



Newsletter: 1 Thursday 8th February 2024

Vision:

Our school empowers all students to embrace learning, achieve their personal best while developing their emotional, social and physical wellbeing, and through this make positive contributions to the community.

Welcome to 2024

We would like to warmly welcome our new families and welcome back our returning families to what we hope is another fantastic year of learning and friendship. We hope you all managed to find time to relax and unwind over the Christmas break. The students have settled back in beautifully. The playground is full of happy, smiling faces and in the classrooms the students are undertaking start of year assessments.

A reminder that we use Compass as a means of communication at WDPS. If you are having any problems with Compass, please let us know and we will assist you. New families should have received their log in details. If not, please see the office. Currently on Compass, families can book Parent/Teacher interviews. We have set down Monday 4th March and Tuesday 5th March for these interviews. If you are unable to book a time and would like an interview, please contact your child's classroom teacher and they will be able to book you in.

At WDPS we have students who have a peanut allergy. Their reaction to peanuts requires them to have an EpiPen. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening condition but can be managed by reducing or limiting the risk to known allergens. We can help these students and their families transition safely to school by reducing peanut exposure. Please refrain from bring peanuts and/or peanut based foods (e.g., peanut butter sandwiches) to school. If you require further information, please contact me.

In this newsletter we reintroduce our teaching staff and their roles within the school. At WDPS we have a dedicated team who provide excellent educational opportunities for all students. Along with our students, we promote and live by our school values of Respect, Excellence and Community.

Staff can be contacted any time via the school office, 56881460 or their department emails.

Chloe.wade@education.vic.gov.au

Deidre.zuidema@education.vic.gov.au

Georgia.round@education.vic.gov.au

Joel.moore@education.vic.gov.au

Please note that in the interest of work/life balance staff will respond to emails between the hours of 8:30 and 4:30.

In our next newsletter we will introduce our education support team.

Important 2024 dates

FEBRUARY

Wednesdays - Prep do not attend school (7th, 14th, 21st, 28th)

Mon 5th - Fri 9th - School Swimming (trial day Thursday 8th)

Tue 13th - School Council meeting 6pm

Thu 15th - School photos

Fri 23rd - District swimming for selected students

MARCH

Mon 11th - Public Holiday

Tue 12th - Validation Day School Review

Wed 13th - NAPLAN commences for Grade 3 and 5

Mon 25th - Panel Day School Review

Wed 27th - Grade 3-6 Athletics at Foster Secondary College

Thurs 28th - End of term 1

As always, if you require anything please do not hesitate to contact us, either via the office or directly to the classroom teacher.



Gabrielle Boyd Principal
Little School, Big Heart

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Student Awards



Congratulations to the following students who received Student of the Week Awards:

Week1

P/1— Kyle For being a great class leader

2/3 — Cian for showing kindness and leadership

4/5/6— Ethan for his great effort and attitude



Congratulations to Hamish, Zuri & Isla who have received **REC** Awards (School Values: Respect, Excellent & Community)



Meet our Teachers



Hi everyone, my name is Chloe Wade. This year I am teaching the Prep and grade 1 students. I also teach art to all students on Wednesday afternoon. This is my fourth year of teaching at Welshpool and District Primary School. It's very exciting to see so many new families and faces at Welshpool this year. I am looking forward to watching the students develop and grow as the year progresses.

Hello, my name is Deidre Zuidema. I live in Yanakie with my husband, where we own and operate a dairy farm. We have 3 daughters, all of which have moved away for work.

I have been a teacher for 25 years. In that time, I have worked in several different roles, from a classroom teacher to a specialist teacher in Maths, PE and Science.

This year, I will be teaching Grade 2/3. I am really excited about the year ahead, watching the students learn and grow.



Hi everyone, my name is Georgia Round. At the end of last year, I got married going from Georgia Parnall to Georgia Round. Currently, I live in Foster with my husband and our 18month old son Flynn. In my spare time I enjoy being outside and exploring with my little family. This year I will be continuing my role as inclusion leader and teaching the 2/3's alongside Mrs Zudiema. This is my 6th year working at Welshpool and District Primary School. Prior to this I have had the opportunity to work within a variety of roles such as numeracy leader within other schools. Growing up in Foster, I have enjoyed returning to teaching within the community and becoming part of our school community. This year I am very excited to continue working with our students, families, and staff to grow and develop throughout the year. I look forward to meeting our new families and working with you all this year.

