Welcome back to all of the Early Years staff and students. I hope you all had a relaxing, enjoyable break and are well rested for the year ahead. The students have settled back in extremely well and are looking forward to what will be an exciting term!

Students have been busy demonstrating our PBIS values of respect, learning and working together and participating in all classrooms. Our inquiry topic for this term is "Belonging" and this encourages and promotes inclusion of all and celebrating one another. Students are getting to know their classmates and are able to share things about themselves. We are looking forward to celebrating all that we have learned through this inquiry on Harmony Day near the end of term.

Thank you to all the staff for their work in getting the students so engaged in their learning. I am looking forward to all of the fantastic work our students will undertake throughout the term.

Caitriona Harkin
Early Years Team Leader

Groups 8, 9, 16 & 17

The Early Years Groups 8, 9, 16 & 17 have enjoyed an awesome start to a new year of learning. In Maths we have all been learning about Measurement. We have been using string to measure how tall we are, unifix blocks to understand starting points and finishing points, and then we have been doing informal measurement using materials that are all the same. See you all next week after another fun week of learning.

Monique, Tegan, Meagan, Alex, and Lisa

11 Feb: Meet the Teacher Evening 6:30pm & 12 Feb: Curriculum Day: no students at school
Groups 5, 6, 7 & 13

We have had a fantastic start to the term and students have settled in to their new classrooms. Our inquiry topic of “How are we the same and different in our group” has really engaged the student and they have been finding out lots about their classmates. Students have been working on counting in numeracy and are enjoying getting back to their specialist classes this week. We are really excited for what is to come this term.

Elaine, Tania, Liz, & Lauren

Multimedia Learning Centre

The Multimedia Learning Centre student and staff arrived back at school enthusiastic and ready to teach and learn last week. It was wonderful seeing students excited to see each other after the holidays and also seeing how smoothly they have transitioned back into the school routine. We have had a focus on starting the school year in the right way and remembering the importance of listening and transitioning calmly between places in the school. All Pod’s have begun their Term’s Inquiry this week which is titled Everybody Belongs and we are exploring the question, How are we the same and different. We are planning to read lots of interesting books and have lots of great discussions this term!
Middle Years Team Leader

Welcome back to all of the Middle Year students and parents. I would like to give a special welcome to all of our new families who have started in Middle Years this year. We hope that you all feel very welcome and settled at Warringa Park School. Please feel free to speak to your child’s teacher if you have any issues of concern. I am also available if you would like any additional support.

It has been wonderful to visit classrooms and see how settled and focused all of the students are. It has also been pleasing to see students displaying the school values of Learning, Respect and Working Together when in classrooms and playing outside. Can I please remind parents that students must be wearing hats outside during Terms 1 & 4. This is a requirement of the Department of Education and is in keeping with our school’s Sunsmart Policy. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child’s name.

Next Thursday 11th February will be having our Meet The Teacher evening. I would like to encourage all Middle Years parents to come along and meet with their student’s teacher. This is a great opportunity to find out more about your child’s classroom program and to share any important information you might have about your child. I will also be available at this time and would be please to meet as many of our Middle Years families as possible. Warringa Park School is committed to partnering with families to achieve the best possible learning outcomes for our students.

This term students will be participating in our swimming program for one week from Monday 22nd February to Friday 26th February. (There will be a second week of swimming in Term 4). We highly encourage all of our students to be a part of this program. This is a great opportunity for students to learn and consolidate their swimming skills and have fun along the way! Notes will be sent home next week confirming all of the details.

I wish all students a year of positive and successful learning.

Alison Balchan, Middle Years Team Leader

Groups 10, 11, 18 & 19

The year has started off very well in Groups 10, 11, 18 and 19. All the students are finding their place in their new rooms and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. In literacy we have been focusing on the text “Sunday Chutney” where we have been using objects and items from the text to form connections. We have also been focusing on number in numeracy and getting back into the swing of being back at school.

