What’s happening…

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Term two has started off very positively. I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and children are coming home with some interesting stories about what they have been learning about at school. Thank you to all the parents who have been coming along to hear students read and or help out in classrooms or the kitchen garden program. We value your assistance and commitment.

Parent Forum… we are looking forward to hosting the parent forum on Wednesday 1st May. Please join us as we will be discussing your feedback arising from the parent survey conducted in term one and also looking at the DEECD White Paper which outlines to school communities the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development directions. It is not too late to RSVP. Staff and school councillors will be in attendance on the night, the session is being held in the library space on Clarke Street.

NAPLAN… the National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy is scheduled for the week beginning Monday 13th May. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in NAPLAN. Exemptions apply for some students, detailed information is provided in this newsletter. Parents or carers may wish to consult with me should they consider withdrawing their child from NAPLAN. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further, after consultation the appropriate withdrawal form may be arranged.

School Facilities… we have received some very positive feedback about the upgrades being conducted on Brooke Street involving the school entry points and front fence. Thank you to Carolyn and Lynne who liaised with tradespeople during the school holidays. The “facelift” will create a smoother flow of pedestrian traffic at peak school times. Thank you also to members of the School Council Environment Sub-committee for their ongoing contributions to enhance our school grounds and play spaces. The slab for the new kindergarten has been poured on the Clarke Street site. The project manager has indicated that all going well the new facility might be completed by the end of term two. Completion timeline will also depend on weather and other contingencies. Ricky, our talented PE teacher had organised for ground markings to redefine our sports courts on Clarke Street during the school holidays, however due to the unpredictable weather conditions we had to delay completion. The new line markings will greatly assist students when playing sport. We can also look forward to an upgrade to the Clarke Street toilets during 2013.

Brooke Street Composting… to make way for the Brooke Street play space upgrade mentioned above it was necessary to remove the composting bay (the one that used to live just near the toilet block on Brooke Street). This means that students will be encouraged to take home their food scraps for composting at home.

Whole School Assembly… as mentioned in previous newsletters we are trialling a number of different formats for the school assembly. We aim to be able to confirm the new format in approximately two weeks.

Reminder… A reminder that Thursday 25th April is Anzac Day and the school will be closed. Students are not required at school this Friday 26th April due to the staff professional development day. Parents are invited to contact Michael at Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) if you would like to make a booking. The phone number is 9482 3323 and is now working again!

Warm Regards, Grace Conway. Principal.
Dear Parent/Carer

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2013 for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday 14 May, Wednesday 15 May and Thursday 16 May 2013. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals which can be used to improve student achievement.

All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. During test week, catch-up tests will be available for individual students who are absent on test days. These students may undertake catch-up tests on the days in the test week after the scheduled test, up to and including Friday 17 May 2013.

Support can be arranged for students with disabilities, if the student regularly uses similar support for classroom assessment tasks.

Large print, braille and black and white versions of the tests are available for students that require them.

Exemptions may be granted to students with significant intellectual disabilities and to students who have been learning English for less than one year.

If your child is eligible for support due to disability or an exemption, you should discuss this with his/her teacher prior to the tests. Parental consent is required before any support due to disability or exemption is granted.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the principal. If, after consultation, you decide to withdraw your child, you must sign a Student Withdrawal form. These forms are available at the school.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

I am confident that the information you receive as a result of your child’s participation in the NAPLAN tests will be valuable in helping you to assess your child’s progress in literacy and numeracy.

For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Principal
Diary Dates

Thurs 25th April  ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Fri 26th April   Pupil Free Day. OSHC available.
Wed 1st May     Parent/Guardian Forum 7pm-8.30pm
Wed 9th-15th May Book Fair
Tues 28th May   School Photos
Sat 1st June    Westgarth Idol
Thurs 12th Dec  Grade 6 Graduation

Meetings

OSHC          Thursday 2nd May 2pm
Policy        Friday 3rd May 8.30am
Finance       Thursday 9th May 8.30am
School Council Wednesday 15th May 7pm

Term Dates 2013

Term 2 15/04/2013 - 28/06/2013
Term 3 15/07/2013 - 20/09/2013
Term 4 07/10/2013 - 20/12/2013

Uniform Shop
Open Tuesday from 3:15pm

Book Club News
All book club orders are now due back at school by Monday 29th April due to ANZAC Day on Thursday and a pupil free day on Friday. Orders will not be accepted after this date. Please include your child's name and class on the order form.

