

# The Woden School Newsletter

Issue 4, Term 3, 2026 [tw@thewodens.act.edu.au](mailto:tw@thewodens.act.edu.au)

## 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 once again, TWS community,

This sunny winter weather has certainly added to what has been a lovely and relaxed Term 3. Our teams have settled in nicely, and our teachers are continuing to work hard to develop their teaching practice throughout the term.

Collectively, we are focusing on strengthening explicit structures and classroom routines. This is particularly important for our students, as predictable structures and routines significantly reduce cognitive load and allow students to focus more fully on their learning. We are already seeing the benefits, with calmer classrooms and more focused learning across the school.

As Bricks wraps up for another year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Snez, The Woden P&C, and everyone who volunteered, supported or attended the event. It was, as always, a brilliant community event and raised well over \$14,000 for the school. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making it such a success.

The new shade structures in the Junior and Senior courtyards are now complete and look fantastic. Hopefully, we will be able to landscape these spaces in the near future, creating improved opportunities for students to take a break, regulate and enjoy some time outside the classroom.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Moira Beverley back to the school following leave. Moira is leading our specialist team, and it is fantastic to have her back on deck.

I would also like to welcome our newest teacher, Peter Nicholl. Peter is an experienced special education teacher and has settled into his new role as the classroom teacher in Room 2. Peter is taking over from Kat, who has taken leave from TWS to explore other opportunities. We wish Kat all the very best and look forward to welcoming Peter to our school community.

This year marks the final year of our current Strategic Plan, which was developed in 2021. This is a particularly exciting time for TWS, as it provides an opportunity to reflect on our progress and engage our broader community in identifying our priorities for future improvement.

As part of this process, we will also receive formal feedback from an external panel to help inform and shape our future work. Over the coming months, we will do our best to engage with all families, and I hope you will take the opportunity to share your insights, experiences and ideas. Your feedback will be an important part of helping us shape the next chapter for TWS.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly should you wish to discuss any matter further.

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

### Front Office

Narelle Leonard

Bethany Turner

Chencho Om



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Important Contacts

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Book Week                | 22 – 28 August |
| Book Week Costume Parade | 27 August      |
| Year 7 Immunisations     | 14 September   |
| Wodenstock               | Term 4 Week 8  |
| Hospitality kitchen open | 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

Front Office

6142 0200

[TWS@thewodens.act.edu.au](mailto:TWS@thewodens.act.edu.au)

Special Needs Transport

6205 3555

[transit.act.gov.au](http://transit.act.gov.au)

Q City

6128 9313

[qcitytransit.com.au](http://qcitytransit.com.au)

Communities @ Work After  
School Contact

0417 043 761

[www.commsatwork.org](http://www.commsatwork.org)

### The Woden School social media

Facebook

The Woden School

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

TheWodenSchool/



# IMPORTANT NOTICES

## 2026 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey

Each year, the Directorate surveys all parents and carers, school staff about their experience of public education. The *2026 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey* will be available online from **14 August to 4 September**. The [survey results](#) will help us to continue to make quality informed decisions about how to improve our school. No personal identifying information will be provided to any school or college.

For each child in their family who attends an ACT public school, parents and carers will receive:

An email about the **parent survey**, including a unique link to access the survey. Genuine survey invitation emails will have the title "The 2026 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey is now open!" and will be sent from EDU Surveys with a 'from' address [EDUSurveys@act.gov.au](mailto:EDUSurveys@act.gov.au). The URL link will include the domain surveys.education.act.gov.au.

If you do not receive the survey invitation, please check your Junk email folder first then contact your school. If you do not have an email listed with the school, please contact the front office via phone or email at [twinfo@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:twinfo@ed.act.edu.au)

The Parents and Carers Survey is available online in 14 languages including Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Simplified), French, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Malayalam, Nepali, Punjabi, Spanish, Telugu, Urdu and Vietnamese. Respondents can select their preferred language when they start the survey. A shortened paper-version of the Parents and Carers Survey is also available in the following 5 languages: Dari, Dinka, Farsi, Karen and Mon. These surveys are available at the Front Office.

For the results to reflect the opinions of our whole school community, we need as many parents and carers, staff and students as possible to complete the survey. Your feedback is important, and we hope you will take part.

