

Principal's Report

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023 school year. It is lovely to be back in the beautiful community of Willow Grove. All students and parents have been so welcoming as I begin my role as your new principal. I look forward to sharing our continuing learning journey for many years to come.

This year we are using our newsletter to showcase the learning that is happening in our school. Each fortnight, there will be articles and photos from each class.

We will also be sharing some of the history of the Willow Grove Primary School as we are celebrating 140 years of our school. If you have anything of interest, please feel free to share with Mrs McCartney for her research and consideration.

Parent/ Carer Involvement

After a few years of restricted access to the school, I am pleased to request parent/ carer volunteers within the school! If you would like to volunteer to do anything within the school, from weeding gardens, to listening to children read, to painting displays and helping with Brekky Club – please let a staff member know ASAP. We would be very appreciative of any assistance offered!

Welcome BBQ and Information Sessions:

Due to the circumstances surrounding the end of 2022, the annual Welcome BBQ will be a bit later than previous years. This event will soon be advertised, after staff and School Council have confirmed the details.

Enjoy your fortnight,

Tamara Halket

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

2023	FEBRUARY
8	Prep Rest Day MARC Van
15	Prep Rest Day MARC Van
21	Buildings & Grounds Meeting—6:30pm School Council Meeting—7pm
22	Prep Rest Day MARC Van
2023	MARCH
10	Whole School Athletics Carnival
13	Labour Day Public Holiday
15-27	NAPLAN—Gr 3 & Gr 5
2023	APRIL
26-28	Grade 5/6 Coonawarra Camp

Reminders & Notices

- **Each Wednesday during February is a Prep Rest Day.** Grade 1's & 2's attend school as normal. The first full week for Prep students starts on Monday the 27th of February.
- **HATS** – our SunSmart policy states that hats need to be worn between the months of September and April. All new Prep students and students arriving at Willow Grove for the first time receive their first hat for free. Otherwise, school hats can be purchased at the school office for \$10.
- **Scholastic Book Club** has been sent home with the eldest child in each family. Any orders are due back to school by Thursday, 16th February.
- Applications for the **2023 Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)** are now open. Information and Application forms were emailed home today via Compass.
- Information regarding **After School Care, Brekky Club, School Bus Travel, and other important start of year reminders** are included later in this newsletter.



TERM DATES 2023

Term 1	27th Jan (teachers start) to 6th April
Term 2	24th Apr to 23rd Jun
Term 3	10th Jul to 15th Sep
Term 4	2nd Oct to 20th Dec

Welcome to our 2023 Preps

A warm welcome to our 2023 Preps – pictured below on their first day of Primary School!

Back Row: William W., Oakley K., Stella B., Quinn C., Nellie M.

Middle Row: Eli B., Reed M., 3. Angelica J.

Front Row: Irie G., Jack D.



Breakfast Club

We would love to run Breakfast Club five days per week. Breakfast Club is free to attend and can be used to top up a hungry tummy, to give families a backup plan when running late, or to enable children to eat with their friends. It is not just a service for those families that cannot provide breakfast. If you would like to volunteer to help with Breakfast Club, your assistance would be much appreciated as the more volunteers we have the more days we are able to run Breakfast Club. Please contact the school if you can help.

School Bus Information

Last week Bus Travellers were emailed updated information for the 2023 school year. This information will be useful to those families who are new to the service, and serves as a reminder to those who are familiar with the service. Updated pick-up and drop-off times were also emailed home last week. If you would like to use the school bus service, please contact the school to check your eligibility.

Grade P/1/2 News

Crossing the road with Daryl

Today the P-2 went to the school crossing to learn how to cross safely. Daryl, our crossing supervisor explained the rules.

1. Stand behind the yellow line.
2. Listen for 2 whistles and then walk across.
3. If you have a bike you must walk it across the crossing.
4. One whistle means danger, do not cross.



Grade 3/4 News



The 3/4 class have started off the year really well and we have already undertaken some interesting tasks. In Inquiry we are looking at heat and energy and how heat is transferred between objects. The students have already learnt about heat producers and objects that get their heat from another source through investigation, collaboration and hands on experiences. It is great to see them working together to explore new concepts and ideas. We are excited about what else we will discover through our investigations.

Grade 5/6 News



Here in Years 5 & 6 we have been busy drafting our letters to our New Zealand pen pals. We are writing to students at Mrs Trickett's old school, James Street Primary, Whakatane. There have been many interesting facts unearthed!

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



The Latrobe River State School

The Latrobe River State school, No. 2520 was established in May 1883, yet did not begin until the 9th of August 1883. It had taken the local community 6 years to be granted the school, with the first applications for a school being lodged in 1877, however due to a lack of a suitable site the matter was left.

In 1880 the Lands department was authorised to reserve a site for the purpose of a school. In 1882, authorization was given for a portable classroom with attached quarters to be transported to the site. The site was cleared in June 1883 and the schoolhouse erected.

