



PARENT BULLETIN

WESTERN AUTISTIC SCHOOL

19TH SEPTEMBER 2018 LAVERTON CAMPUS
www.westernautisticschool.vic.edu.au

Dear Parents and Carers, Namaste, Selamat siang, Xin Chao, 你好 Bonjour, Guten Tag, Mahlaba, Ciao, Kia Ora

It's been a wonderful third term! It began with Student Support Group meetings to plan the next steps in your child's learning. We had a number of exciting incursions, such as Afro Beats, the Book Fair and St Martins' Theatre. Groups from Blue and Green Pod have enjoyed the swimming program. Students moving to their next school have begun their transition visits.

This Friday is Footy Day for many classrooms. We look forward to the range of football colours and codes to celebrate.

Looking ahead to fourth term, Yellow pod begin their swimming lessons and school camp is coming up in October for our Grade 2 and 3 students.

All of the team at Western Autistic School wish you a wonderful school break and look forward to welcoming the children back for term 4.

Paige Davey
Campus Principal

WATTLE BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT

Green Pod classrooms, one Red Pod classroom and Play Group have successfully moved into their new learning spaces for term four while the Wattle building is redeveloped fit for purpose for our early learners. The move went very smoothly and the students have embraced the new rooms with excitement. Green Pod classroom celebrated with a disco in the open learning space.



Green Pod students and staff enjoying the disco



One of the new teaching spaces



The builders are now on site and have begun the process of preparing for the redevelopment.

If you have any questions or would like the opportunity to talk more about these exciting developments, please contact Paige Davey at the Laverton Campus.

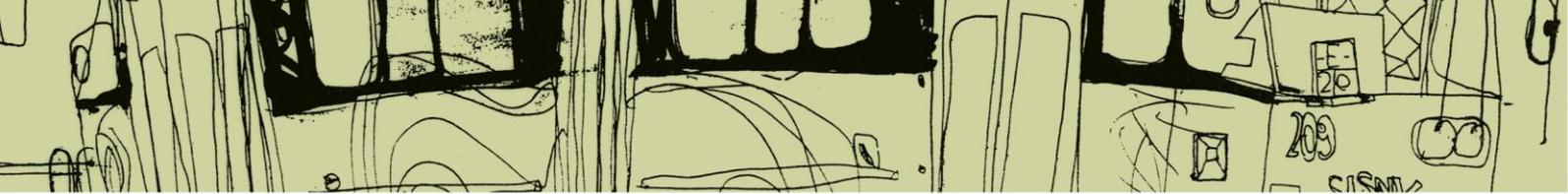
IMPORTANT DATES

21st September 2018 – Last day of term 3. School finishes at 2PM, please be at your child's bus stop an hour earlier than usual.

8th October 2018 – First day of Term 4

5th November 2018 – Curriculum Day, student free day.

6th November 2018 – Public Holiday, student free day.

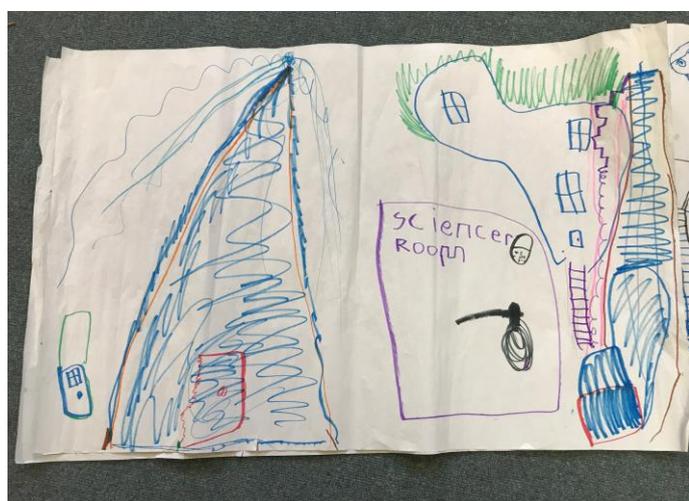


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BEN ANNOUNCES GUYMER BAILEY ARCHITECTS FOR THE NEW NIDDRIE SCHOOL

Last Friday, Ben Carroll MP and Minister for Trade and Employment, Alex Artavilla from the South West Victoria Regional Office, and the architects visited Niddrie to announce that Guymer Bailey are the architects for redevelopment of the Niddrie Campus. The delegation visited 7A and the students showed Ben drawings of what they wanted in their new school! Here is a charming drawing from one of the students.



Thank you to the parents who joined the meeting and gave their views on what is needed in the new school.

We are very excited about the project.

Guymer Bailey understand the specialised nature of this project, given the unique needs of students and teachers at an early years autism specific school. For example (and this is just one of many), many of our students have acoustic (and other sensory) processing problems, and hence require learning environments which are built in ways which are sensitive to their capacities. Hence, a design which may be adequate in a mainstream school can be extremely problematic for us. We are very confident that we can count on working with the project architects to provide them with the information they need to design a school that will meet the needs of our students and teachers as was done successfully in the design and build of the WAS Laverton campus.

Schools need strong local members like Ben. It is rare for politicians to get thanks and parents may wish to ring or send an email to thank Ben and Emily. His email is ben.carroll@parliament.vic.gov.au and his office phone is 9379 5879.

NEWS FROM THE AUTISM TEACHING INSTITUTE

This week the ATI started the roll out of a Professional Learning Program for regional Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, Visiting Teachers and Disability Coordinators supporting inclusive practice in mainstream schools. This program was a recommendation from the Parliamentary inquiry into services for people with ASD. 200+ participants came together on Monday at the Melbourne Convention and Events Centre to hear Professor Vicki Bitsika from Bond University speak on Autism, Anxiety and how to understand why the children do what they do. Today our own Speech Pathologist Fiona Whelan and WAS staff working in the program as Regional Autism and Inclusion Consultants (RAICS) delivered the first of the round of Day 2 programs to be rolled out to metro and country Victoria regions. The program is extremely popular and the ATI staff and everyone involved are excited about the prospect of helping mainstream schools to include autistic children in their schools. Pictured is Joanne Marshall, Inclusion Access and Participation Manager with DET South West Victoria Region and members of the RAIC team.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

We are all very pleased with how the school photos have turned out this year. A number of parents have asked about class group shots and our photographer Grant from Wunderkind Photography is happy to reprint these at a cost of \$15. If families are interested please feel free to view the 'Coffee Table Book' in reception to see how the prints will look. All orders can be paid in cash at the front office.