For more information, visit: <https://www.act.gov.au/open/school-satisfaction-and-climate-survey-results>

# IMPORTANT NOTICES

Support for everyday decision-making Online via Zoom over four weeks.

**Start: Tue 25 Aug, 2026 10:00 | End: Tue 06 Oct, 2026 12:00**

This training is for anyone who assists others in making decisions. We encourage families to attend and bring along members of their extended family, friends, support teams, and others who support their loved ones with disability

**Register Here**

<https://imaginemore.org.au/events/everyday-decision-making/>

## **New Payment Process from 1st of January 2026**

Payment options from 1st of January will include:

- Cash payment
- Sentral Pay/Parent Portal

If you have yet set up your Parent Portal account, we encourage you to set this up over the holiday in preparation.

## **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.

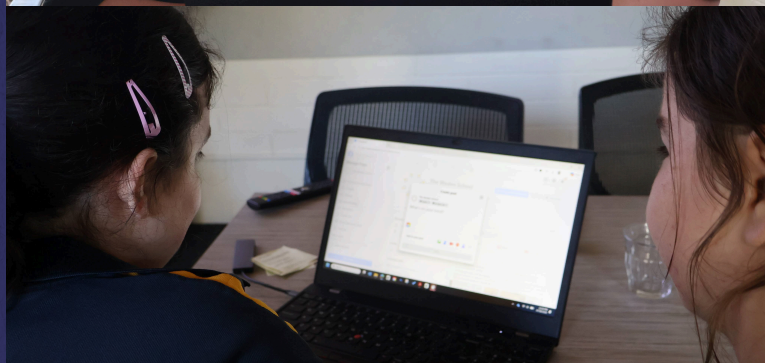
The purpose for which the information is collected include notifying the Territory's insurances and legal advisers of injuries and incidents and ensuring that the school itself has accurate and complete records. The Directorate unusually provides the form and any other information relevant to the accident/incident 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.



Working for Woden is a newly introduced program that supports students in work related skills, while positively contributing to the school community.

# Working for Woden



## The Media Team

The Media Team manages the school Facebook, as well as taking photos of events and displaying important information across the school.

## The Community Service Team

The Community Service Team ensures shared spaces are managed and support in the process of setting up and packing away resources for events, as well as assist in taking out the recycling.





Working for Woden is a newly introduced program that supports students in work related skills, while positively contributing to the school community.

# Working for Woden



## The Horticulture Team

The Horticulture Team is responsible for managing the garden, watering indoor plants, and supporting in providing produce for programs and events.



## The Sports Team

The Sports Team ensures that sport resources are maintained, as well as supporting in renting materials to classrooms and students during class and break times.



# Room 16 – Term 3

This term in Room 16, we have been learning through play, routines, sensory experiences, and communication. We continue to use lots of visuals, social stories, and repeated reading activities to help us understand our daily routines and communicate our wants and needs. Using the same visuals and familiar sensory materials throughout the term gives us many opportunities to practise, build confidence, and develop our independence.

We have enjoyed exploring a variety of sensory activities, including coloured rice, Oobleck, playdough etc. Through these activities, we have been practising important communication skills such as requesting, making choices, following First-Then routines, and expressing our preferences using visuals, PODD, communication devices, gestures, and words.





Every Monday, we participate in the SoSafe program with Nat. This term, we are learning about public and private body parts and spaces in a safe, respectful, and age-appropriate way. These lessons help us develop important personal safety skills and a better understanding of ourselves and others.

We are proud of the progress we are making each day and look forward to continuing our learning, exploring, creating, and communicating together throughout the term.







A Come and Try session was held at The Woden School on Monday 10th August with Charles Eriku, Sport Development Coordinator (NSW/ACT/NT) | Boccia Australia.

The Canberra Chargers provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for anyone interested in playing Boccia, whether you're completely new to the sport, looking to play socially, or interested in progressing along the competition and Paralympic or Special Olympic pathway.

The club is open to all ages, abilities and experience levels. Whether you're looking to stay active, meet new people, enjoy a fun and strategic sport, or explore opportunities to compete, we'd love to have you involved. All equipment is provided, and support workers, family members and carers are welcome.





