



THE WHITTY NEWS

IT'S RAINING, IT'S POURING

It may be raining and pouring but there definitely hasn't been any 'snoring' at school! As we hit the half way mark this term, we've reflected on our learning, celebrated our achievements and discussed our goals. We're looking forward to the next five weeks which are jam packed with *Exceptional Educational Experiences* - at school and as we head out and about on camps and excursions.

Highlights will include two footy clinics; some marble mania with Fen for Science Week; celebrating the works of Australian authors as we 'dream with our eyes open' at our Book Week Picnic; and catching up with our cluster friends at the KVC Winter Sports afternoon, Musica Viva and an Italian Day specially planned by Signora Acca. We'll also be officially meeting our 2023 Foundation students at our Open House session and then there's our camps... Our 4-6 students will be heading to Falls Creek for our Ski Camp and all of our students (F-6) will have the opportunity to join us for our Positive Start to School Camp in Anglesea.



LAKE VIEW

We're almost chanting 'Rain, rain, go away...' but we're happy that the creek is full and our plants are thriving. We were quite impressed with our lake side view last week and we've all had fun splashing and splashing in the yard.



STEPPING OUT IN STYLE

Our Grade 6s are looking spiffy in their new shirts. They were over the moon and proudly posed for the camera to strut their stuff.



Dates to remember:	
Hot Lunches	Every Wednesday
School Council	Tue 16 August
Footy Clinics (F-6)	Tue 16 & 23 August
Science Week Marble Mania (F-6)	Thu 18 August
Open House (2023 Foundation Students)	Mon 22 August
Book Week Celebration (All welcome)	Wed 24 August
Bike Ed (F-6)	22-26 August
KV Cluster Winter Sports Arvo (F-6)	Fri 26 August
Ski Camp (4 - 6)	Mon 29 - Wed 31 August
KV Cluster Musica Viva Performance	Mon 5 September
KV Cluster Italian Day (F-6)	Tue 6 September
Anglesea Beach Camp (F-6)	Wed 14 - Fri 16 September

CREATIVE MINDS

We love wandering around the yard and seeing students' imaginations running wild. It's a joy to witness the excitement as they play games like stick baseball, clean their cubbies with bush brooms and perform live at the rodeo under the big top... students using every day objects to create wonderful memories.

I had to chuckle when the face mask got a gig as a blind fold when a group of inquisitive minds decided to play Marco Polo on the playground.

I can't wait to find out what they'll create next...





OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE

Over the holidays, it was action, action, action at the front of the school. The poles were set in preparation for the shade sail to be erected for our Outdoor Learning Space. This week, the sails were rigged and now we're all set for some outdoor learning (when the weather gets warmer and dryer)!

Hopefully you'll be able to come and explore the space at our Book Week Picnic.



IN THE GARDEN

Our winter planting has started to take off with a few of our green thumbs having great success, particularly against the little creatures who love munching on the leaves of our plants.

We're also very impressed with our efforts from National Tree Planting Day—all of our seedlings are thriving!



Creating Memories...

Many people look back with pleasure on their favourite stories from childhood. When I think back, I start to recite a long list of my favourites... *John Brown and the Midnight Cat* by Jenny Wagner, *Lester and Clyde* by James Reece, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* by Dr Suss... the list goes on and on and extends to include my favourite books from adulthood, like *Drac and the Gremlin* by Alan Baille, *Just Another Ordinary Day* by Rod Clement, *Uno's Garden* by Graham Base, *Little Light* by Kelly Canby... I just can't stop! Everyday I find joy in children's books.

Story time with your child is not only wonderful for their development and learning, can also help children cope with their feelings and problems and they learn new things about the world. Stories can be a powerful tool in helping children remember special moments with loved ones—a way to create lasting memories together. Most of all, children just love spending time with you and sharing the joy of book land!

Whether you tell stories, or read from books, stories are one of the ways children learn to enjoy reading. There's also a great range of non-fiction narratives, hybrid texts (part fact, part fiction) and an emerging library of graphic novels for reluctant readers to enjoy.

As we head into Book Week, remember, the power of reading with your kids... the love of books is one of the best and most lasting gifts you can give your child.

"There are many little ways to enlarge your world. Love of books is best of all.."