Other learning that has taken place is good learning practices such as transitions, sitting nicely, packing and un-packing lunch as well as placing rubbish in the bin. This term we are focusing on who we are in our classroom and are going to be working on the question “How we are the same and different in our groups?” We ask parents and guardians to please bring items that represents your child such as toys, photos, notes as well as a family photo.

We have Meet the teacher coming up next Thursday the 11th of February and would like to encourage all parent and guardians to attend.

Looking forward to a great year ahead.

Daniel, Tim, Chloe, Erin, Amy, Dean, Alana, Crystal, Kay, Marg.
Groups 20, 39, 40, 41 & 42

We have had a very settled and productive first week back at school for all of our students. From the moment our students arrived last Thursday all staff have worked hard to make sure our students have been part of a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment. Students have made the transition to the new school year well and are working productively in their groups. I would like to welcome all the new students in our PLT group, and wish them all the best in their learning in 2016!

This is a short term, but it will be very busy. Our learning focus for Term 1 is ‘How students are different and the same?’, which we have already begun. The learning in this Inquiry is tied into the Harmony Day celebrations at the School in week 8. The whole school ‘Start Right’ program, which covers the first two weeks of school, is being taught in our groups, with students learning routines and expectations around the school values ‘Respect, Learning and Working Together’.

In week 5 we will have our annual Swimming program at the Wyndham Aquatic Centre. Next Thursday 11th February we have our ‘Meet the Teacher Evening’, which is an important event and opportunity to speak to your child’s teacher, see their classroom environment and discuss the details of classroom programs and learning for 2016. We look forward to seeing you and talking to you all next Thursday.

Have a great weekend.

Andrew, Pamela, Anna, Kerstin, Sonja (Teachers) and support staff in Middle Years Professional Learning Team 2.
Groups 22, 23, 24 & 25

It has been a great start of the year it has been for students Groups 22, 23, 24 & 25. After returning from their breaks, the students have come to school ready to learn. In the first two weeks, students have been involved in the “Start Right Program” by participating in activities to learn about our class schedules & routines, classmates and rules. The students contributions and responses have been excellent, evident in the great work they have created. We have also been beginning to explore our topic of inquiry for the term “How are our cultures the same and different?” This has promoted some rich discussions, allowing us to learn more about each other.

A fun activity that some students have already completed was making their own individual letterboxes, which they will use to learn more about each other. Keep an eye out in the next few weeks for more updates about the activities and learning students have been doing within this inquiry.

A reminder to parents and guardians about the upcoming Meet the Teacher night on February 11th. All are encouraged to attend this night and some more information on this evening will be sent home this week. Until then we look forward to meeting you and congratulate the students on a great start to the year.
**Bethany Road Campus**

WOW! What a fantastic start to the school year. It was been wonderful to see all our very smart looking Year 8 and 9 students in their new school uniform. All students have settled into their new classrooms well and all have participated in learning.

The Year 10’s have had Urban Camp this week. It has been great to see them so excited, prepared and mature for their time away. I look forward to hearing how their adventures at the Lego Education Centre, the Old Melbourne Gaol and the Melbourne Aquarium went.

Over the holiday break we had landscaping work done at the campus. We have four new planter boxes, which the Year 8 and 9 classes will care for and grow edible foods for the food tech program. Gardner Mel will be at our campus on Wednesday mornings to work with students on establishing these planter boxers. She will be working with students, teaching them what they need to do in order to grow and care for plants. We will also be introducing the Stephanie Alexander Garden program initiative within this new space.

Passion Projects and Electives Expos took place this week and all students have selected which projects and electives they wish to participate in throughout Semester 1. Students will know which classes they will be joining on Monday. Projects and Electives will both start in week 3.

Students had the opportunity to sample and choose a passion project for Semester 1. This was a very exciting day for students as they experienced new subjects. The passion projects on offer this year are Online Gaming, Media, Bike Ed, Glee Club, Textiles, Food Technology and Street Art. Similarly, students choose their two elective classes. The electives include, P.E., Art, Multi-Media, Publishing, Illustration Design, Food Technology, Drama, Music, Robotics and Textiles. Passion Projects and Electives will be running from the beginning of next week.

