



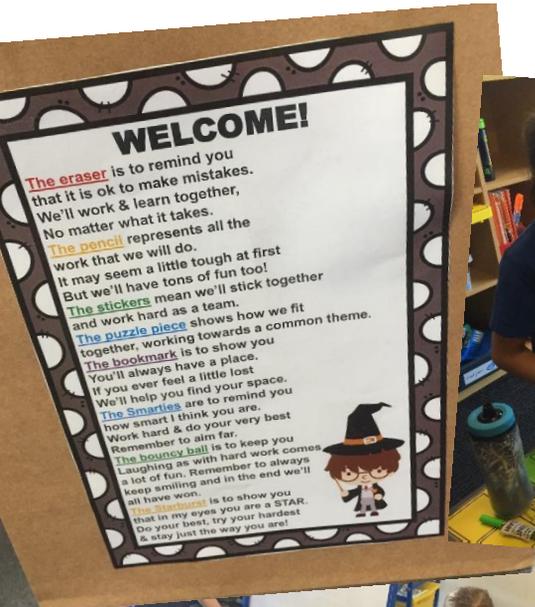
THE WILLOW WEEKLY

690 Willowmavin Road, Willowmavin, 3764 Ph. 5782 1319 willowmavin.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Thursday, the 30th of January, 2020

CELEBRATING LEARNING IN...

2020





FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Willowmavin 2 Point 0... Point 2 Point 0

Yes, welcome back or - in the case of 4 families – welcome to Willowmavin Primary School. It has been great to see both staff and students return from the break looking rested and ready to go for another school year. We hope that all our families enjoyed some time together during the Christmas and New Year holiday period and look forward to catching up with you all in the coming days.

Celebrations!

It's hard to believe that our End of Year Celebration Evening was over a month ago now! And what a fantastic evening it was! Huge thanks to our staff for their preparation and organisation for the evening – particularly Mr. Jennings for coming in on his day off to take up the role of DJ for the evening. A significant part of the evening was celebrating student achievements from the year. Congratulations to these students on their amazing achievements. They have set a fantastic example for their peers and we look forward to seeing who will step up in 2020 to be in line for these awards this year. Recipients of these awards are listed below. A massive thank you to Kilmore Bendigo Bank who sponsored these awards, providing recipients with funds to go towards their school fees.

2019 End of Year Awards:

Most Outstanding Class Citizen Grade F/1 2019:	Hannah Pate
Most Outstanding Class Citizen Grade 2/3 2019:	Sophia Borg
Most Outstanding Class Citizen Grade 3/4 2019:	Charlotte Bradley
Most Outstanding Class Citizen Grade 5/6 2019:	Tanika Dale
Attendee of the Year:	Charlotte Bradley
Principal's Pupil of the Year:	Elias Haber

Whilst holidays for staff officially ended yesterday, it is clear that much time and effort has been spent during the Summer break in preparation for the 2020 school year. I have said it before, and will say it again, our school is very fortunate to have such a committed, dedicated and passionate staff who want the best for our students and our school. Thank you to all staff for their efforts in providing students with such a positive start to the year. I encourage our families to come in to classrooms and see for themselves the work that has already gone into providing engaging learning environments for our students.

Speaking of being prepared for the school year, it has been great to return to school and find the school grounds in such great order. Huge thanks to the Buhagiars, in particular Chris, for joining the growing list of families who have taken on our school grounds and tamed the beast so well! Your efforts enable funds that would otherwise be spent on local maintenance companies, to be re-directed to items more aligned to student learning.

Our final celebration this week is of course the arrival of our 2020 Foundation students who commenced their schooling today. After a few early tears, everyone settled in quite well. It was great to see our Grade 1 students in the F/1 class helping their new classmates, as well as other students being so welcoming of our new recruits during recess and lunch times. Our 2020 Foundation students will attend school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for the first 4 weeks of school before coming on Wednesdays also.

Bushfires

It has been a horrific fire season that many Australians have endured and indeed continue to endure. With last year's 10 year anniversary of the Black Saturday fires still fresh in our minds, the effects of these fires can reach well beyond the immediate areas and residents directly impacted. If you are feeling that the recent fires have had an impact on you or your child's mental wellbeing, please ensure you seek out appropriate supports. These supports include us as a school and we encourage you to speak with us should you feel we can be of assistance in any way.

Congratulations!

Last year, Mr Jennings' had the amazing opportunity of performing on radio station Triple J's highly acclaimed "Like a Version". Last Saturday, the song that Mr Jennings performed came in at number 83 on Triple J's Hottest 100 Countdown. This is an amazing achievement and we congratulate Mr. Jennings on this. We look forward to hearing more on the progression of Mr J's music career as he takes some time off from teaching this year.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Coronavirus

No, it's not something you wake up with after a night out in Mexico. As I'm sure you are all aware, there have been many reports in the news regarding the outbreak of the Coronavirus. The Department of Education has been in close communication with Australian health authorities in the lead up to the commencement of the school year. As a result, DET has advised that **students and staff who have visited affected areas of China during the holiday period, or who have been in contact with people who have contracted the virus, need to stay away from school for 14 days**. This will provide ample time for symptoms to appear. Whilst it is unlikely that this virus will impact Willowmavin, particularly in the near future, it does serve as a timely reminder to ensure we are practicing good hygienic habits. Please reiterate the messages students are receiving at school regarding cleaning hands and covering their mouths when coughing or sneezing.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to the Coronavirus, please don't hesitate to speak with us.