Jackie Kennedy



50 Nights!
Melodee

75 Nights!
Maddison



100 Nights!
Maxwell Chloe



BOOK WEEK

During Book Week, we will be celebrating the wonderful work of many Australian children's book authors and illustrators.

On **Wednesday 24 August**, students will be engaged in special activities relating to the theme... 'Dreaming with eyes open'!

Everyone is encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character, author or illustrator.

You are also invited to help us celebrate books!

Come and join us for our fashion parade, activities and book picnic.

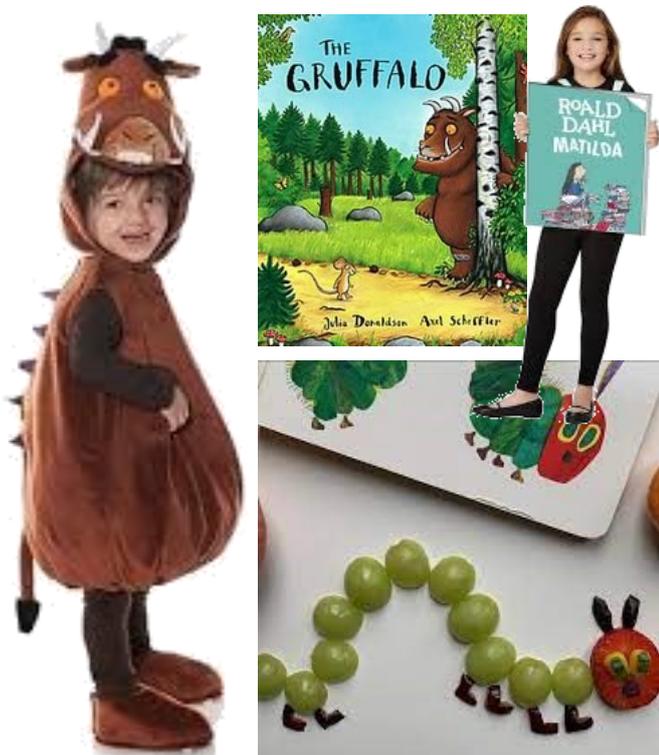
Students are encouraged to bring a small plate of book inspired morning tea to share with our community of book worms.

When: Wednesday 24 August

Time: 9.00am to 11.00am (picnic at 10.30am)

Where: In the garden (hopefully)

Come dressed as your favourite book character, author or illustrator!



Grade 3/4 Camping Adventures

Our Grade 3/4 students had a ball at 15 Mile Creek Camp! It was wonderful to see their beaming smiles when I visited the Outdoor School on Tuesday afternoon. After a delicious and nutritious lunch, the gang introduced me to Gaga Ball. I'm not surprised they already have plans to build a pit at school! Cool game!

The afternoon was action packed with games of Camouflage, navigating the campsite to track down orienteering markers and making damper on a stick over the fire. The kids loved every minute and they were definitely well fed!

We've loved hearing about all their adventures, the things they learned and the new friendships they made.

Miss Feldtmann, thank you for looking after our crew and making sure they had a wonderful time!



While the 3/4s were at camp. They often paused to enjoy their surrounds and take notice of what they could see and hear.

We know you'll enjoy reading some of their beautiful reflections...

Mountains

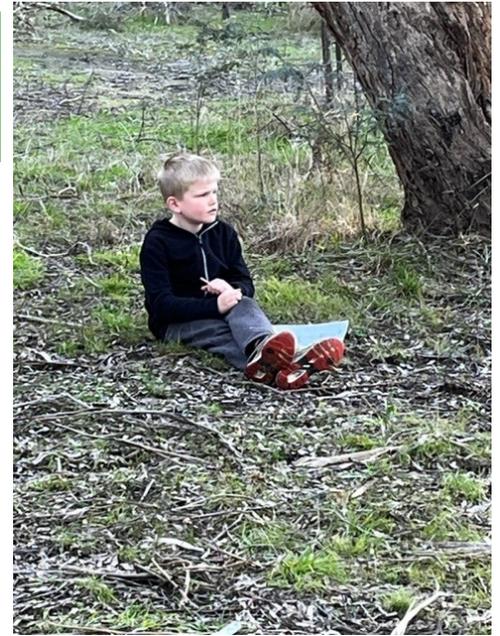
I noticed the wind and the scrunching sound of the snow.