The site of the school was approximately 11 miles from Moe and ten miles from Trafalgar. The nearest school was Tanjil, about five miles away. The original site is marked with a plaque on "Old School Road".

The land for the school was donated by Mr. S. Needham.

Before the Latrobe River school was established some of the children attended the Tanjil School. The new Latrobe River School serviced those local families living along the Latrobe River.

The first head teacher at the school was Mr. Herbert Sydney Hammet (1862-1936). He began teaching at 16 years of age, in 1878 at the Bolwarrah/Upper Moorabool State School. His posting at Latrobe River State School began on the 9th of August 1883. In 1884, Inspector Hepburn described him as "active and promising" and again 1885, as "Good, earnest and painstaking." After 2 years serving the Latrobe River children, on the 30th of June 1885 he was transferred to school 1957, Won Wron State School.

There were 23 children listed as being of school age who could attend the Latrobe River S.S., with a further ten in the future. Among the first families were the children of Mr. Needham (4 children), Mr. Walker (4 children), Mr. Shultz (4 children), Mr. Fritz (1 child), Thomas Irvine (4 children).

References

Teacher record <https://prov.vic.gov.au/archive/3AD17403-F7E4-11E9-AE98-2535B4F19863/content?image=1>
Morwell Historical Society News, Vol 9, 1970 <https://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au/newsletters/Vol91970.pdf>
Willow Grove P.S. 2520 (formerly Latrobe River P.S.) Centenary 1883-1983
Chalk sticks to memory sticks, 125 years of schooling at Willow Grove Primary School No. 2520.

2nd Hand Uniform

We currently have a good supply of second hand uniforms. These range from \$1.00, \$2.00 or \$5.00 depending on condition. If you require anything please email Michelle stating what you would like and the size. My email address is:

michelle.byrne@education.vic.gov.au



- On behalf of our school council, thank-you to our families for your support of our School Uniform policy. It was a pleasure to start the school year seeing the large majority of students in school uniform. Please contact the school if you require financial assistance or support with the purchasing of school uniform items and continue to ensure that your child wears the uniform endorsed by your school council.
- Thank you to Foodbank Victoria for their grant that allows our Breakfast Club to operate in 2023, it is really appreciated.

REMINDER—Specialist Classes For 2023

TUESDAY—Japanese
WEDNESDAY—Art & MARC Van
THURSDAY—P.E.

On P.E. days students should be wearing the appropriate school uniform for participating in physical activities such as shorts, t-shirt, and runners. They are also encouraged to bring a drink bottle.

Footy Tipping Competition 2023

Our annual footy tipping competition will commence next month on March 16th.

It only costs \$25 to join with great weekly and end of year prizes. The more participants we get, the better the prize money!

Our footy tipping competition raises funds to subsidise the cost to families of our Grade 6 Celebration Excursion held at the end of each year.

If you would like to enter, please complete your details on the slip below and drop it into the school office with your entry fee payment.

If you have any queries, please see Michelle.



FOOTY TIPPING 2023

NAME:.....

Annual Privacy Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement titled 'DET Primary School Collection Statement, found on our website <http://www.willowgroveps.vic.edu.au/policies/> .

For more information about privacy, see: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#). This information also available in ten community languages .

Student Accident Insurance, Ambulance Cover Arrangements and Private Property Brought to School

A reminder to our families that 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 students, 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 includes technology, bikes, toys, sports equipment etc. and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

Student Engagement & Wellbeing

Our school is committed to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for our students, and we have developed a number of policies to support this goal. These policies include, but are not limited to:

- Child Safety & Wellbeing Policy
- Student Engagement & Wellbeing Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Inclusion & Diversity Policy

Each of these policies are available to view on our school website <http://www.willowgroveps.vic.edu.au/policies/> .

Student Photographic, Filming & Recording Consent

During the school year there are many occasions and events where staff may photograph, film or record students participating in school activities and events. We do this for many reasons including to: celebrate student participation and achievement, showcase particular learning programs, document a student's learning journey/camps/excursions/ sports events, communicate with our parents/carers and school community in newsletters, assemblies, and on our school Facebook page.

Parents and carers can withdraw consent for the school to use their child's image at any time by completing the 'Consent Form and Collection Notice' (Opt-Out Form) contained within our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy which is available on our website at: <http://www.willowgroveps.vic.edu.au/policies/>

If an Opt-Out Form is not received we assume you are happy to have your child's image dealt with in the manner described in the above mentioned policy.

Start of Year Reminders & Information—2023

The start of the school year is always a time when there is lots of information to absorb and take in, especially if you are new to our school community. We trust that you find the information below a helpful snap-shot into the day-to-day operations of our school, making the start of the school year as smooth as possible for you and your child/ren.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch via phone, email or in person if you have any questions or would like to find out more information about a certain topic.

