



THE WHITTY NEWS



BUZZ

There's a buzz in the air as we settle back into routine and explore more and more exceptional educational experiences. Over the last two weeks we have had fun in the sun, learnt about emotions, continued to establish Reader's and Writer's Workshop routines, shared our favourite books and explored some rich challenging maths tasks. There's never a dull moment! Stay tuned for more wonderful conversations with your children about their learning and play experiences!

WELCOME PICNIC AND MATHS FUN

What a beautiful evening to get together and enjoy a picnic on the lawn. It was great to have so many families join us for dinner followed by some maths fun. Our 3-6 crew did a wonderful job creating interesting tasks to put our skills to the test.

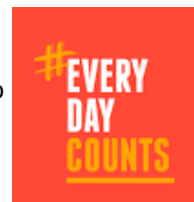
We hope you had fun learning new games alongside your children. I was very proud of the way the confident and enthusiastic manner they introduced the community to the tasks on offer. We hope you enjoy continuing the fun at home. Read on to find out the final results and the names of our Mathemagicians who mastered the art of estimation!



Thank you Miss Feldtmann, Sarah and Vanichya for your planning and support to make the night such a success. It was another great Whitfield team effort!

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Students learn new things at school every day! Coming to school helps students develop positive life skills, strengthens their social and peer connections and enables them to achieve their full potential!



We strongly encourage regular attendance. Arriving late, or missing even one day of school can make a difference over time. For example, missing school for just 1 day each fortnight adds up to 20 days per year... which leads to missing more than a year of learning over 12 years!

We've included a flyer with this newsletter, outlining information for students about the importance of coming to school. If you need support, we're here for you.

Please remember, if your child is going to be away, let us know as soon as possible. We are legally required to report student attendance.

Dates to remember:

School Council	Tuesday 21 February
Cooking (3-6)	Tuesday 21 February
KVC Cluster Leadership Day (3-6) 15 Mile Creek	Thursday 23 February
Swimming (F-6) M, T, Th & F only (no Wednesdays)	Monday 27 February to Friday 10 March
Clean Up Australia Day (F-6)	Monday 6 March
Robert Gordon Community Session	Thursday 9 March
Labour Day Public Holiday	Monday 13 March
First Wednesday for Foundation students	Wednesday 15 March
MSO Performance (F-6)	Thursday 16 March
School Council AGM	Tuesday 21 March
Student Learning Conversations	Monday 27 March and Tuesday 28 March
Cooking (3-6)	Tuesday 28 March
Cluster Professional Learning Day (no school for students)	Tuesday 4 April
Last Day of Term 1	Thursday 6 April 2:30pm Finish

Happy birthday to our
February babies... & Evie!

(Sorry I missed you January baby!)

Ethan, Albie,
Joah & Wilson



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next school council meeting is on **Tuesday 21 February** in the school office at 7:00pm. Please consider being part of this vibrant and engaging group and help shape the direction of our school. School council meets on the third Tuesday of the month during school terms.

Our **AGM** will be held on **Tuesday 21 March** at 7:00pm followed by our general meeting from 7:30pm.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY— Sunday 5 March

Australia's waste challenges go far beyond one day but *Clean Up Australia Day* inspires and empowers communities to clean up, fix up and conserve our environment.



Our students are currently learning about the importance of caring for our environment in our unit: My Place—Change is up to us. They are keen to take positive action by participating in this event. We invite you to join us to support our journey on **Monday 6 March** from 9:00am—10:00am.

Our junior students will be working in our school grounds and along Jessie's Creek while our senior students will focus their efforts in and around the main street of Whitfield.

Students will be provided with equipment. Adults, please bring your own hat and gloves.

ROBERT GORDON TRAUMA INFORMATION SESSION

You are invited to join us at a session with Robert Gordon on **Thursday 9 March** from 10:00am to 11:00am at Greta Valley Primary School. Robert will be speaking to parents, carers, staff and other community members about the impact of trauma on children and young people and will suggest practical strategies we can implement at home and at school to support them. Can you please let me know if you would like to attend?

NAPLAN

NAPLAN has been brought forward this year. Students in Years 3 and 5 will complete literacy and numeracy assessments from **Wednesday 15 March**.

Testing will be completed by Monday 27 March... and then we CELEBRATE!

BAT-TASTIC!

Last year, Rosie and David from Landcare introduced us to Anita. She is bats about bats and visited our junior students to share her wonderful knowledge with us. She mentioned the upcoming microbat event that our Landcare group have organised in the valley for our community.



Well that time has finally come! They have managed to secure Dr Lindy Lumsden from the Arthur Rylar Institute to come to Whitfield and present an evening event on microbats, with a focus on species detection and their habitats, including nesting boxes.

