

SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to week 6


Belated Introduction:

MEET SARGE


FELLTIMBER & FRUITIES

Sarge is a 4 year old female German Shepherd. Sarge is the education and wellbeing support dog at the Felltimber and Flying Fruit Fly Circus Campuses of the Wodonga Middle Years College.

Sarge started her training and employment at the Middle Years College in 2020 and became certified in 2023. She lives with her handler Rachel, and spends a lot of her time with the wellbeing team at Felltimber.




Sarge participates in offsite excursions, classroom activities, sports days, school photos, yard duty, brain breaks, sits in class with kids, wellbeing sessions and visiting the canteen. She loves playing fetch with her football and chasing the ibis away from the bins. Sarge loves resting, upside down out on the lawn or on the floor at staff briefing!!



Sarge attends a day care socialisation program fortnightly with the Wodonga Dog Education Centre and comes to school every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Sarge is loved by the whole community and enjoys patrolling the yard of a morning welcoming the kids onsite. Sarge also attends our whole school assembly every second Monday morning, where she lays down to listen with the students very politely and gets up to sit with kids that who feel uncomfortable in crowded and noisy spaces.

While facilitating group work or entering a classroom, Sarge waits patiently at the doorway for her humans to go in first and then she enters, often laying in the middle of the kids during circle time. She loves chicken nuggets and potato cakes from the canteen and often helps vacuum the locker bays after lunch... even though we continue to work hard to teach her to 'leave it' when she tries to eat things she shouldn't.



Sarge is excited about returning to work and looks forward to another year at the Wodonga Middle Years College!!

Upcoming Events:

- 7 March 2025 – Year 7 immunisations at school – email has been sent to Year 7 families
- 10 March 2025 – Victoria Labour Day Public Holiday – no school on this day
- 12 to 24 March 2025 – NAPLAN
- 1 April – Athletics carnival – whole school
- 4 April – Last term term 1

Melbourne Excursion:

Excursions offer students many benefits beyond what they learn in the classroom. The 6/7 class have been focussing on ant colonies, and the 8/9s have been doing a unit on WWII across English, Art and Humanities.

The Melbourne excursion enabled students to experience real-world presentations of the concepts they are learning in school. Whether visiting the Museum, The Lume, or The Shrine, they could connect their studies to actual events, people, and environments.

A change of setting can make learning more engaging, and being in a hands-on environment can spark curiosity and enthusiasm - as you will see from the wonderful photographs and recounts in this newsletter.

Despite some anxiety about not having their phones, the students spent the day being mindful of their environment, actively talking to each other, looking out of the train window, and engaging with their environment.

A very big thank you to Helen, Shelley, Susanne and Will for taking them on this experience.

Student of the week

The award has to go to all of the students on the excursion. This was a great trip, and they all maintained their cooperative nature throughout. Well done to all of you.

Student Recounts of the Melbourne Excursion:

The 6/7's went to the ant museum. There were 5 exhibits. My favourite bit was when Zahra and I stacked a bunch of fabric on top of each other to try and touch the roof.

Macie

My favourite part of Antopia was interactive projection because you could wave at the ants and take them to their colony. And I also enjoyed the forest walk. When we went on the train on the way back to Wodonga everyone was exhausted!

Ava

On Tuesday the six/sevens went on an excursion. We went to this thing called Antopia. It had fake ants, but you could own them. If you collect them, they will follow you. There was also a forest in the building, but it was small and there was a big cage around it. All the animals were cool. The animals were lizards, birds, fish, and turtles. There were little holes with animals in them. There were spiders, ants, grasshoppers, bugs, frogs and toads. WE ALL HAD LOTS OF FUN.

Annie



This week the 6, 7, 8, 9s went on a school excursion to Melbourne. We caught a train to Melbourne train station. The 6/7s went to Antopia and learned about ants, and we also went to the forest part of the museum. That was my favourite. I loved the beautiful trees and all the animals there. Another one of my favourite parts was sleeping on Ava on the train home 😊. We got home by 10:30pm and everyone was tired.

Ruby

On the fourth of March we went on an excursion to the Melbourne Museum. We went to three different exhibits including Antopia, Bugs Alive and a rainforest. My favourite was definitely Antopia as there were so many interactive things that you could do! A fun part of Antopia was playing with the interactive projections and going in tall grass to see what it looks like from an ant's perspective. At the end, we were all pretty sleepy and hungry, so we got food and relaxed on the way back on the train. Overall Melbourne Museum is a wonderful experience!

Poppi

On the 4th of March we went to Antopia. It was fun but I have a phobia of ants. It kind of got me over my fear but I'm still a little bit scared. It was very fun. We went to Bugs Alive which had all types of bugs from spiders to butterflies - so over all it was very fun.

Holly

The excursion to Melbourne was very fun. We saw a van Gogh exhibition and the WWI memorial. It taught me a lot and was a good experience. It taught me about van Gogh's history and some quotes from him. The memorial museum taught about the attack on Turkey and the boat that got them there.

