School Council Elections.
The annual school council elections are due to be held in March. Nominations are called for the three positions resulting from the tenure of three councilors ending. These three members will be re nominating for their positions, however other community members are also invited to nominate. Nomination forms will be available from me at the office on Monday.

Call for nominations  Monday 15th February 2016
Closing date for nomination  Mon 22nd Feb
Date that nominations will be displayed  Wed 24th Feb
Ballot papers distributed  Mon March 1st
Close of ballot  Tues March 8th
Vote count  Wed March 10th
Declaration of ballot  Fri March 12th
First school council meeting to elect office bearers
March scheduled meeting

Wandiligong Primary School News

February
12th 2/3 swimming
15th Call for Council nominations
18th German student visit
18th Power outage
19th 2/3 swimming
26th 2/3 swimming

March
4th prep/1 swimming
11th prep/1 swimming
18th prep/1 swimming
18th Star 6 year 6
21st Harmony Day
24th Last day of term 1

April
11th First day term 2
15th prep/1 swimming
22nd prep/1 swimming
27th Life Ed
29th prep/1 swimming

May
6th 2/3 swimming
13th 2/3 swimming
20th 4/5/6 swimming
25th Grip Leadership
27th 4/5/6 swimming

June
3rd 4/5/6 swimming
6th - 10th Fifteen Mile Creek
17th 4/5/6 swimming
24th 4/5/6 swimming
24th Last day term 2

Wandiligong Primary School
119 School Road Wandiligong 3744
PO Box 591 Bright 3741
Ph 57551026
Mobile 0437 377150

Providing Little kids with Big Futures

Wandiligong Primary School
119 School Road Wandiligong 3744
PO Box 591 Bright 3741
Ph 57551026
Mobile 0437 377150

Smith.julie.jc@edumail.vic.gov.au

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February 12th 2016
Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the parent teacher interviews this week. Unfortuaetly we still have a few of the older children to go before we can start the littlies. On that note my apologies to the prep / 1 parents who must have wondered what I was talking about when they didn’t receive and interview time.

Unfortunately we have hit a small glitch in that Sue’s elderly parents need her support next week so our time frame for the completion of the interview process has been pushed back. We will however ensure that we do touch base with everyone ASAP.

The teacher’s are still working hard to benchmark every child with their reading so that we have a clear reference point to measure growth and specifically target activities at an appropriate level. Once all of this is finished, we will start looking at classroom practice to ensure that we are all catering for the very diverse needs of every student.

We all believe that we are heading in the right direction; as we appear to have developed a whole school climate that enables the children to feel happy and settled, as they increasingly understand what the teachers are doing and why. I feel incredibly fortunate to be working with staff who are so focussed on making decisions that have each child’s interests at heart. There is great communication between the teachers and a great sense of dedication balanced with a sense of enjoyment and fun.

Even more importantly each teacher is at the ready to provide advice and assistance to the others, so that every student can see and understand that expectations and consequences are consistently applied. We know that we haven’t got this exactly right yet, but it appears that these clear boundaries are making school a safe and predictable place to be.

I am aware that parents are starting to be proactive where OHS issues are concerned. This is actually reassuring as we all need to be ensuring that the environment is safe. However I know that those of you who have known me for a long time are aware that nitting happens randomly. Even things that seem quite odd will have a practical purpose. So please ask me “why has that happened”, or “what is that for?” Often what you are looking at is a practical solution to a problem that I have limited resources or options to address and more than likely I need some assistance. This week I am relieved to report that my very temporary solution to installing a door in the main building is about to be addressed by the tradie who has been working on small carpentry jobs over past weeks. Adrian Leist was at school on Friday morning and after observing our difficulties with my temporary solution volunteered to make us a custom made safety gate for the prep / 1 room locker area. He is really busy, however he will do this as quickly as possible as he knows this is urgent which I am really grateful for.

I have to say I love the new polos ………. No not simply because they look great, it is because they enable me to spot a flash of colour alerting me to where a child is heading to avoid dection. I hadn’t realised until this week that the pale blue is actually quite hard to spot amongst the trees and bushes. On the note of uniforms I realise that there are families who are still waiting for orders. We will get them out to you as soon as they arrive. It is probably time to also make the suggestion that families plan ahead, consider what further items they made need and perhaps put some money away each week so that they are ready for the next order. We will definitely endeavour to send the order form home allowing a couple of weeks between receiving the form and returning it. However please understand that while that is our intention it is not always possible to deliver on the good intention. Please know that we do our best to help families manage financially whenever possible. I will pin a uniform order on the notice board so that you can check on pricing.