Hi all, my name is Joel Moore and I teach the grade 4,5,6 class as well as PE. This is my 4th year of teaching at Welshpool and District Primary School and I have really enjoyed the strong sense of community that our school has. This year I am looking forward to seeing the students continue with the strong learning growth that was made last year. I am also looking forward to being involved in the wonderful opportunities that the 4/5/6 students will have during the year, such as; athletics and sports days, school camps and excursions.



My name is Sue Dower and I will be teaching your children French and Music each Friday. I trained as a teacher over 40 years ago and have been teaching at Welshpool for more than 20. Over these many years at Welshpool I have taught most subjects as a one day a week specialist teacher and occasional relief teacher.

In my other life I am a piano teacher and partner with my husband, Ray, in Ray Dower Motors, Foster. I have 5 grown up children and one baby granddaughter. My hobbies are my family, reading, playing piano, knitting and sewing.

I'm looking forward to another adventurous year at Welshpool Primary. Please introduce yourself to me and if you have any questions don't hesitate to ask.

P/1 Classroom

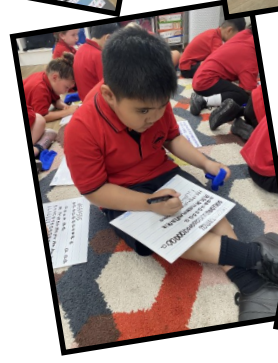
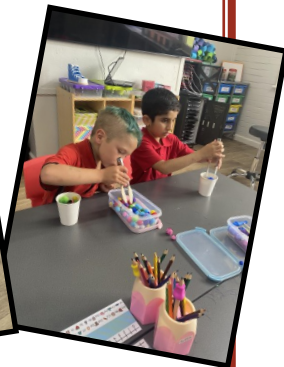
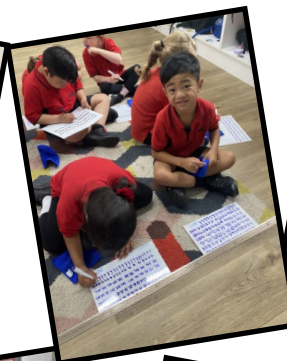


Welcome back everyone!

We have started the year off racing, with students busy taking part in the swimming program as well as spending time getting to know their classroom and their new class mates. Students have spent time learning daily routines and tasks such as where their school bag goes, where their seat is and how to look after their own pencils and work-books.

Students have also been undertaking reading, writing and maths assessments throughout the week to ensure learning is targeted to each students' individual needs. All students have settled in really well creating new friendships within the classroom and in the playground. Just a reminder to all parents and families' readers and information will be sent home in week 4.

I am looking forward to the rest of the term with lots of learning ahead for the new P/1 students.
Mrs Wade.



2/3 Classroom



Welcome to 2024!

I am really excited about the year. There are lots of wonderful things planned for this year which the students will really love.

I will be teaching Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with Mrs Georgia Round teaching Tuesday mornings and Fridays.

We have 11 students in 2/3 and everyone has settled in really well! We've had the chance to catch up with friends and meet some new people. We have been doing lots of assessments and everyone has been working hard.

Grade 2/3 will be starting specialist classes next week. On Tuesdays, we will be having MARC Van (library), Art with Mrs Wade and SELS. On Wednesdays, we will be having PE with Mr Moore and MAPPEN with Mrs Zuidema.

On Fridays, Mrs Dower will be taking the class for Music and French.

Home Reading will begin in Week 4, there will be further information sent home about this.

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held in week 6. We also have our 'Welcome BBQ' next week.

Grade 3 have NAPLAN testing later in the term. We have begun our NAPLAN preparation sessions, so the students know what to expect on testing days.



4/5/6 Classroom



Over the last fortnight the grade 4,5,6 students have been busy completing assessments, looking at classroom expectations and have been adjusting to the routines of the senior classroom. It has been great to see how the students have returned to school ready to learn and how well the grade 4 students have transitioned into the senior class.

There are a few important events occurring over the course of the term that involve the grade 4,5,6 students. We have district swimming in week 4 and the Prom Coast athletics towards the end of the term. The grade 5 students will also be completing NAPLAN later this term. Over the next few weeks there will be a focus on NAPLAN, with students working on a variety of reading, writing and mathematics concepts. As NAPLAN will be online this year all students in the senior class will also be working on their typing skills.