School Council – later this month, we elect new parent members to our School Council and so we are seeking volunteers for parent positions in 2023. 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. Keep your eye out on the newsletter for more information.

Assembly – held 2:45pm each Friday afternoon. Our assemblies last approximately 30 minutes and are used to discuss and promote our school's expectations with our student and parent community as well as to acknowledge and celebrate student achievement. They are a great way to stay informed about our school's programs and strategic direction. Assemblies are conducted in our library space. Parents are welcome to attend.

Parent Payment Arrangements 2023 – A reminder to families to view our Parent Payment Arrangements for 2023 as approved by School Council in Term 4 of 2022. This document outlines financial contributions the school will request from families in 2023, how they can be paid, and financial support available to families experiencing financial hardship.

Our school's Parent Payment Arrangements should be read in conjunction with the Department's Parent Payment Policy. Both documents are available via the school's website at: <http://www.willowgroveps.vic.edu.au/policies/>.

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: Schooling is compulsory for children aged between 6 to 17 years. 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 an explanation of their absence. Parents can notify the school via a **Compass Absence** entry or by providing a **written note**. Our school rolls are legal documents and information needs to be recorded accurately.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures: Parents of students arriving late or leaving early are required to come to the office and record the arrival/departure time and the reason via the EdPass Ipad located at Reception. Please also ensure you inform your child's classroom teacher, or other member of staff of the arrival or departure.

Visitors: When anyone, a parent (excluding student drop off's or pick up's), volunteer or tradesman comes to school to complete a task or help out, they are required to sign in via the Edpass Ipad located at Reception and print and wear a visitor label. For example: if you are reading in the classroom or having a meeting with a staff member, you will need to sign in.

Start of Year Reminders & Information—2023 Continued

Sun Smart Policy

Willow Grove is a sun smart school. When students are outside from September to April, they 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 or you are welcome to provide your own.

Outside School Hours Care

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

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

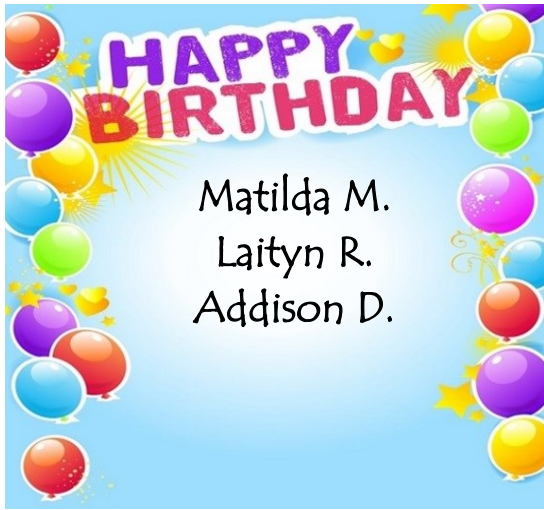
Willow Grove Primary continues to promote and participate in the Nude Food program. The Nude Food Program, aims to reduce waste and helps keep the school litter and rubbish free by promoting food that is not wrapped in disposable packaging.

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 with a reasonable time frame will be asked to finish their lunch outside on the steps to the Latrobe Building.

Lunch Orders – Watch this space! We hope to be able to offer a regular school lunch order option soon.




Sandwich sushi

Makes 6 pieces

Ingredients

- 2 slices wholemeal bread, crusts removed
- 2 tablespoons vegetable based dip (e.g. hommus, beetroot, pumpkin)
- 1 small tin sandwich tuna
- ½ Lebanese cucumber cut into strips
- ¼ avocado cut into strips



Method

1. Flatten bread with a rolling pin
2. Spread dip over each slice of bread
3. Arrange tuna on bread leaving a 2cm strip on one edge that is free of filling
4. Top with an avocado and cucumber strip at the opposite end to the 2cm strip
5. Roll up firmly to enclose filling
6. Cut each sandwich into 3 rounds

Optional
Alternative fillings can include shredded chicken, capsicum strips, asparagus, creamed corn, cream cheese

GIPPSLAND CHILDREN'S CHOIR

FOR AGES 6-18

Taking enrolments now!!

TRARALGON
THURSDAY 4.15 - 5.15PM
VRI HALL

MOE
TUESDAY 5 - 6PM
MOE TOWN HALL

FOR ALL ENQUIRIES:
Email : gippslandchildrenschoir@gmail.com
Facebook : Gippsland Children's Choir

Could \$500 help with next year's back to school costs?

Learn tips and tricks to grow your budget and saving skills. Save for 10 months. Get up to \$500 of matched savings for school expenses. Just in time for 2024.

Must meet all eligibility criteria:

- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card AND an eligible Centrelink payment*
- ✓ Be studying yourself OR have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- ✓ Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)*
- ✓ Be 18+ years old

*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible



For more info, visit saverplus.org.au or call 1300 610 355. To fill in an online enquiry form, [CLICK HERE](#).