They also hope to set up some friendly bat traps at the event to see if we can see some bats up close and then release them.

The event is planned for **Friday 24 March** around 6.30pm. There will be a casual BBQ dinner and a talk with Lindy until dusk followed by a potential bat fly out.

CSEF APPLICATIONS

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides payments for eligible students to attend activities like:

- school camps or trips
- swimming and school-organised sports programs
- outdoor education programs
- excursions and incursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. Please collect forms from the office and return them as soon as possible.

SCHOOL BUS TRAVELLERS

Parents of regular bus travellers are kindly asked to keep Wendy informed if your child is not travelling to or from school on the bus. She can be contacted on 0418 989 938.

SUN SAFETY

Staying safe in the sun is a number one priority. A combination of sun protection measures is recommended for all skin types when UV levels reach 3 or higher. At these levels, damage can occur to the skin and eyes, without being seen or felt.

To minimise the risks to both staff and students arising from exposure to UV we are implementing a range of measures.

These include:

- encouraging students to play in our many shaded areas (A new shade sail will be installed over the playground in the next few weeks.);
- applying sunscreen and wearing protective clothing (We provide broad brimmed hats to all Foundation students. 50+ sunscreen is also available and we encourage students to apply this before heading outside. Please let us know if your child is allergic to sunscreen and/or if you would prefer to supply your own.

We also require students to wear broad brimmed hats and encourage them to wear sunglasses.



Performing Arts & Science with Fen

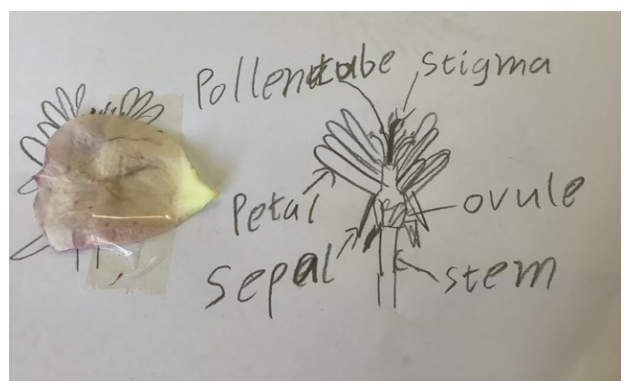
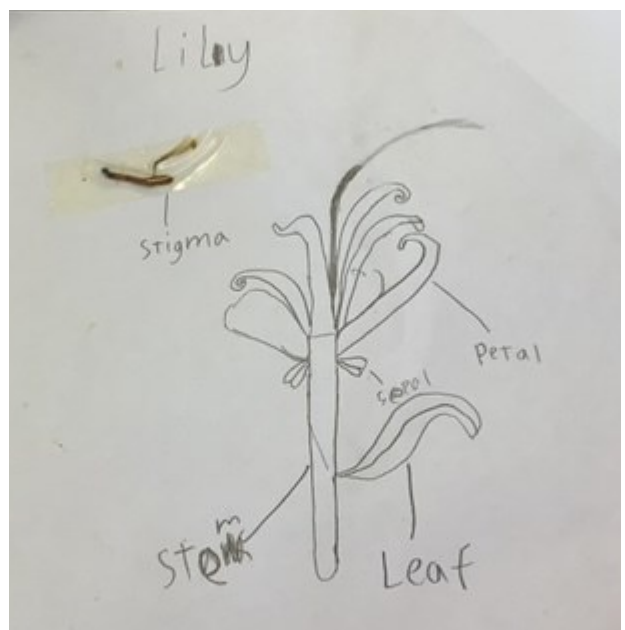
It has been absolutely fantastic to see the students' smiling faces for the last couple of Fridays and I can definitely feel the energy of their enthusiasm for developing their scientific and musical potential this semester.

In Science this term, the F-2 students will be exploring the needs of all living things. They will be looking at each of these needs in a little detail, understanding their importance for survival and then they will be finding out how humans meet these needs in comparison with other animals and plants. Students will be developing their observational skills and for those who have pets at home, they will be observing the behaviour of a pet very carefully. Students will also be exploring what kinds of items they would need to take in order to survive on a bush camp.

Grade 3-6 students will be focusing on investigating the general lifecycles of plants and then looking at how the life cycle of a eucalyptus is similar or different to this generalised cycle. They will also be investigating how the growth of plants can be affected by conditions in the soil and they will be focusing on how salinity can be a concerning issue for Australian farmers near the coast. Students will carry out research into how plants all over the world have adapted to the environment they live in and produce a poster to summarise their findings.

