What’s happening...

Parent Forum... We are looking forward to the Parent Forum being held tomorrow evening in the library space on Clarke Street, the session commences at 6.55 for a 7.00 p.m. start. If you have indicated on the RSVP that you require child care please arrive 5 minutes earlier to allow time to register your child at the Farmhouse. Please note that care is provided for primary school aged children.

Kitchen Garden Program... If you have had the good fortune of walking through Clarke Street you might have noticed that the garden is being prepared for the annual winter planting. Soon we will see an abundance of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, broad beans, carrots, parsnip, kale and fennel sprouting. During term two students will be creating the different types of curry dishes that feature prominently in countries around the world such as Thailand, India and the Middle East. We are always appreciative of the work volunteers do, especially in the KG Program where we have parent volunteers as well as community (non-parent) volunteers. Betty, our talented specialist works with volunteers and ensures they are well prepared prior to gardening or kitchen classes. We welcome some new community volunteers, Kaylin Eu, Rose Curtis and Louisa Allan as well as Kate Delves who has returned to the program after four years, to offer her invaluable assistance once more. I would also like to acknowledge the sterling job Betty does each week in leading the program. Students in years 3-5 have either cooking or gardening classes for approximately 2 sessions each week, whilst students in year 6 have approximately one and half sessions due to increased numbers participating in the program this year. The program format will need to be revised next year when we will see a further increase in student numbers.

Mother’s Day/Special Person’s Day Stall... Students will have an opportunity to purchase a small gift for a special person or loved one in their life next Tuesday 7th May. Emma Savage is co-ordinating the stall and she has been busy ensuring that there is an assortment of gifts on offer for children to buy. I am sure there will be some old favourites as well as some sparkling new treats available. This year we will be selling items in the internal space next to the music room and during the day children will attend the stall with their classmates on a grade by grade basis. Weather permitting, some of the stalls will be set up in the undercover area as well. The stall will reopen immediately after school for a short while for anyone who wishes to make a last minute purchase or take advantage of the end of day stocktake sale. Children are encouraged to bring along their own recycled shopping bag on the day to carry home their purchases. Thank you to Emma and all the helpers. Please contact Emma if you are willing and able to assist by calling 0413 185 350.

NAPLAN... A reminder that the National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy is coming up on Tuesday 14, 15 and 16 May for students in years 3 and 5. NAPLAN is one way that teachers assess students. During the year students participate in many other forms of assessment depending on their year level. Teachers use assessment information to inform their planning and to differentiate curriculum. Therefore NAPLAN results are a snapshot of student achievement in the course of their schooling. Some parents may wish to discuss NAPLAN with us or enquire about exemptions/withdrawals. Please do not hesitate to contact Lynne, Carolyn or myself if you require any information. (9481 5577 or you can email the school if you wish to make an appointment).
Safety in our School Grounds... In the last parent survey I received some very constructive feedback about the newsletter in that sometimes it is used to "reprimand" the community. I am sorry but this is one such time. I was disappointed to hear that one of our parents was recently injured by a child on the school grounds who did not dismount from their scooter. We continue to urge students to dismount and walk their bikes or scooters whilst on the school grounds. We have had several reports of staff, students and other parents sustaining an injury whilst supervising or picking up children. Reports are usually about other students being knocked over, adults having their toes crushed and or ankles bruised. I am requesting that everyone, including pre-school children, dismount and walk their scooter or bike not just in the school grounds but also on the footpaths surrounding the school. The school continually strives to make the grounds a safe and happy place however we need your support in respecting the right of others to a safe and unrestricted passage around the school without having to worry about being hurt by metal scooters or bikes. Will you please help us to achieve this goal?

On a Positive Note... thank you to the many teachers who are helping out with extra curricula activities; Nadine, Ryan and John have organised lunch time classes for students interested in forming a band, joining a choir or learning the recorder. Ricky and a band of enthusiastic teachers/staff have organised lunch time extra practice sessions for students participating in the cross country run coming up soon.

Whole School Assembly... For many years, possibly decades, the school has had a long held tradition of conducting a weekly whole school assembly. As the school has grown to just on 600 students the staff have been looking at alternative ways of conducting the whole school assembly in a safe and friendly manner. During term one a number of formats were trialled. The staff agreed on a number of elements that make for a positive experience for our students. The first of these aspects is the safety of students. For students to have a positive experience they need to have enough space to sit on the floor, however, we still need to ensure there is enough space for a small number of parents/carers to attend the assembly. The plan is that we are going to trial the weekly assembly with all students in the gym using the traditional time of 2.45 Thursday afternoon. We plan to keep the assembly to 25-30 minutes, trialling the whole school attending, in the traditional sense but with a slightly different format for the remainder of this term starting in Education Week, Thursday 23rd May. The first assembly will include badge presentations to the School Captains, House Captains and Junior School Council representatives. Hope to see you there.

Kind Regards,
Grace Conway
Principal
Diary Dates
Wed 1st May Parent/Guardian Forum 7pm-8.30pm
Tues 7th May Mothers’ & Special Persons’ Stall
Wed 9th-15th May Book Fair
Wed 22nd May Open Morning
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

Family Payments 2013
For those who have not yet paid their Family Payments for 2013 please forward the payment to school.
Payment forms are available at the office or can be downloaded at our website:
If you have any queries or wish to discuss your circumstances and/or flexible payment options, please contact Susan Price (Business Manager) at price.susan.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or on 9481 5577.

