What's happening...

Notice of Stop Work Meeting—Thursday 14th February... Negotiations regarding the enterprise bargaining agreement have been going on for an extended period of time. It is very frustrating for schools and everyone affected that this agreement has not been finalised. Your support to ensure that the Victorian Government resolves this dispute promptly, will be greatly appreciated. All classroom teachers will be stopping work. Students will not be required at school on Thursday 14th February as normal classes will not be available and the “Before and After School Hours Care Program” will not operate.

Student Transitions—Parent Teacher Communication—PREP Parent-Teacher Information Session, Wednesday 13th February. The session is being held in the open learning space on Clarke Street (the new building closest to the Newmarket Street school crossing) between 3.45 and 4.45 p.m. Please be seated by 3.45 p.m. for a prompt start.

Student Transitions—Parent Teacher Communication, Years 1-6 Meet the Teacher afternoon Wednesday 20th February 2pm to 4.45pm in your child’s classroom. This year we are trialling a new internet-based booking system called Compass. It will save time for parents, staff and students! Letters are being sent home today containing log in and password details along with instructions that will enable you to make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher. Teachers may have other times available during this week from Monday 18th to Thursday 21st before and after school. Access to Compass will be available from 3.30pm tomorrow (Wednesday 13th February). On the Meet the Teacher afternoon, the normal teaching program will be suspended for the last hour and a half of the school day so that classroom teachers may be released from teaching duties to meet with parents. Meet the Teacher will be 5 minutes in duration. If a longer meeting is required you may request a further appointment on another day. Using this system you will be able to book the meeting times that suit you best from any internet-connected computer. A school computer will be available during school hours if you do not have internet access at home or elsewhere and in some circumstances the office staff will be able to assist you. Meet the Teacher sessions are held early in the year for parents who have not yet had an opportunity to meet their child’s teacher. The session is for parents to meet the teacher and to provide the teacher with any relevant information. If the appointment times we have selected do not suit please feel to write or telephone your child’s teacher instead.

Parent/Guardian Helpers Program—Briefing Session... Are you interested in helping in classrooms during the year? Interested parents are invited to attend the “Parent/Guardian Helper's Program” been organised for Wednesday 20th February starting at 9.05 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. in the open learning space on Clarke Street. Parents who have not attended a briefing before or any parents who wish to take part in a refresher are most welcome to attend. If you are contemplating volunteering in any of the school programs please speak with your child’s teacher. A Working with Children Certificate is required for all volunteers in schools or volunteers assisting with other programs such as Sport and Physical Education.

Con’t next page...
**Industrial Bans...** Please be aware that WPS teachers are observing industrial bans that include commencing at 8.30-8.45 and finishing at 4.45 p.m. two days a week 3.45-4.00 p.m. on three days. Consequently, the “Meet the Teacher” and “Parent/Guardian Information Sessions” are being held within agreed time frames such as immediately after school.