In Music, the main focus for the junior students will be on keeping the beat or pulse. The Preps will begin to clap/tap/play along to the beat with guidance while the Grade 1 and 2 students will be aiming to keep the beat independently. All students will use a mixture of body percussion and untuned instruments and will also use part of the Musical Futures program 'Wellerman Project' which explores the different ways that students can play Sea Shanty. All the junior students will continue to develop their vocal skills and learn some new songs, as well as recall some old favourites. They will also be learning to sing the chorus of Reduce, Reuse Recycle which they can sing with the senior students as well as learning the theme song from 'Spiderman.' They will be encouraged to create their own actions to this song which they will perform in time to the beat.

The Grade 3-6 students will continue to use the 'Musical Futures' program to develop their musical skills. The Grade 3s and 4s will be learning to play some simple chords on the guitar and keyboard which I'm hoping will be familiar to the 5s and 6s from last year! They will be practising simple chord changes which, hopefully, they will be able to execute at the right time when following a musical score. Students will be learning to play a medley of songs as well as the guitar part to Sea Shanty. Maybe, all the students will be able to play this together as a school. Fingers crossed. The senior students will also be learning the whole of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and also the words to Iko Iko, which they might be able to sing while also playing the chords.



During Term 2, Fen will be enjoying some time away to enjoy long service leave.

She'll be back in Term 3, refreshed and ready to put on another fabulous show!

Save the date...

Thursday 1st September

WDPS Kitchen/Garden Program



Jill and Aroha have been busy, harvesting fresh produce from the garden and whipping up a storm in the kitchen. Last week, they created a tasty zucchini and herb bake, and this week, they were joined by our **Gardeners of the Week - Joah and Archie P.**

Together, they decided to use up some of our leftover Social Enterprise stocks to create a special treat, fruit jelly cups with icecream. They had very positive feedback across the school however, Kody and Albie both agreed that, 'Fruit does not belong in jelly!'



WDPS 3-6 Billy Cart Company

An adventurous group of senior students instigated some creative play earlier this week, transporting each other in our garden wheelie bin. This created a buzz among all the students and we heard some wonderful conversations about the possibilities. It was also wonderful to see students helping each other out and making sure everyone was safe.

Yesterday, the conversation grew and the 3-6 class chatted excitedly about making modifications to the bin. Sarah shared her past experiences being involved in the great Thoona Wheelie Bin Championships.

We decided to launch a billy cart building project... and of course, we'd love your help! If you have any bits and pieces that we could use (particularly wheels) and/or a spare afternoon to come and help a small group, please contact us.

We're also keen to get Josh's bike track design off the ground. If you have any ideas/suggestions or spare time to help out, please touch base.



Family Maths Fun

There was a buzz in the air on Wednesday evening as families set about working through the wonderful 'GUESTIMATION' challenges created by our Grade 3-6 students.

Bragging rights for 2023 go to these talented mathematicians...



Created by Elsey & Ivy

Answer: 13.13m

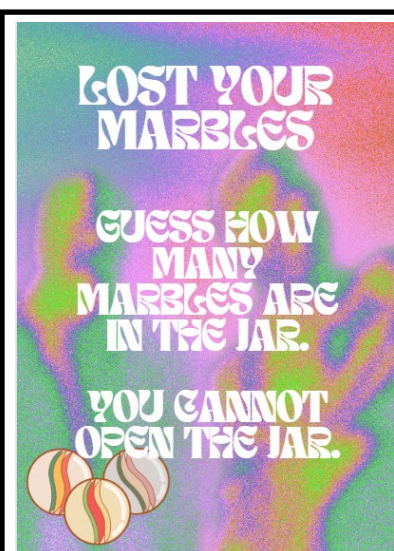
Winner: Liam who guessed 15m!



Created by
Ethan & Josh

Answer: 144g

Winner: Haley C who
guessed 150g!



Created by Liam, Maxwell
& Ellie

Answer: 146

Winner: Sabine who
guessed 143!



Created by Joah &
Johann

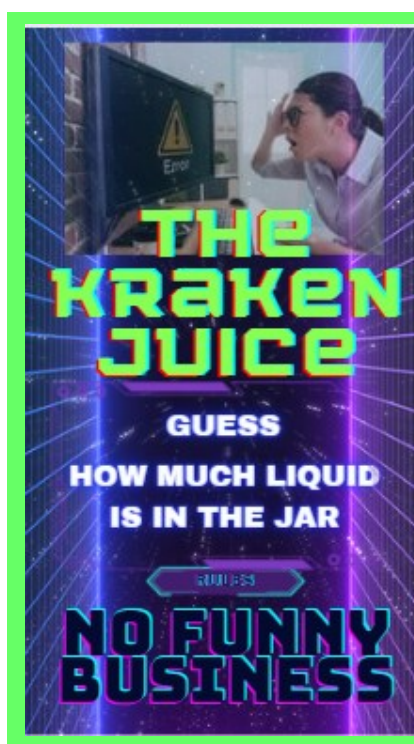
Winner: Kate W
with Joah coming a
close second,
followed by
Grace D and Miss
Feldtmann.

