Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been delighted with the very positive start to the school year. The students are very settled, have ‘started right’ and are making the most of every learning opportunity. It is extremely pleasing to see almost every student wearing the school uniform of the school. Thank you for your support of the school uniform policy.

The VCAL students have settled well into the new VCAL hub situated at the BRC campus and it’s great to see them enrolling in their SBATS and beginning their work placements. This will certainly help with post school options. Thank you to the staff who have made the move back from the city happen so seamlessly.

We are a Sunsmart School and it’s great to see that all students are observing the school’s Sunsmart policy especially on those very hot days. The wearing of appropriate hats and the application of sunscreen is vital during terms 1 and 4 and staff are encouraging students to stay well hydrated and drink plenty of water. All students are encouraged to wear a hat whilst on all school excursions and on recess breaks.

I hope to see many parents come along to the ‘Meet the Teacher’ tonight. It is a great opportunity for parents to chat to staff, visit the classroom and build the important partnership between home and school which we all know leads to better learning outcomes for children. Warringa Park School looks for every opportunity to connect with our parent community so please make sure you contact the school if our have any concerns.

NDIS

The information meeting about the NDIS was very well attended and provided valuable information to parents and carers. The school will be organising more of these meetings as there is much to learn about the NDIS.

School Council 2017

Thank you to those parents who nominated for School Council. We have 7 nominations for 6 vacancies therefore an election will be conducted. Ballot papers will be distributed by 23rd February and the ballot will close on the 3rd March. The declaration of the ballot will occur on Monday March 6th. The first meeting of the new School Council will be held on March 20th.

iPads

The school has expended a great deal of money on iPads and has not sought a parent contribution towards the cost of these devices. The school, however, reserves the right at all times to determine whether iPads are able to go home with the student or remain at school. All parents are required to sign a new iPad Agreement for 2017.

Bus Meeting

Last week we met with the drivers and chaperones from the school’s contract bus companies – SITA, Bacchus Marsh and Westrans. The transition to school on the bus can be difficult for some students and school staff are available to assist the bus staff to deal with any issues. We ask that parents report any issues they are having with the buses to the school so we can solve these problems.

Last week Year 10 students from the Bethany Road campus were on an urban orientation camp in the city for three days. Danielle Barclay was very pleased with the responsible behaviour displayed by the students as they negotiated their way around. VCAL students were at Blackwood Outdoor Education Centre last Friday working on team building skills. Thank you to all the staff who support students and enable them to participate in these activities. Enjoy your weekend.

Marie Hayes
Principal

Fri 17th February & Mon 13th March no students at school
From the Assistant Principal….

Welcome to the end of week 3! The teachers worked hard over the past few days to ensure their classrooms display all the excellent work that has been happening since the start of the school year. I am looking forward to meeting up with many of our parents and carers tonight at ‘Meet the Teacher’ evening. We encourage our school community to have an open communication between home and school.

Being at school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. The building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each day. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses can affect their educational outcomes.

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school 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. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading. Attendance patterns are established early. A child who regularly misses days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

The main reasons for absence are:
- Sickness: There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.
- Family Holidays: It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.
- “Day off”: Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:
- Speak with your child’s classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence-learning plan with your child’s teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your child’s classroom teacher as early as possible. Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to encourage student attendance. Our teachers provide many exciting and purposeful learning opportunities for all of our students. Please encourage your child to attend school everyday.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Dehlia Dawson

The Wellbeing Team have been busy across the school this week. We have student representative council elections happening next week and students across the school have been preparing their nominations. Voting will be on Friday 24th February.

Well done to two of our students, Taylor and Kasey, for the very successful fundraising and activities that were organised for Sweetheart day. Sweetheart Day is held annually on February 14th to raise funds towards fighting childhood heart disease and it was wonderful to see the students across the school participating in lunchtime activities.

On Monday we had our first NDIS information session for parents. We had a lot of parents in attendance and the session was very informative. The next information session will be on Monday 27th March at 6.30pm.

We encourage parents to make contact with the Wellbeing team members at anytime to discuss the wellbeing needs of your child.