Swimming

Our first significant event for 2020 takes place next Wednesday! We will be joining Pyalong, Tallarook and Tooborac primary schools for our Small Cluster swimming sports on February 5. This will take place at Lancefield swimming pool. Students will get a bus to and from the venue. A note regarding this event has gone home today.

As with many school events, we rely on parent volunteers to assist on the day. If you are able to assist please ensure you inform your child's classroom teacher.

Meet the Teacher and Welcome Picnic

Our second significant event for 2020 will take place on February 13th. This will be our Welcome Picnic evening, which will coincide with Meet the Teacher meetings. The picnic will go from 4- 7pm and Meet the Teacher meetings from 2-5pm. To book a Meet the Teacher time, go to *Contact* on our school website and follow the prompts. If a suitable time is not available, speak with your child's teacher about arranging another time. Thank you to Mr. Rodwell for setting the platform up.

A notice has gone home today regarding these meetings. Part of this notice is an information sheet designed to provide class teachers with some brief insights into their students. Please complete this form and return it to your child's class teacher prior to Monday, the 10th of February.

Flyers for the Welcome Picnic are up around the school as well as attached to this newsletter. We are looking forward to a fun evening in which all members of our school community can come together to celebrate the commencement of the 2020 school year.

Farewell

It is with great disappointment that I announce that Gillian Martin resigned from her position at Willowmavin over the Christmas break. Gill has been a very dedicated and highly regarded member of the Willowmavin Primary School staff for some time and her departure is a huge loss for our school. Gill has always had the wellbeing of students and those around her at the forefront of everything she has done at our school and so many of our students are in better places for the work she has done with them. We wish Gill all the very best for whatever the future has in store for her and thank her for all that she has done for the students and community of Willowmavin.

A final Chill with Gill is included in this newsletter.

Maintenance and Upkeep

A reminder that if you are a tradesperson (particularly a plumber, electrician or chippy) or have particular skills or experience with maintenance and fix its, please don't hesitate to see us at the office. There are ALWAYS things that require fixing or upkeep – some small, some not so small. Any assistance would not only be greatly appreciated but would also enable us to re-direct funds away from maintenance and repairs, into student learning.

Signing Off

A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.

Until next time, be the best you can be.

Mr. O'Callaghan

I am truly grateful of the connection I have made over the past seven years with such a warm community of people at Willowmavin PS. Other opportunities have come my way and taken my life's journey in a different direction, which has resulted in me resigning from Willowmavin PS.

Every day at school I have been humbled by the kindness of your children's hearts and felt privileged being in their presence.

In my short affirmations in "Chill with Gill" articles in the newsletter, I have always advocated the importance to be proud of who we all are and recognising that above all, we must not forget our duty to love ourselves and especially recognising the gift of our children.

Hopefully your journey and your children's lives are too, filled with joy, challenges of all kinds full of self-love and self-respect.

Above and beyond what you say and do, people will remember how you make them feel.

Gill





Respect, Environmental Awareness, Achievement, Community, Health and Wellbeing



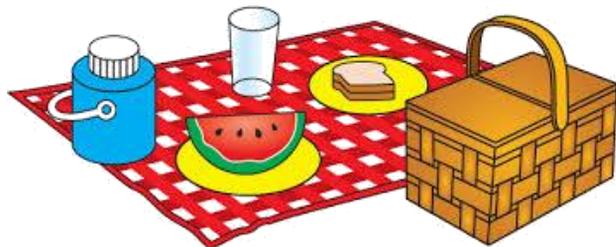
Willowmavin Welcome Picnic Thursday, the 13th of February

Meet the Teacher Interviews: 2pm – 5pm
Picnic: 4pm - 7pm

Willowmavin P.S. is holding a community evening to welcome in the 2020 school year. We invite you to pack a family picnic (don't forget chairs or a picnic rug!) and join us for an informal get together for parents, staff and students to meet and celebrate the new year.

This night will be held in conjunction with the Meet the Teacher Interviews. Games and activities will be running from 4pm to 7pm. Teachers will be conducting parent/guardian meetings in classrooms to learn more about their 2020 students between 2pm and 5pm.

We hope to see you there!





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What's On...



February

- 5th Swimming Carnival
- 13th Meet the Teacher 2-5pm
- Welcome Picnic 4-7pm



January

- 3rd Jai Bamford-Newey
- 4th Louis Campbell
- 8th Blair Newbould
- 20rd Ruby Ellis
- 28th Logan Ford

THE NEW RECRUITS!