The mountains looked all cloudy, rocky, steep and had forests with dead trees and snow gums.

The mountains made me feel excited, happy, warm and slidy.

The road was windy, and the wind was sometimes very strong.

by Joshua



Creeks

When I was near the creek I heard the bubbling of the water, a frog and a kookaburra.

I saw some cool things at the creek, I saw a water spider but the best thing was frogs eggs(a lot of them).

Being near the creek feels like you can relax and be calm.

by Sylvie



Camp

The bush made us feel calm and amazing. The bike ride made me happy.

The snow was exciting and bumpy. The day was so much fun, and Johann and Joah got so much air on the toboggan.

Instinct for survival made me hot, sweaty and I was puffed but it was exciting and I felt free to run wild.

by Ethan

Mountains

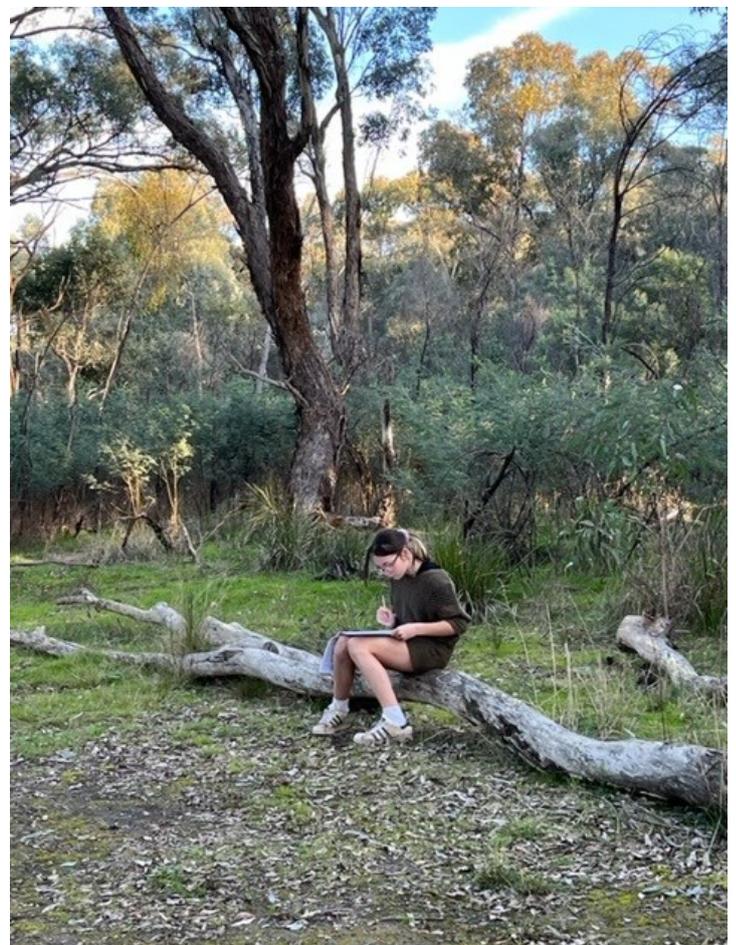
I noticed the wind and how my shoes made a crunching sound on the snow.

The mountains looked rocky and snowy.

The mountains made me feel happy and cold.

I noticed the snow, the trees and the fog.

by Maya





THUMBS UP! Congratulations Esther, Kody and Tobias! You have modelled great leadership and contributed wonderful ideas to help us with our Voice and Agency learning.

You have all become confident and respectful communicators, sharing your ideas and listening respectfully to other people's ideas.

You have shown persistence when solving problems and you have helped the team work together and achieve success.



ZEST FOR LEARNING

I'm always over the moon when our students show that they are deeply invested in their learning by extending their thinking outside the classroom. After learning about Ideas and Organisation in writing, Aroha decided to explore her learning further. She listed some ideas and wrote a beautiful narrative about her much loved dog, Zachy.

Aroha's passion for learning is inspiring!

Zachy

Zachy was my dog. He was small and white and funny. He didn't like water but he did like chasing Toria.