Caitriona Toland    Wellbeing Assistant Principal
toland.caitriona.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
Therese Bourke    Wellbeing Team
Joan Kurtis      Wellbeing Team
Nicole Geehman    School Nurse
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors; excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline, and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
KIDS' ACTIVITY DAY
SUN 26TH FEBRUARY 11:30AM
SAT 4TH MARCH 10:30AM
SUN 5TH MARCH 11:30AM
Karawinga Park
Glenroy
Gumnuts Rd
Meerupudc

Sensory-friendly outdoor performance of Into the Woods Jr
Sensory activities
Face painting
Jumping Castle
Devonshire tea
Dance workshops
smartin@smartcom.org.au

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Sensory Friendly Respite Activity Days

Smart Communities in conjunction with Autism Spectrum Victoria (KPECT) are pleased to be able to offer families with young people aged 12-20 with an ASD free respite activities.

Are you (or your child):

Aged 12 – 23 years?
Have a diagnosis of ASD?
Live in the City of Melbourne, Brimbank or Wyndham?

If so, you can attend our sensory friendly Activity Days in Feb/March 2017 free of charge. Your siblings can also attend at no additional cost if they’d like to come too.

We are offering full day respite activities on
Sat Feb 25th
Sun Feb 26th
Sat March 4th

Transport to and from the activity is provided.

Each activity day will include a sensory friendly performance/Live Show, jumping castles and games, art & crafts, performing activities such as drama workshops and karaoke, quiet areas for storytelling and a sensory space, along with roving entertainers, face painting and Devonshire Tea.

We have attached a promotional flyer for your information.

Please give us a call or send us an email to find out more, or to register for these events.

Thanks
Sandra Martin
Director, Smart Communities
0419 537 626
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

Students from Warringa Park School and Bethany Road Campus are invited to place their interest in becoming a Student Representative Council member. All that is required is for the student to produce a **ONE** page profile with their FULL name, learning area, year level, House colour (Warringa Park School - only - refer to Compass) qualities and attributes and basically why they would like to become an SRC member. The Wellbeing team is available to assist students who require help with their profile, please contact the Wellbeing team or email: kurtis.joan.j@ecuamil.vic.gov.au

Nominations close 13/2/17
Elections held 24/2/17

SRC elected students -
Warringa Park School - 12 students - 3 per 4 Houses Multimedia/Middle/Later Years.
BRC - School Captains Yr 10 2 Leaders, Yr 9 and Yr 8 -2 SRC leaders
VCAL - A student leadership group has been formed and students will be working on Student Leadership programs collectively.

SRC Roles and Responsibilities:

The Student Representative Council (SRC) meets fortnightly to raise issues of student/school concern. The SRC organises, works with our Specialist team and budgets for charity and school events throughout the year. They will play an active role within the school and wider community.
SRC students will be invited to attend VIC SRC forums, Lalor Forums and Wyndham Youth Committee meetings throughout the year consulting/working with other Wyndham SRC students.

**Breakfast Club** - Breakfast Club has commenced at Warringa Park School. It is held every morning between 9.00 to 9.30 except Thursday and run by the Later years staff/students, volunteers and SRC members.
Breakfast Club will run on Tuesday recess at the Bethany Road Campus,
Foodbank Australia have provided breakfast items for the program such as Vitabix, UHT milk, baked beans. We also provide toasted vegemite sandwiches.

**14/2/17 - SWEET HEART DAY (GOLD COIN DONATION)**
Heartkids provides lifelong support to those with childhood heart disease and their families. Heartkids fund life-saving research, advocate for the needs of children with Childhood heart disease & support their families.

Warringa Park School - 14/2 recess - Casey Borg and Taylor Robertson Emmett (students from Warringa Park School) with their parents will be advocating the work and support of Heartkids Australia. Colouring activity will be provided during recess at Harmony Square—or students can write a message about the importance of staying healthy.
All other campuses will provided with a donation box and promotion flyers.
Thank you for supporting.
Post school options

Come and find your future

It’s the best opportunity for students and school leavers to meet Service Providers who can help you choose future pathways.

When: Tuesday 28th of March
Time: 2:30 - 5:00pm
Where: Hall (Warringa Park School)
School Council Elections 2017
Warringa Park School

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. Forms are available from the office.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do

Consider standing for election to council this year

Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact Marie for further information. Nomination forms are available from the general office.
Melbourne and greater Victoria will experience extremely high temperatures for the back to school period.

Parents and/or guardians are reminded that on hot days it is important never to leave children alone in a car.

Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature.

Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death.

Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.

If a parent or guardian is travelling with a child to school, never leave them alone in a parked car, not even for one moment.
You are invited to attend a SeeSaw Information Session

At Warringa Park School, teachers and students use the SeeSaw learning journal to record and store their learning throughout the school year. The SeeSaw learning journal provides parents and carers with regular updates including photos and videos of what their child is learning.