During English lessons, students have been introduced to the Y challenge. As part of our inquiry students will be taking part in a community-based project. Students have been using their comprehension skills to read about diversity in our community. Using their writing skills, students have outlined possible ways to enhance the lives of others in their community. We look forward to sharing the progress of these community-based projects with you.

The focus in Maths lessons is counting efficiently. It’s been fantastic to see students engaged in learning and cognisant of the importance of counting skills in the world around them.

A reminder for parents that **Meet the Teacher Night is on Thursday February 11th at 6.30pm.** This is an excellent opportunity to discuss learning, personal and social goals with your child’s teacher.

If your child attends BRC and you wish to discuss anything further or hear more about our fun time at the campus please feel free to contact me on 0477 772 626.

Danielle Barclay
Acting BRC Campus Leader

**News from Aisling…**

There has been a truly fantastic start to the school year at BRC for all Year 8 and 9 students. The BRC expectations of respect, learning and working together are evident in how students engage in classroom activities, interact with peers and staff, and transition between campuses.
Later Years  
Warringa Campus

What an exciting first week of school! The Later Years teachers have worked extremely hard to set up program and classroom experiences to ensure a smooth transition for the students. All classes have worked hard on establishing classroom expectations that align with our school values of Learning, Respect and Working Together. Students have generated expectations that are important to them and their classrooms and created signs and posters to display.

The students have begun work with the school Kitchen and Garden specialist Melanie. They have all had their first experiences in the garden for the year and once again established expectations around appropriate behaviours in these spaces. Students are preparing for their first lessons in the kitchen next week and we look forward to cooking up some amazing tasting and healthy food.

The students have begun work on our term inquiry; ‘How are we the same and different?’ which has a main focus on exploring how students belong within a group. These groups include their immediate classroom, the learning centre and the wider school community and beyond. Some of our students will go as far as exploring the diversity of cultures they have within their classroom.

As Learning Centre Leader, I am extremely proud of all the Later Years students and staff for their hard work and am looking forward to our journey together over the year.

Amy Byrne, Later Years Team Leader

---

Cayleys Road Campus

Welcome back to a new year of learning about our skills, interests and pathways! It has been an excellent start to a rather bigger group of students and it has been a pleasure to see new students make friendships and past students reacquaint with each other from previous years.

Thank you to parents for their prompt return of forms. This ensures community based programs can get started, and students can put their very busy and diverse timetables into action.

Parents will be receiving invitations shortly from core group teachers to meet with them and your child to develop goals within the Careers and Pathways Plan (CAPs).

This is a busy term for parents, giving opportunities for Transition (Post School) information. There will be an Information evening on Tuesday 16th Feb, an EXPO of Service Providers on Tuesday 15th March, and individual appointments for Year 12 students with Monica to start mapping out the plan for your child leaving school. Please keep an eye out for notices coming home.

Here are some photos of students getting straight into their learning with Personal, Vocational and Pathways learning.

All parents should have the phone numbers for staff, including myself. Please call us if you have any queries. We look forward to having a great working relationship again with our parents in 2016.
VCAL NEWS

Congratulations to the VCAL students and staff for a great start to the 2016 school year. We have been busily completing our Career Action Plans in addition to working through a lot of admin relating to safe@work and VET/TAFE programs. Highlights this week have included: a visit from Marie, the start of CERES horticulture and kitchen garden VET, travel training to programs, emergency evacuation drills... the list is endless!

Reminders: the Year 12 swimming program begins Monday the 8th, Hospitality and Hair&Beauty begin the 11th, there is a student free curriculum day on Friday the 12th.

Last but not least, a big thank you to all parents and guardians for promptly returning paperwork to VCAL.
Five things you need to know about the NDIS in VIC

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing individualised support for people with disability, their families and carers. The NDIS is the insurance that gives us all peace of mind. Disability could affect anyone and having the right support makes a big difference.

The NDIS provides eligible people a flexible, whole-of-life approach to the support needed to pursue their goals and aspirations and participate in daily life.

1. What
The Commonwealth and Victorian governments have agreed on how the NDIS will be rolled out across Victoria. In Victoria, the NDIS will be operating state-wide by July 2019. The NDIS already has a trial site in the Barwon region.

2. When
The NDIS is a big change and will be progressively rolled out across Victoria over three years. People currently receiving support through the Commonwealth and Victorian Government will be moving to the NDIS at different times depending on the type of support they are receiving and where they live.

3. Where
- North East Melbourne
- Central Highlands
- Loddon
- Outer East Melbourne
- Inner East Melbourne
- Casey
- Inner Gippsland
- Western District
- Bayside Peninsula
- Hume Moreland
- Southern Melbourne
- Brimbank Melton
- Western Melbourne
- Geelong
- Mallee
- Outer Gippsland

4. How
The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is working closely with relevant Commonwealth and Victorian government departments to ensure there is a smooth transition to the NDIS for new and existing clients, their families, carers and providers.

5. What can I do to prepare?
Before your area transitions, if you currently access services you will be contacted to discuss the process of entering the NDIS. If you are not currently receiving support, check the information and resources available at: www.ndis.gov.au/vic

Visit our website at www.ndis.gov.au/vic
Call us on 1800 800 110
School Council Elections 2016 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 (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.
### School Council Election Process and Timetable

**Warringa Park School Council**  
**Election Process and Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Monday 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Monday 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be displayed</td>
<td>Tuesday 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>Thursday 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of ballot</td>
<td>Friday 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote count</td>
<td>Monday 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration of ballot</td>
<td>Monday 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First council meeting to co-opt Community members</td>
<td>Monday 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(the principal will preside)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second council meeting to elect office bearers</td>
<td>Monday 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(the principal will preside)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Pre-packaged Salad leaf products Recall**

A link has been found between some brands of pre-packaged salad leaf products by Tripod Farmers and salmonella. Although the risk of exposure is low, the company has recalled a number of products.

Information on salmonella is available on the Department of Health and Human Services’ Better Health Channel.

Any person concerned about symptoms should seek medical advice.
Dear parents and caregivers,

You are invited to attend this information evening to hear about the transition process. This would be a great opportunity to learn about this process and perhaps have some of your questions answered.

It is highly recommended that all year 12 & 11 students and their parents attend this information night, please take the time to be informed.

When: Tuesday 16th of February

Time: 7pm

Where: Warringa Park School - 81 Warringa Cres. Hoppers Crossing

Agenda

Overview of process
Responsibilities of all stakeholders
Funding
Options for-

- Further education e.g. TAFE
- Employment and training
- Community based programs/ Day programs e.g. Mambourin

Question time/ Documentation handed out and signed for DHHS for Funding.

Please contact Nancy Ishak on 0457 507 246 or Monica Cooper on 0400 190 397 if you have any further questions.
MyTime @

MyTime Locations

Avondale Heights
Time: 9.30 to 11.30am
Monday
Where: Rhonda Davis Centre
54 Lakes Street
Avondale Heights

Sunshine
Time: 9.30am to 11.30am
Tuesday
Where: Sunshine Special Development School
Ivy Crt Sunshine
** Please enter carpark from Mounsey street.

Wyndham Vale
Time: 9am to 11am
Tuesday
Where: Manor Lakes College
2 - 50 Minindee Road
Wyndham Vale, Vic 3024

Point Cook
Time: 10am to 12pm
Wednesday
Where: Featherbrook Community Centre
33-35 Windorah Drive
Point Cook, Vic 3030

Werribee Gold
Time: 9.30am to 11.30am
Thursday
Where: Wyndham Park Community Centre
53-57 Kookaburra Ave
Werribee, Vic 3030

Williamstown
Time: 10am to 12pm

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
- A choice of topics and activities relevant to your needs
- Information resources and services available to you, how and where to access information.
- A facilitator to support, co-ordinate activities and guide group discussion
- A play helper to provide activities for the children whilst in your care and supervision
- Parent discussion
- Coffee mornings
- Group outings
- 8 sessions every school term

What do members say?

"This has been a fantastic experience for me and my children. The group has been helpful and I don’t feel lost on my journey”

"I recommend MyTime to every family who has a newly diagnosed child and who is looking for community support"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Day and start date and time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Heights</td>
<td>Monday 8th Feb – 9.30am</td>
<td>Rhonda Davis Centre -- 54 lake street, Avondale Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th Feb – 9.30am</td>
<td>Sunshine SDS – Ivory Crt, Sunshine ( please enter car park off Mounsey St)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndham Vale</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th Feb – 9.00am</td>
<td>Manor Lakes College – Minindee Rd Wyndham Vale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point Cook</td>
<td>Wednesday 10th Feb – 10am</td>
<td>Featherbrook Community Centre – Windorah Drive , Point Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Werribee Gold</td>
<td>Thursday 11th Feb – 9.30 am</td>
<td>Wyndham Park Community centre – Kookaburra Ave, Werribee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamstown</td>
<td>Friday 12th Feb – 10am</td>
<td>83 Cecil street Williamstown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I am forever grateful I met my Big Sister and had the chance to spend time with her. She taught me not to be afraid to be myself and to have fun with life. Also that life is worth living and I’m now living to the fullest every day.

-Danielle (Little Sister)

For more information or to participate in the SISTER2sister program visit www.lifechangingexperiences.org

Download an application form, complete and send to:

The SISTER2sister Program
Lifecalming Experiences Foundation
Suite 1A3, Level 1A, 410 Elizabeth Street
Darling Hill, NSW 2010

or contact us at:

enquiries@lifechangingexperiences.org
Suite 1A3, Level 1A, 410 Elizabeth Street
Darling Hill, NSW 2010
Tel: 02 9211 9190 Fax: 02 9211 8186

The SISTER2sister program is an initiative of Life Changing Experiences Foundation

A year-long mentoring & resilience program for teenage girls.

INFORMATION FOR GIRLS AND THEIR FAMILIES

A Fundraiser supporting our local ‘Children at Risk’

Disco Bingo

Friday 11th March 2016
7pm – 11.30 pm

Dance Music Entertainment and more!!!

Macedonian Hall
12 Lentini St
Hoppers Crossing
Dress: FUNKY DISCO!!!
BYO Snacks & Drinks

$25 per person

BOOKINGS (this will sell out!!!!) - Please book online at http://www.trybooking.com/KECD
OR Contact Reception or Paula (9742 6452), Margaret (0402 017 703) or Bill (9742 6254)
### Dates for the diary:

**Term 1:** 28th January-24th March 2016  
No Preps at school: February 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th  
11 Feb: Meet the Teacher Evening 6:30pm  
12 Feb: Curriculum Day—no students at school  
15 Feb: School Council meets  
14th March: Labour Day holiday  
8th March: School Photos  
15th March: Post School Expo: 3:30-6pm  
23rd March: Harmony Day  

**Term 2:** 11th April—24th June 2016

### School Tour Dates:

**Prep/Early Years**  
10th March, 21st April, 26th May, 21st July, 25th August, 15th September, 20th October, 17th November

**Middle Years**  
19th May, 2nd June, 28th July, 1st September, 27th October, 24th November

### SRC REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Thank you to all the WPS and Bethany Road students who have been working to complete their profiles for SRC nominations. The SRC workshop in Tyler’s room (room 23) gave students information about the role and expectations of an SRC member. This workshop was very beneficial and helpful to all the students. The workshop is available again for WPS students on Friday 5/2 (Middle Years recess and lunch breaks). Bethany Road students can submit or get assistance to complete their profiles on Thursdays. Nominations close Friday 12/2 and elections will be held on 29/2.

### Hoax Phone Calls to Victorian Schools

A note to reassure you in light of the recent hoax phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days. Our school has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this and we practise it throughout the year.

Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency plans and they worked well.

The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.

If you have any questions please contact the school on 9749 5774.