



Woody Yaloak Primary School

Website: www.woodyyaloak.vic.edu.au
 Email: woady.yaloak.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Principal: **Corey Pohlner**
 Phone: 53 42 8565

2017 Term Dates

- 31st Jan - 31st Mar
- 18th Apr - 30th Jun
- 17th Jul - 22nd Sep
- 9th Oct - 22nd Dec

Smythesdale Campus 5342 8565
Scarsdale Campus 5342 8514

Snake Valley Campus 5344 9274
Ross Creek Campus 5342 0478

For Your Diary

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 21st

- Ross Creek PFA AGM at 7pm

Wednesday 22nd

- No Foundation Students

Friday 24th

- CSEF Applications Close

Monday 27th

- Whole School P&F Meeting 10am at Smythesdale
- Parent Teacher Interviews Information Sharing Bookings Close at 2pm

Tuesday 28th

- Snake Valley Life Ed Van
- Parent/Teacher Information Sharing Interviews 2pm-6pm

REMINDERS DUE

Wed 22nd Feb
Smy, SV & Scars
Life Ed

Fri 24th Feb
Student Profile For
Parent/Teacher
Interviews

Wed 1st Mar
Ross Creek
Life Ed

OVER DUE
Full Student
Information

Principal Message

STUDENT INFORMATION

Earlier in the term, student information was sent home to be reviewed to ensure we have accurate and up to date student details on record. There are a large number of student information details still outstanding. It is extremely important that these are reviewed and returned to ensure we have accurate contact details, particularly in the case of an emergency.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Monday night we were supposed to have our first school council meeting for the year, but unfortunately it was cancelled because we didn't have a quorum. As a result we didn't have our 2017 Curriculum Days endorsed, however I still wanted to publish them in this week's newsletter so that parents could start to plan around them. If parents could please put the following dates in their calendars that would be appreciated, as children will not be required at school on these dates.

Term 2:

- Friday May 12th (professional learning on the writing curriculum)
- Monday June 19th (professional development on School Wide Positive Behaviours)

Term 3:

- Monday August 14th (professional development on the new Victorian Curriculum)

Our next school council meeting will be on Monday, March 20th. Our new members will be required to attend this meeting. On this day the following meetings will take place

1. Annual General meeting
2. Annual Reporting meeting
3. Normal school council meeting

WOADY WEBSITE

Currently we are having our school website updated and migrated to a new platform. 55% of our website traffic is accessed by a mobile device, so this new version will make it easier to view and navigate on any device. Part of this migration is to update our photos and information, so that it reflects the most up to date information for our school community. With a multi campus school, getting around to each campus taking these photos takes time, but we are nearly finished.

A reminder to any new parents, in the school calendar section of our website, you can access permission forms if you happen to misplace the hard copy that is sent home.



Principal Message Continued...

ICAS

This year we are giving families the opportunity to be involved in ICAS. ICAS is an independent, skills-based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement. ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments for primary and secondary school students. The assessments comprise eight Digital Technologies tests, eleven English tests, eleven Maths tests, eleven Science tests, six Spelling tests and ten Writing tests. Generally in the past when families have taken this up, they have selected no more than 3 tests, as they can be time consuming and costly.

This is not compulsory for families to take up and will cost each family per test. To the right is a QR code to scan, which will take you to the website and even some videos to explain the ICAS in more detail. A parent letter complete with permission / payment form has been attached to today's newsletter. These are due back by Friday, 24th March. If you require any other questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



LINTON AND DISTRICT SCHOOL SPORTS (SAVE THE DATE)

The Linton and District School sports will be held on Wednesday, March 22nd at the Linton Recreation Reserve. The sports focus on participation and we encourage parents, grandparents, family friends etc. to come along. Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from Linton on the day. More details to follow closer to the date.

CAMPS, SPORTS, EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

Recently the annual CSEF information was sent home to families. This fund ensures eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities. Families holding a valid means tested concession card or temporary foster parents card are eligible to apply. \$125 per year will be paid for each child at primary school. Payments will go directly to the school. Parents who are eligible for this payment need to apply by completing the application form distributed by our school and provide a copy of their current health care card.