We will be holding a daytime and an evening session to support parents and carers to set up the SeeSaw App on their smart phone or device. This will then enable you to view your child's learning as it is happening in the classroom.

Session dates and times:
Week 4 - Thursday 23rd February at Warringa Park School
Session 1: 9:30 - 10:30am
Session 2: 6 - 7pm

Name: .............................................................................

Please respond via circling which session you will attend: 1 / we will be attending the am / pm session.
NDIS Information Session
at
Warringa Park School

Monday 13th February at 9.15am (2HRS)
or
Monday 27th March at 6.30pm (2HRS)

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

Are you caring for a person with a disability?
Do you want to know more about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?
This information session will cover:
  ➢ What is the NDIS?
  ➢ How will the NDIS differ from the current system?
  ➢ Who is eligible for support?
  ➢ What does it mean for carers?
  ➢ Feedback from the Victorian NDIS pilot site.
  ➢ Where to now...what can you do?
  ➢ Q&A.

To register your interest in attending a Carers Victoria NDIS Information Session contact:
Therese Bourke (Wellbeing Team) at bourke.therese.a@edumail.vic.gov.au or 9749 5774
# MyTime @ Werribee Gold

## Time
9.30am—11.30 Thursdays

## Where
Wyndham Park Community Centre  
57 Kookaburra Ave  
Werribee, Vic 3030

## Facilitator
Kylee

## Play helper
Carla

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## 2017 TERM 1 DATES
9th February to 30th March

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- **9th Feb**—Welcome to MyTime: How are you?
- **16th Feb**—Planning for 2017 and survey chat
- **23rd Feb**—Coffee and Chat
- **2nd March**—Meet the staff at Warringa park (TBC)
- **9th March**—Discussion: Fussy eaters.
- **16th March**—Guest Speaker—TBA
- **23rd March**—Visit Café 101—Warringa Park
- **30th March**—Last session for Term 1—Bring a plate to share Chat about Holiday plans.

## What is MyTime?
MyTime is a peer support group for parents and carers, supporting children under 16 years of age with a disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition.

## Who is MyTime for?
Parents mums, dads, grandparents, foster parents, or a primary carer receiving or applying for Carers Allowance.

## What will I get out of MyTime?
- Meet other parents and carers in similar circumstances
- Share experiences in an informal setting
- Information resources and services that may be available to you.
- A facilitator to support, co-ordinate and guide group discussion
- A play helper to provide activities for the children whilst in your care and supervision
- Parent discussion
- Coffee mornings
Message from Nurse Nicole

Immunisations: The Wyndham City Council will be visiting our school and immunising students with 2004 birthdates. Please note: some 2004 birthdates were completed last year.

Round 1 (Thurs) 9th March 2017 Boostrix (Tetanus) & HPV 11.30am
Round 2 (Wes) 31st May 2017 Chicken Pox & HPV 11.30am
Round 3 (Fri) 20th Oct 2017 HPV 11.15am

If your student (with 2004 birthdate) does not come home with a white A4 envelope with the immunisation cards, please contact me. If you are a new student and have missed out on the immunisation program at other schools, please contact me to check that I have them on the list and have obtained their cards from their previous council.

Epilepsy Plans: Please ensure epilepsy plans are taken to your next Neurologist appointment and signed by the neurologist and yourselves. I like to keep these plans as current and relevant as possible. If any student has a recent seizure please contact me, so I can update their plans.

Asthma Plans: I handed out Asthma plans to all families who have students with Asthma at the end of last year. Please take to your GP and have them filled in and return to school as soon as possible. There are a number of plans that have not been returned.

Toilet Training Workshop: The continence foundation will be conducting a parent workshop on Tuesday 21st March 2017 at 1pm-3pm. This workshop is an informal round table discussion about the steps required to toilet train children with special needs. It is a five step process which we as a school follow. Please register your attendance with reception, there is a maximum of 15 people per workshop.

Medication: As per school policy we ask parents to commence all new medication over the weekend or holidays. So this can be closely monitored for any possible allergic reactions or side effects. We appreciate your cooperation regarding this. If you have any questions regarding medication or need your child to take medication at school please contact me.

Please note:
- All medication needs to be in the original packaging with child’s name, dose and time on the box.
- If medication is being transported in students bags please contact the school as soon as possible, so we can remove the medication. Chaperones can secure school bags whilst on the bus but must not be used as a courier.
- If at all possible directly handing over the medication at reception or to myself would be appreciated.

Drink Bottles: In order to maximise students’ fluid intake especially during the hotter weather, I encourage all parents to ensure their child brings a drink bottle to school. This enables staff to identify how much each child is drinking.