I still have one unclaimed book club order Issue 2 with no name on it in my office. If you think it may be your order please come and see me in the library now located in the BER building.

Thank you, Dianne (Book Club Organiser)

Junior School Council 2013
Congratulations to the following students who have been elected by their peers as Junior School Council Representatives for 2013. These students will support both the School Captains and Vice Captains to undertake leadership roles during the year.

3/4 Bianca   Lulu B & Anson B
3/4 Hannah   Ben S & Mikaila Y
3/4 Holly    Luca L & Sophie H
3/4 Ryan     Baptiste E & Chloe P
3/4 Sarah    George D & Tess S
3/4 Taryn    Dominic H & Sienna C
5 Mark       Jamie S & Adem I
5 Brenda     Ruby P & Finn L
5 Gaby       Michael T & Alanah N
5 Glenn      Laila K & Elliot V
6 Phana      Ashleigh W & Aidan M
6 Andrew     Chryzelle S & Jude C

These students will be presented with their badges this term at a school assemble (date to be confirmed).

Art News
We have already started some terrific pieces of art work this term. We will be covering lots of different areas of the curriculum in the next 10 weeks. Term 2 will see students working in the areas of Drawing, Modelling (clay), Construction and Threads & Textiles.

We have asked all Grade 1/2’s to bring in a small interestingly shaped bottle, such as a San Pellegrino bottle. If you have some at home and you’re not in Grade 1/2 we would really appreciate some extras. The bottles can be placed in the box outside the art room.

Thanks, Rushe Lynch & Julia Reeves

Icy Pole Day
Last Friday was Icy Pole Day and with a bit of help from some parents (thanks - Bek, Melissa, Shona and Tanya) and LOTS of help from the Junior School Council - who did a great job delivering icy poles to P-2 grades, collecting money and serving in the canteen we managed to make $526.00 in profit for the school. WELL DONE !!! Cheers, Annette
Cross Country Selection Trials

All Grade 3-6 students this term have the option of trying out for the school District Cross Country team. This year the Cross Country trials will be held during lunch time. This will allow for more students to try out. Students will begin running at the start of lunch eating time and then eat their lunch at the conclusion of the trial. Below is a table to indicate the dates for the selection trials. The first eight runners for each age group and gender will go through to represent Westgarth at the District Cross Country on Wednesday May 29th. If for some reason your child is unable to attend school on the day, please let me know so I can make alternative arrangements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st May (Week 3) Lunch time</td>
<td>Boys 9/10 years and under 2000m (4 laps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd May (Week 3) Lunch time</td>
<td>Girls 9/10 years and under 2000m (4 laps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8th May (Week 4) Lunch time</td>
<td>Girls 11 years 3000m (6 laps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys 11 years 3000m (6 laps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th May (Week 4) Lunch time</td>
<td>Girls 12/13 years 3000m (6 laps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys 12/13 years 3000m (6 laps)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Sport Diary Dates

Term 2
Interschool Sports Grade 5 - 6 Students
Friday 3rd May    Westgarth V Preston South (HOME)
Friday 10th May   Westgarth V Holy Spirit (AWAY)
Friday 17th May   Westgarth V Wales St (HOME)
Friday 24th May   Westgarth V Bell (AWAY)
Friday 31st May   Westgarth V Fairfield (HOME)
Friday 7th June   Westgarth V Penders Grove (AWAY)
Friday 14th June  Westgarth V St Marys (HOME)
Friday 21st June  Westgarth V Northcote (AWAY)

Cross Country Grade 3 - 6 Students
Wednesday 29th May District Cross Country 10.00 - 12.00 (Bundoora Park)
Wednesday 12th June Division Cross Country 10.00 - 12.00 (Bundoora Park)
Wednesday 19th June Regional Cross Country 10:00-12:00 (Bundoora Park)

