payment of \$10 must be made via Compass by Tuesday, 24th October. On the night of the disco students will need to be signed in on arrival and out on departure.

As this is an optional event. Please complete the following steps in Compass:

1. Accept or Decline the event invitation
2. Complete the event consent & payment as normal (if you accepted the event)

Consent must be received prior to the night. Please contact the office if you require assistance. Parents will not be contacted by the school if consent is not provided. It will be assumed you do not want your child to attend.



*thank you*

- Thank you to Bella's Bakery for the delicious bread and rolls they donate to our Community Cupboard every week.

## 2024 Prep Transition Program—Commences 27th October 2023

The formal transition process for students starting school at Willow Grove in 2024 begins next Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2023. All families, new and old who have returned an enrolment form were sent a letter via email yesterday detailing our transition program. We are also running parent information sessions alongside our Prep Transition Session, as detailed below.

DATE	PARENT INFO SESSION – 9.00-9.20am @ Willow Grove Primary School
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Literacy Information
Fri 10th November	Numeracy Information
Fri 24th November	General Information Session
Fri 8th December	Uniforms, routines, questions answered

The following information outlines the Prep Transition Program, including what your child will need to bring. Please note that a school hat will be supplied to your child at their first transition session, and the hat will remain at school for your child's use.

**Friday Oct 27<sup>th</sup> (9.00-11:30pm)** – For pre-school children who are enrolling at Willow Grove Primary School.

**Parents will need to bring their child into school on this day.** Please make your way to the Prep Room and sign in your child. School staff will be out the front of our school to show you where to go. Children will be involved in school-based activities for the morning. **Students will need their play lunch (including a piece of fruit), drink and a bag.**

**Friday Nov 10<sup>th</sup> (9.00 - 12.00pm)**

**Parents will need to bring their child into school on this day.** Please make your way to the Prep Room. Children will be involved in school-based activities for the morning. **They will need their play lunch (including a piece of fruit), drink and a bag.**

**Friday Nov 24<sup>th</sup> (9.00 - 12.00pm)**

**Parents will need to bring their child into school on this day.** Please make your way to the Prep Room. Children will be involved in school-based activities for the morning. **They will need their play lunch (including a piece of fruit), drink and a bag.**

**Friday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> (9.00 - 1.30pm)**

**Parents will need to bring their child into school on this day.** Please make your way to the Prep Room. Children will be involved in school-based activities for the day. **They will need their play lunch (including a piece of fruit), lunch, drink and a bag.**

**Tuesday Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – (9.00 - 2.15pm)**

**Parents will need to bring their child into school on this day.** Please make your way to the Prep Room. Children will be involved in school-based activities for the day with their grade for 2023. **They will need their play lunch (including a piece of fruit), lunch, drink and a bag.**



Willow Grove Primary School  
2520  
(Formerly Latrobe River State School &  
Willow Grove State School)  
1883-2023



1970 - 1980

Staff during the 1970s

Head Teachers: Arthur Mether, Ron Young, A Meszaros, Bill Taylor

Teachers: S. Moss, Miss Stephenson, L. Williamson, Susan Spencer, M. Henry, Michelle de Preu, Carolann Thompson, Miss Sims, John Duck, Anne Duck, Chris Avery, Joy Barson

In the school:

In 1973, the students went to the ballet and the zoo.

In 1974, costs include the circus \$4.37, Somers Camp \$12, school camp (Woorabinda) \$11.

In 1975, fees were \$10. Other costs included puppet show 76c, Woorabinda Camp \$15, Folk Museum 70c, film 20c, trip to the Orchestra 65c, swimming 16c and Healesville excursion \$2.75.

The basic educational skills that the children will be expected to have acquired:

Handwriting: To write legibly and with appropriate facility.

Spelling: To spell the common words required for written expression.

In 1976, fees included books \$6-\$7, Art \$4, Library \$2.50. Additional costs were swimming 6c per session (5 sessions), ballet \$1.05, Melbourne excursion \$2.05, Woorabinda \$15.

Reading- All children have individual readers that they read in spare time or at home- plus there is a library borrowing system in the school and a local library van- so all the children have a library book.

In 1977, fees included swimming at 10c, however it was cancelled. The also saw a Māori dancing performance that cost 80c.

In 1979, Mr Duck wrote:

*The "FUN WITH WORDS" grammar kit was used ... as were the BRS Reading Kit, Endeavour comprehension kit, and various text books (eg. Encouraging English) occasionally Dictionaries were widely used...The Patterns set of comprehension cards was also useful..."*



*School photograph 1971  
Arthur Methers was Head Teacher*



*School photograph 1972, - Grade 3-6 with Ron Young, Principal*

Help us raise some dough with



Big Bears will be delivering set boxes of their amazing donuts to Willow Grove Primary School, on Wednesday 15/11.

\$4 from every box sold will be donated towards the schools annual fundraising goals.

Order online at [www.bigbearsdonuts.com.au](http://www.bigbearsdonuts.com.au)

Select 'Donut Runs' from the top menu items and scroll down until you find Willow Grove PS or by scanning the QR Code

