IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES/FINANCIAL CALENDAR
ABSENCE REPORTING NUMBER 9971 1699

Mon 12th Dec Year 6 Graduation
Wed 14th Dec Year 6 Funfields Exc
Fri 16th Dec END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY 2.05PM
Tues 20th Dec Last day Term 4
Tues 31st Jan 2017 First day Term 1 8.50am START

ART SHOW 2017
Another year, another Art show finished. And the first word that comes to my mind is WOW. The amount of talented artists in our school is nothing short of amazing. I am very proud of what our students showcased on Wednesday night.
A huge thank you to Mrs Champness, Mrs Ozanne and Mrs Velja for ensuring that all students had something to display or present on the night.
Thank you to our school community for coming to our school Art Show event and making it the best one yet. I would like to thank the many volunteers for their tireless efforts in making the night a great success: Noami Matthews, Nicolle Walker, Debbie Slegers, Deanne Ward, Kim Grace, Janine Parkinson, Priscilla Ivkovic, Joanne Williams, Tammy Maynard, Tanya Raker, Stacey Blackmore, Maryanne Monea, Paraskevi Zach, Maraea Puha, Bridget Mason & Pauline Stotten. We managed to raise approximately $3000 which is a great effort for our school.
LIBRARY 2016 STOCKTAKE
Dear WPPS Families, our Library is very busy at the moment organising, returning and stock-checking all of our school resources. It would be greatly appreciated if families could check at home for any books belonging to our school. Please return any of these books ASAP, either directly to the Library (Mrs. Fleming), or to classroom teachers. Your search, find and return efforts are very much appreciated! Thank you. Mrs. Fleming Library

B-PAY
We are aware that many parents find it difficult to attend the school to pay for various fees, camps and excursions etc. The school offers payment by cash, cheque, Eftpos and B-Pay. By using B-Pay payments can be made at any time, day or night, on any day of the year via telephone or internet banking. To ensure the correct allocation of payments, parents are asked to advise the school which student and charge the payment relates to. This can be done by telephoning or emailing the school at: wedge.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Please contact the school office for your B-Pay details.

CENTREPAY
Centrelink offer a free service for it’s customers to pay bills as regular deductions from their Centrelink payments. Please see the attached flyer for information.
**SCHOOL FEES 2017**
A reminder that school fees can be paid, and book packs collected, up until Friday 9th December 2016, and then from 25th January 2017 onward.

**GIVING TREE**
This year we are again supporting the Melton Combined Churches Caring Organisation (Emergency Food Centre) with our Christmas Giving Tree. We are asking for donations of non-perishable food items. If every family donated just one item we would have over 500 items to pass on to the Emergency Food Centre and, in turn, to those less fortunate. Let’s all see if we can help make someone else’s Christmas happier.

Donations will be collected by the Emergency Food Centre from the school on **Thursday 15th December**. We hope you will support this worthy cause. Donations can be left under the giving tree in the school’s foyer.

**YEAR 6 COMMEMORATIVE GARMENTS 2017**
A notice was sent home on 30th November to the Year 5 students regarding the Year 6 Commemorative garments for 2017. Orders and payments will be accepted at the office up until Friday 9th December 2016 and then again from 30th January 2017 onward. Orders must be received by February 10th 2017.

**YEAR 5 AND 6 SPORTS UNIFORM**
As part of our physical education program it is an expectation that all Year 5 and 6 students wear the sports uniform on sports days. Students can wear either a polo shirt or t-shirt, with the school logo on the front, in their house colours: Dunvegan – Royal Blue; Pyke – Gold; Merrimu – Red; Willow – Emerald Green. Garments are available from our uniform supplier Lowes located in Shop T118 Woodgrove Shopping Centre, 533-555 High Street, Melton.

**JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL**
Silly socks day was another successful fund raiser for the Junior School Council. The amount of $404.10 was raised for Ronald MacDonald House. The total monies raised from all the fun days (Bandana Day, Footy Colours Day, Juvenile Diabetes Day, Genes for Genes Day) was $3770.50. Thanks to all for the ongoing support.

**STUDENT BANKING**
Our last day for student banking was yesterday 6th December 2016. Student banking will recommence on Tuesday 7th February 2017.

**STUDENT INSURANCE**
Parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs. Insurance can be purchased from commercial insurers. The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.
CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
The Victorian Government offers support through the CSEF to those parents/guardians who hold a valid means-tested concession card. Please see information below. The program for 2017 closes on 30th June 2017. Application forms are available from the school office.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF Application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Centrepay
A free service for customers to pay bills as regular deductions from their Centrelink payments.

Using Centrepay
Centrepay is a voluntary bill paying service that is easy to use. You can start, change, or cancel Centrepay deductions at any time, to suit your own personal circumstances.

By choosing to use Centrepay you benefit from knowing that your bills are under control. Instead of having large bills every month or quarter, you can pay your bills in manageable amounts from your Centrelink payment, making budgeting easier.

Bills you can pay with Centrepay
There are many types of expenses you can pay using Centrepay, such as:

- private rent including community housing
- telecommunications
- electricity, gas and water
- education fees and expenses
- ambulance costs
- child care
- home care services
- rental of household goods
- medical services and equipment

Contact the business or organisation you want to pay to find out whether it offers Centrepay. You can also contact us to find out whether an organisation is registered with Centrepay.

You can find out whether an organisation is registered with Centrepay by searching via our Find a business or organisation search tool or contacting us.

Some participating organisations can organise Centrepay deductions for you.

Cost of Centrepay
Centrepay does not charge you any fee to deduct the money from your payments. However, the organisation or persons to which we send your deduction is charged a fee.

The organisation must not pass this fee on to you. If you believe it is, discuss it with the organisation or person you pay. If you are not satisfied with the response, contact us.

Minimum payment amount
The minimum payment amount for Centrepay deductions is $10 per fortnight. However, there are some organisations that require a different minimum amount. Contact the organisation you want to pay if you are unsure of the minimum amount required.

Information you provide for Centrepay
Your personal information is protected by law. We may give your information to the person or organisation you have nominated, in order to:

- check your account number and the amount you want to pay, and
- reconcile your payment deduction details

We can also give your information to someone else in special circumstances—for instance, if Commonwealth legislation allows or requires, or if you give permission. For more information, see the privacy page on the department's website.

In addition to this, limited personal information may be used to conduct customer surveys, run by us, by our policy departments, or by research organisations on their behalf. For more information, see market research and you.

Applying for Centrepay
There are several ways to start Centrepay deductions.

Some participating organisations can organise your Centrepay deductions for you.

You can also apply for Centrepay deductions:

- on line, using the department's online accounts, view our online guides
- by telephoning us
- by completing a Centrepay deduction form
To start Centrepay deductions, you will need to have the following information:

- your Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN)
- the name of the organisation or person you want to pay
- if available, the address and phone number of the organisation or person you want to pay
- the Centrelink Reference Number of the organisation or person you want to pay (this number always starts with 555)—you can look this up when setting up your deductions online, by contacting the organisation or person you are paying, or by calling us
- your account number and/or billing number if you have one, for instance your electricity account/bill number
- the amount you want deducted from your Centrelink payments each fortnight
- the Centrelink payments from which you want the deductions to be paid
- the payday that you want the deductions to start on

We will send you a letter confirming the details of your deductions. Centrepay will pay your deduction to the organisation or person you have nominated on the same day on which you receive your Centrelink payments. The organisation or person will receive a report with details of your deductions, in order to be able to reconcile your account.

Managing your deductions
Changing your Centrepay deductions

The Centrepay service is voluntary, and you can change, suspend, or cancel your deductions at any time by:

- using the department's online accounts view our online guides
- calling us or
- completing a Centrepay deduction form

We will send you a letter whenever your deduction is changed, suspended, or cancelled. We will also advise the organisation or person you are paying if you change, suspend, or cancel your deduction.

What changes can I make to my Centrepay deductions?

You can make the following changes to your Centrepay deductions:

- suspend your deduction amount temporarily for a maximum period of 13 weeks. After this period the deduction will recommence automatically with the original deduction amount. For example, you may have $50 per fortnight deducted to pay child-care fees but choose to suspend that deduction for six weeks as your child will not be attending child care over the summer holiday period
- change the deduction amount for a specified period up to a maximum of 13 weeks. For example, you normally have $25 deducted from your payment each fortnight to pay your electricity bills but would like to increase this amount to $35 over the winter period from 1 June until 30 August to cater for the increased use of electricity for heating. At the end of the period you have specified the deduction amount will automatically revert back to the original amount
- request a future end date when deductions will automatically cease
- nominate or change a target amount so that deductions will automatically stop when your target amount has been reached or when you have less than $2 remaining in your target. We will send you a letter to let you know when this has happened
- change the deduction amount permanently from a specified future Centrelink payday—for example, when your rent has increased and you need to change your regular deduction amount from $120 to $130 per fortnight
- cancel your deduction at any time

What happens if there is a change to my payments?

Sometimes we will not be able to deduct the full amount requested if your Centrelink payment:

- is reduced because of income or earnings
- has been reduced or suspended because of a non-payment period or
- is reduced because other deductions have been made, such as overpayments—leaving you without enough funds for your Centrepay deductions

If this happens you will need to contact the organisation or person your deductions are being paid to and make other arrangements.

If your Centrelink payment is cancelled and then restored within 14 days, your deductions either will automatically continue or will stop. If they stop, you will need to talk to the organisation or person to which your deductions are being paid, to make other arrangements. If your Centrelink payments start again, then talk to us about restarting your deductions using Centrepay.

If you move from one type of payment to another—for example, from Parenting Payment Partnered to Age Pension—your deductions will stop, and you will need to talk to us about restarting your deductions using Centrepay.