Though Sylvie scored
the most lollies!

Kate told us she mastered her technique when visiting her grandparents in her youth. She fondly remembers ripping Minties wrappers by the fire... Which made us wonder, when was the first commercial lolly wrapper created?

She also tried to convince us you can 'step through the wrapper'!?!

I asked her to convince me!



Created by
Kody & Tobias
Answer: 584ml
Winner: Ben K
who guessed 575ml!




TICKY TIMER

GUESS HOW LONG THE YELLOW FLOWER AND THE BLUE TORNADO TAKE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PURPLE ROD.

RULES

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE ANYTHING THAT CAN TIME THINGS OR YOU'RE DISQUALIFIED




Created by Nina & Ruby
 Yellow spinner answer: 6.6sec
 Winners: Ellie and Nick A who guessed 7sec!
 Blue glitter answer: 10.1min
 Winner: Grace D who guessed 12min!



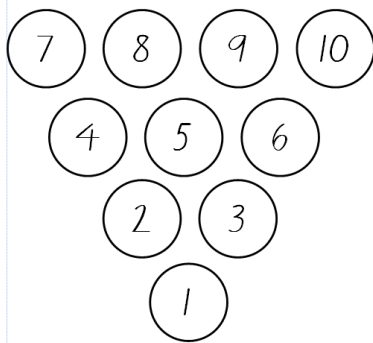
Family Maths Challenge

Every fortnight we will be posting a fun maths challenge in the newsletter for you to explore with your family. We encourage you to work together as a team and share your responses with us before the following newsletter.

Strike!

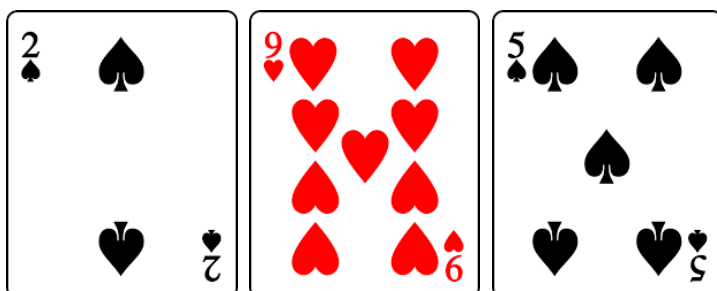


There's nothing like a game of Ten Pin Bowling, so this week we've included 'Strike', one of the great games we played at our Welcome Picnic this week. To play, use any combination of the three playing cards below to create number sentences and knock down each pin. If you create a number sentence using two cards, score 2 points. If you use all three cards, score 3 points. Teachers might even offer double points for interesting and unique ideas! Remember, you can use any operation but you can only use each card once in each number sentence. If you're unsure, ask the kids how to play, they're experts!



Now, gather your family around the kitchen table, switch your maths brains on and let the fun begin!

Family Team:



Remember to record your final ideas on this page and return them to school by Friday 3 March.

OSHC with Pam

Ethan, Jacob and I popped over to OSHC on Monday afternoon to see what activities were on offer. We entered an art studio! Maya and Archie were completely engrossed in their creations and barely noticed our presence. They had a wonderful time exploring the sand art and craft materials that Pam had prepared.

Our after school program is a wonderful opportunity for our students to come along, join in the fun and try something new in a supportive learning environment. Pam runs special activities every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 3.30pm until 6.00pm. Come and join the fun!



Put yourself in the picture!

Please contact
us to make
a booking...

Mobile:
0448 298 467



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 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 sport 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

OSHC PROGRAM		0448 298 467
20 February—2 March 2023		
	20 - 23 FEB	27 FEB—2 MAR
Monday	Afternoon Tea Plaster Fun House	Make your own pizza for afternoon tea Rock Art
Tuesday	SHROVE TUESDAY (Pancake Day) Make pancakes for afternoon tea Leg, K'Nex, Structures	Afternoon Tea Decorate a jar and make colourful bath salts to fill it
Wednesday	Afternoon Tea Dress ups, Dance, Music Activities	Afternoon Tea Scratch Art Twister
Thursday	Afternoon Tea Outside Activities Art & Craft	Afternoon Tea Make a stress ball Board games & Cards
Everyday Fun!!!	Lots of other activities are on offer for children to enjoy every day.	We have a large range of art and craft materials as well as new puzzles, games, Lego etc



THUMBS UP! Congratulations Nina, Maxwell & Renee!

Nina, you have been a respectful team member, helping students and teachers and leading by example!

Maxwell, you have shown a strong commitment to your learning. You are curious, focused and determined to achieve your goals.

Renee, you have started school life with energy and enthusiasm. You're already an independent and helpful member of our team!

