

Thank you to our families  
for your continued support  
of our school and staff.

Please remember to keep us  
all safe - if students are sick  
they MUST stay at home.

This is an  
unprecedented time.

It's time for  
unprecedented  
kindness.

## Warragul & District Specialist School Newsletter

Term 3, Tuesday 4th August 2020

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## AUGUST

### Tuesday 11th

- School Council  
Meeting via  
Webex

Welcome to week 4! There have been some big changes happening around us this week, with many students returning to remote and flexible learning. Whilst our school is open as usual for students, we acknowledge that this may be a difficult time for many families, with some siblings at home and workplaces being affected. This week we are relying on seeing smiling eyes, more than smiles, as face coverings will need to be worn by all Victorians when they leave home, unless they have a lawful exception. New advice states that people with a disability must wear a face covering unless it is unsuitable to do so for medical, physical, communication or other individual risk factors. A face covering is not required for infants and children under the age of 12 years.

The evidence is clear that face coverings will play a critical role in slowing the spread of coronavirus in Victoria. More information can be obtained from <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-coverings-covid-19>.

We also ask that families continue to be vigilant in keeping children home if they are showing signs of being unwell. Regular handwashing and social distancing continue to be critical ways to reduce the spread of the virus.

Whilst the current climate in Victoria is a challenging one, it is pleasing to see our students engaged in some wonderful learning at school and to still be able to participate in programs that get them out and about in the Community where it is safe to do so.

Many parents will be busy participating in Student Support Group (SSG) meetings this week. These meetings will look a little different to usual, with meetings being offered via WebEx or phone call. The term 3 SSGs are designed to enable you to catch up with your child's teacher, to discuss their Individual Learning Plan (ILP) goals, including any therapy needs, and to have a general chat about how your child is going. Therapy staff will still have input into your child's SSG, even though they may not be able to join a phone call. Having your child's ILP and mid-year report handy for these phone calls, may help to refresh your memory as to your child's learning, and prompt you to ask any questions you may have.

I hope you all have a wonderful week, and enjoy having the chance to have a catch up with your child's teacher, although it is not in person.

Take Care,

*Rachel*



# School Visits and Pick Up & Drop Off



**Student Transport Bus runs will occur as normal.** Buses will exit and pick-up students at school using a staggered process, 2 buses at a time.

Student arrival at school will be staggered. Please ensure you refer to the below timetable for times and locations. Staff will be situated at each designated pick up and drop off location.

The Main Office Foyer can only accommodate **6 adults** in this space at one time. Please consider who is coming in to the school and the necessity of this. **It is strongly encouraged to call the office beforehand rather than making an unannounced arrival.**

**Sanitiser** is provided upon entry, please use this.

Morning		
Who	When	Where
Drop-off Buses	9:00 – 9:15am	Bus Circle
Juniors School	9:10 – 9:20am	Outside Main office
Middle school	9:10 – 9:20am	Oval gate (through main carpark)
Senior School	9:20 – 9:30am	Main Portable Yard gate
Care Needs	Individual arrangements	

**\*\* Early Birds supervision cancelled \*\***

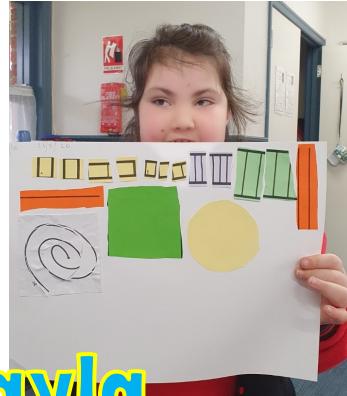
Afternoon		
Who	When	Where
Pick-up Buses	3:00 – 3:15pm	Bus Circle
Juniors School	2:50 – 3:00pm	Outside Main office
Middle school	2:50 – 3:00pm	Oval gate (through main carpark)
Senior School	3:10 – 3:20pm	Main Portable Yard gate
Care Needs	Individual arrangements	

# Juniors

## Room 1

We have been working on our fine motor skills with Anne this term. It has been great fun using keys and locks, nuts and bolts, playdough, and scissors.

