



Thank you to families for your support and patience with Fridays snap school closure due to a positive Covid case attending the school.

The nature of a specialist school means that many of our students are vulnerable and our number one aim is to keep everyone safe and healthy!

We are all navigating new ground and having the support of families and the many kind messages we received meant so much to us all!

Warragul & District Specialist School Newsletter
Term 4 Issue 32, Tuesday 26th October 2021

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 2nd November

- **Melbourne Cup Day, Public Holiday**

Friday 12th November

- **Pupil Free Day**

Thurs 18th & Fri 19th

- **Life Ed Van with Healthy Harold**

Thank you to all our school community for all your wonderful support during our recent positive Covid case in a section of our school. I am very pleased to report that all Covid test results to date have returned a negative result. **Fully vaccinated staff and fully vaccinated students returning a negative Covid result were able to return on Monday 25th of October**, with unvaccinated or partially vaccinated people who present with a second negative test on Day 13 will be returning to school on Monday 1st of November. Thank you to all families affected in this location of the school for your prompt response to what I am sure has been a worrying situation for you all.

The wearing of masks, regular hand washing, social distancing where possible has certainly reduced the risk of infection as well as staff being vaccinated and many eligible students also doing the same. Our Covid Safe practices remain strong with regular cleaning throughout the day and after school.

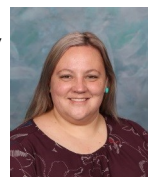
We would like to reiterate to all families and visitors that it is requirement to wear masks as soon as you enter school grounds (this includes the carpark) and all people enter the main office must QR code or manually sign in if a device is not available.

The end of October is fast approaching with the weather and outside temperature continuing to rise. We wear hats outside in Term 1 and 4 at Warragul & District Specialist School and we request for families to please label all incoming school items with your child's name so they can be easily returned if misplaced. It has been wonderful to hear lots of happy young people outside enjoying the sunshine after many rainy days during the past few terms.

In November we expect Covid restrictions to continue to ease and with that many school programs will be able to resume. We are looking forward to notifying you all in future newsletters when this will be taking place.

Have a great week!

Alesha

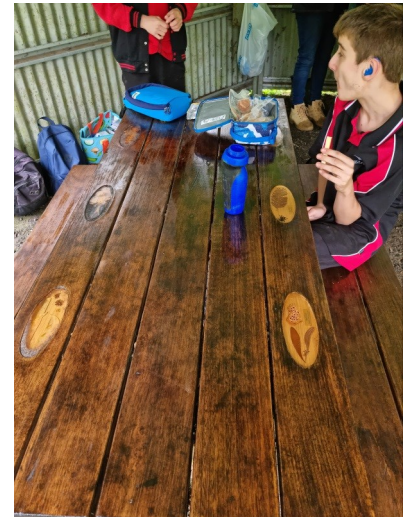




With the staggered return to school, we have had a small Landcare group working at Mt Worth but their achievements have been ENORMOUS!

The students worked hard on sanding back 2 picnic tables and oiling them. Kirsten and Ryan should be very proud of themselves. They worked hard and saw fantastic results.

Coby, Josh and Ky worked hard to clean a muddy bridge. They then repaired a boggy path. Well done crew! Mt Worth has been improved ready for the public to enjoy.



Well done Kirsten and Ryan, the table looks amazing !



Coby, Josh & Ky had their work cut out for them but the end result was fantastic!

SENIORS

Seniors are enjoying getting back to regular programs.....



Ajay and Josh loved the mini trampolines on a trip out to Blue Rock Dam !

Senior morning fitness and relaxation: listening to the sounds around us, being calm and mindful, moving into the **GREEN ZONE** in order be ready to focus and learn for the day.



SENIORS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Some of the senior students are becoming regular visitors to Warragul Community Garden in Eastern Park and have been doing some valuable work to keep the garden looking lovely!

Kieran is fast becoming the resident whipper-snipper and lawn-mower master and thanks to his hard work the rental bed area is kept neat and tidy. Bayden has also shown us how to prepare those massive silver beet roots to get them ready for the compost heap - grab a spade, check your muscles and give 'em the chop!

The rental beds are available to the public (a little bird told me that a senior student has already claimed one!) for their own private use. If you need any info just ask me when you see me wandering around school.

