



WEST LEEDERVILLE  
PRIMARY

## From the Principal

### Principal's Message

#### **IT'S BEGINNING TO FEEL A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!**

This week a number of our staff have been reflecting on the frenetic nature that is the end of Term 4 and the warm-up to the festive season. I remember a long time ago winding down towards the end of the school year and moving into the Christmas holidays with anticipation and a sense of relief. In recent years this feeling has changed to determinate deadlines, a plethora of commitments, events and end of year functions, and the urgency of balancing a large number of competing priorities. At least it keeps us busy and on our toes.

We have indeed had a busy couple of weeks at West Leederville Primary School. Over the past three weeks, we have welcomed over 300 parents and carers to information sessions such as the Kindergarten and Pre-Primary Orientations, Parent Meetings and our Parent Workshop: Fearless. We are deeply thankful for your attendance at these events and your interest in partnering with us to ensure the very best outcomes for the children in our care.

In addition to the parent sessions, our younger students have been going on Swimming Lessons in Week 7 & 8. The teachers should be congratulated on the achievement of getting 180 five and six year olds dressed and undressed in their swimwear, on and off the buses, and in and out of the pool during this time. Although some socks were sacrificed along the way, the students have had a wonderful time!

#### **PUBLIC SCHOOL REVIEW**

Our Public School Review work was due on Tuesday 30 November, 2021, and the review team will be visiting the school on Wednesday 8 December, 2021. I would like to thank Mrs Shelley Thompson, our Associate Principal for her incredible and meticulous work overseeing this project. I would also like to thank Mr Michael McInerheney, Mrs Rochelle Reeves, Mrs Judith Curtis, Mr Nic Savatovic, Mrs Julie Ballantine and Mr Mitch Green who also contributed to the collection of artefacts and evidence for the submission. We look forward to welcoming Mr Steve Dickson, Director, Public School Review, Public School Accountability, Strategy and Policy, and Mr Timothy Bamber, Principal of Oberthur Primary School to our school next week to show off all the wonderful things that we do at West Leederville.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 SCHOOL COUNCILLORS, LITERACY LEADERS AND FACTION CAPTAINS!**

At our assembly on Thursday 2 December, we announced our 2022 School Councillors, Literacy Leaders and Faction Captains. I look forward to working alongside these future leaders.



As our 2021 student leaders finish their final weeks at West Leederville Primary, I would like to say thank you to them all. One of the first things I noticed when I arrived at West Leederville was these outstanding students; the way they ran the assembly and spoke at special events, the way they greeted new people to the school, the preparation and planning that they undertook when presenting new ideas to me and the demonstration of the school values in their everyday actions. They have represented our school with the highest level of professionalism and have set the bar very high for students that follow in their footsteps.

Thank you to Mr Mitch Green, Mrs Judith Curtis and Mr Phil Braimbridge for supporting our leaders in 2021, and for coordinating the election processes for 2022.

### **CONGRATULATIONS MRS KRISTYN OLDFIELD**

We would like to congratulate Mrs Kristyn Oldfield who was recognised as the winner of the Primary Teacher of the Year category in the WA Education Awards at a breakfast ceremony on Monday 29 November, 2022. Mrs Oldfield was recognised for the incredible impact she has on the self-esteem and literacy skills of students she is teaching. She has been awarded \$25 000 prize money, of which she needs to spend \$15 000 on professional learning and training in the next year. For more information about Kristyn's achievements please click on the following link: <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/wa-education-awards>



I have been lucky to have nominated a number of finalists and winners for these awards over recent years, including Education Assistant of the Year 2018, Tamie Douglas, and another two finalists; Karen Duncan 2011 for Principal of the Year, and Kaili Beeson 2021 for Graduate Teacher of the Year. I believe it is very important to acknowledge the outstanding education assistants, teachers and school leaders in our profession as they do incredible work, and go above and beyond for the students of WA schools. I'm already thinking about the many wonderful staff we have at West Leederville and those I believe demonstrates the skills and attributes for the awards in 2022.

We know that Mrs Oldfield has made a wonderful impression on our parent community and we wish that we could keep her, but she is committed to start teaching at Lathlain Primary School at the beginning of 2022.

### **SCHOOL BOARD**

On Tuesday 30 November, we held our last School Board Meeting for 2021. The agenda opened up opportunities for the board to view and learn more about the processes surrounding a Public School Review and to discuss recent feedback received during the consultation process for school time changes.

In addition, we farewelled a long standing member of our School Board, Andrew Porter at this meeting. Andrew has held a number of roles on the School Board as a parent representative, a Board Chair and a Community Member. He has recently shared with us the following thoughts on his time on the School Board;

*"Being part of the School Board has been one of the most rewarding parts of my life and I am forever grateful for the opportunity afforded to me. The Board has given me exposure to many wonderful people with differing views, backgrounds and approaches and as result I have learned so much and I have grown as a person from the experience."*

One of his most memorable roles as a Board Member was being part of the Principal Selection Process earlier this year, and I would like to personally thank him for his role in giving me the opportunity to join the West Leederville community and lead this wonderful school.

### **NEW SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNITY MEMBER**

With Andrew relinquishing his role as the School Board Community Member at the end of this year, and Barry Harvie also relinquishing his Community Member role in April this year, the current Board Members have spent the last six months discussing options for a new community member.

A Community Member of the Board is not a parent, but a party from the community who has an interest in the school achieving its strategic direction. The community member may be from local business or organisations, represent particular diversity groups, provide connection to industry or universities that would benefit the school or provide connection with other schools in the area. If you know someone, an organisation or business representative that you believe could add value to our Board, please contact our Board Chair Derry Simpson.



## ROAD SAFETY WOOLWICH STREET

Our Kiss n Drive has been working wonderfully now for a number of months and I thank our community for staying in their cars and moving forward to vacant spaces as required.

However, we still have some issues with parents/carers crossing the road in the Kiss n Drive area and setting a poor and unsafe example for the students of the school. Now that the cars are moving frequently in the Kiss n Drive zone, this is quite dangerous and disrupts the flow of traffic.

We have marked yellow lines on the pavement to show that this is not an area to cross the road and we ask that our parents and carers move north towards the Northwood Street roundabout or south towards Lesser Street to cross the road.

Warm regards,  
Sheri Evans  
Principal



## Dates for your Diary

**10 December**

**Free dress charity day - gold coin donation**

**14 December**

**Year 6 Graduation, Undercover Area  
9:15am. Morning tea to follow on the front lawn at approx 10:45**

**14 December**

**Year 6 The Maze/ Outback Splash excursion approx 11:30am - 4:15pm**

**15 December**

**End of Year concert 5:30pm - 7pm**

**16 December**

**Book Awards Assembly - 9am  
Undercover Area**

**16 December**

**Last day of 2021 School Year for students**

**27 January 2022**

**Uniform shop open - Heritage Building  
9am - online pickups only  
10am - 12pm**

**31 January 2022**

**Term 1 - students return to school to commence 2022**

Please check the West Leederville Primary School Website or School Stream App for regular updates to the school planner.

# Student Leaders 2022



West Leederville Primary School aims to create opportunities for student leadership and service to the school community. Students in their final year are given the opportunity to demonstrate and develop responsibility through formal leadership opportunities including student councillors, faction captains and literacy leaders. They play an active role in our school community by acting as ambassadors and undertaking leadership responsibilities. All students currently in Year 5 were eligible to nominate themselves as candidates for the various leadership positions. Students were identified through a selection process where all candidates prepared and delivered a presentation highlighting their individual qualities. Following the election, eight students were elected into the Student Council, two captains for each faction and six literacy leaders were chosen. There are many current Year 5 students who, during their years at school, have shown qualities which indicate they can contribute to the school in terms of leadership and the voting process was not an easy one. It is important to note that all Year 6 students are regarded as leaders and are provided with a number of informal leadership roles.

Congratulations to the following students who were successfully elected to leadership positions:

## **Student Councillors**

Isla Starcevich  
Quinn Bandarage  
Einan Healy  
Eadie Mizen  
Andrea Joice  
Olive Keane  
Dylan Samanta  
James Sommerfield

## **Literacy Leaders**

Ewan Bengson  
Bonnie Nash  
Sibella Kelly  
Katherine Lilly  
Lachlan Lynch  
Marion Turner

## **Faction Captains**

**Northwood:** Fynn Watt and Lena Pawlowitsch  
**Cambridge:** Josephine Constantine and Harry Smitheringale  
**Woolwich:** Sam Mitchell and Eliza Dawson  
**Kimberley:** Lachlan Ladyman and Leah Smith



# End of Year Concert

The End of Year Concert will be held on Wednesday the 15 of December from 5:30pm to 7pm.

The stage will be located under the 'Big Giving Tree' and parents and friends are invited to sit on the grass of the amphitheatre.

This year the school would like to focus on those less fortunate and those who are doing it tough.