Term 3
Tuesday 13th August District Basketball tournament (selected students only)
Thursday 15th August Grade 3-6 House Athletics Day (Collingwood Harriers Track)
Tuesday 3rd September Grade 3-6 House Athletics reserve day (Collingwood Harriers Track)
Friday 13th September District Athletics (selected students only)
Monday 16th September District Athletics reserve day

Term 4
Tuesday 8th October Division Athletics (selected students only)
Wednesday 16th October Regional Athletics (selected students only)
Friday 15th November Grade 3-6 team Triathlon (optional)
Friday 22nd November Triathlon reserve day
School Council Report

Update on Environment Sub-Committee - The Environment sub-committee oversees school buildings and grounds with a focus on the best interests of students and the environment.

Many parents will have noticed the recent removal of trees from the western side of the Brooke Street campus, and the widening of the walkway in this area. The Environment Committee has been working on plans for this area for some time, and you will be seeing a lot more action in future weeks.

To try and alleviate traffic flow issues before and after school, there is a new entry gate going in, with a concrete path leading directly to the western classrooms. The prunus trees were removed so that the garden bed outside Kenji’s classroom can be made smaller to alleviate congestion in that corner, and it will be planted with more appropriate shrubs/trees once the works are completed. As the children are now using the entire Brooke Street campus grounds for playtime, we are also looking at making the western side a more attractive area with some passive play spaces and less concrete. We have been made aware that the root systems of the two older paperbark trees are causing serious damage to the school plumbing and lifting all the surrounding concrete causing trip hazards. One of these trees is also in poor health, so we will be removing these two trees and the damaged concrete in upcoming weeks, and will be investigating options for some passive playspace designs/pl plantings in that area. We are planning on leaving the stumps of the trees as seating/benches and will start from there with the next phase. Any ideas can be forwarded to me in person or via email (redchilli@optusnet.com.au) or Grace on westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or the School Office, as we are currently working on exactly which way to go with the space. Bec Yule, Environment Committee Convenor.

Parent Forum - 1st May 2013 7pm - 8.30pm

As many of you know, staff and School Council are hosting a Parent Forum next Wednesday evening. The Parent Forum will cover issues flowing from the Department of Education’s 2011 document, ‘Vision for Languages Education’ (also called the DEECD White Paper), as well as results of the recent parent survey.

The Parent Forum is a great way for the School Council to consult with the school community. School Councilors will be present on the night, listening to the discussion and contributing, where appropriate. This will put us in a good position to consider and make decisions on the School Council related issues that come out of the Forum.

We invite your input and look forward to hearing your views regarding the key issues at the school.

Ully Merkel, President

Westgarth Idol June 1st - No Beards Required

Despite their current cultural cachet, beards are not mandatory for Westgarth Idol artists, with the possible exception of any ZZ Top tribute acts, with an exception within this exception for the Frank Beard member who, intriguingly (for some), was the only beardless member of ZZ Top. Besides Jon Bon Jovi never had a beard.

Anyway the phone’s been ringing off the wall here at Idol HQ and once more we wonder whose bright idea it was to tape the mobile to the wall. The screen is now cracked in many interesting patterns. The excitement factor of the acts already locked in can be summed up in two words: Off The Scale.

The hotline is still open though with rehearsals starting next week time is on the wing so if you are mulling it over the hour has cometh: 0417 158 235. A number of new acts already in and would love to have some Prep parents join the party.

Plenty of details to follow re tickets / format / acceptable audience beard styles but for now if there’s any more Idols out there please assume action stations.
Westgarth Primary School - Parents & Friends Association

Requests for Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event:</th>
<th>Position Description:</th>
<th>Contact:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sport Based Fundraising</td>
<td>Event/s Organiser/s</td>
<td>Emma Savage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers’ &amp; Special</td>
<td>Bakers Crafters and Sellers</td>
<td>Emma Savage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons’ Day Stall</td>
<td>Gift Tag Makers</td>
<td>Emma Savage</td>
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The **Mothers (and Special Persons) Day Stall** is booked for Tuesday the 7th of May. I’ve had a few offers of assistance, baked goods and some lovely handcrafted hair-ties donated (thanks to Vanessa, Jo, Caroline, Helen and Merryn for your various offers) but we can always use more! See last week’s Parents and Friends Notice on page 5.

