

Wandong Primary School



We have had a great start to the year here at Wandong PS with only a minor hiccup for a short lockdown to help keep everyone safe from COVID. Everyone is so excited to be back at school, learning in classrooms and playing with friends during recess/lunch. Our schedule of events continued as 'normal' with our planned Curriculum Day to provide all staff with the knowledge, skills and understanding of our approach to School Wide Positive Behaviour. This is a whole school approach to creating an environment, which encourages effective learning through the development of a positive, calm and welcoming atmosphere.

Some highlights for the start of 2021:

AUSLAN After a school review process of teaching languages in our school - we have chosen to trial the introduction of Auslan – Australian Sign Language. Learning Auslan benefits staff and students because it reinforces the development of neural pathways and cognitive processes in ways only a visual language can; strengthens the memory and brain function of children; allows hearing students to see deafness and disability in a positive light as “different”, and the acquisition of Auslan as a valuable tool for communicating with deaf people, particularly with disabled friends or family members; and, it opens up career possibilities for hearing and deaf students as Auslan interpreters, teachers, notetakers, and carers for young Auslan users.

It has been wonderful observing our children engaging in this new language in their first weeks of Term 1, and we already have children able to sign their name. World Hearing Day is the 3rd of March and we will be highlighting how important it is for interventions to help stop hearing loss in our community.

Covid Safe Please note that classrooms are our teachers' work spaces and as much as we hold dear our 'open door' policy at Wandong, it is paramount that visitors respect this space. Please ensure if you are visiting, being a parent helper or dropping something off to a child, that the organisation and learning within the room is not interrupted. It is also paramount that we comply with the DET and government regulations in relation to density rules. At no stage should we have any more than 3 adults in any one room and adults are required to wear a mask when inside the school unless an exemption applies. We look forward to restrictions hopefully easing so that we can have more Parent/Guardian Helpers in our class-rooms.

Reminder to Wear Hats - Parents are reminded that all children need to have the correct school hat to wear and that it needs to be clearly named. Hats must be worn in Term One and Term Four. Parents are also asked to encourage their children to use sunscreen, with a quick lesson of how to

apply this themselves (roll-on types are much easier for children to use). Wandong is a SUNSMART school and we encourage all children to develop safe practices with regard to being out in the sun.

The Science of Reading At Wandong Primary School we are deeply committed to delivering on our promise of quality education for all students and equipping every child with the ability to read- and read well! Learning to read is such an essential skill to not only find success in school and to thrive in society, but to also experience the joy that reading brings to life. We are learning more about what research says about how children best learn to read, how to make sure every student learns to read, and what to do when a child encounters difficulty in learning to read. This research is called The Science of Reading. For anyone wishing to complete a short training course in The Science of Read, we highly recommend this free online course: <https://www.udemy.com/course/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/>

Fundraiser Wandong PS's Parent and Friends Association (PAFA) are running a sugar free, fat free, allergy friendly fundraising drive for 2021:... Socks! Jolly Soles is a family run business selling assorted boxes of socks that have a fabulous range of fun and fruity designs for you and gifted to family members, traded for different patterns, kept for Mothers' Day/Easter gifts or worn proudly wherever you need to put your best foot forward!

2022 Enrolment We have an Open Evening for 2022 families on the 24th March from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. So if you are looking to potentially enrol at our school, please come along to find out more about our wonderful school.

I look forward to giving you another update next month. Thanks and best wishes,

Lucy Clyde (Teacher, Wandong PS)