

Principals Report



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



TWS Future of Education



TWS Student Handbook

Greetings TWS Community and welcome to the final week of Term 3!

Things are humming along wonderfully at school, and touch wood this term has been exceptionally smooth sailing.

Book Week & Library Success Book Week was an incredible experience, and it was fantastic to see so many creative costumes! A huge thank you goes to our dedicated staff for championing our school-wide focus on reading. Last year, our library checked out over 2,000 books, and we are well on track to top that figure this year. We also want to extend a warm shout-out to our Librarian Norma, it is great to have you back!

Rugby Grand Final Celebrations As a former Royals player, this next part is a little tough to admit, but I want to offer a massive congratulations to the Tuggeranong Vikings on winning this year's John I Dent Cup and Brumbies Shield! TWS was well-represented across all grand finals, making it a brilliant day out for everyone. Special congratulations to:

- **Tevita:** Awarded Best Forward
- **Laura:** Named Players' Player and Women's Player of the Year

Our ongoing connection with the Vikings has been extraordinarily rewarding, and we deeply appreciate the dedication our team shows both in the workplace and on the field.

Industrial Action Update I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing uncertainty surrounding recent and potential future teacher industrial action. While I believe this action is vital for securing better long-term educational outcomes in Canberra, I recognise that disruptions impact our immediate community with unique significance.

I understand what school closures and limited supervision mean for you, your children, and your families. Please rest assured that I am working closely with the Senior Directorate and the Australian Education Union (AEU) to minimise these impacts. While many of our staff, myself included, are proud AEU members, we fully recognise our community's unique needs. Under no circumstances will we ever compromise on student safety or supervision.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout this term, and as always please feel free to contact me directly at any time.

Yours Sincerely

James Malone

Principal

James Malone

Deputy Principal

Laura Pardoe

Business Manager

Keshap Moktan

Team Leaders

Juniors: Nicole Terry

Middles: Liam Biti

Seniors: Matt Marasco

Specialists: Moira Beverley

Support Assistant 4

Emma Schirmer

Nat Burke

Maddie Clarke

School Psychologist

Jon Schwartz

Occupational Therapist

Bradley Dempster

Speech Pathologist

Alison Evans

Physiotherapist

Anna Youden

Front Office

Narelle Leonard

Bethany Turner

Chencho Om



Rugby Grand Final Celebrations



Awarded Best Forawrd



**Named Player's Player and
Womens Player of the Year**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Important Contacts

Term 3 Finishes	25 September
Term 4 Starts	13 October
Pupil Free Day	12 October
Wodenstock	Term 4 Week 8
Year 10,11 &12 Last Day	4 December
Hospitality kitchen open	Wednesdays

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

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/>

The Woden School social media

Facebook

The Woden School

<https://www.facebook.com/TheWodenSchool/>

TheWodenSchool/



Our Priorities 2022—2026

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

IMPORTANT NOTICES

From TWS Board Chair

Hi to our families and supporters of The Woden School community

What a year it's been for us all! Starting the year with the flood closure certainly knocked a lot of us for six. The impact it had on our families was severe and disproportionate - and raised many questions about our aging school infrastructure. The only upside (!) was it motivated a group of us to swing into action to start to drive some advocacy for our school. You might have seen some media coverage around the issue a couple of months ago - or some placards arranged by our terrific P&C President Snez Stekovic during the Bricks weekend. Behind the scenes we've also been talking to MLA's (including the Minister) about the future of our school and we've joined together with the other 3 special schools in the ACT to make sure special education gets the attention it deserves. Please if you have any thoughts or feedback feel free to get in touch with me. Fingers crossed for a super smooth Term 4 for us all! Cheers Gillian gillianbradford@gmail.com

Parent Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Morning drop-off begins at 8:30am. Please ensure students **arrive no earlier than 8:30am**, as supervision is not available before this time. This ensures staff are available to safely welcome students and supervise their transition into the school day.

Afternoon parent pick-up operates between 2:50pm and 3:10pm. To support a smooth and safe end-of-day transition, please remain in your vehicle, pull up along the front apron, and staff will call your young person out to you.