In answer to a query I received, there are 26 grades at the school this year, so if you’re wanting to make goodies for each grade, that’s the magic number (although any number is fine)!

Helpers please either contact me on the details below, or leave your contact details at the office.

And finally, to all those who have been busy handcrafting **gift tags**, could you please let me know how you are going and if you need more supplies (there are still packs at the office for collection which include templates for size etc.). If you have completed some, please drop them off at the office. **If you are suddenly keen to get involved it is not too late!** Just let me know on the details below. A big thank-you to Helen for her lovely tags.

Thanks also to Annette and her crew of helpers for a very successful Icy Pole Day – the kids were very happy!

If you have any queries about WPS Parents & Friends, please contact Emma Savage on emma@weller.id.au or 0413 185 350.

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**Plant Stall at the Fete**

We are looking for plants to pot up for the school fete. If you have a big clump of something that needs dividing or something is self-seeding all over the place in your garden give us a call. We will happily divide things or dig up your excess plants and pop them into pots for the fete. Also, if you have any spare seeds you haven’t got around to planting we would be happy to take them off your hands. We could also collect seeds from the garden if you have them.

If you've got a green thumb and would like to grow something yourself that would also be great. We can even provide potting mix if you need it.

If you don’t know what to do with old pots we’ll take those too! There’s a green bin outside the school office and another bin near the bike shed, but if that’s too hard we can also come and pick them up. We are also sharing plant stall ideas on Facebook - email us if you’d like to join the group. Please note the group is restricted to school families.

Penny Smith (Jemima 5Gabi, Lachlan Prep S) 0418 384 696 or email penny.smith@sydney.edu.au
Westgarth Primary School

The Westgarth Primary School Council does not endorse any of its sponsors or advertisers, but we do acknowledge their support.

The Kinder is turning 70!!!!
Come celebrate the milestone and join us for a picnic in the park!
Sunday 28th April 2013 (12 - 3pm) Cake cutting at 2pm at The Rotunda at Darling Gardens
Ref: 2C H3. Bring:
- Picnic rug, food and drink, and things to entertain the kids!
- Any old photos from your time at kinder would be great!
Call Sue or Penny at the kinder - 9481 5557.

Westgarth family looking for temporary accommodation from May 25th for a month or two. If you can help please call Jeanne 0433 580 020.

Intimo Mothers’ Day
You are invited this Saturday (27th April) to an Intimo Lingerie Mother’s Day fundraiser! Myf, mother of Harry (3/4 Hannah) & Akira (1/2 Cameron) has a professional bra fitting/styling business with Intimo Lingerie – beautiful and comfortable lingerie and clothing (pretty and everyday pieces). I am hosting an Open House fundraiser for Orphfund (children in need). Bring some friends – bring your mum – come for a cuppa/champagne/cake/a hi - and check out some nice things for mother’s day! Details: 1 Palmer St, Northcote. 10am - 5pm. Check out www.intimo.com.au. RSVP if u can - myf@netspace.net.au or 0418 122 663. Love to see you. I also do individual orders, personal fittings, fundraisers & parties. Intimo is a Melbourne company with an extensive size range and has something for everyone.

6 month rental/housesit - 4 bedroom house Thornbury $500 per week ONO
Fully or partially furnished house to rent/house sit, 259 Victoria Road Thornbury (near Darebin Rd), 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, lounge, dining, family room/study, kitchen with all mod cons, air conditioning, ducted heating, pot belly, garden with trampoline. Kids toys/games available. Suit family or couple. Available early July 2013 to early January 2014. If interested or wanting to see photos/visit contact Frank or Judith - 9480 1015 or frankjjoyce@yahoo.com.au

Fitzroy High Open Day
Open Day: Monday 29th April 2013
Morning Tours from 11.30am - 12.30pm
Lunchtime performances: 12.45pm - 1.30pm
Afternoon Tours from: 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Information Session at 6.30pm.
Bookings call: 9488 1900. The open classes and tours will offer prospective students and their families the opportunity to see the whole school in action, from Year 7 to Year 12.
The information session will offer an insight into school’s vision for all students to become lifelong learners; reflective and creative thinkers; and responsible and active citizens through our humane and personalised approach to teaching and learning.