A golden envelope with instructions inside will be sent home to each family on Monday 13 December. We are asking each family to sit down together and write a thoughtful note to be placed in that golden envelope along with a monetary donation.



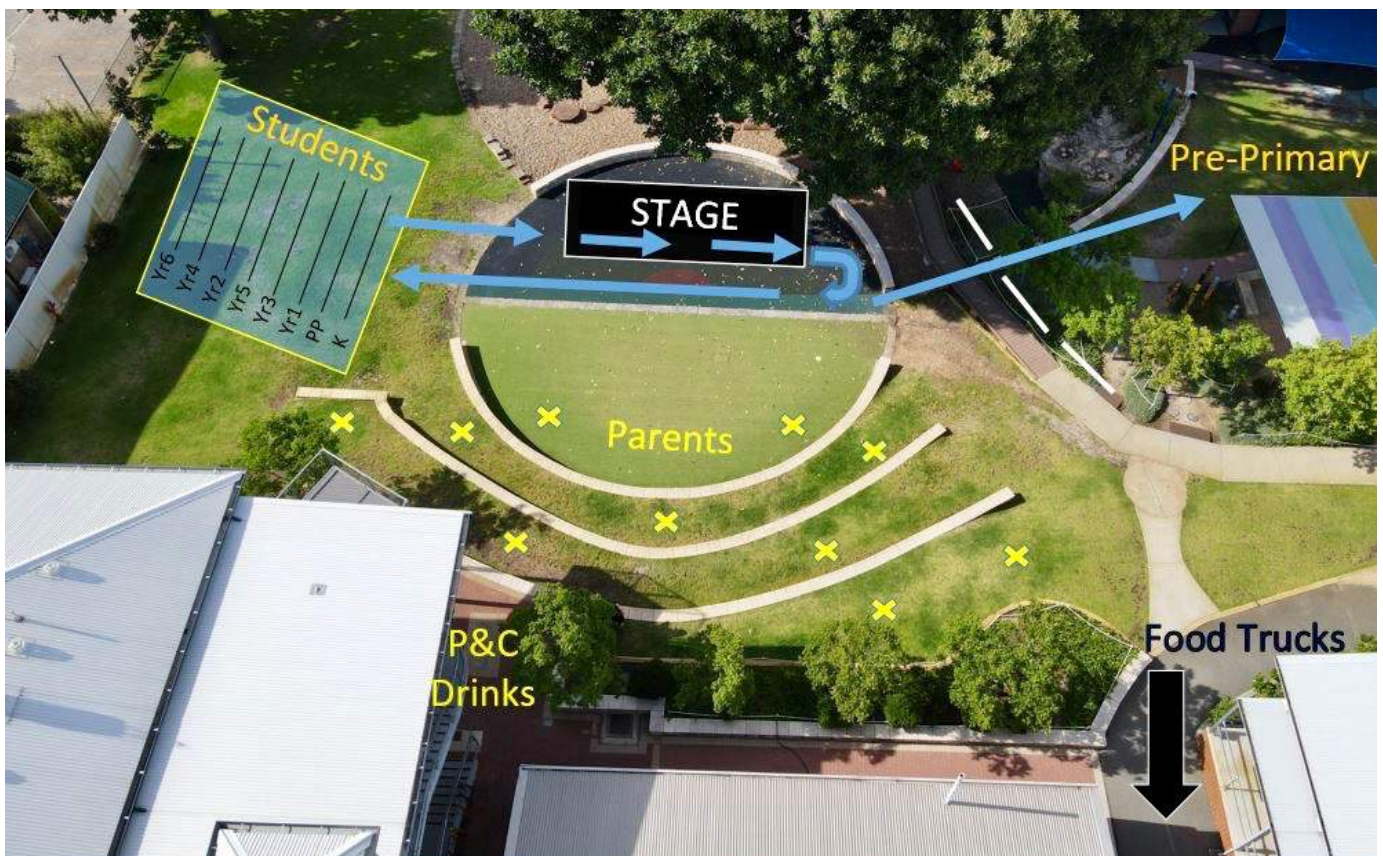
These envelopes will go to **The Smith Family Foundation** to aid in their Xmas Appeal. On the night of the concert please bring your envelope and place it in the box provided in the Art Room.

The evening will be a night of community and school celebration, with the students performing and the P&C organising drinks and food for sale.

Please come along and enjoy the evening with your family.



*The Smith Family is a children's charity helping disadvantaged Australian children to get the most out of their education, so they can create better futures for themselves.*



# Chaplain's Chat

Hi Parents and Caregivers,

## Term 4 Flourish

We have wrapped up another term of a wonderful Flourish group. We had a Year 6 group again this term and it was a pleasure having them in my room every Friday afternoon.