Please notify the school office of any absences before 9:30am.

For safety reasons, 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.

MUSIC CLASS



This term in the Music Elective, students have explored music in a variety of creative and engaging ways. We have played a wide range of instruments, created our own musical instruments, painted in response to music, sung and danced, and explored the concepts of rhyme, rhythm and beat.

In Week 6, students made their own glass jar xylophones and experimented with pitch by adding different amounts of water to each jar. They discovered how the amount of water affected the sound produced when the jars were tapped with wooden sticks. Students also created kazoos using paddle-pop sticks, maracas using Pringles containers filled with a variety of materials, and their own bongo drums.

Earlier in the term, we explored the differences between fast and slow music. Students responded to the tempo by drumming along to the beat using paint and their sticks, creating colourful and expressive artworks as they listened and moved to the music. It has been a wonderful term of creativity, exploration and musical discovery, with students enthusiastically developing their understanding of music through hands-on experiences.





TWS Media Team's Visit to **CIT WODEN**

A few students from our Media Team had the exciting opportunity to visit CIT Woden and explore their wide range of study opportunities, as well as be a live audience for the film students weekly show, The Buzz!



THE WOODEN SCHOOL

TRANSITION WEBSITE

To support with the transition from school to post-school life, we are launching the TWS Transition Website accessible at:

<https://sites.google.com/ed.act.edu.au/twstransitionwebsite/home?authuser=0>

The TWS Transition Website provides information for every year level/age to help you plan for, and navigate, the transition process.

You can access tailored information about:

- Post-school visions
- Supports to access whilst in school
- Activities - including holiday programs, sporting clubs, interest groups, and volunteering opportunities
- Post-school programs - such as Day Programs, Work Readiness Programs, and Support Workers
- Living options - including Supported Independent Living (SIL), Specialised Disability Accommodation (SDA), Respite, and In-Home Supports
- Transport Options

The website also includes:

- Information about, and links to, different providers
- Step-by-step guides to navigate administrative changes when your young person turns 14, 16, and 18
- Helpful checklists for each school year level and age

We hope you find this website helpful and welcome any feedback.

The Woden School Hospitality Program Menu

Term 4, 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.

Please note that the Hospitality program will be closed from week 8 for end of year cleaning.

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
Mini Hot Dogs	\$3.00

Lunch only

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

WEEKLY LUNCH SPECIALS

\$9.00

Week 1: Grilled Chicken Burger

Week 2: Korean Beef Bulgogi Taco

Week 3: *Pizza Special*

Week 4: Chicken Banh Mi

Week 5: Caesar salad wonton cups

Week 6: *Pasta Special*

Week 7: Chicken and Salad Roll

Week 8: **Canteen Closed**

Week 9: **Canteen Closed**

Week 10: **Canteen Closed**

Cricket ACT are running a weekly Cricket program for people aged 16 and over with an Intellectual Disability. This program leads into the National Cricket Inclusion Championships (NCIC) in January 2027.

First session on 28th September (Monday) from 6.30PM to 7.30PM at Cricket ACT Indoor centre. (6, Spoering Street, Phillip), please see flyer attached.

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/d93319c462c2132298fabf23fde1cd59?r=apse2>



September-October School holiday activities

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

NDIS programs

Dahlia Homes

An inclusive and supported program environment of activities such as craft, baking, scavenger hunts, and park visits for children between 5 and 15 years.

Expressions of Interest are being sought for the September School Holiday Program and families are encouraged to contact Dahlia Homes to discuss their child's individual needs.

admin@dahliahomes.com.au



The poster is for the Dahlia Homes School Holiday Program 2026-2027. It features a purple and pink color scheme with heart motifs. At the top, it says 'Fun, Friends, Learning & Adventure!' and 'Make Memories that Last!'. The main title is 'School Holiday Program 2026 - 2027'. Below this, it states 'FULL CAPACITY! We are excited to welcome all our amazing clients!'. The program includes several activities: Morning & Afternoon Tea Every Day (nutritious snacks and refreshing tea), Excursions (explore, discover and experience new and exciting places), Structured School Holiday Program (tailored to each client's requirements), Qualified Support Staff (with Working With Children and Vulnerable People Check), and a Sensory Room (a safe and calming space for individual needs). There is also a section for 'Activities' which includes Creative Arts & Crafts, Sports & Games, Music & Dance, Cooking & Baking, and Outdoor Fun. A 'Social Interaction' section encourages building friendships, confidence and belonging. At the bottom, contact information is provided: phone number 0410 361 256 and email Admin@dahliahomes.com.au. The footer says 'Dahlia Homes More than just a holiday program... it's a place to belong!'.

