



25TH JULY 2018 LAVERTON CAMPUS
www.westernautisticschool.vic.edu.au

Dear Parents and Carers, Namaste, Selamat siang, Xin Chao, 你好 Bonjour, Guten Tag, Mahlaba, Ciao, Kia Ora

Welcome back to term 3. The children have all come back to school with energy and enthusiasm and are settling back into the school routine well.

It's been wonderful to see so many families in the school participating in the School Support Group meeting with their child's teaching team. The meetings are a valuable opportunity to share information and work together to support your child. The teachers will be updating Individual Learning Programs after reflecting on the student's progress and planning an exciting term of engaging activities to support each child's development.

This term we look forward to the **Book Fair** from 13th – 17th of August. Family Days will occur to coincide with the Book Fair. We also celebrate **World Book Week** from 20th of – 24th August which will include a dress up day for students and staff.

As part of our Book Week celebrations the school is hosting an incursion with **St. Martins Youth Arts Centre** who have designed workshops that are very sensory-rich experiences of texts and are also linked to Victorian Curriculum Drama A-D. The presenter Amelia has worked with children with autism, has a background in teaching. We look forward to this exciting incursion.

Winter has brought some sunny fine days and cold wet and windy weather this week. Fortunately the children have been able to make the most of playtime outside rugged up against the cold.

Warm regards
Paige Davey
Campus Principal Laverton

NDIS APPLICATIONS

As information circulates about NDIS the school often receives queries about what they might be able to provide in support of applications. Western Autistic School staff are not able to provide any individual reports for students regarding eligibility for NDIS or NDIS goals. However, we can provide photocopies of your child's regular school reports and/or

assessment reports that are kept on file, that were submitted as part of your child's eligibility for enrolment at WAS.

A reminder too that **WAS is hosting an NDIS Parent Forum** on the 8th August from 6.30pm – 8.30pm at the Laverton Campus in the Multi-Purpose Room. Please see our website for information on this and other Parent Forums offered by the Department of Education South West Victoria Region.

2018 PARENT OPINION SURVEY

WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour and student engagement. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Approximately 30 per cent of parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from **Monday 23rd July to Sunday 26th August**.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 10-15 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

The 2018 survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of September. The survey results will be communicated to parents through the parent bulletin and annual reporting. Last year we used the survey results as part of a review of the school's curriculum. This process reaffirmed that our major task as teachers is to equip our students with the skills that will allow them to



success at their next school. To this end our aim is to help our students build their functional communication, social emotional and language skills as well as their literacy and numeracy. Hence, the individual child is at the centre of our work.

AFROBEAT

All of Western Autistic School students enjoyed the Afrobeat incursion held at the end of last term. Students and staff got involved and made some funky tunes on the drums.



Coles Supermarket Introduces Autism-Friendly Shopping Hour To 68 Stores

The program aims to create a low-sensory shopping experience for people with autism.



Coles will extend its ['Quiet Hour'](#) initiative to 68 supermarkets to help shoppers who have autism, their families and their carers.

During ['Quiet Hour'](#), noises and distractions in the supermarkets are reduced to assist those who might be negatively impacted by intense sensory environments. These changes include dimming the lights by 50 percent, reducing scanner volumes and switching off the radio. Shop announcements are also halted, trolley collection is stopped and shelf stacking is suspended.

Free fruit is offered to shoppers during 'Quiet Hour' and additional staff are made available on the floor to provide extra assistance.

'Quiet Hour' is open to all shoppers, whether they are on the autism spectrum or not and will be offered every Tuesday between 10.30am and 11.30am

Victoria : Wendouree, Belmont, Brunswick West, Burnside, Altona Meadows, Essendon Fields, Pakenham Lakeside, Ferntree Gully, Ringwood, Brandon Park, Langwarrin, Cranbourne West, Benalla, Prahran, Brighton, Eltham, Balwyn East and Fitzroy.