The following list provides an outline of staff working at WPS in 2013. Please note there is an emphasis on team work, shared responsibilities and planning across the school. If you would like to talk about any of the specialist programs or know who the teachers are in your child’s teaching team please refer to the list below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ART</th>
<th>Julia R and Rushe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PE - SPORT</td>
<td>Ricky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSIC</td>
<td>John (EXTRA CURRICULA CLASSES Years 4-6 i.e. John Year 4 recorder and 5-6 Band; Ryan 3-4 Choir; Nadine 5-6 Choir)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>Vicky (Monday-Wednesday) and Kathy (Monday-Tuesday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information-Communication Technology (ICT)</td>
<td>Ben (fortnightly timetable with classroom teachers/students)</td>
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<td>Kitchen Garden Program</td>
<td>Betty V (students in Years 3-6) with classroom teacher/volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anita (Monday-Thursday)</td>
<td>Literacy Support P-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dianne</td>
<td>Library Technician and student support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deb, Michelle, Brendan (Part Time)</td>
<td>Student Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike</td>
<td>Outside School Hours Program and student support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria</td>
<td>Outside School Hours Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Kat (Team Leader) Sarah B, Emily, Nadine, Heidi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1-2</td>
<td>Kenji, Betty, Nettie, Julia J, Noreen, Yolanda, Cameron, Rosie, Barbara (Leading Teacher-Coordinator),</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3-4</td>
<td>Holly (Team Leader/Coordinator), Bianca, Ryan, Sarah M, Hannah, Taryn, Kate (Leading Teacher-Coordinator Part Time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Mark, Brenda, Gaby, Glenn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Andrew, Phana (5-6 Team plan together) Ben (Leading Teacher/Coordinator)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Susan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration Assistant</td>
<td>Janine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Assistant</td>
<td>Nella</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Maintenance</td>
<td>Peter (Monday and Tuesday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Nurse</td>
<td>Pauline (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &amp; Friday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Principals</td>
<td>Lynne Mackie, Carolyn Shiels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Grace Conway</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you have constructive ideas for our Newsletter please email the school. We try to cover as many of the topics raised by parents as we can with the aim of ensuring everyone feels they have just the right amount of information. We also include Community Notices when there is space available.

Hope to see you during the week.

Regards.

Grace Conway
**Diary Dates**
- Wed 13th Feb: Prep Information Session
- Thurs 14th Feb: Stop Work Action
- Wed 20th Feb: Classroom Helpers' Briefing
- Wed 20th Feb: Meet the Teacher

**Term Dates 2013**
- Term 1: Ends 28/03/2013
- 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**
Opened Tuesdays from 3:15pm

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**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) INFORMATION FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS**

The Education Maintenance Allowance helps families on a low income with financial assistance to cover the cost of essential educational items like textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

**Eligibility for EMA** - To be eligible to for the EMA in 2013, you must:
- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of 16 and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit as of January 29th, 2013 (Instalment 1) and 15th July 2013 (Instalment 2).

**Application Form** - An EMA application form is available from the school office. You will need to bring your pensioner concession or health care/benefit card in with you when completing the form and your banking details.

Please make sure that your application is in no later than 28th February, 2013 as the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has advised that no late claims will be ac-

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**Westgarth Newsletter Emailed to all Families**
A reminder to all parents/guardians if you have not received the newsletter electronically please email me at bordin.nella.n@edumail.vic.gov.au together with your children’s name and grade.

Newsletters will be electronically sent on Tuesday afternoon. Paper copies will continue to be sent home for a short time. Cheers, Nella

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**Uniform Shop**
The uniform shop will continue to open every Tuesday from 3.15pm. Back orders are now available for collection. Please bring your pink uniform order form with you to collect your items. Cheers, Natalie.

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**Medical Costs**
Westgarth Primary School would like to remind all parents and guardians that they are responsible for paying the cost of any medical treatment should their child be injured while at school, on camp and also when attending excursions. This also includes any transportation costs associated with the ambulance service.

Please be aware that in any emergency situation, parent/guardian permission is not sought prior to ringing an ambulance, as our first priority is the safety and health of your child.

Westgarth Primary School does not provide personal accident insurance for students, however reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers.

Carolyn Shiels.
**Art News**

Hi everyone. We are really looking forward to a creative and fun-filled year of Art with your children. Rushe will be teaching Art on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Julia will be teaching Art on Wednesday and Thursday.

This year in Art, students will be exploring the seven elements of Art: painting, drawing, printing, textiles, collages, modeling and construction. We are looking forward to creating some great masterpieces that will be displayed around the school throughout the year.

We are also holding our Art Show this year, which will be held in Term 4 (with the exception of a musical year). This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your child’s art work and admire other students’ art. We will be storing all of your child’s work at school until the end of the year, then it will come home. You will receive details of the Art Show closer to the date.

All children will be supplied with an art smock for our ‘messy/fun work’. These smocks will be kept in the art room.