Here is some of the feedback they gave in our last session:

*-“I loved Flourish. It helped me learn how to solve conflict in a healthy way.”*

*-“I enjoyed Flourish because it helped me learn how to manage my feelings.”*

*-“I learned that all people, including me have so much value and worth.”*

I am looking forward to running more groups again in 2022!

Mikayla Hawkes

School Chaplain

*Please note my work days are Wednesday & Friday*



## STAR STUDENTS

The following students received Merit Certificates at the recent assembly.

### Year 1

Matilda Wilkinson  
Maggie Skeet  
Hudson Pendlebury  
Imogen Mallet  
Griffin Richards  
Aria-Rose Degois  
Alex Carr  
Ashton Brinkhurst

### Year 2

Darcy Ashworth  
Elijah Devitt  
Alisa Harms

### Mandarin

Lachlan Ladyman  
Bonnie Nash

### Year 3

Ira Gohil  
Zara Campbell  
Eamon Soh  
Matilda Gallop  
Amelia Bollig  
Olive Durward  
Oscar Chandler

### Year 4

Realtin Melia  
Lucas Metcalf  
Clarissa Tejaya  
Niamh Dempsey  
Harvey Manser-Smith  
Brayden Saunt  
Abigail Barker

### Year 5

Andrea Joice  
Jasmine Lucas

### Year 6

Phoebe Bowler  
Emily Hewson  
Jaime McDonald  
Otilie Nash  
Lewis Duplock  
Elena Casa Huelin





# Year 1's visit the Zoo



Seventy very excited Year 1's went on an excursion to the zoo in Week 6. We had perfect weather to explore the zoo in small groups thanks to parent volunteers who assisted on the day. We also took part in an educational

program called 'Gwabba Boodja' which means beautiful land. The students learnt about the six Noongar seasons through the role-play of animals active in each season. When Yasiru Perera, a new student in Year 1 Blue from Sri Lanka, was asked what his favourite part of the day was, he replied, "EVERYTHING!". Other visitors to the zoo commented on how well behaved our students were. Well done Year 1! What a fantastic day we had!





INSIGHTS

## Making new friends and staying in touch with old classmates



As a parent there is a great deal you can do to help your child adjust socially at the start of the school year. Here are some tips to help.

### Encourage your child to be open to new friendships

An open, friendly attitude is a child or young person's best social asset. Students who open to forming new friendships are more likely to succeed than those who seek solitude, who are critical and who limit themselves to just one or two familiar faces. Encourage your child or young person to seek out new friendships, even though they may feel uncomfortable or strange at first.

### Encourage healthy relationships

Do all you can to encourage healthy relationships based on respect and common courtesy. Generally, when a relationship is healthy a child feels safe, valued and able to speak up. Unhealthy relationships, such as cliques, are restrictive, one-sided and are full of gossip and criticism.

### Encourage inclusiveness

Studies have shown inclusiveness to be one of the prime social skills shared by socially successful students. Encourage your child or young person to include others in games, conversations, team activities and other group activities. Inclusiveness is not just a wonderful friendship skill, it's strong leadership attribute as well.

### Encourage friendships with both genders

If you are in a co-education environment encourage your child to form friendships with both boys and girls. This is particularly valid if your child has siblings of their own gender, or don't have siblings. It's through these early relationships that we gain the confidence to mix with different genders in the later years. Forming friends across genders helps to break down the mystique that sometimes forms, when a child has little contact with the 'other' gender.

### Stay in touch with former classmates and school friends

Encourage your child to maintain friendships with former classmates and groups outside of school as this helps to insulate against unfriendly behaviour that they may experience with their close social circle.



## Provide social scripts

Your child may benefit from being provided with some social scripts that they can use in common social situations such as meeting a new friend, joining in a game or asking someone else for help. Boys, in particular, can benefit when given the words to use in a variety of different social situations.

## Forming new friendships can take time

Meeting new students and forming new friendships can be anxiety-inducing. If this is the case for your child, then it helps to acknowledge their feelings of discomfort, but also remind them that these feelings will pass. As well discuss the fact that feeling comfortable with new friends often takes time, particularly if your child by nature is reserved or slow to warm up in social situations.

Helping kids work through friendships can be tricky for a parent as you don't have a great deal of control over what happens at school. However, with empathy, patience, encouragement and a supportive attitude you can do a great deal to help your child make a smooth social transition.



### Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.