Etta

On our excursion down to Melbourne the 8/9s started off the day by going to a Vincent van Gogh themed exhibition at The Lume. It was a huge room with interactive art, incredible projections of his art. There was also a room with 2 screens with tutorials that we could follow along with. When we were travelling around Melbourne from place to place, we walked some distances and also used a variety of different trams. Which we all found very fun trying to balance while not holding on to a handle. Although the trip seemed very stressful for all the teachers, I believe we all had a fantastic time.

Tempey





Immunisations: will be run for the year 7 boys and girls on Friday 7th of March. Please go to the website as provided in the email to families of year 7 students and give your permission.

End of Year Awards explained:

FFCS Visual Arts Award. The recipients will have shown consistent effort, application of technique and completion of tasks.

Future event notification:

We have another whole school excursion planned for 2 May 2025 (week 2 of term 2). This excursion has been added to your student portal this week. We will be heading to Altina Wildlife Park in Darlington Point. The cost of this is \$85 and again, will be covered by the School Saving Bonus – Jan is waiting for your email to say you wish to use it for this excursion - jwhite@wmyc.vic.edu.au (make sure you have allocated funds to activities)

Altina Wildlife Park is a zoo situated in Darlington Point, New South Wales. The zoo specialises in the conservation of endangered species and features a diverse range of Australian native and exotic animals. It operates horse-drawn cart tours.

School Fees:

2025 school fees have now been loaded on to your students' portals.

CONTACT FOR FFFCS TEACHERS

You are encouraged to contact your child's teachers directly via email using the following addresses:

Greg Glasson (3, 4 and 5)

gglasson@wmyc.vic.edu.au

Shelley Kay (6/7 and 8/9 English and 6/7 and 8/9 Humanities)

skay@wmyc.vic.edu.au

Will Pleydon (Art)

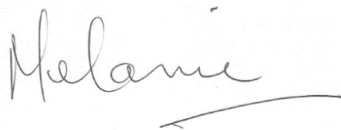
wpleydon@wmyc.vic.edu.au

Helen Vardy (6/7 and 8/9 Maths and Science)

hvardy@wmyc.vic.edu.au

Admin / Mel / Jan

admin@fruitflyschool.vic.edu.au



Melanie McClure | School Co-ordinator

Flying Fruit Fly Circus School

mmcclure@wmyc.vic.edu.au

Ph: 02 6057 9180

Mob: 0407 277 768

Hedgerow Court, Wodonga, Vic, 3690

FROM THE CIRCUS



CLASS CLOWNS WRAP UP

A fantastic night in the Borderville celebrating the border's funniest teens at Class Clowns! Thanks to @thedanesimpson for hilarious hosting and for everyone who got involved. And a huge congratulations to Harry who is off to the State Final on 20 March, and our very own Ethan McD who has received a Wild Card entry!

<https://www.comedyrepublic.com.au/event/38:441/38:1512/>



RODEO CLOWN THIS WEEK



Beloved Fruit Fly alumni Nicci Wilks returns to HotHouse Theatre with Rodeo Clown this week!

Where: Hothouse Theatre, Gateway Island, Wodonga

When: Thursday 6 March at 7.30pm (straight after Training!)

Suitability: 14+

GET YOUR TICKETS AND TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SHOW [HERE](#)

Use codeword **RODEO25F&F** to access a special \$25 ticket.

SPORTS & SPINAL: OSTEOPATHY & CONCUSSION BASELINE TESTING

This Friday 7 March 4 to 7pm during after school training.

Baseline concussion testing is a new initiative in 2025 that the circus is including in our injury management processes. It will give trainers and medical staff individual information for each student when assessing concussion.

Thanks to Sports & Spinal for providing this for us.

GUEST ARTISTS

Masha Terentieva continues to work with our Cert 3's, Creative Lab sessions with Development students plus on the training floor teaching aerials and hula.

Ken Fanning is continuing to have fun with our students during his Creative Classes. He held a movie night here showing some very impressive artists.

WODONGA SHOW COMING UP SATURDAY 15 MARCH

Rehearsals are going well for the Wodonga Show. It will be a great day out so please come along and check out the shows running at 10am, 11am and 12:15pm.

<https://wodongashow.org.au/>

We have also been invited to perform this show at the Culture in the Square event at the QEII Square in Albury on **Friday 21 March at 6pm**. This is a free event aimed at families with one performance, followed by come and try circus activity.



IMPORTANT CIRCUS CONTACTS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Circus HQ | 02 6043 0777 |
| Donna Baldwin | dbaldwin@fruitflycircus.com.au |
| Bec Neill | rneill@fruitflycircus.com.au |
| Ben Lewis | blewis@fruitflycircus.com.au |
| Tahni Froudust | tfroudust@fruitflycircus.com.au |

Please remember to email **both** school and circus if your child is not going to be attending school and training:

SCHOOL - admin@fruitflyschool.vic.edu.au
CIRCUS - dbaldwin@fruitflycircus.com.au