If any parents need to contact me, please do not hesitate to email me at:

joel.moore@education.vic.gov.au

Mr Moore





Parents & Friends Association (PFA)

Your invited

We would like to extend an invite for all parents or carers to join our PFA group at WDPS.

Our first PFA meeting for 2024 is tonight 6pm at the Welshpool Pub and you are more than welcome to come along and see what it is all about.

If you can't make tonight but would like to know more please contact Lisa Van Kuyk or the school office

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In order to continue our BBQ Wednesdays we are desperately needing more volunteers. If you can assist us with any of the dates for this term please make contact with Lisa Van Kuyk or the school office.

SCHOOL BBQ ROSTER

Term 1

February

Wed 14th -
Wed 21st -
Wed 28th -

March

Wed 6th -
Wed 13th -
Wed 20th -
Wed 27th -

****Helpers needed****

Please contact Lisa Van Kuyk if you are able to help.



BBQ
WEDNESDAY
ORDERS IN BY
WEDNESDAY
9AM

WDPS BBQ ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

	Description	\$	QTY	Total \$
Sausages		\$2.00 ea		
Drink	Choc/Straw/Plain Milk	\$1.50 ea		
	Juice Box	\$1.50 ea		
Icy Poles	Various Flavours	\$0.50 ea		
				\$

Term 1 2024



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
TI WEEK 3	12 Welcome BBQ 5.30pm	13 School Council	14 NO PREPS Bookclub issue 1 due	15 School Photos	16
TI WEEK 4	19	20	21 NO PREPS	22 Newsletter	23 District Swimming
TI WEEK 5	26	27	28 NO PREPS	29	30
TI WEEK 6	4 Parent Teacher Interviews	5 Parent Teacher Interviews	6	7 Newsletter	8 Flower Show
TI WEEK 7	11 Public Holiday	12 Validation Day School Council	13	14	15
TI WEEK 8	18 St Patricks Day	19	20	21 Newsletter	22
TI WEEK 9	25 Panel Day	26	27 Prom Coast Athletics	28 LAST DAY OF TERM 1	29 Public Holiday



We would like to wish the
following students a
HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!

**Joe, Parishay, Kyle,
Cian & Dylan**

This year the process of ordering your school photos is a little different.
There will be no paperwork sent home to pre-order your photos,
instead parents and carers will be sent a registration link via email/mobile when
photos are ready to be viewed/ordered (approximately 3 weeks after shoot).

BLUE WOLF
P H O T O G R A P H Y
We are at..

**Welshpool & District
Primary School**



**Thursday 15th
February 2024**

**You will be notified when the
photos are ready to view
and purchase via our private
online galleries!**



Did you know that Welshpool and District PS is on the Bushfire Category 4 list?

Did you know that Welshpool and District PS is on the Bushfire Category 4 list?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and will close on a day forecasted as catastrophic fire danger rating in West and South Gippsland fire district.

Attached to this newsletter is more information about what happens on these days and how families will be notified. Please read over the information and make yourself aware of the processes around this.

If you require any additional information, please contact Gabbi.

Schools on the Bushfire Category 4 list.

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **West and South Gippsland fire weather district**.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and completed a School Bushfire Site Readiness Review Checklist.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a **Category 4** school.

Our school will close on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in West and South Gippsland fire district**.

What is the department's policy?

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will close on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in West and South Gippsland fire weather district**.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by **Compass**, which is the school's main means of communication. Letters may also be sent home with students.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us through Compass, by reading our newsletters and checking our website <http://www.welshpoolps.vic.edu.au/>. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns about our emergency procedures.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

Community Information & Events

Friends of Toora Heritage Pear Orchard Inc. Present...

TOORA PEAR PARTY

Sunday, 25 February, 2024

At the Toora Heritage Pear Orchard

18A Mill St Toora

10am to 3pm

gold coin entry

Pick your own bag of pears \$6, bags provided

Live music

Market stalls including plants, coffee, devonshire teas, local produce, Gurneys Cider, Lions BBQ and more

Children's games and activities


Grafting demonstrations by Neil Barraclough with Avocados and Citrus, please book prior by phoning 0490352600

Art exhibition at Rare Earth Studio Gallery in Stanley St and other local attractions

Check our Facebook page

"Toora Heritage Pear Orchard"

Community Bank
Toora & Foster

 **Bendigo Bank**