Sadly, he ate chocolate! It was dark chocolate. He got diabetes and we took Zachy to the vet. The vet pumped his stomach out but that did not work. She did do a blood test and it showed high sugar levels. So the vet gave him insulin. We went home and the vet called mum and she told her the bad news... that Zachy is dead.

I am grateful for we have a new puppy, Ollie McDougall. He is 6 years old. He loves playing with Toria but he doesn't like water either!

By Aroha



Student Voice, Agency & Leadership

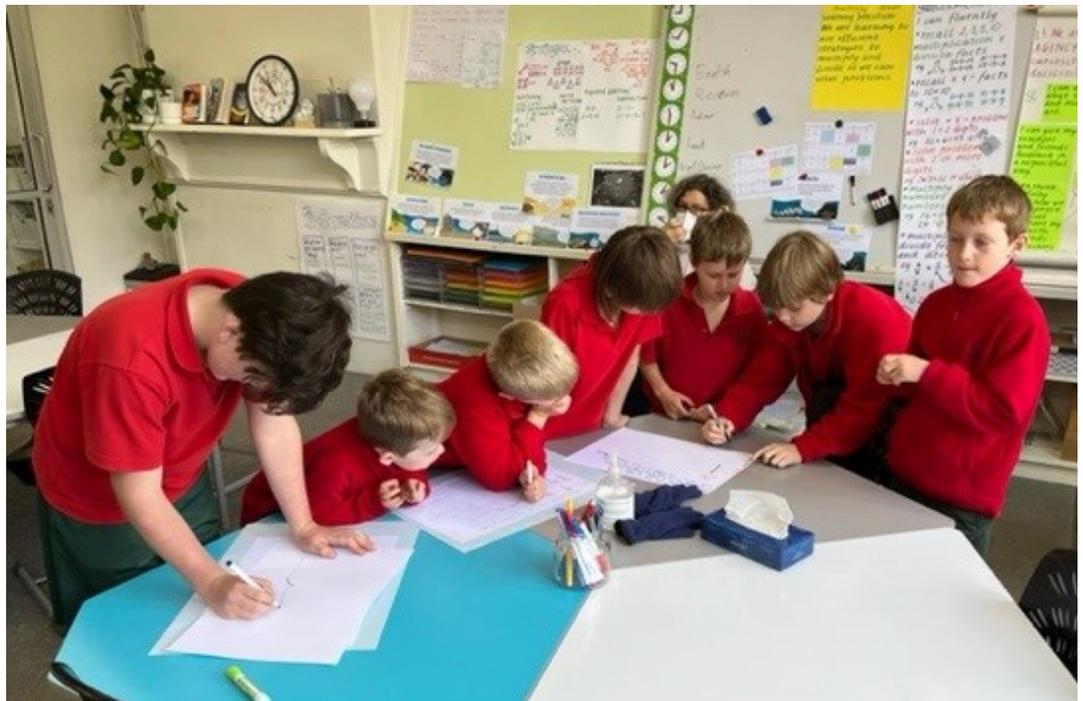
Our students have been working together to learn about Voice and Agency, and the importance of developing a growth mindset.

Last term, our F-3 students wrote some very persuasive letters, convincing me that we should explore their ideas for improving our school. And because (as Maya stated) I am a 'very, very, very nice principal' I agreed with them!

So we have been working in groups to share ideas and draft plans for our playground (and maybe some different animals). Students are hoping to include a treehouse, flying fox, low climbing wall, bike track and perhaps even a Gaga Ball pit.

When our VAL team are all back on board, they will investigate safety requirements, calculate how much it might cost and submit their plans to School Council.

If you have any ideas, or would be able to help us, please let us know.



YARD DUTY & SUPERVISION

Student safety at WDPS is our highest priority and the safe and appropriate supervision of students is an important element of our duty of care to students.

Part of this duty is ensuring parents and students are aware of our student supervision arrangements before and after school.

Before school: School grounds are supervised each day from **8:45am**. Students are encouraged to come in, say 'hi' and pop their bag on their hook before heading out to play.

After school: School grounds are supervised until **3:45pm**.

*Students on school grounds outside these times will **not** be supervised (unless they are attending the OSHC).*

Parents/carers are requested to ensure that students do not attend school outside of these supervised times unless they are attending after school care, or a prearranged supervised activity (eg netball skills session with Kaye).