In order for families to maximise their CSEF we would appreciate forms to be returned by **Friday, 24th February**. This will allow time for your application to be processed as the first payment will be made on 1st March and we hope to be included in this round of funding.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Last week information went home in campus newsletters about our scheduled parent information sessions. These appointments are not formal academic meetings, but are equally important for both parents and teachers. This enables parents to update their child's classroom teacher of anything relevant to ensure success for 2017. We encourage all parents to make a time to meet with their classroom teacher. As always our doors are always open.

Corey Pehlner
Principal

PARENTS AND FRIENDS PROCESSES

Over the last 6 months I have been explaining the departmental guidelines around the organisation and running of school Parents and Friends. I have attended a number of meetings this year and have been very impressed with the professionalism and the processes being put in place, so that as a school, we are compliant with these guidelines. I would like to thank all of our Parents and Friends members from all campuses, for the work they do to help improve our school environment. As always if there are any questions, I'm only a phone call or email away.

Our next whole school Parents and Friends meeting will be held on Monday, 27th February at 10am at Smythesdale.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This week our Campus Heads are starting a year long professional development in Melbourne, called Principals as Literacy Leaders (PALL). This program is usually for school principals, assistant principals and leading teachers are able to be involved.



STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED...

The purpose of PALL is to improve the literacy achievement of students, particularly in reading, through developing the capabilities of primary school leaders as effective literacy leaders. Our campus heads will be involved in 5 modules throughout the year, covering the following topics;

Module 1: Leadership for Literacy Learning Blue Print

Module 2: What Leaders Need to Know about Learning to Read

Module 3: Leading Literacy data Gathering and Analysis

Module 4: Designing, Implementing & Monitoring Literacy Interventions

Module 5: Evaluating of Intervention & Future Planning

Why are we involved in this program?

After examining our school data last year, we highlighted a trend in our reading results and saw a need to further develop our reading program and intervention plan. At Woody Yaloak Primary School, we have a number of part time staff that have time allocated for learning support, where students are selected either within the classroom or out of the classroom for further support or extension. Having done the PALL'S course a couple of years ago myself, I have a good understanding of the program and the improvements it has on student learning. Basically at the end a whole school intervention plan is developed for reading, which is broken into 3 waves.

Wave 1:

This wave defines the school's climate, its general and core curriculum, its approaches to learning, social and emotional support and behavioural expectations. Basically in this wave, it's everything we have in place from a whole school to allow all students to learn.

Wave 2:

This wave involves short term intervention for students experiencing difficulties and not responding to the general & core wave 1 curriculum.

Wave 3:

This wave requires more intensive or individualised short term interventions for students who fail to respond to wave 2 intervention.

This professional learning is a long term goal, we will endeavour to keep school council and our general school community updated with our progress.

WOODY STRATEGIC PLAN PERFORMANCE

One of our focus areas this year in our Annual Implementation Plan is to build teacher capacity, so that all of our classroom teachers have a consistent way of teaching all students at their point of need. One of our strategies to achieve this is by forming partnerships with other local schools, which will be called 'Communities of Practice', below are 2 Community of Practices we are involved in this year.

Numeracy Community of Practice

This will involve Mr Johnson, Mrs Hines and Mr Pohlner working with other schools to plan professional development for all teachers through a consultant, Di Siemens. Two teachers from the junior, middle and senior classes will attend these professional development sessions, then teach these strategies to the other teachers in their team back at Woody. We will also be planning a 'Maths Challenge Day', during the course of the year.

Writing Gifted and Talented Community of Practice

Jo Angel and Megan Webb are leading this team and are also working with a number of other schools in the area. Based on school data around 10 of our young writers in grades 4-6 will be selected to be part of this program. There will be a planned launch for this program on Wednesday the 22nd of March which will be held at the Specialist School Farm.

Once the students have been selected, more information will be explained to parents closer to the date. Throughout the year we will also be involved in workshops, where students will work directly with authors to improve their own writing. The first workshop day will be held on Friday the 21st of April. This day will involve students developing an understanding of the attributes of a good writer and how they get to the final stage of their writing. They will learn about the importance of writing for an audience and not just themselves. Local writer Doug Bradley will lead this day with the students.

