

FEBRUARY 6TH, 2024

NEWSLETTER NO.2

Principal's Report

Hello everyone,

Week one, done and dusted! Our preps have joined us, and it was lovely to have them onsite yesterday for their first official day of school. I went in to their classrooms after the families had left and Miss Elliott's grade were all playing games, and Ms de Haan's grade were singing to "Pevan and Sarah" (whom are touring later this year...and I have a feeling an excursion is on the horizon!)

Now that our new year has settled I would like to share an update about our staffing profile. At the end of last year we employed, four new teachers an Occupational Therapist, a Speech Therapist and three new Education Support Staff to join our team. We welcome Stacey to grade 1/2, Eleanor to grade 4/5, Liz to STEM and Ruthi to Performing Arts. Laura (Speech Therapist) and Frances (Occupational Therapist) will join us one day each week and provide support in various ways across the school. Our new Education Support Staff- Sanaz, Sophie and Melissa are onsite across different days of the week. They join our current ES staff providing support in every classroom. Our staffing profile has risen considerably and we now have 28 people on staff.

Please consider applying for school council. We have five parent vacancies. The nomination forms are available at the office.

We have introduced a Class Communicator/Parent Rep for each grade. They will be a point of contact between the classroom teacher and parents to remind parents of what's coming up and answer any questions. Thank you to the parents who have already volunteered, we still need someone from grade 3/4, 4/5 and 5/6. If you would like to take this role on please contact your child's teacher.

We are stil looking for members to join the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). Please phone the office if you would like to join.

Have a wonderful week,

Mel



Term 1 Dates

FEBRUARY

13th Come and Play session 1 for 2025 prep students

15th Wattle Glen PS

Swimming trials- grade 3-6

20th Kaboom Sports and

Welcome back BBQ

School Council nominations close

21st Science of Reading parent information night

23rd Sugarloaf District Swimming - selected students

26th School Council AGM

28th Division Swimming - students who have qualified

MARCH

8th Curriculum Day - No students attend school

11th Public Holiday - Labour Day

13th/14th/15th NAPLAN

21st Harmony Day

27th Last Day of Term 1- School Finishes at 2:20pm

28th Good Friday

APRIL

15th Term 2 starts



Stars of the Week

Week 1

P/1D	Alba	P/1E	Serenity
1/2	Arjuna	2/3	Isabelle
3/4	Cohen	4/5	Levi
5/6	Dean		



Learning Showcase



In week one, our grade 5/6 students shared their learning about the exciting things our school leaders will be doing this year and the values activities they completed during the week, such as paper plane making for curiosity.



Meet our School Leaders



Outside School Hours Care

Newsletter



06/02/2024

Camp Australia Wattle Glen Primary school OSHC

Your
OSHC.



Big Art Fridays

On Fridays, we **pARTy!**

Every Friday in After School Care

Book now

A message from your Coordinator

Dear Parents, teachers, students and community.

What a great way to start 2024 with many old and new faces.

This term the Camp Australia big art initiative will be a regular Friday feature. Once again Camp Australia is running a competition where the children use a template writing or drawing our values- courage, respect, joy, belonging and Gratitude please come in and have a chat for more information.

New parents please note that medical information needs to be fully updated to allow attendance. This is a regulatory requirement. This can be done via your parent portal if you need assistance, please contact Camp Australia.

Looking forward to welcoming everyone to our service.

Thank you

Elizabeth (Oshc coordinator)

Activities coming up

- Soccer game
- Bug Hunt
- Ceramic plate creations

Make a booking

School Hours Care activities and experiences with Your OSHC and Rocketeers.

Book now

Register free and book in 24/7 via our app

To attend our program, you must register your child. You can register an account with us at pp.campastralia.com.au or by downloading our Camp Australia smartphone app from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Once registered, it's easy to make bookings and manage your account.



Find out more and book now at www.campastralia.com.au

School council elections – information for parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have nominee members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the Public Administration Act 2004.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- act with honesty and integrity – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- act in good faith in the best interests of the school – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- act fairly and impartially – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest

- use information appropriately – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- exercise due care, diligence and skill – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- use the position appropriately – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage
- act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year.

However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

standing for election as a member of the school council

encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same electorate that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate)

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election.