Families are encouraged to contact our OSHC coordinator, Pam Spencer for more information about after school care facilities available to our school community or if you would like any further information about our student supervision arrangements.

OSHC mobile: 0448298467

For a copy of our school's Yard Duty and Supervision Policy please refer to our school website:

www.whitfieldps.vic.edu.au

This policy includes our school's student supervision arrangements across the school day, including before and after school.

OSHC *Come and join in the fun...*

Our Outside School Hours Care program is the place to be after school on Mondays to Thursdays from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. The OSHC after school sessions are not only educational, they're loads of fun and a great chance to learn and play with friends.

This week, some of our students explored their creative talents, using nail polish to decorate bowls...



For more information...

CONTACT PAM
0448298467

Magical Mathematics

In maths, we love playing games to learn new skills and develop our understanding of key concepts. At the moment, we are all learning about multiplication and division. Our 4-6 students have been playing a modified version of Greedy Pig and we all learned a new game, while the 3/4s were on camp. We introduced *Minute to Win It* to help our students develop their understanding of multiplication and division using arrays. It's a great game you can play at home using objects like dried beans, small pebbles or even LEGO. Perhaps we could have a Whitfield Championship?

Minute to Win It

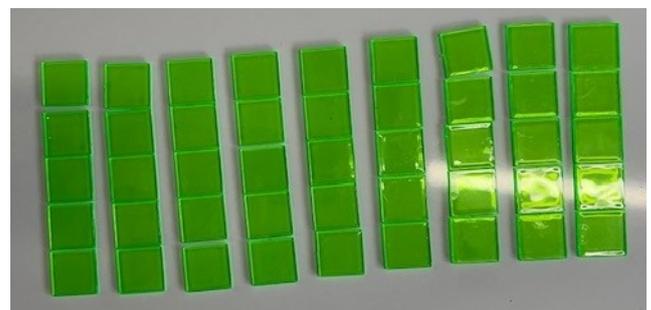
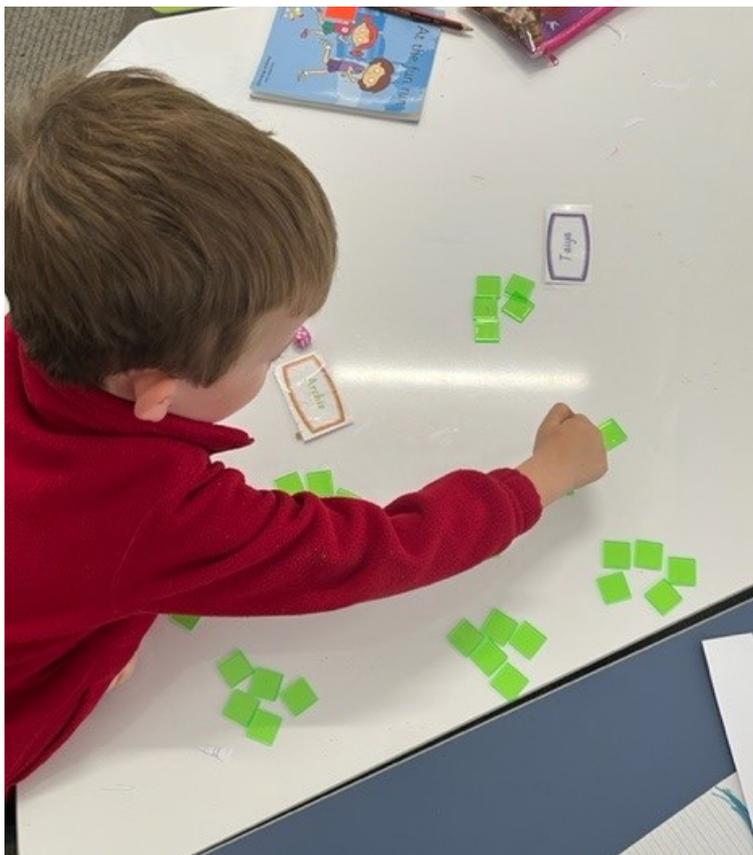
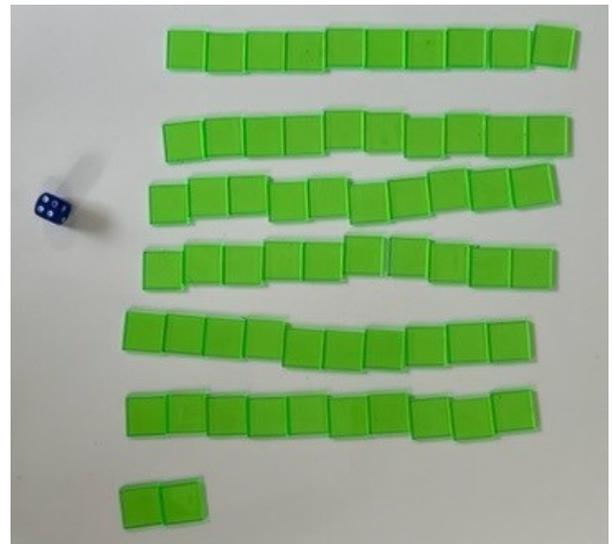
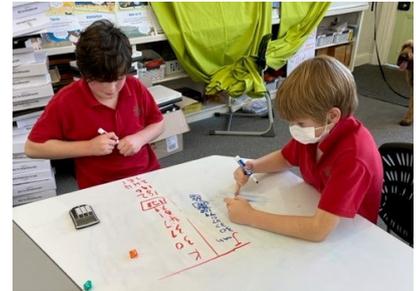
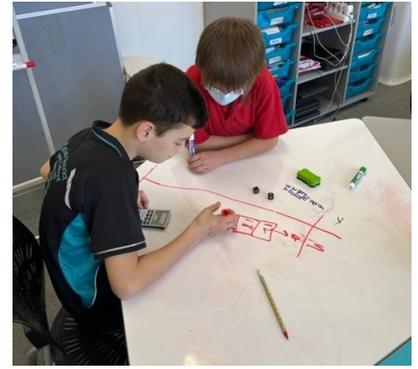
Students work in pairs. One rolls a 6 or 10 sided dice and the other collects the counters, working quickly to get as many counters as possible before the time is up.

