



THE WILLOW WEEKLY

690 Willowmavin Road, Willowmavin, 3764 Ph. 5782 1319 willowmavin.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Wednesday, the 11th of December, 2024

*Willowmavin Primary School resides on the lands of the Taungurung people.
We acknowledge their leaders past and present and pledge to respect the earth, the life and the waters of these lands.*

We would like to welcome and introduce our new Foundation students for 2025.



Mackenzie

Mia

Lola U

Adalynn

Lola C

Seb

Camellia

Sasa

Nate



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Celebrations!

And just like that, here we go again! To our 45 students returning to Willow in 2025, welcome back. And to our 12 new students and 8 new families, we welcome you to your first school year at Willowmavin Primary School.

As is becoming tradition, we are having a very smooth transition into the school year. No doubt this is a result of our comprehensive transition processes as well as the engagement and support of parents and guardians to provide the guidance their children have needed to start their 2025 school year. Our F/1 class has definitely been a highlight, not just in the way they have commenced the year looking as though school is old hat to them, but also due to each of our F/1 students having a 100% attendance record so far – meaning not a single student from F/1 has had an absence!

A huge part of a successful start to the school year is the preparedness of the school to hit the ground running. From the school grounds to the classrooms, the cleaning to the administration, thank you to all staff for their time during the break to ensure the school was well and truly prepared for the arrival of the 2025 school year.

Regardless of whether our students and families are at Willow for their first year, or last year, or somewhere in between, we wish our entire school community a fantastic year ahead.

Staffing and Grade Structure 2025

Other than Mrs Walton returning from Family Leave which she commenced at the end of Term 1 last year, the only new staff member we welcome this year is Nova Whineray. Nova will be a key part of our Education Support team, providing additional support for our students and teachers in our classrooms. You may also notice Rhonwyn Whiteside around the place. We are very fortunate to have Rhonwyn completing her Education Support placement at Willow this term.

By all reports (and my own observations!), Nova and Rhonwyn have got off to a fantastic start, quickly developing rapport with students and staff alike. Some people have a natural ability to work with children, and it has been clear from the outset that Nova and Rhonwyn both possess this ability. Please ensure you welcome Nova and Rhonwyn to the Willowmavin Primary School community.

As mentioned above (if you do the maths!), we have 57 students at Willow this year. We will once again have those students spread out over 3 grades, a Foundation and Grade 1 class, Grade 2/3 and Grade 4/5/6. Our 2025 staff line up is below. We are yet again in an extremely privileged position of having such significant staff support in place for our students, setting us up for a highly successful school year.

Grade F/1: Mrs Nicole Barri

Grade 2/3: Ms Amelia Steven

Grade 4/5/6: Mr Stuart Mills

Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) and
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader: Mrs Hayley Walton

Art (Term 1): Mrs Hayley Walton

P.E., Maths Specialist, Tutor Learning Initiative (Intervention)
and School Improvement: Miss Elsie Rodger

Education Support: Bree-Anna Thorn and Nova Whineray
Italian (delivered online): Signora Pasqalia

Business Manager: Sharni Knight (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Principal: Andrew O'Callaghan

Get Involved!

At Willowmavin, we not only welcome, we rely on parents/guardians engaging and contributing to the school. Whether it be assisting in the classroom, assisting with the grounds, or assisting with extra-curricular items, we are always keen to provide opportunities for families to engage with their child's school. Please don't hesitate to speak with your child's classroom teacher should you be interested in being involved in the school. Thank you in advance for your support.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

A notice and Compass post were sent out last Friday regarding Meet the Teacher arrangements for next Tuesday, February 11. On this day, students will be dismissed at 1:30 to enable teachers to commence interviews at this time. Parents and guardians are asked to pick students up at this earlier time. Should this not be possible, an adjusted program will be in place at school to provide supervision for students unable to be picked up early. Please complete the form in the Meet the Teacher notice and return to school by this Friday, February 7. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and support.

Signing Off

What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year.

Until next time, take care of one another and be the best you can be!

Mr. O'Callaghan



BE YOUR BEST



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



SAFE



End Of Year Awards 2025



BE YOUR BEST



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



SAFE

Willowmavin PS Welcome Picnic

Thursday, February 20th

5pm until 7:00pm

Formalities from 5:30pm until 7:00pm

Willowmavin PS is holding its annual Welcome Picnic to celebrate the start of the 2025 school year. This is a great opportunity for all of our school community to catch up with old friends or meet staff and new families for the first time.

On the night, our student leadership positions will be announced, including our 2025 School Captains.

Games and activities will be running from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. BBQ sausages will be on offer to purchase for \$3, along with juice boxes for \$1.



So, bring the family and the picnic rug and join us as we celebrate our school community and look forward to the year ahead.

We hope to see you there!

Staff of Willowmavin



In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school **per year**. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6**.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

BUN-RAISE

with us this **EASTER**



Bakers Delight Wallan Easter Fundraising Drive

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year! On behalf of the entire team at Bakers Delight Wallan, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your support throughout 2024. We are excited to continue serving you with our delightful breads and services this year!

As part of our ongoing commitment to our community, we're thrilled to announce our **Bakers Delight Easter Fundraising Drive**, and we'd love for your School, Club, or Community to join us in spreading some Easter joy.

Here's How It Works: Your participants can purchase 6-packs of our delicious Hot Cross Buns for just **\$10.50 each**. For every pack sold, your School, Club, or Organisation will receive **\$2 back!**

Flavours to choose from:

- Traditional
- Choc Chip
- Apple and Cinnamon
- Mocha
- Fruitless

How to Order: We've made it easy with an **online website** that your participants can use to make their purchases. Alternatively, there is also the paper form option. **COMING SOON!**

Delivery: Orders will be delivered directly to your organisation on your selected date, making it as easy as possible for you to distribute.

Why Join Us? Not only will you raise funds for your organisation, but you'll also get to enjoy freshly baked, high-quality Hot Cross Buns made by our talented bakers. We offer free samples to help you decide if you'd like to participate, so you can taste the deliciousness before you commit. Our buns are made using only the finest ingredients, so they're perfect for now or for freezing to enjoy later.

Bonus for Fundraising: As an exclusive bonus for those who participate in our fundraisers throughout the year, we are pleased to offer bread donations to local Schools, Clubs and Organisations. These donations can help support your breakfast programs, sporting events, or other community activities. Please note that this bonus is only available to those who actively participate in our fundraising events.



Motor Vehicle Theft is on the rise

Motor vehicle theft is on the rise, highlighting the need for Victorians to be vigilant about their home and car security.

Motor vehicle theft has reached a ten year high in Victoria, with 22,964 cars stolen in the year ending 30 June 2024 according to Crime Statistics Victoria: an increase of almost 37 per cent from the previous year. Of those cars, 5,624 were taken from the grounds of a private dwelling, while 6,948 cars were stolen from a street or footpath. Neighbourhood Watch has researched why this trend is going up.

Older models can be hot-wired but there are fewer of the pre-2000 cars on the road now-a-days. The majority of the cars are later model cars and they are stolen using their own keys. Thieves look for keys left in the car, or located conveniently in the house and they use these keys to steal the car before you even realise they have entered the house.

What can you do to prevent this from happening? NHW has come up with some simple steps:

- Avoid leaving your keys on a side table, on your dining table, kitchen bench, etc or hook near the door;
- Avoid leaving your keys or remote control to your garage in your vehicle;
- Lock your door into your garage from your house. It sounds simple, and will help prevent easy access to your house if the garage is penetrated;
- Even if you are home - LOCK the doors! Thieves are brazen and will enter even if you are home; and
- Remove all your valuables from your vehicles. Many incidents of theft are avoidable if people just remember to take phones, cash, tools, etc. out of the car!!

Summer Safety

Neighbourhood Watch is a community lead program which works together with our neighbours to help our community be better, safer, and friendlier.

Summer in our community we have some unique challenges: snakes, fires, heat and water safety.

Snakes do not set out to attack people or our pets but are often found on farms or are in our bushland. Recognising the species may save a life. The most venomous snakes found in Victoria are the tiger snake, brown snake, red-bellied black snake and the copperhead snake.