The University High School - Open Day 1st May 2013 at 77 Story Street Parkville
We are running two Open Day sessions. Session 1: 2pm to 3pm and Session 2 5pm to 8pm. Please only attend one session. There is no need to book for either session 1 or 2.

Community Advertisements

Westgarth family looking for temporary accommodation from May 25th for a month or two. If you can help please call Jeanne 0433 580 020.

Clifton Hill Presbyterian Kindergarten
The Kinder is turning 70!!! Come celebrate the milestone and join us for a picnic in the park!
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**Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge**

The Victorian Premier Denis Napthine invites all Victorian students to participate in the 2013 Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge.

The aim of the Reading Challenge is to promote a love of reading. It is not a competition, but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. For students in Prep to Year 2 the challenge is to read or ‘experience’ 30 books and for students in Years 3 to 10 the challenge is to read 15 books. If your child is learning to read, you can help them to ‘experience’ books by reading to or with them and talking about the story.

If your child would like to take part in the 2013 Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge, please print and complete the attached consent form and return to your child’s classroom teacher by Friday 3rd May. If you are unable to print the consent form, you can collect a hard copy from the school office. Student logins will be distributed by Friday 17th May. Please note an individual consent form will need to be completed for each of your children.

The Reading Challenge officially commenced on 31 January, so children can record any book they have read or experienced since the beginning of the 2013 school year.

This is a wonderful way to promote a passion for reading in your child, as well as participating in a state-wide initiative.

Thank you, Noreen & Glenn - Premiers’ Reading Challenge Co-Ordinators

Please refer to further information below.

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**Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge 2013**


**PLEASE NOTE:**

**SECTION 1** of the consent form attached must be signed if your child is to participate in the Challenge and receive a Certificate of Achievement

**SECTION 2** of the consent form below is optional.

In October/November 2013 an Honour roll lift-out in The Age will contain the names of all Victorian children who completed the Challenge (publication only with the permission of their parents or guardians). Consent is sought from students and parents for the publication of names following the conclusion of the Challenge.

When consenting, you authorise collection of the names of the students who are participating and their schools by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

This information will only be used for the purpose of conducting the Challenge in 2013 and printing certificates of achievement for students who meet the Challenge. If you consent, the student will be issued by their school with a username and password.

If you have any concerns about providing this information please email readingchallenge@edumail.vic.gov.au.

All queries will remain confidential and all information that is to be provided to the Department will be held via a secure website and kept confidential in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2000.
Dear Parent/Guardian,

Students have a chance to take part in the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge (Challenge) in 2013. Details of the Challenge in 2013 are available at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc. There will not be any payment involved.

SECTION 1: Consent of a parent/guardian to authorise student entry and to authorise awarding of certificates of achievement for students who meet the Challenge in 2013

Please tick only one of the boxes below.

☐ I consent to my child entering the Challenge and authorise their name on a completion certificate (Certificate of Achievement).

☐ I do not give consent for my child to enter the Challenge in 2013.

Signed: ____________________________ (Parent/Guardian) ____________________________(print name)

Date: ____________________________

Signed by Student ____________________________

Student name (Print Full Name) ____________________________________________

Class ____________________________

Age in years as at 1 February 2013 __________________

Student’s Certificate Name: ____________________________________________  
(Only required if different from name given above)

☐ Please tick if your child participated in the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge in 2012

SECTION 2: Optional- Consent to publish child’s name in Achievers Honour Roll in the Age Newspaper

Please tick only one of the boxes below.

☐ I consent to publication of my child’s name in the Achievers Honour Roll in the Age Newspaper.

☐ I do not give consent for my child’s name to be published

I understand that if I wish to withdraw this consent to publication it will be my responsibility to inform the Reading Challenge Coordinator at my child’s school on or before 10 September 2013.

Signed: ____________________________ (Parent/Guardian) ____________________________(print name)

Date: ____________________________