This term, we will be creating some wonderful collages and prints.

We look forward to a fun, creative and productive year of Art in 2013. If you have any questions or queries regarding the Art program please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Rushe Lynch & Julia Reeves, Art Specialists

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**OSHC News**

As the 2013 Out of School Hours program gathers pace (and numbers!) we would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of enrolling your child(ren) in the program. Regulation 160(1) of the Education and Care Services National Regulations states that we cannot accept children into the program that do not have a current 2013 enrolment. Please ensure your child is enrolled before bringing them to the program or asking them to attend. Any children not enrolled will be asked to wait in the main school office until an emergency contact can collect them.

We would also like to stress the importance of making a (permanent or casual) booking in advance if you would like to use the program. We are currently licenced to care for a maximum of 90 children and come very close to that number on some days of the week. The only way to ensure a place for your child is to make an advance booking. Knowing the numbers of children attending on any given day also helps us enormously in arranging staffing and preparing an adequate amount of food and activities.

Parents MUST sign in their children when attending Before School Care prior to the start of the school day. Unfortunately, regulations do not permit any staff member to sign a child in on a parent’s or carer’s behalf.

Now, that the ‘paperwork dust’ has settled, we have begun work on an exciting program of activities and events to begin next week. Each day throughout the school year both an ‘indoor’ and ‘outdoor’ activity will be run by staff in the OSHC program and these activities will be advertised in both the school newsletter and posted in the Farmhouse. We hope that much of the inspiration for these activities will come from the children themselves and we encourage their (and your) input. Looking forward to it.

Kind Regards, Michael and the OSHC team.
### Sport Diary Dates

#### Interschool Sports Grade 5/6
- **Friday 15th February**  
  Westgarth V Penders Grove (HOME)
- **Friday 22nd February**  
  Westgarth V Thornbury (AWAY)
- **Friday 1st March**  
  Westgarth V Wales St (HOME)
- **Friday 8th March**  
  Westgarth V Bell (AWAY)
- **Friday 15th March**  
  Westgarth V Fairfield (HOME)

#### Swimming (selected students only)
- **Thursday 21st February**  
  District Swimming 10:00am-12:00pm Northcote Aquatic Centre
- **Tuesday 5th March**  
  Division Swimming 10:00am-12:30pm
- **Wednesday 13th March**  
  Regional Swimming 10:00am-12:30pm

#### Tennis (selected students only)
- **Monday 18th February**  
  District Tennis Tournament 9:30am-12:00pm Northcote Aquatic Centre

#### WPS School Sport News:
**Swimming Trials for Northcote & District Swimming Competition**
Thank you to everyone who participated in the interschool swimming trials after school last week. The times are being finalised and the successful swimmers will be announced on Friday. A big thank you also to all the parents that helped out and in particular Howard Louis for helping at the start. If you were recording times at swim lessons and have not given me your time, please do this by tomorrow.

#### 5/6 Interschool Sport
This Friday will be the first game for Interschool Sport for the Grade 5 and 6 students. Each student has selected one of the summer sports to represent Westgarth against other schools in our district. Each week a team is selected from the squad and these students need to be on time and in school uniform on Fridays. All students will represent their sport at some stage throughout the year.

Summer sport (cricket, rounders, bat tennis, softball) during Term 1 and continues in Term 4.

Winter sports (football, netball, newcombe, soccer) during all of Term 2. The draw will be included under Sport Diary Dates. If it is an away game, the bus will cost $7 for the students that are playing.

Parents are welcome to come and watch or if you are keen on a particular sport, you can see me if you would like to assist with coaching or umpiring. Please ensure you have a Working With Children Card.

Cheers, Ricky Davis.

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### Help our school win $350–$1000 of sports gear!

The Premiers Active Families Challenge is on again, and our school has the chance to win up to $1000 of sports gear. All you have to do is get active and have fun with your family!