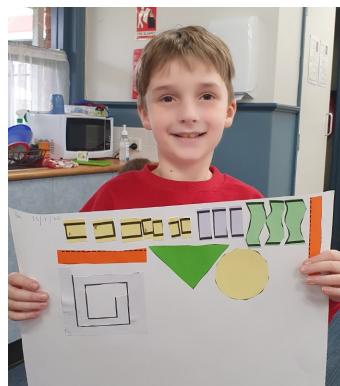
- Helen



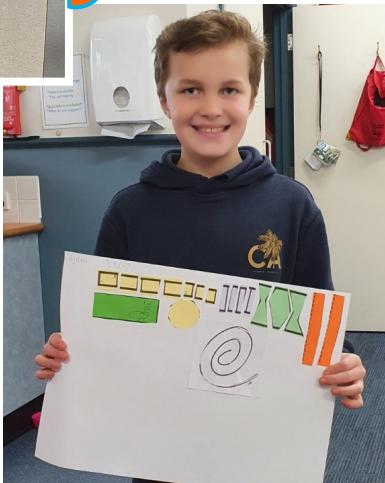
Anne & Layla



Jayden



Ben



# Room 2

Every morning this term, our wonderful Room 2 has been going to the engine room (multi-purpose room). We have been doing lots of Gross motor activities such as, walking, lifting, pulling, throwing and much more! We are also very happy to have Haven back in our classroom and she has settled in her new routine beautifully - well done Haven!

- Champika

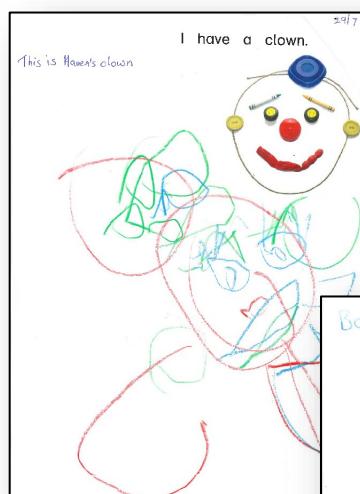


Savannah

Logan



Logan



Haven has been busy doing lots of classwork! She created this great clown artwork and also drew a beautiful picture of her and her mum having fun. Well done Haven it is great to have you back!

# JOKE of the week

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN ALLIGATOR IN A VEST?



AN INVESTIGATOR.

**Q:**  
What goes up and never comes down?

**A:**  
Your age

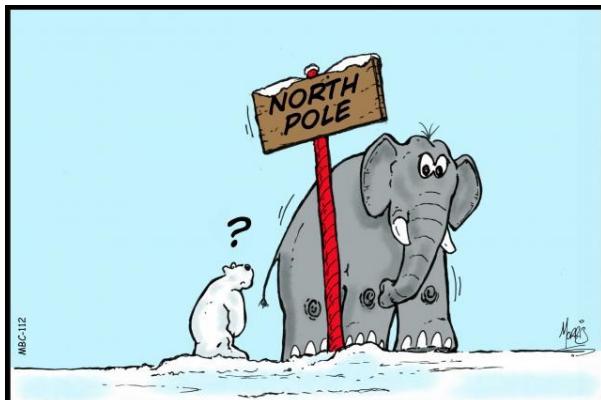
Our resident jokester Jaime keeps the laughs coming !



**Jaime**

**Q:**  
What do you call an elephant at the North Pole?

**A:**  
Lost



## Senior School Uniforms

Kerry is placing an order for Senior polos and hoodies on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August - if you would like one please phone or email the school.

Senior Hoodies are \$41 and Senior Polos are \$28, items must be paid for prior to order being placed.



# Student Awards

## We are Safe, Respectful Learners !



**PAT**

Being **RESPECTFUL** by waiting for his turn - well done Pat!



**PAIGE**

Being **RESPECTFUL** and helping others.



**DENZELL**

Being a **LEARNER** and doing a DYNAMITE job in maths groups.



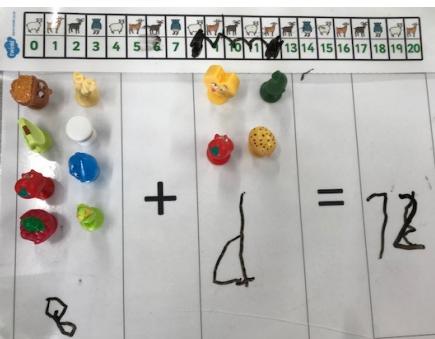
**VILI**

Being a good **LEARNER** by managing & accepting change in the classroom & working independently on his



**JACOB**

Being a great **LEARNER**, and doing wonderful addition work in class.



Check out  
Jacob's  
wonderful  
classwork!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Seth**

Happy 15th Birthday !