We hope to update our school community via our newsletter and at school council on regular occasions of our school wide focus areas, with updates on our achievements and progress, so that everyone understands why we do the things we do.



ICAS



Dear Parents / Guardians,

In our rapidly changing world, it is becoming more and more important for our children to develop strong skills as they progress through their education. While our curriculum-based assessments test a student's ability to recall what they have learned in a variety of subject areas, we think it's important to do more than that, particularly in the foundation years of schooling.

Therefore, Woody Yaloak Primary School will be implementing ICAS, a comprehensive skills-based program that assesses higher order thinking and problem-solving skills. We believe ICAS will give us deep insight into our students' true capabilities and help us plan more effectively for their future years at school.

HOW ICAS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ASSESSMENTS YOUR CHILD WILL TAKE:

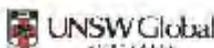
1. ICAS can tell us whether students really understand what they are being taught.
2. ICAS can help us discover student talents and student weaknesses that don't always get picked up by the curriculum testing framework.
3. ICAS will not add extra workload to a student's study or homework regime because ICAS is an assessment they can't study for. It evaluates thinking and problem-solving ability, not memory.
4. ICAS's diagnostic reports will give all of us (teachers and parents) far more insight into your child's strengths and weaknesses. At school, we can act on that by tailoring our teaching and learning programs; at home, you will know where to direct more encouragement.
5. ICAS will also give us an external benchmark we can rely on to ensure our school is keeping pace with national and international standards—ICAS is the most comprehensive international assessment program, with schools in over 20 countries participating every year.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

If you would like your child to participate, please complete the permission slip and return it, with payment to the school no later than **Friday March 24th** PLEASE NOTE LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Kind regards
Eamon Johnson

ICAS Coordinator
Woody Yaloak Primary School Assistant Principal



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2017 ICAS Permission Form

Please return this form with your payment, to your school no later than **Friday March 24th**

I give permission for my child, _____ of _____
Child's name *Class*

to participate in the following 2017 ICAS assessments.

Please select the subjects you would like your child to participate in:

Subject/Paper	School Year	Official Sitting Date	Participation Fee (incl. GST)	Fee Enclosed
Digital Technologies		23 May 2017	\$9.90	
Science		30 May 2017	\$9.90	
Writing		12–16 June 2017	\$19.80	
Spelling		14 June 2017	\$13.20	
English		1 August 2017	\$9.90	
Mathematics		15 August 2017	\$9.90	
			TOTAL	

Students must sit on the official sitting date for each subject to be eligible for UNSW medals.

Please _____ find enclosed for payment of the total fee.
Amount

Name of Parent/Guardian

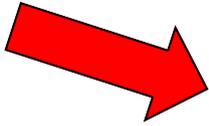
Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

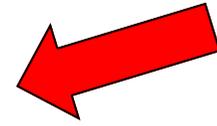


COMMUNITY NEWS

SAVE THE DATE! Ross Creek Campus Trivia Night



Saturday, 20th May 2017



Expressions of Interest for Donations: We are seeking businesses large and small to sponsor tables or donate items, goods or services to this event. If you are involved in or know of a business that might be interested in assisting us - and who would like to receive FREE advertising on the night in return for their donation - please leave details with Brenda at the Ross Creek Campus office for further information.

SEBASTOPOL CAMPUS

INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 14th March, 2017

Campus Expo and tours from 5.30pm
Information Briefing from 7pm

Parents and prospective students are warmly invited to attend our information Evening.

The evening begins with an Expo and tour of the Sebastopol Campus from 5.30pm followed by discussion with Campus Leaders and Teaching Staff in the Learning Resource Centre.

A comprehensive Information Package with details about our Academic Achievers SEAL Program, Academic Curriculum Community Scholarship Opportunities, Performing Arts and our Sports Program will be provided.



Phoenix
P-12 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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The College Principal Team or School Leaders would be pleased to conduct a personalised tour of the College at any time. Bookings can be made by contacting the General Office on 03 5329 3293.

"In Knowledge there is Opportunity"