Dahlia Homes
Support ♥ Care ♥ Belong

Fun, Friends, Learning & Adventure!

School Holiday Program
2026 - 2027

Make Memories that Last!

FULL CAPACITY!
We are excited to welcome all our amazing clients!

Excursions
Explore, discover and experience new and exciting places!

Structured School Holiday Program
Tailored to each client's requirements.

Qualified Support Staff
With Working With Children and Vulnerable People Check.

Sensory Room
A safe and calming space for individual needs.

Activities

- Creative Arts & Crafts
- Sports & Games
- Music & Dance
- Cooking & Baking
- Outdoor Fun

Social Interaction
Build friendships, confidence and belonging!

Contact 0410 361 256 or email Admin@dahliahomes.com.au

Dahlia Homes
More than just a holiday program... it's a place to belong!

The Disability Trust – The Adventure Hub

Flexible program of activities within the centre or in the community. Program suitable for children aged 12 – 17 years to support building positive relationships and making social connections.

Children approaching 12 years are considered based on individual and group need. The link outlines the program; however, it is advisable to contact directly to discuss your child's individual needs.

<https://disabilitytrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Sep-Oct-2026-Adventure-Hub-ACT.pdf>

The Adventure Hub INFORMATION BOOKLET	WEEK 1 8:30-5:30PM
Date: Monday 28th September 2026 Activity: Bowling Activity Cost approx. \$20 – (invoiced) Activity details: Today we will be going to zone bowling Belconnen to participate in ten pin bowling and arcade games. Please bring: snacks, morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea.	
Date: Tuesday 29th September 2026 Activity: National Zoo and Aquarium + Picnic at Zoo Activity Cost: \$30 or Free – invoiced (dependent on companion card) Activity details: Today, we are going to the Zoo! And while we are in the Zoo, we can have a picnic Lunch there too. Please bring: snacks, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.	
Date: Wednesday 30th September 2026 Activity: Swimming Activity Cost: FREE Activity details: Today, we will be going for a swim at Lakeside Leisure Centre, Tuggeranong! Please bring: swimmers, towels, snacks, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.	
Date: Thursday 1st October 2026 Activity: Let's Play Indoor Playground Activity Cost Approx. \$15 – invoiced Activity details: Today we will be going to Let's Play indoor playground at Nicholls Please bring snacks, morning tea, a picnic lunch, and afternoon tea.	
Date: Friday 2nd October 2026 Activity: Floriade Activity Cost \$ Free Activity details: Today we will be heading to Floriade. Enjoying a colorful day exploring all the beautiful flowers Please bring snacks, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.	

The Adventure Hub INFORMATION BOOKLET	WEEK 2 8:30-5:30PM
Date: Monday 5th October 2026 Activity: PUBLIC HOLIDAY	
Date: Tuesday 6th October 2026 Activity: Questacon Activity Cost: \$17.50 - invoiced Activity details: Today we will be going to Questacon too see all the fun and exciting activities and displays they have to offer! Please bring: Companion card, Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon tea, snacks.	
Date: Wednesday 7th October 2026 Activity: Swimming Activity Cost: Free Activity details: Today, we will be going for a swim at Stromlo Leisure Centre! Please bring: swimmers, towels, snacks, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.	
Date: Thursday 8th October 2025 Activity: Movie at Limelight Tuggeranong Activity Cost: approx. \$20 – invoiced Activity details: Today we will be heading to Limelight Tuggeranong and watch a movie! Please bring: Companion Card, snacks, morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea.	
Date: Friday 9th October 2026 Activity: Flip Out Activity Cost: \$20 – Invoiced Activity details: For today's activity, we will be going to Flip Out, we can enjoy an action-packed day, practicing jumps, tricks and playing dodgeball while in the trampoline park! Please bring: Companion card, snacks, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.	