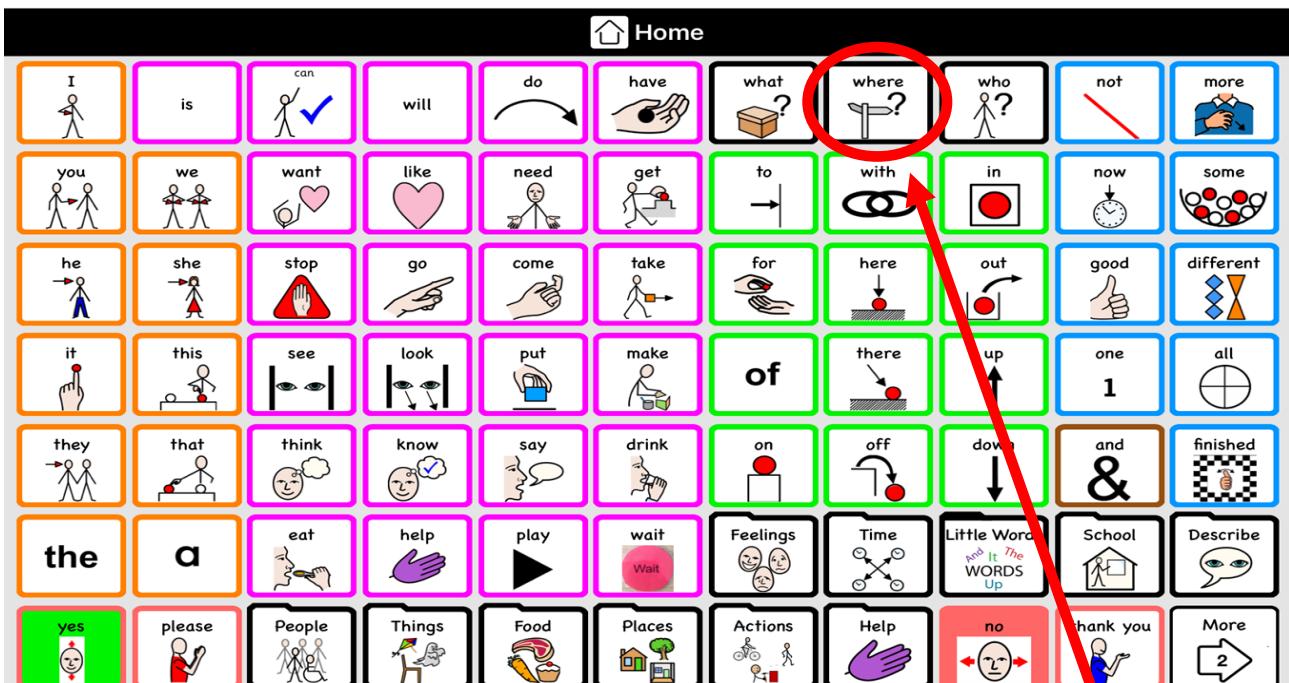
**Vili**

Happy 10th Birthday !



**Where** can you find Word of the Week - right here of course!

## WORDS OF THE WEEK:



Location of 'where' on homepage of Proloquo2Go.

Please help us practice by using the word **where** in natural communication opportunities.

### WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

Click [here](#) to see Bri reading

**WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE**  
and modelling core vocabulary





WDSS students have been very fortunate to take part in many sporting activities over the years -including the Vic Health Basketball Cup, Soccer Friendship Games and Wheelchair Basketball. It would be great to more sports and activities available to people with a disability across the wider community - you can help to make it happen!

GippSport are trying to gather some data across the State regarding participation in sport by People with a Disability. It would be much appreciated if Parents and Carers could take part in a short survey to find out:

- What sport and active recreation activities people with a disability would like to do
- How people with a disability would like to participate e.g. playing and/or volunteering
- Reasons why people with a disability participate in sport
- What might stop people with a disability from participating
- What would help people with a disability to participate



There are two surveys: one that can be completed by individuals with a disability and another for parents and carers of an individuals with a disability. The aim is to gain data from those that are inactive and not currently participating in sport and recreation.

**Click for:** [Individuals Survey Link](#)

**Click for:** [Parents / Carers Survey Link](#)



If anybody has any queries or would like assistance to undertake the surveys, please feel free to contact Brenton at [brenton@gippsport.com.au](mailto:brenton@gippsport.com.au)



**Community update  
31 July 2020**

NDIS Update: From 29 July, NDIS participants who rely on face-to-face supports and assistance with their daily living will be able to use an existing support item (Low Cost Disability-Related Health Consumables) to claim the cost of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the times their worker is with them. You can recover the costs of PPE Purchases if you receive an average of at least 1hr/day face to face daily living support.