Many of the varieties of snakes are breeding in the late summer. The live young are born in a membranous sac. There will also be a mini influx of new borns scattered across the shire. Although shy, they become defensive when discovered from their hiding place so keep clear and call a snake catcher to remove them safely.

Fires although we recommend fire preparation in October, well before the fire season, sometimes you need to review your fire preparation, particularly following windy days when branches might be broken, dried bark or leaves might be blown around or items are left out in your garden. There will be a few more hot days before the summer is finished and they may come with dangerous conditions. Now is the time to get up and check your guttering again, sweep the back porch or patio, and put away loose items which might catch alight if a fire starts nearby.

Heat can also play a role in increased health risks, including dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and even strokes or heart attacks. It is a good idea on hot days to check in with your loved ones and neighbours to make sure they are staying cool and hydrated.

Water Safety at the beach or pool starts with basic advise:

- **Supervise** non swimmers and children at all times
- **Don't assume** that the beach or river was safe in the past and therefore is safe now. Take the time to observe the conditions to identify any dangers
- Swim at **patrolled beaches or pools** (where possible)
- **Avoid alcohol** if you are planning to swim
- **Teach** your children or weaker swimmers who to do if they get into trouble. Remain calm, float and raise an arm to signal for help from the life guard.



GROUP AREA: SOUTH MITCHELL
Phone: 0419 531 610
Email: newsletters.smnhw@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/southmitchell.nhw.inc
Web: https://sites.google.com/view/south-mitchell-nhw/home

ABN: 48 947 471 718
Inc. No. A0105968T
Registered Charity



Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

South Mitchell

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Hotlines:

000
131 444
1800 333 000

Emergency

Police Assistance Line
Crime Stoppers

Online Reporting:

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/palolr>

SES KILMORE OPEN DAY

ROAD CRASH RESCUE DEMO @ 12:30PM

DATE 15TH MARCH 2025

TIME 10:00AM - 02:00PM

LOCATION 24 GREEN ST KILMORE

WHATS ON!

- COFFEE VAN FOOD TRUCKS
- RAFFLE & GIVEAWAYS FUN
- KIDS ACTIVITIES CHAT
- WITH OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES MEET PADDY THE MASCOT

Logos for SES, Melt Down Toasties, CFA, VIC, and South Mitchell Council are also present.

Upcoming Events

Kilmore Safe Plate Day, Kilmore SES, 10am to 2pm

South Mitchell NHW is joining Kilmore SES with their open day on 15 March, 2025, between 10 and 2pm. We will be running a safe plate day and fitting anti-theft screws for everyone for just a small donation or a gold coin.

South Mitchell NHW General Meeting

We will welcome back our volunteer members on 13 February, 2025, 7pm at the Wandong Community Centre, LB Davern Reserve, Dry Creek Road, Wandong. Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat or to express their local concerns!

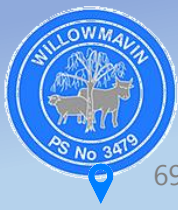
For more information, visit:

<https://sites.google.com/view/south-mitchell-nhw/home>



www.facebook.com/southmitchell.nhw.inc

email: newsletters.smnhw@gmail.com



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Wednesday, the 5th of February, 2025

What's On...

Dates To Remember

February

- 5th No Foundations attend today
- 7th Small School Swimming Cluster
- 11th Meet The Teacher
- 12th No Foundations to attend today



January

- 3rd Jai
- 4th Louis
- 6th Wyatt
- 10th Ky
- 11th Mia
- 15th Ellie
- 20th Ruby
- 26th Casey
- 31st Mr O



February

- 16th Hudson M
- 19th Alissia
- 23rd Keira

Uniform Reminder

Hats

From the start of Term 1, through to the end of April, students at Willowmavin Primary School are required to wear a hat when outdoors.

Please ensure you send your child's school hat with them to school. It is recommended that students leave their school hat at school.

If you would like to purchase a new hat, they can be purchased for \$10 from the office. If students are not wearing a hat, they will be required to play in designated undercover areas.

