

Principals Report



Please note that The Woden School is a nut-free zone. We appreciate parents not providing peanut butter, Nutella or similar sandwiches as we have some students and staff with severe allergies to these products. Please check that any cakes, chocolates and any food products brought to school are nut free.



NUT FREE ZONE



TWS Future of Education



TWS Student Handbook

Dear Parents, Carers, and School Community,

What a term it has been! Every time I hear rain now, my heart still skips a beat—but touch wood, we've stayed water-tight since the disruptions. I want to sincerely thank every one of you for your patience, flexibility, and understanding during the recent closures and repairs. I know the flooding caused significant upheaval for many families, and your support made all the difference.

It's a genuine pleasure to report that we are now fully operational again, with refreshed paint, new carpets, updated fixtures, and everything gleaming. The school feels renewed, and we're all grateful to be back in full swing. My sincere hope is that the rest of 2026 brings far calmer skies and smoother sailing for everyone.

Despite the chaotic start, the beginning of the year has been remarkably positive and smooth overall. Our Year 7 students have transitioned beautifully—many already feel like they've been part of our community for years. Classes are buzzing with energy, and the learning across the school is rich and purposeful.

A quick reminder: the updated MyPath documents will go home in Week 10. These are the cornerstone of each student's individual learning plan, so please take time to review them carefully. They should clearly reflect your aspirations for your child, and we welcome any feedback to ensure they align perfectly.

On a more bittersweet note, it is with mixed emotions that Laura Simsen, our Deputy Principal, will be leaving The Woden School at the end of Term 1. Laura has been an extraordinary leader and an absolute cornerstone of our community. She has shaped and strengthened our learning culture in profound ways—her impact is truly immeasurable. She is one of the most capable, effective, and inspiring leaders I've ever had the privilege to work alongside. We will miss her deeply, but we wish her every success and happiness in her next chapter.

In the meantime, I've been leading a thorough recruitment process for her replacement. I'm delighted to say the applicant field was exceptionally strong, and I'm confident the successful candidate will be outstanding and a wonderful addition to our team. As soon as the appointment is finalised, I'll share full details with you all.

Thank you again for your ongoing partnership. Together, we're building something special here at The Woden School.

Warm regards,

James Malone

Principal

James Malone

Deputy Principal

Laura Simsen

Moira Beverley

Business Manager

Keshap Moktan

Executive Teachers

Nicole Terry

Jaimie Horrobin

Matt Marasco

Liam Biti

Support Assistant's 4

Juniors: Emma Schirmer

Middles: Nat Burke

Seniors: Maddie Clarke

School Psychologist

Jon Schwartz

Occupational Therapist

Annalise Korsch

Speech Pathologist

Kate Sanderson

Front Office

Narelle Leonard

Bethany Turner

Chencho Om



UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 1 Ends	2 April
Pupil Free Day	20 April
Term 2 Starts	21 April
Anzac Day Public Holiday	27 April
Hospitality Kitchen Open	Wednesdays
Disco	Wednesdays

Are you feeling stressed, worried, sad, lonely or anxious?

You are not alone. This pandemic has been a very troubling and worrying time for everyone. We'd like to show you some online resources you can access if you are feeling any of these emotions.

Please access these, with the support of a parent or carer if needed, if you need some information, tips, and tricks to help you ease some of the discomfort caused by experiencing these (very normal) difficult emotions.

Reach Out resources for young people 14 - 25 (via Beyond Blue website portal)

<https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/managing-my-daily-life/young-people-aged-14-25.html>

Head to Health

<https://www.headtohealth.gov.au/>



Our Priorities 2022—2026

1. Engaging Curriculum and pedagogies
2. Student voice and agency
3. Student centred learning communities

Important Contacts

Front Office

6142 0200

TWS@thewodens.act.edu.au

Special Needs Transport

6205 3555

transit.act.gov.au

Q City

6128 9313

qcitytransit.com.au

Communities @ Work After
School Contact

0417 043 761

www.commsatwork.org

The Woden School social media

Facebook

The Woden School

[https://www.facebook.com/
TheWodenSchool/](https://www.facebook.com/TheWodenSchool/)

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Pupil Free Day

20 April

Term 2 Starts

21 April

Anzac Day Holiday

27 April

New Payment Process from 1st of January 2026

The Quick web payment method will no longer be active as of the 31st of December.