# 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 3, 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: Hamburger

Week 2: Mac and Cheese

Week 3: Beef Tacos

Week 4: Swedish Meatballs

Week 5: Italian Deli Sandwiches

Week 6: Katsu Curry

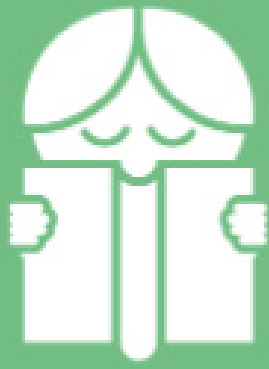
Week 7: Falafel Wraps

Week 8: BBQ Chicken Skewers and  
Garden Salad

Week 9: Bun Cha (Vietnamese  
meatballs and noodle salad).

Week 10: Steak Sandwich





ACT Branch  
**CBCA**  
The Children's Book  
Council of Australia



canberra  
symphony  
orchestra

## **The Flying Orchestra Book Week Concert**

Celebrate Children's Book Week with a musical adventure as 'The Flying Orchestra' comes to life! Join Canberra Symphony Orchestra musicians for a live musical storytelling of Australian author Clare McFadden's enchanting story. This family-friendly concert will feature relaxed seating and is ideal for families with children aged up to 9 years.

### **When**

9:30 am Saturday 29 August 2026

11:00 am Saturday 29 August 2026

### **Where**

National Museum of Australia (Peninsula Room)

### **Duration**

Approximately 45 minutes

**Tickets can be purchased here:**

<https://cso.org.au/concerts/the-flying-orchestra>

# Operation Formal Wear



Operation Formal Wear, will be in two locations. The first being at:

St John Paul II College, 1021 Gungahlin Nicholls on 20th September between 10am and 3pm.

Then the major shopping days will be held again at Lions Youth Haven, Kambah Pool Road, Kambah in Westwood Lodge and the dates are as follows:

Friday 9th October - by appointment only  
Saturday 10th October - 10am - 4pm  
Sunday 11th October - 10am - 3pm



# You are invited



## Canberra Mini Expo

Finishing school this year?  
Not sure what's next?

Come along to meet local providers and explore your options for the future.

- Employment
- Qualifications and further study
- Social connections
- Independence

When: Friday, 4 September 2026

Where: Omnia Inclusive

Suite 3.01, Level 3, 64 Northbourne Avenue  
Canberra ACT 2601

Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm

RSVP: 31 August 2026

[Violet.clark@omnia-inclusive.com.au](mailto:Violet.clark@omnia-inclusive.com.au)

We look forward to connecting with you.



**Connect  
with us today.**

Call 1800 466 046

Email [NDIS@omnia-inclusive.com.au](mailto:NDIS@omnia-inclusive.com.au)

[omnia-inclusive.com.au](http://omnia-inclusive.com.au)



# THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

## CANBERRA

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Your child has been offered an opportunity to attend this year's Children's Christmas Party.

The party is only for children with disabilities and complex needs, where they can enjoy just being a 'kid' again. There will be lots of rides, face painting, activities, a 3-hour stage show, yummy food and of course, Santa and 3 presents, all provided completely **FREE!**

This year's party is being held at **Thoroughbred Park** on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026**.

If you are interested in your child attending this year's Party, please send this form back to your school or organisation that informed you about the Party. Your school or organisation will then get in touch with the organisers of the Christmas Party to register your interest and perhaps you might be lucky to receive an invitation!

To see what happens at a Party, please visit [sccpau.com.au/canberra](http://sccpau.com.au/canberra) and for further questions: [sccpau.com.au/faqparents](http://sccpau.com.au/faqparents).

**Please return this form to the school or care provider who gave it to you as soon as possible.**

☐ **Yes, I would like to register my interest for my child to attend.**

Parent or Carer's First Name: .....

Parent or Carer's Last Name: .....

Parent or Carer's Email Address: .....

Parent or Carer's Mobile: .....

**Child's First Name ONLY:** .....

Age in November: ..... (12 years or under)      Gender: .....

### Cultural Background

Is the child of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

☐ Yes, Aboriginal

☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

### Disclaimer & Consent

By submitting this form, I authorise the sharing of my email address with the ticketing provider of The Children's Christmas Party for the purpose of issuing my child's event invitation. I understand this is required to receive the ticket and related event details via email.