Core Assist

Fun activities that empower social skills development and positive relationships with peers and support workers.

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

Local community options and youth centres

Floriade

Canberra's largest free spring event, Floriade, runs between 12 September and 11 October and offers sensory hour (limited amplified sounds and stage performances) from 9:30am – 10:30am on weekdays (except for Public Holidays).

There is also a Sensory Space, a calm, low-sensory environment with comfortable furniture, soft lighting and relaxing ambience, located between the Information Hub and the Floriade shop for visitors to use at any time during Floriade.

A limited number of noise-cancelling headphones are available for hire for \$10 from the Information Hub.

<https://floriadeaustralia.com/accessibility/>

National Museum of Australia

The National Museum of Australia is hosting Antarctic-themed spring school holiday programs and activities for children 5 – 12 years and teenagers.

<https://www.nma.gov.au/whats-on/family-visits>

Portrait Gallery

The Holiday Space is open for free exploration of activities to bring creative ideas to life. Portrait Gallery recommends visiting during quieter times on Sunday afternoons.

The gallery provides a range of supports to ensure children to have an accessible and enjoyable experience at the gallery, including sensory-friendly kits and visual stories.

<https://www.portrait.gov.au/calendar/andy-griffiths-holiday-space>

<https://www.portrait.gov.au/content/sensory-kits>

<https://www.portrait.gov.au/content/visual-stories>)

National Gallery of Australia

Free hands-on creative experience to learn about layering, texture, and colour printmaking techniques. Please see the link for more information.

<https://nga.gov.au/events/the-printers-studio/>

Museum of Australian Democracy – Old Parliament House

Free and low-cost activities including craft, outdoor play, cloud gazing and painting workshop with Canberra artist, Ineka Voigt, and a hat making workshop with award-winning picture book author, Andy Geppert. See the link for more information and booking.

<https://www.moadoph.gov.au/visit/whats-on/events/school-holiday-activities>

Royal Australian Mint

Offering special events, exhibitions, family activities, coin swaps, and crafter-noons, there is something to explore at the Royal Australian Mint these school

holidays. <https://www.ramint.gov.au/visit-our-museum/whats>

Woden Community Services

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
SPRING, 2026

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

Supported by **ACT Government**

YET Youth Engagement Team
South Canberra | Albury | Warrnambool | Melbourne | Sydney

WEEK 1

Tuesday 29 th Sept	Wednesday 30 th Sept	Thursday 1 st Oct	Friday 2 nd Oct
ACT PRE LEARNER COURSE – DAY 1 10:00am – 3:00pm	ACT PRE LEARNER COURSE – DAY 2 10:00am – 1:00pm (Testing 1pm – 4pm)	MAJURA HIGH ROPES COURSE 9:30am – 2:30pm	TIDBINBILLA SCAVENGER HUNT 9.30am – 2.30pm

WEEK 2

Tuesday 6 th Oct	Wednesday 7 th Oct	Thursday 8 th Oct	Friday 9 th Oct
8 BALL POOL COMP / PAINT & SIP 2:00pm – 4:00pm	FLIPOUT MAJURA 10:00am – 2:00pm	RSA/RCG Training @ WODEN YOUTH CENTRE 9:00am – 4:00pm	RESUME WRITING WORKSHOP @ WODEN YOUTH CENTRE 10:00am – 4:00pm
			TENNIS COMP @ DICKSON TENNIS COURTS 11:00am – 2:30pm

All Activities are based on Expression of Interest Online. Places are limited so get in quickly. Registration Forms/Links will be made available online & prior to school holidays at the Woden Youth Centre, on the Facebook/Instagram page, or on the website below:
Facebook/Instagram: Woden Youth Centre
Website: wcs.org.au/services/youth-engagement/youth-engagement-team
Email: yet@wcs.org.au
ALL EVENTS ARE DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE
Drop-in WILL NOT run during the School Holidays.