Dehydration can contribute to: tiredness, fatigue, loss of concentration, abdominal pain (constipation), nausea & vomiting & dizziness. Many of our students visit sick bay for these complaints.

Nicole

Going on Camp?

If your student is going on a school camp (how exciting!) please ensure the following:

1. Let your bus chaperone know the dates when your student will NOT be going on the bus so that the bus doesn’t wait for a student that is away on camp and
2. Check with the chaperone if your student’s camp baggage can go on the bus as many of our buses are NOT ABLE to accommodate the additional baggage that students need to take to camp. You will probably have to arrange to both drop off and pick up your student from school. This is an important safety issue for the buses.
Warringa Park School is extremely proud of the ongoing commitment of our School Community to educational excellence and the creation of outstanding possibilities for our students.

In line with this commitment our stated values are

**RESPECT, LEARNING and WORKING TOGETHER**

Students, staff and our School Council believe these values best represent the ethos of our school committed to displaying behaviours that demonstrate this commitment.

Our goals, behaviours and language will reflect these values and we ask our parent community to embrace and support them.

And in line with the **VALUES** of **RESPECT, LEARNING and WORKING TOGETHER**.

Our student and staff over arching expectations for behaviour are

**RESPECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS**

**BE A GOOD LEARNER**

**WORK WELL TOGETHER**

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**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational, and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

**CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund is a grant provided by the Victorian Government to support extra-curricular, non-school based activities, including camps, sports and other activities for students in primary and secondary schools.

**HOW TO APPLY**

- Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download one from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

**MORE INFORMATION**

For more information contact your child's school or visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

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**Friday LIVE**

- **FRI 10 FEB**
  - 80s Legends: PSEUDO ECHO + GUESTS

- **FRI 17 FEB**
  - Songwriters Showcase: CHARLES JENKINS + GUESTS

- **FRI 24 FEB**
  - The Best of America: GO! AMERICANA feat WEEPING WILLOWS + MORE

Station Place Werribee
5PM - 10PM

[wyndhamCity.com/artsfyndhamarts](http://wyndhamCity.com/artsfyndhamarts)

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Wyndham City Council

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**THE EDUCATION STATE**

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**Friday LIVE**

**music in our city**

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**FRI 10 FEB**

80s Legends: PSEUDO ECHO + GUESTS

**FRI 17 FEB**

Songwriters Showcase: CHARLES JENKINS + GUESTS

**FRI 24 FEB**

The Best of America: GO! AMERICANA feat WEEPING WILLOWS + MORE

Station Place Werribee
5PM - 10PM

[wyndhamCity.com/artsfyndhamarts](http://wyndhamCity.com/artsfyndhamarts)

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Wyndham City Council
Warringa updates!

Dates for the diary:

Term 1: 31st January-31st March 2017
No Preps at school: February 22nd & 1st March 2017

17 Feb: Curriculum Day  
—no students at school

20 Feb: School Council meets
13th March: Labour Day holiday
23rd March: Harmony Day

Term 2: 18th April—30th June 2017

Term 3: 17th July to 22nd September 2017

Term 4: 9th October to 22nd December 2017

Newsletter and Basic Information on iPads

The “Warringa Park School” app can be downloaded for free onto your devices by going to the “App Store”. Once the app is downloaded you can access the newsletters under the “newsletters” tab. A list of newsletters will appear; just select the one you want to view. A Basic Information Package is also available under “Documents and Forms”

To keep our students safe, please:

- Do not drive into the school between 8:45-9:10am or 2:45-3:10pm. Our buses arrive and depart during this time and it is imperative that the driveway is kept clear.
- When walking, please enter and leave the school ONLY through the centre pedestrian pathway. It is very dangerous to walk on the driveway as it is difficult for cars to see pedestrians.

We appreciate your compliance with these safety measures as it ensures the safety of our students.

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Our Cayleys Road Campus is looking for any work experience opportunities for our Year 11 and 12 students. This can be on a voluntary basis or paid at the standard student rate of $5 per day. These could include things such as working with animals, hairdressing, aged care, working with children, farm work and retail. Anything will be considered!

All insurance is covered by the school’s insurance policy. Work hours are between 9am and 3pm.

We would really appreciate any offers and these can be forwarded to Jane Cross at cross.jane.m@edumail.vic.gov.au or contacted on 0498 985 235.

Many thanks for your help with this very important process in transitioning our students.

Kind regards, Jane Cross