Payment options from 1st of January will include:

- Cash payment
- Parent Portal Payments

If you have not yet set up your Parent Portal account, we encourage you to set this up over the holiday in preparation.

Parent Car Pick ups:

Are to occur AFTER 3pm please, unless otherwise organised with the front office. This is so buses have time to be loaded and cleared to allow for a safe transition home. Please **do not leave your car**. Pull up along the front apron and your young person will be called.

Please notify school office of any absences before 9.30am.

No student will be transitioned across the car park.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Insurance and Ambulance Transport

The ACT Education Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automaticity and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained.

As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school-organised activity/excursion you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted.

This insurance might cover constancies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of/damage to luggage.

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity within the ACT.

Attention Parents/Carers of Students with Medical Conditions.

It is essential that we maintain accurate and up to date information on all medical conditions. If at anytime the health care needs of your young adult changes, please notify the front office.

It is your Responsibility to update general Medical Information and Consent forms and other medical condition treatment plans yearly. Thank you

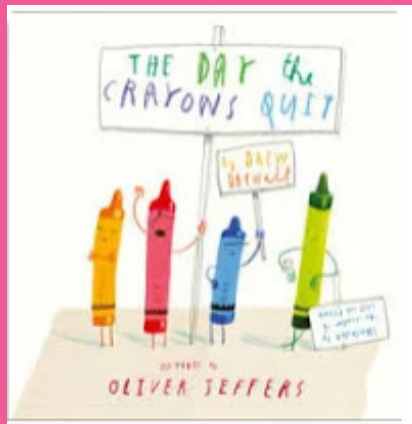
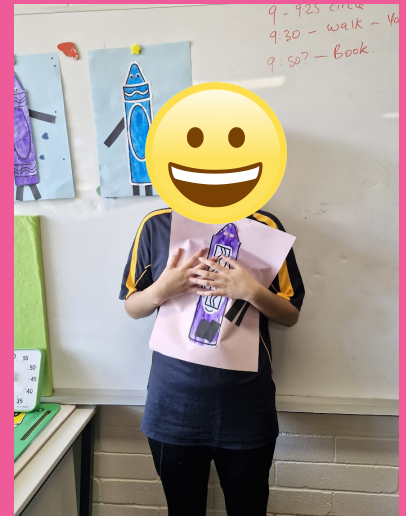
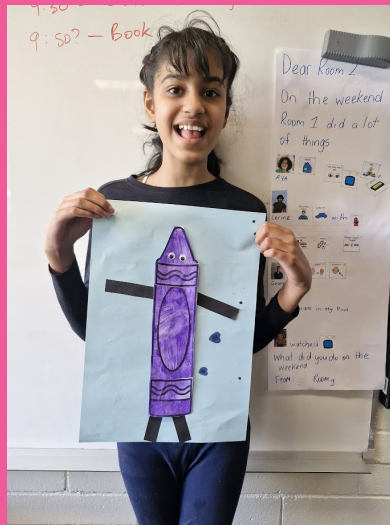
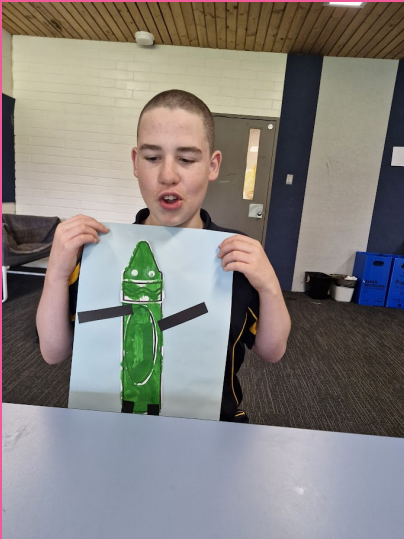
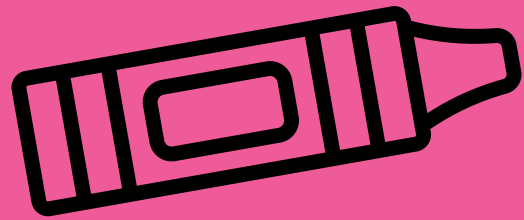
Privacy Notice—School Accidents/ Incidents

The Woden School collects information about Injuries and incidents which occur at the school or on school-organised activities, on behalf on the ACT Education Directorate. Some of the Information may be personal information as defined in the Information Privacy Act 2014 and the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997. The information is usually included in a Student Accident/Incident Report or Notification of a Critical Incident together with any Accompanying witness statements.