SCAN QR CODE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Woden Community Service

RAW POTENTIAL CANBERRA

NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE

MULTICULTURAL **HUB** CANBERRA

GUNNERS PLACE

Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre

YWCA CANBERRA YOUTH PROGRAMS
SPRING SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM, 2025

The YWCA Canberra Youth Programs Team provides a **FREE** school holiday program to young people aged 10 to 25 in Tuggeranong.

Email to register activities will be run from the Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre, 22 Sidney Nolan Street, Conder. You must email us to register to attend, youth@ywca-canberra.org.au.

For excursions, the bus will pick up and drop off at the Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre. Excursions require a signed permission form, which are available on the website.

Get in contact for more information:
www.ywca-canberra.org.au
youth@ywca-canberra.org.au
(02) 6185 2090
@ywccanberra_youth YWCAclubhouse

Logos: The Clubhouse, MULTICULTURAL HUB, YWCA CANBERRA, YET Youth Engagement Team, NORTHSIDE, Capital Region Community Service, ACT Government.

SPRING SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM				
MON 29 SEPT	TUE 30 SEPT	WED 1 OCT	THU 2 OCT	FRI 3 OCT
DROP-IN & CHILL eMLYCC Games, music, chill vibes. Perfect way to relax and have fun! 1:00pm - 4:00pm	MUESUM OF DEMOCRACY *Excursion e OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE Exciting excursion to the Museum of Australian Democracy 1:00pm - 4:00pm	BAKING COMPETITION & DROP-IN eMLYCC Show off your cupcake baking skills and decoration! 1:00pm - 4:00pm	OUTDOOR SPORTS DAY & BBQ *Excursion eYerrabi Ponds Come play sports and meet young people from other youth services 10:00am - 3:00pm	ZONE BOWLING *Excursion eTuggeranong Knock down some pins with us. 11am - 3:00pm
MON 6 OCT	TUE 7 OCT	WED 8 OCT	THU 9 OCT	FRI 10 OCT
PUBLIC HOLIDAY	FLORIADA VISIT *Excursion A day of colour, creativity, & fun at Floriade, Australia's biggest spring festival 9:30am - 2:00pm	CIRCUS WORKSHOP eMLYCC Circus Time! learn to juggle, flip, and spin in our fun! No experience needed, just bring your energy! 1:30pm - 4:00pm	INDOOR SPORTS DAY *Excursion eBelconnen Youth Centre Come play sports and meet young people from other youth services 10:00am - 3:00pm	FUN & FOOD DAY eMLYCC Movie, Dancing and Karaoke 11:30am - 3:30pm
*Excursions require a signed permission form. These are available on our website, www.ywca-canberra.org.au				
				
				

Tuggeranong Art Centre

Free art, dance, and drama activities for the whole family together with live music and dance entertainment on the outdoor stage.

<https://tuggeranongarts.com/tac-grand-day-out-26-sep/>

Other suggestions

Grill'd Masterclass

Do your kids love a burger? In this workshop kids will learn the superpowers of good nutrition and how to build a great burger. Best of all they get to eat the burger they made at the end of the session. Available at Belconnen and the Canberra Centre.

<https://grilld.com.au/kidsmasterclass>

LFG (Looking for Gamers) Australia

Fully supervised sessions of board games from the Kambah shop huge library of board games. More information and tickets from the link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/september-2026-school-holiday-board-game-program-tickets-1999651970874?aff=erelpanelorg>

Accelerate Sprint and Agility Clinic

A 2-hour clinic giving kids aged 7-17 opportunities to learn how to run faster and grow stronger in a fun and supportive environment. See the link for more information and registration.

<https://fastrunning.com.au/accelerate-canberra-sprint-agility-clinics/>

The H Dispensary in Griffith

A range of herbal and botanical workshops for kids aged 4 – 18 years on offer via the link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/school-holiday-program-3-18-years-old-4369633?utm-source=cp&aff=escb&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection>