Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the 2017 school year at Warringa Park School. I hope the holidays were relaxing and enjoyable and our staff are looking forward to working in partnership with you to provide the best possible educational outcomes for your child. Our new vision ‘Excellent Education for Every Student’ will guide our work this year.

I was delighted to visit every classroom this week and see the students excited to be at school and engaged in their learning. I thank the staff for their dedicated efforts in ensuring classrooms were well organised and ready for students to commence the year. We were pleased to welcome 19 prep students and their parents as well as many other new students to learning centres across the school. The partnership with parents is important and highly valued as together we can achieve great learning.

We have 18 buses transporting students to and from school and this year we have 8 brand new buses which are very spacious and can carry wheelchairs as well. Wendy Richter has done an excellent job of notifying parents of any changes to routes and pick up and drop off times. We do try and accommodate parent’s needs if this is at all possible.

The school welcomes many new faces to the Warringa Park School team. You will have an opportunity to meet all the staff at the ‘Meet the Teacher’ evening on Thursday February 16th so please keep that date free in your diary and I encourage you all to come along. I’m sure these young people will be great asset to our school.

Many works have been undertaken at each of the campuses over the holiday period and we’re very proud of the environment we are providing for our students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alison Rooney and Andrew Warner who worked tirelessly over the break to ensure these works were completed.

The students in the VCAL program are now in the VCAL hub situated at the Bethany Road campus. We are pleased with the 2 buildings DET has provided for this program but there is still much work to be undertaken over the term landscaping the site. I thank the staff for all their work setting up the classrooms and Alison Rooney for coordinating the installation of the buildings

Compulsory School Uniform
Parents and carers are reminded that all students need to be in school uniform every day that they attend school. If students turn up to school out of uniform they will be provided the uniform required to enable them to comply with the schools uniform policy. I was delighted to see all the Later Years students arrive yesterday in their uniforms. They looked fabulous and were extremely pleased with themselves.

Student Absence
It is vital that our students attend school every day if they are not sick. The more students attend the more they learn. The more they attend the more they will feel comfortable and connected at school and the more likely they are to have a positive attitude to school and learning. We had several students attend school every day in 2016 and we would like to do better in 2017. Please let the school know if your child is going to be or has been absent for any reason.

Student Valuables
Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. I am asking parents to discourage students from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. Your cooperation in ensuring that this occurs is appreciated.

Sunsmart
In terms 1 and 4 all students are expected to wear a hat whilst playing outside or on school excursions. No hat, no play. Students who do not have a hat will be required to stay in a shaded area. On days of extreme heat students will be asked to stay in their classrooms. Please consider applying sunscreen every morning during Terms 1 and 4 and ensure that your child has access to a drink each day.
Healthy Eating Policy
Warringa Park School has a Healthy Eating Policy. Parents are asked not to bring takeaway food to the school for their child. Please give your children sandwiches or a healthy alternative. Water bottles are allowed in class and water is freely available at the school. No soft drinks or energy drinks are permitted.

School Council Elections
In this newsletter you will be receiving information on the School Council election process that will commence on 6th February. There are 6 parent vacancies on the School Council and I ask you to give every consideration in nominating for one of these vacancies on School Council.

Enjoy the weekend and the year ahead. My office door is always open so if you have any concerns please don’t hesitate to pop in.

Regards,
Marie Hayes
Principal

From the Assistant Principal….

Welcome back to a new year I hope you have had a lovely and relaxed holiday. It was wonderful meeting all of the students at the buses on Tuesday morning as they arrived at school. Our school has been allocated eight lovely new big buses. We are fortunate to have the bus service providers supporting our students and parents every morning and afternoon. Staff at the school are working collaboratively with these companies to ensure the safe passage of students to and from school. We encourage all parents to be familiar with the school’s transport policy and the student code of conduct. If you don’t have a copy notify the office and we will make sure it is sent to you.

Each bus has a chaperone who supervises students during transit. Students are picked up and dropped off from their permanent home address or designated bus stops. It is the parents’ responsibility to ensure that designated times of pick up and drop off are adhered to and that students will be met by the parent/caregiver as they disembark from the bus. If upon arrival in the morning, there is no one at the student’s bus stop, the driver will wait 3 minutes before continuing on the run. In the afternoons, if there is no adult to meet the student, the drivers have been instructed to wait 3 minutes after the designated time at the usual set down point. The bus will then continue on with the normal run. Parents can contact the bus and arrange to meet it en route to collect students. If no contact occurs between parents and the bus by the end of the run, bus staff will then contact the school and/student’s emergency contact phone numbers regarding supervision of the student.

If you want your child to independently walk to and from the bus you must provide the school with written confirmation of this. Parents/caregivers are asked to talk to their child about appropriate behaviour during transit and help manage inappropriate behaviour. Please note that parents/ caregivers may be asked to seek alternative travel arrangements if their child endangers the safety of other travellers.

Parents are asked to contact the bus chaperone directly if a morning pickup needs to be cancelled because of illness/absence. Parents must contact the school before 2:45pm if they are unable to be present at the designed pick up time. Contact phone numbers have been provided to parents/caregivers but if you haven’t got this information please contact the school office. The school has provided your child’s bus chaperone with your contact numbers unless you have indicated that you did not want this to happen. If you have any issues around bus travel please contact the school transport coordinator Wendy Richter in the office or Dehlia Dawson (Assistant Principal) on 9749 5774.