Other response measures available to participants include:

- priority home delivery service from supermarkets
- flexible use of funds to purchase low cost assistive technology.
- offering alternatives to face-to-face planning meetings,
- plan extensions for up to 24 months following review

Please refer to the NDIS website for further details:

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus/latest-advice-ndis> or Phone 1800 800 110

The Yes I Can Choir is an all abilities choir for people over 16yrs with NDIS funding (plan or self managed). The choir aims to build friendships, skills and confidence. Due to COVID-19, participation is currently via Zoom on Thursdays 1:30pm - 3:30pm.

Each week we provide a Zoom link as well as a lyric sheet for the songs being practiced. The choir participants work towards a few concerts/performances throughout the year and we also have choir buddies that can check in with the person for a chat or help with learning songs.

# Would you be interested in joining a choir?

We are excited to announce the new YES I CAN! Gippsland Choir Project in the Latrobe Valley, established in partnership between CoAbility Gippsland and Play It Forward, founded by Dr Jonathon Welch AM.

This project aims to establish an ongoing choral group for plan or self managed NDIS participants residing in the Gippsland region by providing a safe place where they can express themselves through music to help build confidence, skills, resilience and friendships.

If you are looking to have fun and meet like minded people, please register to join on 03 5133 6341.



**Requirements:**

NDIS Funding (*plan or self managed*)    Day/Time: Thursdays 1:30pm - 3:30pm  
Age: 16+

**Location:** Morwell

**COAbility**



**YES I CAN!**  
Gippsland Choir



# SCHOOL2 atWork

A program to assist students with disability or health conditions to transition from school to work.

## Welcome to atWork Australia

We know that transitioning from school to work can feel overwhelming. This is especially the case if you are uncertain about what future employment opportunities are available and what opportunities are right for you.

Regardless of where you are at, atWork Australia is here to help.

Our School2atWork program is designed to assist and support you in preparing to transition from school to work through Disability Employment Services.

## What we do

atWork Australia is an employment services provider supporting thousands of Australians fulfil their job goals.

Our national team of employment specialists are in over 300 locations across Australia. Chances are we're just around the corner from you and collaborating with your local school.

We work with you and your family, local employers and the community to help you find and keep a job that suits you and your needs.

A job that's right for you.



## Who we work with

We help students and their parents to relieve concerns associated with moving beyond school and becoming work ready.

We also work with employers to identify roles that suit you and your specific skills and goals.

**We help any person with a disability and/or health condition such as:**

- Physical, Learning, Sensory disability
- Diagnosed medical condition
- Autism spectrum
- Mental Health Conditions
  - Depression, Anxiety, Bi-polar, Schizophrenia
  - Yet to be diagnosed



"After I did my barista training,  
I made a customer a coffee and  
they liked it. I am very happy."

**ZACH**  
2018 SCHOOL LEAVER, NSW

## Working together

We work together to identify the right options for you through vocational counselling. Once this has been identified, we will help you to:

### Prepare

You will work with your very own Job Coach on your readiness for work. We offer tools such as Positivum, an evidence-based assessment and health coaching program, to help you achieve this.

### Find work

We guide you in preparing a résumé and cover letter, plus interview skills training in our Jobs Now program, to help you find the right job!

### Land a job

We help with employer negotiations, assist with workplace modifications or adjustments and help you to access training, tickets or licenses, if required.

### Keep your new employment

We provide continued support to ensure you are happy in your new role and workplace.



## To help your success, you get:

-  One dedicated Job Coach from start to finish
-  Support once you start working, dependent on your needs
-  Employers who are ready to hire
-  Health and wellbeing coaching
-  Access to in-house health professionals

## What are the next steps?

We tailor our services to your needs and work with you to set goals that will open up opportunities. We want you to get the right job, so we work with employers to identify options that best suit you.

Speak to your local school VET Coordinator about joining the School2atWork program. You can also call us to provide you with the relevant information to help you begin preparing for work after you finish school.

We are ready to support you every step of the way to reach your employment goals.



**CALL US**  
1300 080 856



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
[atworkaustralia.com.au](http://atworkaustralia.com.au)



**EMAIL US**  
[contactDES@atworkaustralia.com.au](mailto:contactDES@atworkaustralia.com.au)



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[atworkaustralia.com.au/find-an-office](http://atworkaustralia.com.au/find-an-office)