You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Consider standing for election to school council.

Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.

Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

FORM 2: NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
(Formerly Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nomination)

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of

.....Wattle Glen Primary School.....

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school, from Feb 1st, and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on:

.....15..../...02...../...2024..... .

The ballot (if required) will close at 4.00 pm on:

... ..01..../...03..../.....2024..... .

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024... to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 2026	5
School employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024... to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 2026	2
Community member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024... to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 2026	1

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Melanie McLennan.....
Principal signature



Wattle Glen
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Join us for our 2024 Welcome Back BBQ

All students and their families are invited

Tuesday
20th of February

3:30pm-5:30pm

Sausages in bread, drinks and icy poles are available for purchase

Kaboom Sports

will be holding a 2 hour activity session for all
students and their families to participate in



WGPS PTFA FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENTS

*Term 1 Events- let us know if
you can help*



Easter Raffle

We ask for assistance for

- putting the raffle tickets together and distributing them to the students
- Putting together the raffle prizes

Call out for donations

We ask for assistance for

- emailing and asking for donations for our raffles for the upcoming fete
- collecting donations for select auction



If you would like to help with any of
these events please email the office or
phone 9438 1259

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families. Payment amounts this year will probably be the same as 2023, \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child. It is important that funding made available in 2024 supports students to participate in school trips, camps and sporting activities this year rather than being held for future years. This funding can also be used in conjunction with any funding accrued from previous years. If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 9438 1259 and ask for an application form. You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page ([Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund](#)) or Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

Come and play the Wattle Glen way in 2024!

Wattle Glen PS is inviting
all children starting
school in 2025 to three
afternoon play sessions.

This is a great opportunity
to see Wattle Glen
Primary School, meet our
friendly staff and form
new friendships!

Session one:
13th of February
3:45pm- 4:30pm

Session two:
6th of March
3:45pm- 4:30pm

Session three:
21st of March
3:45pm- 4:30pm

Call or email the office to
enrol your child in these
exciting experiences!

 wattle.glen.ps@education.vic.gov.au





WATTLE PLAYGROUP



COME AND JOIN US AT WATTLE GLEN PRIMARY SCHOOL
FOR A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL PLAYGROUP.
PLAYGROUP IS DESIGNED TO HELP CHILDREN
SOCIALISE AND LEARN SOME FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS
BEFORE ENTERING PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Starting
back on
February
9th

WHO CAN JOIN US?

We invite all children under the age of 6!

Our playgroup is catered to all ages as we have created a space that encourages free play, while also providing the children with opportunities to learn new skills and concepts. (We do kindly ask that children under the age of 2 to be supervised by a carer at all times.)

WHAT TO BRING?

Please bring along your
child's drink bottle and
their hat for outside
play.

We encourage personal
toys to stay at home as
we have a large variety
of activities and toys for
children to play with.

WHEN?

Every Friday
during the school
term.

11:30-12:30

(New time for 2024)

Fruit will be
provided.

WHERE?

Wattle Glen Primary School
16-24 Reynolds Road, Wattle Glen.
Enter the school via gate 1 on
Sunnyside Crescent

CONTACT US...

16-24 Reynolds Road, Wattle Glen Vic 3096

Phone: 9438 1259

Email: wattle.glen.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: wattlegps.vic.edu.au



Meet the staff

Eleanor Grosomanidis, Teacher

In 2019 I began my journey to becoming an educator with a Bachelor of Education Studies at Victoria University. I graduated this course in 2021 and commenced my post-grad degree in a Masters of Primary Education the following year. I graduated in December of 2023 which makes me a new grad teacher this year!

I am passionate about educating and inspiring young minds and believe that all students deserve equitable opportunities to succeed within their classroom. I aim to foster a safe and comfortable space for my students to thrive in whilst providing support for a range of learning and personal needs.

My partner is a landscaper, my Dad is a literacy tutor, my mum was a primary school teacher for thirty years and my brother is going to be a police officer. Within the next couple of years I hope to do some travel, buy my very own first home and have an amazing start to my teaching career. I am very excited to begin my journey at Wattle Glen P.S and cannot wait to meet everyone.