Take the challenge and do 30 minutes of physical activity a day for 30 days from 4th March–14th April. The more students who register from our school, the more chances we have to win.

Participation is free and there are great incentives just for signing up including:

- 20 free YMCA passes per family or team
- 15% discount at Rebel Sport
- one hour free tennis court hire at Melbourne Park or Albert Park Reserve
- one free child entry to the Melbourne Aquarium
- one free child entry to the National Sports Museum and MCG Tour

Anyone can register, so get your friends and family to take the Challenge too.

Get more active more often, spend quality time together and have fun. It’s free, it’s easy, and there are plenty of chances to win!

Hello Westgarth Parents, I hope holidays have been relaxing for you. I still have plenty of spaces for drum lessons in the first term. 5 students have started up and let me tell you they are all promising and learning very quickly. Any student regardless of age is more than welcome and I am happy to do pick-ups straight from school. Please don’t hesitate to contact me anytime for more info and it is never too late to join the term. Cheers. David Major 0405 690 761.
majormemorabilia@yahoo.com

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

Fruit Squad ready for summer fruit harvest in Northcote - Fruit Squad is a project that involves volunteers picking back yard fruit and giving it to SecondBite, an organisation that redistributes fresh, nutritious food to those in need via hostels, rooming houses and community services, many located in Darebin. With the summer seasons fruit ripening fast, the Fruit Squad is currently looking for back yard trees to pick. If you live in Northcote, in the area bounded by Separation Street, St Georges Road, Grange Road and Heidelberg Road, and would like to register your fruit trees for harvesting, or want to pick your own which we can collect, please call Jika Jika Community Centre on (03) 9482 5100 or e-mail liz@jikajika.org.au. Fruit Squad is an initiative of Transition Darebin in partnership with Jika Jika Community Centre, with support from Darebin City Council.

All in 1 Maintenance
Handyman and General Maintenance
Chris - 0429 008 749
Plastering - Painting - Brick Work - Tiling
Paving - Leaking Taps - CCTV Cameras
Alarms Systems - Lawns - Hedging - Landscaping
Turf - Small Tree Lopping - Deckings + Repairs
Grouting - Door Locks - Fencing
And a whole lot more!!

The Grand Jackson Street Garage Sale is on!
Saturday 16 February from 10am, Jackson Street, Northcote. Come find a treasure or two while taking the chance to have a chat with one of the Westgarth Primary School families you know and love.

Single Bed Available, mattress in good condition.
Can deliver to you if needed.
Phone Bronwyn 0416 335 015 Northcote.

Preston Darebin Blue Light - 22nd February 2013 at Preston Town Hall, 274 Gower Street, Preston. 6.30pm to 9pm. 8-14y.o. $6. Canteen with food and drinks. Plenty of prizes and giveaways. Contact Jo Parissis 0418 144 446. Children need to be picked up by a responsible adult.

Alphington Football Club - soccer registration day for Preps to Under 18s boys and girls on Wednesday 20th February from 5pm to 7pm. The Old Pavilion, under the Kevin Crehan Grandstand, Alphington Park. Cost: $120 for Development Squad; $250 for Small Sided Teams: $300 for U12-U18s. Payable upon registration (cash or cheque). The season will commence after Easter. Call Lisa Jacob 0403 676 595 or Nigel Odell 0418 354 639.

First Home Produce Stall Cook-up for 2013, Sunday 17th Feb
Just a reminder that the first Home Produce Stall cook-up for 2013 will be held at the Farmhouse (on the Clarke St campus) on Sunday 17th February, 10.30am to 2.30pm, where we’ll be making lots of tomato-y things for the fete. Thanks to all the keen helpers who have RSVP’d already - but it’s not too late to come along and help if you’re free. If you’re thinking of coming (even an hour or two is fine), please let Anne know on 0417 114 088 or wundernelli@bigpond.com to help us plan. Looking forward to seeing you there. The Jammy Ladies.

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Westgarth Primary School 6