Students organise their counters to work out how many they have without counting by ones.

They then headed off on a Gallery Walk to share ideas and think about the most efficient ways to organise and count collections.

Our young mathematicians quickly realised that creating patterns (like dots on the dice) and organising counters in arrays was an efficient strategy. They are also learning how to partition numbers by splitting them into smaller parts to make them easier to work with.

You could easily adapt this to play in pairs at home, or even individually by setting a timer, rolling your own dice and collecting as many objects as possible before the buzzer goes off!



NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

In 2022, the world observes the UN-declared International Year of Glass, celebrating what the UN describes as one of the most important, versatile and transformative materials of history. Glass will continue to have an enormous impact into our future, not only for its many applications, but also for the integral role it will play in sustainable development.

Glass is chemically inert. It is composed of silicon dioxide, the same as sand. It is also infinitely recyclable. Glass can be blown and crafted into intricate shapes, which is useful not only for making laboratory glassware but also for artistic pieces. Glass can also be made into fibreglass, which is an excellent insulation material, and also used in the aerospace industry for making fibreglass composite.

Next Thursday, to celebrate Science Week, our students will be working in teams across grade levels to design and build a marble run. Marbles are made of glass and have been popular toys for many years. Making a path for a marble to travel down engages students with physics, which is our science semester focus and through this activity, students will be exploring the concepts of gravity, friction and angles.

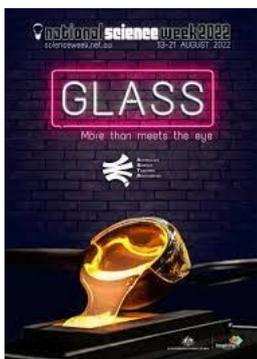
If you have any of the following items at home that students can bring in to use for their design, please drop them in, we would be very grateful.

Cardboard tubes (NOT toilet roll tubes), cardboard boxes of different sizes (eg cereal boxes or similar), cardboard, yoghurt pots, plastic bottles (eg soft drink, water, juice etc), pieces of fabric or used sandpaper.

It's going to be a creative and fun session!!