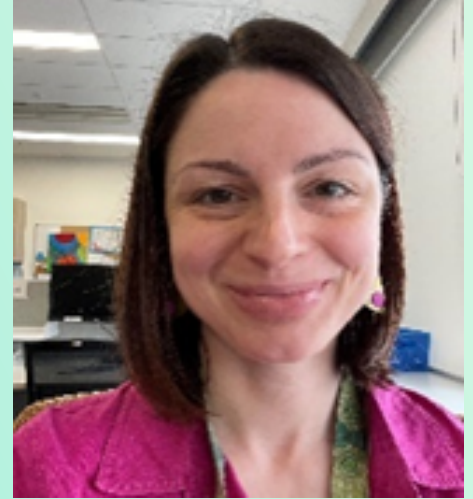
Meet the staff

Laura Fumei
Speech Pathologist

I have always loved everything to do with language and literacy! I completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Applied Linguistics, followed by a Masters in Speech Pathology, before commencing as a Speech Pathologist with the Department of Education in 2014. I have had the privilege of working in around 20 schools as a Speech Pathologist through Student Support Services. I've also had the opportunity to work in the Department of Education in the Inclusion space and have enjoyed developing new skills and learning from my colleagues.

I care very deeply about helping students to reach their full potential; every student has their unique strengths and skills to offer, which we can harness to help them achieve their goals. I am passionate about inclusion and I am proud to be part of a profession that helps children to express themselves.

My beautiful children are endless sources of fun and energy and remind me every day that joy can be found in the simplest of things.



Visible Wellbeing for Parents

An evening with Professor
Lea Waters AM, PhD

Join Order of Australia recipient, Professor Lea Waters, as she showcases the Visible Wellbeing approach used in your children's schools.

Learn about the six pathways that can build mental health in your kids, and simple techniques you can use at home.



DATE: 29 February 2024
TIME: 6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM
LOCATION: Webinar (Zoom)

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/3R6NA6VX](https://tinyurl.com/3R6NA6VX)

FAMILY opportunity security friendship
 volunteer harmony solutions altruism
 service TEAMWORK cooperation inspire
 inclusion SHARE awareness
community charity GENEROSITY
 contribution kindness HELP
 unite NETWORK connect
 diversity SAFETY support trust NOW
 together GIVING caring vision

COMMUNITY



Community Announcements

DIAMOND CREEK BLUE LIGHT DISCO

16TH FEBRUARY, 2024

7-9.30PM | 8 TO 13 YEAR OLDS | \$8 ENTRY

Diamond Creek Community Centre
 28 Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek

Contact: Snr Sergeant Wayne Spence 9438 8300
 Please ensure children have an emergency number on them.

Logos: Diamond Creek Blue Light Disco, Diamond Creek Rotary Club, Da Vinci.

SEEKING PLAYERS

FOR UNDER 10S MIXED AND UNDER 12 GIRLS TEAMS

Register now!

HFNC logo

Twilight Market

Bring your friends and family to the ELTHAM College Twilight Market!

ELTHAM COLLEGE

Friday 1 March * ELTHAM College Oval and Swipers Gully Vineyard
 4:00pm to 8:30pm

- * Local makers and businesses
- * Market stalls
- * Food trucks
- * Live Music
- * Swipers Gully wines
- * BYO kids, family, friends
- * BYO picnic blanket

Where community comes together



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



Is this your daughter?

Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform.

Join us at our FEBRUARY OPEN DAY



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



An experience that goes far beyond the stage!

Girls blossom as members of the AGC, both on and off the stage. Your daughter will develop confidence, public speaking and presentation skills, resilience and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our senior performers have shared the stage with a long list of artists including Hugh Jackman, Amy Shark and Kylie Minogue. You may have seen our girls perform for the FIFA Women's World Cup or AFL Grand Final; or on television appearances on Sunrise, Today, Carols by Candlelight and Carols in the Domain.

Now accepting 2024 enrolments for our rehearsal venues in Berwick, Box Hill, Caulfield North, Essendon, Glen Waverley, Greensborough, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Kew, Mentone, Ringwood and Yarraville



JOIN US AT OUR FEBRUARY OPEN DAY

Register now at ausgirlschoir.com.au/joinagc or phone 03 9859 6499



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