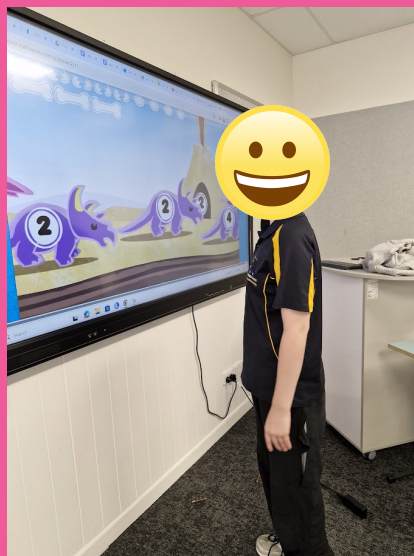
The purpose for which the information is collected include notifying the Territory's insurances and legal advisers of injuries and incidents and ensuring that the school itself has accurate and complete records. The Directorate unusually provides the form and any other information relevant to the accident/incident to the ACT Insurance Authority and the ACT Government Solicitor. Information may also be provided to WorkSafe ACT in accordance with ACT Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Schools have a duty of care to keep students safe. Where an injury or incident occurs schools have an obligation to determine what has happened and therefore question students. Schools may also ask students to make statements in writing and sign these statements.

Room 5



We have been reading the Day the Crayons Quit.

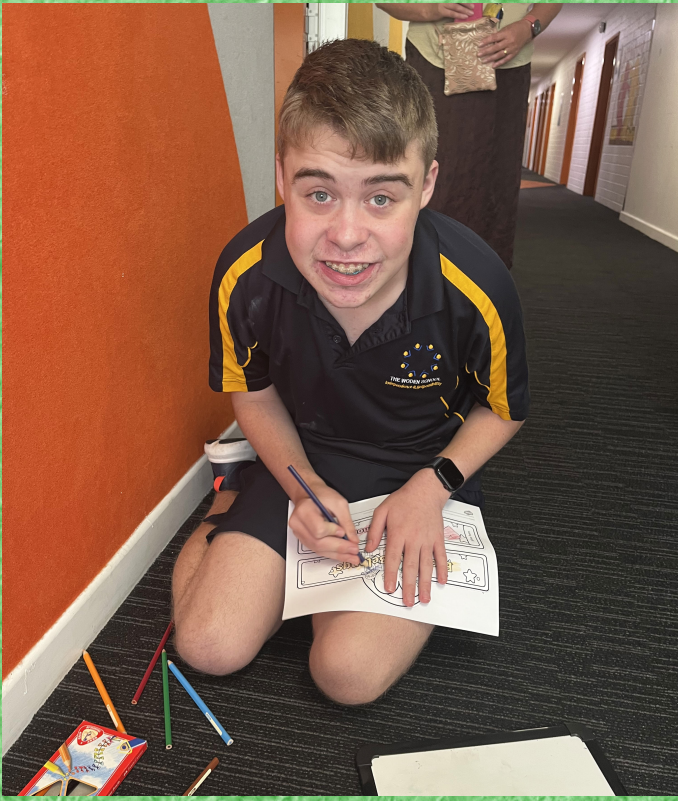


Writing recount letters to Room 2. Having fun on Mathseeds and Reading eggs.

Middles Term 1

Middles have been combining for Art, PE and Science. In Art we did fine motor skills, painting and colouring in. In PE we worked on our gross motor skills, learning to take turns and getting together as a community. In science we did experiments on how to fold a paper plane so it can fly further, skittles and smarties colour experiment, etc.





Room 16

Term 1 was all about learning through play. Students enjoyed fun, hands-on activities. Oobleck play was a favourite and gave students a chance to feel, explore, and try new things. PODDs and visual supports helped students communicate. We look forward to more fun in Term 2.



Wellbeing in Schools (WinS) Social Worker

Hi there, my name is Justine, and I am the Wellbeing in School's (WinS) Social Worker for The Woden School. I work from the school on Wednesdays and Fridays and am looking forward to supporting the whole school community this year.



As a Social Worker I work together with individuals, families, and communities, build trusting relationships, and consider all the moving parts of a situation to guide the development of goals for extra support where it may be needed.