Last week, our F-3 students built a Rube-Goldberg machine to 'Give a dog a Treat'. This is an introduction to the marble activity they will be doing in Science Week and explores how pushes (and the pull of gravity) can be used to make a simple machine.



POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH

The Victorian government has invested \$217.8 million over four years to support student mental health and wellbeing. All schools will have access to a range of supports to meet students' needs across three tiers.

- **Tier 1: Positive mental health promotion** – Universal interventions to help schools create a positive, inclusive and supporting school climate, building the preconditions for optimal student learning, development and wellbeing.
- **Tier 2: Early intervention / cohort specific** – Early interventions and those for specific cohorts of students complement universal interventions and provide essential additional support for students with specific needs or vulnerabilities.
- **Tier 3: Targeted support** – Interventions for individuals or small groups of students requiring intensive tailored mental health support to engage positively in education.

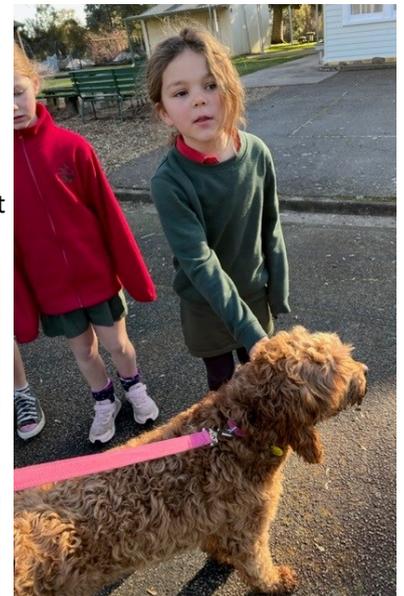
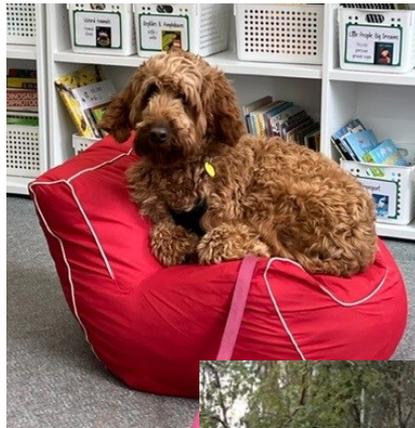
At WDPS, we are implementing a range of programs and initiatives to support student mental health and wellbeing including the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support framework. We are currently focusing on our Strategic Plan goal of improving student voice and agency.

As you know, our F-3 students got the ball rolling by sharing their ideas about how we can improve our school. Although we weren't able to give the go ahead for all of their ideas (like building an aquatic centre) we encouraged students to work together to develop three main areas - the playground, a bike track and pets. During our last session, a large group of students gathered to create a list of possibilities and we all agreed that a pet would be a great addition to our school.

DET has provided additional funding to support our work and compiled an approved list of evidence-based programs and initiatives that schools can access. We decided to implement the Canine Comprehension and Dogs Connect programs. Connecting with a dog will help us support mental health and wellbeing and lead to positive social and emotional impacts.

We will be working with Melissa Brown, a local teacher and dog therapy trainer, to implement the program and train Miss Nala Bear to be our wellbeing dog. NB is a very friendly, two year old red setter/poodle cross. Her family is moving to Saudi Arabia and they were very excited to hear that Nala would be working with our kids.

Nala Bear has had a great start to school and loves coming every day. She laps up all the pats and trips around the oval... then begs to go to bed early every night!



AFL Clinics

We are looking forward to participating in two AFL clinics in on Tuesday 16 and Tuesday 23 August. The clinics will teach students the fundamentals of AFL.

Along with our school program, AFL Victoria is launching All Girls Auskick in Wangaratta in August.



ALL GIRLS AUSKICK PLUS+ WANGARATTA

**6-Session Auskick Program
for girls aged 6-12**

Run by AFL Victoria coaches!

Dates: Wednesday's from the 10th of August to the 14th of September

Time: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Location: WJ Findlay Oval, 14 Evans Street, Wangaratta 3677

Price: \$55 - Includes Auskick Pack

Follow the link below or scan the QR code to register

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/573325>



For more information contact
Zac Hedin at zac.hedin@afl.com.au

[play.afl/auskick](https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/573325)