Book Fair

Book Fair Thursday 9th May to Wednesday 15th May
Please come and visit our Book Fair. Students will be receiving a small booklet with time and dates attached showing just a small selection of some of the books available at the Book Fair. Dianne (Book Fair Co-Ordinator)

Book Fair will be held in the library - Clarke Street
Thursday 9th May 8.30-9am 3.30-4pm
Friday 10th May 8.30-9am CLOSED
Monday 13th May 8.30-9am 3.30-4pm
Tuesday 14th May 8.30-9am 3.30-4pm
Wednesday 15th May 8.30-9am FINISHED

What’s happening in OSHC?

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Please note: April is a Sun Smart month and hats are compulsory in OSHC.
**Westgarth Idol June 1st: No Stewards’ Enquiry Required**

Tom Waterhouse has stopped taking bets on Westgarth Idol. The information leaking ever so slightly from each stable has accumulated to a river of promise, a river of intrigue, a river of gold.

John Singleton has rung and asked to sing "I've Never Been To Me". Alas the audition was not successful.

Gai Waterhouse says there’s nothing wrong with any of the acts, in fact they are all tip top, they are all chocolate ripple, all raspberry swirl, no vanilla. Gai is correct.

The field is virtually complete with only a gate or two left for what shapes as a highly memorable edition of the event.

In short, if there are any last ditch acts please hit the hotline on 0417 158 235 for the hotline is soon to be cast into the river of gold and will only be answered by dextrous yabbies.

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**Westgarth Primary School - Parents & Friends Association**

**Requests for Assistance**

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<td>Mothers' and Special</td>
<td>Monday 6th May - Gift wrappers and Stall Setup</td>
<td>Emma Savage</td>
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<td>Persons' Day Stall</td>
<td>Tuesday 7th of May - Stall sellers</td>
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The Mothers (and Special Persons) Day Stall is booked for Tuesday the 7th of May.

**Stall Preparation.**

As part of the goods on offer we have 200 potted mini flowering plants arriving at the school on Monday which will need to be wrapped in cellophane. There will also be chocolates and others goodies to be packaged and made to look pretty. If you are able to help, I’ll be running the following two wrapping and setup sessions:

- 2.00pm - 3.30pm Monday 6th May
- 7.00pm - 8.30pm Monday 6th May

These sessions will be held in the canteen with entry via the gym door which faces Clarke Street. Spaces for the afternoon slot will be limited, so first in best dressed if this time suits you. Due to OH&S requirements these sessions are for adults only.

I’ll be providing drinks and snacks at both sessions to keep you all going although if anyone else would like to bring something to share please let me know!

**Stall Sellers.**

At this stage I have had a few offers of assistance, but we are still looking sadly understaffed! Each grade comes through the stall for a 10 minute slot, and sometimes we have two grades at once, so as you can imagine it is quite busy. Please let me know if you can spare an hour or two to help out. The stall runs from shortly after 9.00am until 2.30pm with breaks between 10.45-11.15am and 12.50 - 2.00pm when the kids are at morning play and lunch. We also re-open the stall briefly at the end of the school day to sell any leftover items at bargain prices, so if you can spare half an hour then please let me know.

**Bakers:** Cellophane bags and ribbons are available in the office together with instructions for baked goods registration.

Helpers please either contact me on the details below, or leave your name and contact details at the office. If you have any queries about WPS Parents & Friends, please contact Emma Savage on emma@weller.id.au or 0413 185 350.
Entertainment Books 2013/2014 are here!

The new Entertainment Books are being sold as a fund raiser for our school. For those who may not be familiar with the books they offer valuable savings on restaurants, cafes, cinemas, sports attractions, leisure activities, hotel accommodation, hire cars, theme parks and much more. Many of our local businesses are included. The very popular 5% off Coles and Kmart shopping and 5% off Safeway and Dan Murphys are still available. You can view all the great offers by perusing a sample book in the office or online at www.entertainmentbook.com.au. Books can be used immediately and are valid through to 1 June 2014.

Books cost $65 with $13 going to our school. To purchase a book drop by the office or you can order online (contact me for details). If you have any questions feel free to contact me Mary Skarpetis on 0423 195 001 or mskarpetis@optusnet.com.au.

Community Advertisements

Quiz Night. Saturday 25th May 2013. Wales St Primary School Hall (7.30pm-10:30pm)
This year hosted by the hilarious Georgina McEncroe.
Bring family, friends and any other secret brainiacs along to the Darebin Greens quiz night to support the campaign. Drinks at bargain bar prices and huge silent auction. BYO food to share with your table as limited snacks will be available on the night for purchasing. Ticket Prices are $10 Concession, $15 Adult and $20 Keen & Green. Tables of 8-10 and if you have less people than that coming we can join your group up with others to increase your brainpower!!For bookings contact Stephen on 0438 500 187 or stephenhaley6@gmail.com or contact Monique Keel (Laila 5 Glenn) on 0417 347 806.

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