I believe that Kristie has now developed a system that helps parents acquire uniform items that they need economically and without having to travel to Wangaratta. It is therefore an appropriate time to request that a parent volunteer takes over this task from Kristie. The volunteer would still have to work with her re payments, but this would save her a lot of time because processing orders and distributing uniform bundles take up time that Kristie really needs to be using for her own administrative tasks.

School leadership positions were announced this week. Congratulations to the following children:

Indiah - School captain
Ella - Vice Captain
Owen – Vice Captain
Will – Playground Coach
Maximus and Molly - Sport Captains
Grace - Class Captain
Amber – Student Leader

On Monday I will have a meeting with these children to clarify with them what each role involves. I am happy to say the most of them were thrilled with their role. I am hoping that it won’t take long for them to all see that their role actually suits them, and will provide them with some great opportunities this year.

Still on positivity, a parent has let me know that while the interviews were certainly different and a bit challenging, they were worthwhile and it is good to have the opportunity to express an opinion to a receptive hearing. Sue was really pleased to also hear that her efforts in setting up her room this year have been noticed and appreciated.

We are listening and encourage you to keep looking for the positives and make a comment. Thank you Julio
Term 1 week 3

We have continued to focus on the alphabet: the preps focused on the letters M and T and our writing focus has been procedural writing using first, then, next and finally. The year 1 wrote about when we cooked pancakes on Tuesday:
First we washed our hands. Then we sifted the flour. Next we added milk and oil. Finally we ate the pancakes!
“I am making pancakes with Mrs Manning.” Skye Snowden
“I ate my pancakes.” Zeke Pywell.
The children are becoming very organised in the morning changing their own readers for when they read to parents. If you are available to hear reading, I have put up a roster on the power board, if you would like to volunteer to hear reading. All the children were very excited to borrow books from the library van this week. I have been benchmarking the Year 1s reading ability and have begun the Department’s ‘English On-line’ assessment with the Preps.
I will be holding the Prep parent/teacher interviews in week 5. These will be held on Wednesday, 24th February. Times will be sent out Monday of next week.

The 2/3s continue our term focus of counting and place value. As they start their numeracy session, the children practised counting from a variety of starting points, adding 4. We used MAB to make numbers, adding and subtracting as well as recognizing and interpreting fractions and fractions of a whole. We played games that supported learning about place value. A very busy Maths week once again! The 2/3s were very excited to be the ‘big kids’ of the school on Friday.

Mrs Manning
Facebook

Wandi School has a closed community Facebook page where staff post messages or parents can post questions about what is going on. Only those who are currently part of our school community can be a member of this closed Facebook page. I have started to update our closed community Facebook page. Those new to the school, if you would like to be part of Wandiligong PS’s page, you can either ‘friend request’ or send me you Facebook name and I will invite you to join the page.

Thanks Sue

This week a round of applause goes to:

- Teagan Nugent from Bright College for her work on planning and running the Cluster swimming sports
- Adrian Leist for his work here at school
- Simon Lodge for installing the new soap dispenser so we can test its effectiveness
- Kristie for managing to juggle so many tasks so amazingly well.
- The staff for delivering on their promise to make pancakes, which were such a hit with all classes
- Mrs Reid for ‘diving’ into cluster activities and performing the marshalling duties on Friday
- Thank you 😊

Reminders from Kristie who usually works on a Tuesday and Thursday

Dear Parents,

I am trying to send each new permission note home of different coloured paper so that you keep track of all the forms that arrive home in the school bags.

Soon I will have a letterbox in my door where children will be able to post permission forms and money. Please start making sure that forms and money are in an envelope with your child’s name on it so we are not wasting time looking for lost forms or money.
Composer and classical performer, Emili Rackemann, is now offering private and group lessons in **piano, flute and creative writing** here at the Wandiligong School and in her private studio after school hours. Having studied a Bachelor of Music in classical performance at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, her teaching skills offer an array of opportunity for students, ranging from Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) criteria to creative writing and music theory.

All ages and levels are welcome.

For tuition fees and further information, feel free to visit her website: [www.brightpianoandmusiceducation.com](http://www.brightpianoandmusiceducation.com)

Or contact Emili on: 0402 509 873 or via email: emili@emilirackemann.com