



WAIKERIE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

A SCHOOL OF VISIBLE LEARNERS
CURIOSITY PROBLEM SOLVING RESILIENCE

Principal: Megan Higgins

Governing Council Chairperson: Deb Schutz

Respect Responsibility Persistence
Confidence Care Honesty

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Term 4

Wednesday October 18th 2023

Week 1

DATES TO REMEMBER

Student Free Day	Nov 10 th
Assembly	Nov 3 rd
Primary Splash day	Nov 24 th



Principal

Welcome to Term 4! This final school term of 2023 will include several special events such as Kindy transition visits, High School transition, BluEarth sessions (information below), Year 6 Graduation



and more. You will receive class newsletters detailing the learning and activities for the term for your child's class. We look forward to welcoming our upcoming 2024 Reception students and their families as they begin their transition to school and we wish our year 6 student a wonderful final term of primary school. Mrs Pietsch is on leave for Week 1-5 of this term and we hope she enjoys her time with the Kindy.

As many will be aware Waikerie Children's Centre was significantly water damaged last term. Despite efforts to dry out the water damaged areas and prepare the space for repairs, they will be temporarily relocating the kindergarten to our Waikerie Primary School Gym, most likely for week 1 and 2 of the term. The Gym will be fenced off during this time and we ask that this is only accessed by Kindy staff and Kindy families during this time. Please also be mindful that although Kindy drop off and pick up times vary to school (8.15pm- 3.45pm) parking/traffic in the Lawrie Street area may be busier than usual.

Staff and students enjoyed getting involved in our Footy Colours Day raising over \$200 for the Fight Cancer Foundation. Well done to Student Voice for organising this.

Friday of Week 4, November 10th, is a **Student Free Day**. Staff will be undertaking a Mental Health First Aid training and reviewing of our WPS School Improvement Plan in readiness for 2024. If you require care for the day please contact Sandy at WOOSHC on 0419 845 451.

To help out with remembering some dates in this busy time of the year please see the calendar included in this newsletter. *Please be advised that these can be subject to change so keep an eye on classroom, school and Seesaw notifications.*

Megan 😊

Wellbeing Boost Funding - BluEarth:

South Australian Primary Schools have been fortunate enough to receive some extra funding from the Department to boost student wellbeing. One of the recommendations for using the funding is to outsource wellbeing providers to facilitate some specialised programs.



In week six, our school will be having a week long visit from BluEarth, which is a children's physical education program provider, mapped against the Australian Curriculum.

BluEarth deliver a program where inclusion and learning take place through pure experience, without consideration of an outcome such as winning or who is best to worst.

This learning environment encourages intrinsic motivation, autonomy and exploration. BluEarth deliver activities that incorporate movement and mindfulness to build important foundational skills; increasing confidence and improving learning outcomes. These components work together to build and support children's physical, social and emotional wellbeing.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Their programs offer a spectrum of guided movement and activity from high energy dynamic games to subtle breathing practice and self-reflection.

The BluEarth approach is built around 6 key elements:

- Coordination and agility
- Skill activities
- Movement challenges and games
- Dynamic movement control
- Moving in the environment
- Core movement

We look forward to welcoming James from BluEarth to our school in Week 6 where each class will enjoy 3x lessons over the week tailored to suit their age and needs. At the end of the week, teachers will have a bank of high quality, purposeful fitness and physical education activities to continue to use with our students.



Deputy Principal

Waikerie Public Library will be hosting a Halloween activity on Tuesday 31st October at 4.30pm. Students who are involved in Children’s University can attend and receive a stamp in their passports. Please see the flier attached to the last page of the newsletter.

On Thursday 28th September, we celebrated Grand Friends Day alongside our Book Fair. It was amazing to see so many visitors sharing in wonderful classroom experiences with the children. Visitors joined in with lots of different activities including maths games, reading stories and listening to children read. It was a fun morning celebrating the special people in our lives. We would like to thank families and grand friends for their support with the book fair which helped us raise over \$500 which all goes back into resources for our library. *Leanne Jones ☺*



School Uniform Dress Order

If you would like to place an order for a school dress please complete and return order form below. The dress is a poly/cotton blend with a side zip pocket, short sleeves and sells for \$25. Samples can be viewed at the office. Form and payment will need to be returned by **Tuesday 14th November 2023.**

Parent/ Caregiver name:.....

Phone number:.....

Student..... Room number.....



	Size	Quantity	Price	Total Owing
School Dress			\$25.00 each	

Total amount paid: \$.....





Autism Inclusion Teacher – Natasha Wall

In our ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment, we believe it is essential to promote understanding and awareness of diverse needs within our school body. One of the conditions that we encounter at Waikerie Primary School is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and it is crucial that we all have a clear understanding of what it entails and the role that AIT teachers play in our school.

What is Autism?

Autism Spectrum Disorder, often referred to as ASD, is a developmental condition that affects the way individuals interact with the world around them. It is characterised by a wide range of behaviours and challenges that can vary from person to person. Common features of ASD may include difficulties with social communication, repetitive behaviours, and intense interests in specific topics.

It is essential to remember that autism is a spectrum disorder, which means that individuals with ASD can have vastly different experiences and abilities. Some may have exceptional skills in areas like mathematics or music, while others may face challenges in everyday tasks that many of us take for granted.

The role of Autism Inclusion Teachers (AIT)

At WPS, Natasha Wall is our AIT teacher, her role is pivotal in ensuring that every student receives a personalized and inclusive education. Here are some key aspects of the role of the ASD teacher:

1. **Individualised Education Plans (IEPs):** AIT teachers work closely with students, parents and other educators to develop Individualised Education Plans tailored to each student's unique needs and strengths. These plans outline specific goals and strategies to help students succeed academically and socially.
2. **Social Skills Development:** AIT teachers provide targeted support to help students with ASD improve their social communication. This can include teaching them how to engage in conversations, interpret social cues and navigate social situations effectively.
3. **Collaboration:** Collaboration is key in supporting students with ASD. AIT teachers will work closely with class teachers, speech therapists, occupational therapists and other specialists to ensure a coordinated approach to a student's education.
4. **Advocacy:** AIT teachers also advocate for students with ASD, ensuring that their unique needs are recognised and accommodated throughout their educational journey. They serve as a bridge between families and the school to facilitate communication and support.

We encourage all members of the WPS community to reach out to our AIT teacher (Natasha Wall) if you have any questions or concerns related to autism or the support we provide. By working together, we can create an inclusive and welcoming environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive. A brochure containing information about steps you as parents and caregivers could follow if you feel your child may have some autism traits, including some organisations you can contact for assistance is available from the front office.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



TERM 4 2023 CALENDAR DATES



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday 2.30pm dismissal	Friday
1	16/10	17/10	18/10	19/10	20/10
2	23/10	24/10	25/10	26/10	27/10
3	30/10	31/10 Year 5 Excursion	1/11	2/11	3/11 Assembly 9am Gym
4	6/11	7/11 Kindy Visit	8/11 Year 3/4 Excursion	9/11	10/11 STUDENT FREE DAY
5	13/11	14/11 Kindy Visit	15/11	16/11	17/11
6	20/11 BluEarth (all week)	21/11 Kindy Visit	22/11 High School Transition	23/11	24/11 Primary Splash Carnival
7	27/11	28/11	29/11	30/11	1/12 Assembly 9am Gym
8	4/12 Year 6 Aquatics	5/12	6/12	7/12	8/12
9	11/12	12/12	13/12	14/12 Year 6 Graduation	15/12 End of Term 4 2.20pm dismissal