I am looking forward to another year of working closely with our Warringa Park School community. Thank you for your continuous involvement in your child’s learning.

Dehlia Dawson

Student & Family Support Team

Welcome everyone to Term 1 and we hope you all have had an enjoyable holiday. The team is looking forward to working with the staff, students and families over the year.

The Wellbeing team has a focus on providing both individual and group support to assist the development of student resilience and wellbeing. We also work with community and government agencies to provide support and referrals to students and families.

In Term 1 we have a focus on student leadership and commence elections for the Student Representative Council. If your child is keen to develop their leadership skills please encourage them to try out for the SRC. Please note they will need to have green photo permission to participate. We will also commence personal development groups including the Shared Leadership Program in Multimedia and Later Years.

In 2018 the NDIS will be established in the Wyndham area and we are holding information sessions for parents this term. Please see attached flyer in newsletter regarding the following sessions – Monday 13th Feb at 9.15 and Monday 27th March at 6.30pm. There will be childcare available at these times to assist families attending.

We encourage families to make contact with the Wellbeing Team over the term to discuss any needs or supports they may require. We are able to assist with referrals and also provide information related to parent programs. The My Time Parenting Program is run in partnership with Tweddle Child & Family Health Service and is a valuable resource for parents. If you would like further information please email bourke.therese.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

We look forward to working with you all over the year and please make contact with the team members at anytime to discuss the wellbeing needs of your child.

Caitriona Harkin Assistant Principal
Welling

Therese Bourke Wellbeing Team
Nicole Geehman School Nurse

Ca lind.caitriona.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

Joan Kurtis Wellbeing Team

The My Time Parenting Program is run in partnership with Tweddle Child & Family Health Service and is a valuable resource for parents. If you would like further information please email bourke. therese.a@edumail. vic.gov.au
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
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.
Hot Weather... a message from DET

- 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.
Seesaw

Introduction for Families

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 smartphone 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: I / 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>9.30am—11.30 Thursdays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Wyndham Park Community Centre 57 Kookaburra Ave Werribee, Vic 3030</td>
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Facilitator: Kylee
Play helper: Carla

The MyTime program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. MyTime is coordinated nationally by the Parenting Research Centre.

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
**Be sun smart!**

A healthy balance of the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Over exposure to UV during childhood and adolescence is a major factor in future skin cancer risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is necessary for the development and maintenance of healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. Warringa Park School aims to achieve a healthy UV exposure balance for students and staff and as a SunSmart school takes measures from September to April (when UV levels reach 3 and above) to provide sun protection. Please encourage your child to remember to:

1. **Slip** on clothing that covers as much skin as possible (no singlet tops)
2. **Slop** on SPF30+ broad spectrum sunscreen (remember to reapply it before going outside)
3. **Slap** on a wide brimmed hat that shades the head, face, neck and ears
4. **Seek** shade
5. **Slide** on some wrap around sunglasses (labelled AS 1067) – if practical

All students are required to wear a wide brimmed hat when outside in term 1. Teachers will be reminding students to wear their hats and to apply sunscreen before recess times. Parents are asked to make sure their child has a hat at school each day. Warringa Park School hats can be purchased for a cost of $11.50. The SunSmart UV Alert is available to assist with sun protection.

**NOTE: The school provides some sunscreen which is the Coles brand SPF 50. Please let your student’s teacher know if you child CANNOT use this product.** Marie

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**Student Attendance — It’s Vital!!**

Research shows that students who attend school regularly learn better, feel more connected to school and peers and are generally more likely to succeed at School. In line with this research the Education Department has for many years emphasised the “**IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY**” campaign.

At Warringa Park we encourage parents and carer givers to support their children by ensuring school attendance and by having a positive attitude towards coming to school. We realize however that there are occasions such as illness when students are unable to come to school. On these days please ensure that you NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR THE CLASSROOM TEACHER. Some parents tell bus drivers and chaperones but it is important that you NOTIFY THE SCHOOL AS WELL.

**Teacher parent regular Communication:**

Warringa School values highly parent input and encourages regular communication between school and home.

In 2016 daily communication will be via email or a communication diary. The School has an Application (App) for use on the iPad that is available from the App Store.

Parents and carer giveres are encouraged to maintain regular communication with their child’s class either by email or other method during Term 1.
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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**CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 2017**

**Date:** 11th February (Saturday) 2017  
**Time:** 11:00am to 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Penrose Community Centre, 83 Penrose Promenade, Tarneit VIC 3029

**Rally and laying the floral wreath**  
**Kids art workshop and face painting**  
**Book fair**  
**Cultural performances by bilingual groups**  
**Learning other languages**  
**Array of stalls with crafts and cloths**  
**And many more**

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**Friday LIVE**  
**Music. Weekends. Werribee.**

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

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

**FRI 24 FEB**  
The Best of Americana: **GO! AMERICANA**  
feat **WEeping WILLOWS + MORE**

**STATION PLACE WERRIBEE**  
5PM - 10PM

[@wyndhamarts](https://twitter.com/wyndhamarts)  
@wyndham.vic.gov.au/arts

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**For more information**  
*Phone contact*  
Polish 0433151958  
Munich 0423707247  
Nepalese 0433259290

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**Supported by Wyndham City Council**

**Funded by Wyndham City Council**
Warringa updates!

Dates for the diary:

Term 1: 31st January-31st March 2017
No Preps at school: February 8th, 15th, 22nd & 1st March 2017
16 Feb: Meet the Teacher Evening
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