-Gail



School Activities



Only one day of arty things this week but the students made the most of it! There's nothing better than combining art and gardening and there's always plenty of both to do. The school garden is looking fantastic and there are lots of things growing very quickly especially with all the rain we have had and the few warmer spells. There are still some spots in the garden that dry out pretty quickly so the students did a great job topping up their reserves.

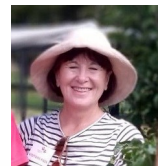
One of the raised beds had rotten timbers so we have changed that into a low-level flower garden which was planted up and given some TLC by Coby. It will look lovely once the seedlings are established and all of them are in bloom.

Don't forget to visit the garden to pick the produce! Growing well at the moment are broad beans, perpetual spinach and asparagus and the herbs are busting out all over so help yourself to mint, thyme, chives, rosemary and oregano. It will soon be time to plant tomatoes, cucumbers and capsicums so that will keep us all busy.

The students also worked really well together making more cabbage moth decoys to make sure the pesky critters leave our veggies alone! The decoys have been placed all around the garden and look great. Oh and our garden sculpture is now finished! It was so much fun to do maybe we should start another!

The big job for this week is making a start on tidying the greenhouse so everyone bring your best muscles with you and we'll get it done in no time at all!

Gail



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?...

Sue recently caught up with former WDSS student Cam Bowering, he told her all about some of the awesome things he has been up to....!

Cam was able to have a Zoom chat to Cold Play lead singer Chris Martin.

Cam sang "Yellow" and played his harmonica and guitar for Chris. Chris was thrilled and has invited him back stage when Cold Play do a tour again.

Chris then sent Cam one of his electric guitars, worth lots of money!!

Sue loved having a play of the guitar too.

Cam has great memories of singing songs with Sue and being part of our weekly Glee Club. Cam now does music programs at Mawarra and Moe Life skills.



Glee Club fun in 2017!





STUDENT Awards

We are Safe, Respectful Learners!



ZAC

Being a **LEARNER** - counting by 10s and 5s.



ISAAC

Being a **LEARNER** - looking at the alphabet letters and thinking about the sounds they make at the beginning of words.



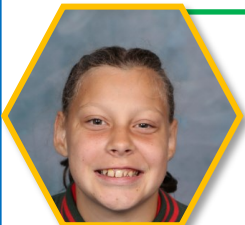
PAT

Being a **SAFE LEARNER** - Being safe by asking for a break outside



NATHAN

Being a **LEARNER** - Following instructions at Hopeworks.



TASH

Being **RESPECTFUL** - being friendly to Erin.



WILL

Being **RESPECTFUL** - being friendly to Jacob.



STUDENT LED AWARD - KY

Being a **LEARNER** great effort during sport
Nominated by Coby



STUDENT LED AWARD - COBY

Being a **LEARNER** - fantastic reading
Nominated by Ky



ALEX

Being a **LEARNER** - being respectful and helpful in class.



PAIGE

Being a **LEARNER** assisting others with their work & great scoring in Basketball.



BELLA

Being a **LEARNER** Great Shooting in Basketball.

Being **RESPECTFUL** - independently helping staff with another student.



School Visits and Pick Up / Drop Off

Student arrival at school will continue to be staggered in 2021. Please ensure you refer to the below timetable for times and locations. Staff will be situated at each designated pick up and drop off location.

The Main Office Foyer is still under social distancing rules and can only accommodate **6 adults** in this space at one time. Please consider this when visiting the school.

When picking up or dropping off Junior students please wait outside near the bollards after letting the office know you have arrived.

Sanitiser is provided upon entry, please use this.

Morning		
Who	When	Where
Drop-off Buses	9:00 – 9:15am	Bus Circle
Juniors School	9:10 – 9:20am	Outside Main office
Middle school	9:10 – 9:20am	Oval gate (through main carpark)
Senior School	9:20 – 9:30am	Main Portable Yard gate
Care Needs	Individual arrangements	

Afternoon		
Who	When	Where
Pick-up Buses	3:00 – 3:15pm	Bus Circle
Juniors School	2:50 – 3:00pm	Outside Main office
Middle school	2:50 – 3:00pm	Oval gate (through main carpark)
Senior School	3:10 – 3:20pm	Main Portable Yard gate
Care Needs	Individual arrangements	