

Wandong Primary School



We have continued the fantastic start to term one, with students showing focus and enthusiasm towards their learning. Each classroom has a wonderfully warm atmosphere and it is great to see teachers and students building positive relationships and dedicated learning communities.

In February, some highlights were:

Black Saturday Memorial Service: We held our 10th anniversary commemoration service, in memory of the Black Saturday Bushfires of 2009. The event allowed us to reflect on the impact of the fires, but also to recognise the growth and unity which came in the days and weeks after. We were honoured to hear from those who led, supported and contributed to the recovery efforts after Black Saturday and the inspiring messages of resilience, commitment and friendship that have led our school and community forward. Many members of our school community painted or created artworks to share their experiences and these were displayed in a gallery overlooking the service. Parents, students and staff members also created a colourful riverbed of rocks, with memories and messages of gratitude which we hope to establish permanently within our school grounds.

District Swimming Carnival: Our students faced some really tough opposition but all did extremely well. A special congratulations to our six students who will go through to the next round of competition.

University of Melbourne Network of Schools (UMNOS): Late last year, as part of the State Government's Black Saturday 10 year assistance packages, we put in an application to be part of the UMNOS and are excited that we have been accepted into this sought after program for the next two years. As part of the program, we will have access to world-class professional development and resources, and will work with other schools on an area of focus to achieve the best possible learning outcomes for our students.

Our new library: It is fantastic that work is underway on the block on our new library. The site has been cleared and earthworks have started to level the site. The new library is due to be completed by the end of November (hopefully sooner) and will serve our students well for years to come- very exciting!

Parent Information Sharing Session: We had a great response to our Parent Information Sharing Session two weeks ago. We have received such positive feedback from teachers and families about the value of the evening and

students were most excited to welcome family members into the school to meet their 2019 teachers!

School Captain Speeches: Last week our grade six students presented speeches to their teachers and peers, to apply for the position of School Captain and School Vice-Captain. All students are to be commended on the quality of their presentations which demonstrated great leadership potential, insight and constructive ideas to support our school community. Many students pushed themselves well outside of their comfort zone in order to speak in front of the 100+ people present! After this we shortlisted candidates and held our interviews. At this week's assembly we will announce our new leaders.

I look forward to updating you next month,

Dave Warren Acting Principal Wandong PS