Social work support might look like meeting with teachers and families, or advocating for specific student needs to ensure they are having a positive experience at school. It might include listening to worries and providing guidance or extra information to manage a challenge. And it might be connecting to external community support services who may be better placed to provide specific support.

Social work support through the WinS team is voluntary, and aims to strengthen confidence, skills, and wellbeing, while improving connections at school. Requests for support can be made through your child's classroom or executive teacher.

I look forward to connecting with you throughout the year.

The Woden School Hospitality Program Menu

Term 2, 2026 |

Food freshly prepared by the student Hospitality work team



IMPORTANT: Recess can be either pre-ordered or purchased over the counter.
Lunch must be pre-ordered.

HOW TO ORDER

Orders must be handed to the café on Wednesday mornings.
Clearly write on a paper bag: name, year, recess & lunch order with amount included.

Our café only runs on WEDNESDAYS

Drinks (available at recess and lunch)

Juice popper	\$2.00
Milkshake (chocolate/strawberry/caramel)	\$3.50
Smoothie	\$3.50

Recess only

Mini pizzas	\$2.50
Biscuits	\$3.50
Jelly Cup	\$1.00
Sausage roll	\$3.50
Arancini balls	\$4.50
Hot chips	\$4.50

Lunch only

Sandwiches	\$5.50
Ham	
Ham & Cheese	
Vegemite	
Vegemite and cheese	
Ham & Cheese Toastie	

WEEKLY LUNCH SPECIALS

\$9.00

Week 1: Lasagne and Garlic Bread

Week 2: Enchiladas

Week 3: Meatball Sub

Week 4: Beef Doner Kebab

Week 5: Meat Pie Floater

Week 6: Thai Red Curry and Rice

Week 7: Roast Chicken and Gravy
Roll

Week 8: Cottage Pie Potato Skins

Week 9: Reuben Sandwich

Week 10: Chicken and Leek Pie

Week 11: Swedish meatballs

School holiday activities

It's nearly school holiday time again. Check out the information and links below to a range of free, budget, and paid activities available across Canberra this school holiday break.

NDIS funded programs

Core Assist <https://coreassist.com.au/canberra-holiday-programs/>

Local community options and youth centres

National Gallery of Australia

Sensory friendly school holiday drop-in program: Art Steps is a series of creative making activities produced by artists for children to enjoy with family and friends.

<https://nga.gov.au/events/sensory-friendly-art-steps-by-naminapu-maymuru-white/>

Woden Community Service



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
AUTUMN, 2026

Supported by  **ACT** Government

Youth Engagement Team
South Canberra | Woden | Weston Creek | Molonglo Valley

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE! For young people 12 - 25 years old. Registration Required

WEEK 1				
Monday 6 April	Tuesday 7 April	Wednesday 8 April	Thursday 9 April	Friday 10 April
CLOSED EASTER MONDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	8 BALL POOL COMP & IS IT CAKE @ WODEN YOUTH CENTRE 11AM – 2PM	ACT PRE LEARNER COURSE - DAY 1 10AM – 3PM (SEPARATE ENROLMENT FORM)	ACT PRE LEARNER COURSE - DAY 2 10AM – 1PM (RESTING 1PM – 4PM)	Majura High Ropes Course 10AM – 2PM ✓
WEEK 2				
Monday 13 April	Tuesday 14 April	Wednesday 15 April	Thursday 16 April	Friday 17 April
NATIONAL ZOO & AQUARIUM 11AM – 3PM ✓	MUSIC DRUMMING WORKSHOP 10AM – 2PM ✓	KOOKY OLYMPICS 2.30PM – 4.30PM ✓	BOUNCE TRAMPOLINE 11.30AM – 12.30PM SUNSET FESTIVAL @ EDDISON PARK 3PM – 6PM	WYC INDOOR MOVIE/GAMES DAY @ WODEN YOUTH CENTRE 11AM – 2PM

✓ Activities with a blue tick requires registration. All other activities are OPEN/In-house and don't require transport. Places are limited so get in quickly.
Registration Forms will be made available prior to school holidays at the Woden Youth Centre Facebook page, or on website below:
Phone: 6282 3037 | Facebook: facebook.com/WodenYouthCentre
Website: wcs.org.au/services/youth-engagement/youth-engagement-team
ALL EVENTS ARE DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE
Drop-in WILL NOT run during the School Holidays.

Woden Community Service
NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE
Capital Region Community Services
MULTICULTURAL HUB CANBERRA
ACTYW AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY YOUTH WEEK
Supported by 

<https://www.wcs.org.au/services/youth-engagement/youth-engagement-team/>

Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre



AUTUMN SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

MON 6TH APRIL	TUE 7TH APRIL	WED 8TH APRIL	THU 9TH APRIL	FRI 10TH APRIL
PUBLIC HOLIDAY	DROP-IN & CHILL @ MLYCC Games, music, chill vibes, relax & have fun 1:00pm - 4:00pm	PLLCC DAY ROAD READY @ MLYCC 11:30am - 3:30pm	PLLCC DAY ROAD READY @ MLYCC Test 1-4pm 11:30am - 3:30pm	FUN & FOOD DAY @ MLYCC Eat, dance, sing, play, connect and enjoy 11:30am - 3:30pm
MON 13TH APRIL	TUE 14TH APRIL	WED 15TH APRIL	THU 16TH APRIL	FRI 17TH APRIL
NATIONAL ZOO & AQUARIUM VISIT Excursion Come along to see an array of animals and sea life. 10.30am - 3.00pm	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS @ MLYCC Roll the dice, shape your destiny! Join us for DnD! 11:00am - 4:00pm	KOOKY OLYMPICS Excursion Get ready to compete in different games and epic fun at Gungahlin. 2.00pm - 5.00pm	CREATIVITY CON @ MLYCC YWCA-Canberra's Youth Week Markets with live music, free food and fun activities 2.00pm - 5.00pm	BACK TO SCHOOL PIZZA PARTY @ MLYCC Come and enjoy food and meet other young people 11:30am - 3:30pm

All activities require a signed permission form. These are available on our website, www.ywca-canberra.org.au

<https://ywca-canberra.org.au/community-service/youth-engagement/>

Other suggestions

A variety of options available through this link for the whole family

<https://www.act.gov.au/our-canberra/latest-news/2026/march/whats-on-in-the-autumn-school-holidays>

A great range of accessible and disability friendly activities

<https://www.act.gov.au/our-canberra/latest-news/2026/march/accessible-family-activities-in-canberra>

Ongoing/school term activities

The Mint

On the first Saturday of each month, the Mint opens early for a peaceful morning. Quiet Mornings are designed for those with heightened sensory needs.

<https://visitcanberra.com.au/events/67ff36ebff6b368e2fbf108c/quiet-mornings-at-the-mint>

Warehouse Circus – Spin out

Accessible circus classes codesigned by OT's and trainers to meet individual goals of participants

<https://warehousecircus.org.au/spin-out/>

Disability Sports Australia

Canberra Abilities Unleashed is a free event for 5 – 18-year-olds living with sensory, physical, or intellectual disabilities.

4 September 2026 (book early)

<https://www.abilitiesunleashed.com.au/events/canberra-abilities-unleashed-kids-1-2>

Daydream Machine

Programs in music, art, Lego robotics, social engagement, and technology to foster self-expression, skill-building, and social connections for neurodivergent young people aged 9 – 21 years

<https://www.daydreammachine.co/>

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



The next Holiday Happenings edition is now available online.

To see the *Programs, Activities & Events* happening these holidays go to:

www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet





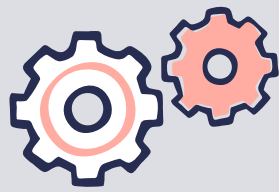

Holiday Program

Join the fun these school holidays

We are open during the school holidays and run an inclusive holiday program with a different activity scheduled each day.

	Week 1 (6 April - 10 April)	Week 2 (13 April - 17 April)
Monday	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	Cooking Up Independence 
Tuesday	Employment Group 	Employment Group 
Wednesday	Barista Program 	Barista Program 
Thursday	Employment Group 	Employment Group 
Friday	Questacon 	Canberra Walk-In Aviary 

 Life Skills  Social  Employment

Location	Date & Time	Duration	Additional Cost
 Canberra L3, 64 Northbourne Ave	 9:00-3:00	 April School Holidays	 Varies by activity



Scan now to register



Connect with us today.

Call 1800 466 046
Email hello@omnia-inclusive.com.au
omnia-inclusive.com.au