



Principal News – July 2026

Bike racks on Brooke St

As more families choose active and sustainable ways to travel to and from school, the demand for safe and convenient bicycle parking continues to grow. Cycling offers many benefits for students, including improved physical health, increased independence, and reduced traffic congestion around the school gates.

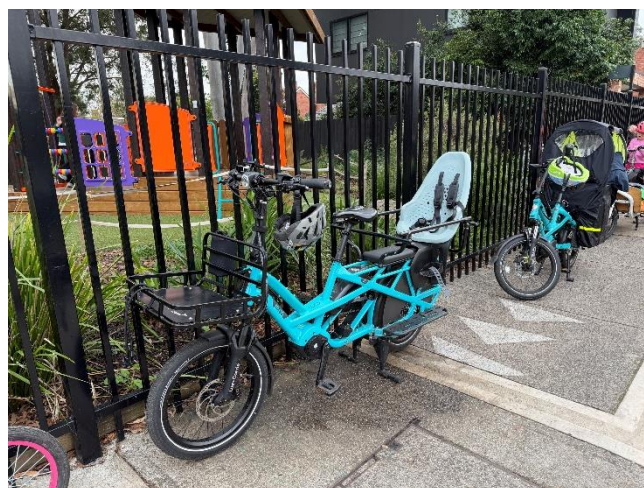
Unfortunately, our current bike parking facilities are struggling to keep pace with demand. On busy days, bicycle racks can become overcrowded, making it difficult for parents to securely park their bikes, which places them on the school fence and pushes pedestrians closer to the roadway. Between the bikes, prams and people the footpath is congested.

To support the growing number of families who ride to school, we are exploring opportunities to work with the Darebin council to improve bike parking facilities in front of the Brooke St site. Additional bicycle racks, and perhaps a reconfiguration of the existing ones could help alleviate the current congestion.

The council representative did a site visit in the last week of term and conversations had thus far seem promising, although there is currently a wait list for installation. Our request has been forwarded to the engineers at council, so we now must wait for a response. Council support is often influenced by demonstrated community interest. If you regularly cycle to school, would like your child to cycle in the future, or simply support safer and more sustainable transport options, we encourage you to share your views. Expressions of support from parents and carers can help strengthen the case for investment in improved infrastructure.

Better bike parking is a small change that can have a big impact—reducing traffic congestion, promoting healthy habits, and helping create a more sustainable school community.

We will keep families informed as discussions progress and welcome any feedback or ideas. Together, we can help make cycling to school safer, easier, and more enjoyable for everyone.



New Toys

Fundraising efforts from last year have enabled us to purchase new toys and learning resources that enriched children's educational experiences for our prep classes this term. Quality toys are more than just fun—they support the development of important skills such as problem-solving, creativity, communication, fine motor coordination, and social interaction. By spending some of our fundraising dollars on new classroom toys, we can provide engaging, hands-on learning opportunities that encourage curiosity, build confidence, and support each child's growth and development in a stimulating and supportive environment. Thank you for supporting our fundraising activities and voluntary contributions which enable further investment in our students cognitive and social development.



Mini World Cup

We jumped into World Cup fever through the house captains running a mini world cup on the Clarke St site. Teams dressed up in their allocated country's colours and the fixture started in week 9 of term 2. The games were much anticipated and were great fun. Unfortunately some spectator behaviours meant the student leaders cancelled the competition before the finals were played.



Super Science Night



On Saturday 20 June, the parents organised and ran another spectacular Science Night event. There were fabulous experiments, activities, presentations and talks run by parents, students, former students and staff. There are so many areas in the sciences, some of which were

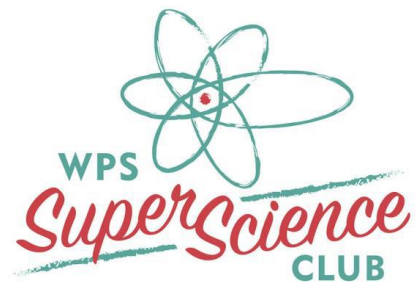


explored on the afternoon/evening and included but were not limited to: static electricity, 3D images, the human anatomy, fossils, the oceans – sea urchins, kelp, sea snails and slugs, starfish and shells, terrestrial arthropods – land hoppers, beetles, millipedes, centipedes, scorpions, slaters, spiders and developing an understanding of how these creatures play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, microscopes, plants and bacteria, robotics, 3D printing, light, taste, engineering, sleep, poo, the solar system, honey and bees, geophysics, and so much more.



The icing on the cake was actually pizza! What an amazing and generous community we have, who volunteered their time and knowledge to extend our understanding of and to promote the study of science. Special

thanks to the Fun and Fundraising Committee and the volunteers who made it possible: Tim, Heloise, Stephie and Dugald; Yolanda and Ben; Bredan, Triona and Priscilla; Mark, Jason, Geoffery; Andrew, Victoria and Sushma; Amy, Ned, Alan and David; Linda, Sarah, Richard and Richard; Mark, Kathy, Anurag, Leah, Christine and the many, many student presenters and parents who supported them, and of course everyone that came along to support the event for another year.



Holiday works



We had many jobs completed over the holidays which reduces the disruptions to the running of the school. New solar panels were installed on the WEB. These were funded by the Victorian Schools Building Authority, upgrading the old ones which were starting to break and have problems. You have no doubt noticed the new signage around the school. Classrooms now have numbers on the internal and external doors which will hopefully help with way finding.



There was new aluminium doors installed in the Brooke St staffroom and gym storeroom and repairs to the fascia to the veranda covering the entrance of the corridor near the art room. The original gym doors were damaged in high winds due to them being outward opening, so these have now been modified. A wonderful new balance/ninja course has been installed at the front of the kindergarten for use in PE classes. New stoves were installed in the farmhouse, and maintenance works on our trees was also carried out. The school is looking great, so thanks for your contributions to the buildings and grounds maintenance voluntary contributions which enabled us to complete these works.



What is happening in S.T.E.A.M. this term?

Year 3s – Working with SPHERO Bolt. This term, year 3s will be learning how to connect to, drive and program our Sphero Bolt robots.

Year 4s – Coding games such as 'Hungry Hungry Hippos', 'Rock, paper, scissors' and getting SPHERO Bolt to tell a joke.

Year 5s – Last minute finishing off for games to be submitted into the Australian Video Game challenge. Groups will then work on a fraction code and a digital drawing project.

Year 6s – The 6s are all working on different projects depending on which grade they are in. Projects vary from designing key chains to be 3D printed, constructing Lego robots, making chariots to be raced in the gym and completing an Isometric Artwork project.

Looking forward to another amazing term of learning, Yolanda.



School Council Report

– Jason van Grieken (School Council President)

The last School Council meeting was held onsite at 7pm on Wednesday 17 June.

Principal's Report – Topics discussed: IdolVision/Westgarth Idol, Bike parking, staffing changes, compliance dates, defects period for new building ending and all things on track, new prep toys paid for by fundraising money, works happening in the holidays (ninja course in front of kinder, door replacements, porch replacement/repair into the John Cain building corridor, new solar panels on WEB, new stoves installed in Farmhouse, new signage installation, general maintenance, tree safety works and kindergarten fence relocation) and the potential for further industrial action in term 3.

Finance – The Finance Committee meet monthly to discuss the previous month's financials. Detailed financial reports are provided to committee members for review and discussion. The committee are currently determining the priorities for expending the fundraising from 2025 activities.

Environment – The environment committee met on 3 June and discussed the current works and maintenance jobs underway. These include replacing the rotting canopy over the corridor entry into the John Cain building, replacement doors for new gym storeroom, new school signage on both sites, replacing the last two timber doors on Brooke St with aluminium one, building two new sheds for fete/furniture and maintenance storage, landscaping near OSHC entry. The farmhouse stoves have arrived and will be installed next week. The solar panels on the Clarke St WEB are being upgraded, and we are talking to the council about increasing the bike parking on Brooke St. The school has also applied for three grants for music room ramp replacement, new solar on Brooke St, and internal toilets upgrade for Brooke St.

OSHC – There was no meeting this month, however the OSHC program QARD review is imminent.

Fun & Fundraising – The FaF are gearing up for three events, Super Science Night June 20, the student discos 24 July and the Trivia Night August 15.

Next meeting dates:

OSHC	Thursday 16 July @ 10am WebEx
Finance	Thursday 23 July @ 10am WebEx
Environment	Wednesday 22 July 8am Jo's Office
Fun & Fundraising	TBC online
Hire of Facilities working party	TBC 8am Jo's office
School Council	Wednesday 29 July @ 7pm staffroom

If you would like to join a sub-committee, please contact the office so we can pass on your details to the convenors of the sub-committees so you can receive the correspondence and meeting invites.

Jo Wheeler
Principal