Parent Opinion Survey...It’s that time of the year again when the Department of Education conduct an annual Parent Opinion Survey (POS) in all Government schools across Victoria. The survey results are collected by the Department and aggregated into school scores which are then sent back to schools. The level of parent satisfaction is compared to the Westgarth school scores in previous years as well as compared to like schools within Victoria. The overall aim of the survey is to build on existing positive practices and develop strategies for future whole school improvement. The survey is completed by parents responding to questions using a sliding scale. Unfortunately, there is very little space for contextual or written feedback which is often helpful when interpreting and analysing the survey data. Janine who works in the office is involved in sending out the Parent Opinion Surveys. Janine will send a survey to you if you have been randomly selected from the computer generated program used by schools. If you have been selected you will receive a survey envelope on Monday 29th July. Please return your responses in the “confidential” sealed envelope by the following Friday 2nd August to the school office.

Whole School Assembly...Parents and Carers are warmly welcome to attend the Year Prep-6 Assembly which is held in the gymnasium each Thursday from 2.45 p.m. During Assembly we celebrate Student of the Week and a group of students or grade perform an item. The grade whose turn it is to perform will be announced on the Tuesday prior in the Newsletter. Please check the Newsletter Diary Dates to see who is performing. The weekly Thursday assembly, has been a long held tradition at Westgarth Primary School where we reaffirm the school values and celebrate our school achievements.

School Nurse/Wet Weather Change of Clothing/Important Information...During term three, Louise, our school nurse will continue to visit classrooms to meet and talk to students about health and hygiene. Louise has been getting to know all the students and staff and liaising with parents to discuss student medical management plans and related matters. The recent wet weather has seen a few students needing a change of clothing. Parents of children in years prep-two may like to store in their child’s bag some spare items such as trousers and socks, to assist us in helping children stay dry should they fall in a puddle or need a change of clothing during the day. The school has a small reserve of dry clothes as well, so if your child happens to come home in these clothes please return to school as soon as convenient in case they are needed for another student.

A friendly reminder that during winter months, many students present in the sick bay with stomach viruses, colds and sore throats. Please check that your child or children are feeling well in the morning to determine if they will be fit for an active day at school. Sometimes it is best to err on the side of caution as this will help to minimise the risk of infection to other community members. There are also two contagious diseases, Chicken Pox and Measles that one of our students could become seriously ill should exposure occur. Chickenpox is a highly contagious but generally mild disease. Chickenpox presents with a low grade fever and a rash that has small blisters for 3-4 days before becoming crusted. Lesions appear in crops on the tummy, face, scalp and sometimes the mouth. Chickenpox can be transmitted from student to student by airborne respiratory droplets or by direct contact with the fluid of the chickenpox blister. It is usually communicable for 1-2 days before the onset of a rash, continuing until all lesions are crusted. Students need to be excluded from school until fully recovered or at least 1 week after eruptions first appear and / or until lesions are crusted. Avoiding contact with immunosuppressed persons is important. I seek your co-operation in preventing the spread of contagious and highly infectious diseases in our community and thank you in advance for observing the relevant exclusion periods. If your son/daughter has or may have measles or chickenpox, I request that you do not send them to school during this period and notify your class teacher or office as soon as possible.

Cont. next page...
Be, Safe, Be Fair, Be Friendly - School Values... During term two, students in years 3-6 worked with their teachers and Kate Copping, Leading Teacher, on "Appreciative Inquiry Workshops". These workshops explored how students make connections with other students, how students relate to their peers and teachers and how students perceive and uphold the school values and school motto. Students also reflected about their years at primary school and provided feedback about their perceptions of school. These student workshops will continue and the information gained will be used in many ways such as developing strategies for future school improvement. During term three, staff will be working together during professional meetings to further focus on the school values. We plan to share this focus with parents by presenting a workshop entitled "Values in the 21st Century". The facilitator of the workshop will be Chris Daicos (Social Worker, Educator and Lecturer) and we cordially invite parents to join us on Wednesday evening the 21st August 7.00 - 8.30 p.m. This will be a combined parent and teacher session so please RSVP by 15th August to assist us with planning. The aim of all of the activities mentioned is to share and further develop the school values which will lead to a strong foundation in student well-being. Student well-being is our shared responsibility and a positive social and emotional climate is the foundation for effective student learning and positive behaviour.

Prep News... Prep students will be looking forward to celebrating their First 100 days at Primary School. To celebrate this milestone they will be participating in a number of activities relating to the number 100, a 100 days lunch time disco will be organised, and students may dress up on the day.

Team/Specialist Newsletter... Teaching teams have been busy developing their "Team Newsletter" which will be distributed later this week. In the newsletter you will be able to find information about year level expectations, homework, and lots more. Don't forget, you do not have to wait until student report time (June and December) to speak with your child's teacher. You can meet with your child's teacher and or specialist teachers at other times simply by making a mutually convenient time. If you are worried or concerned about anything please do not hesitate to speak with the teacher concerned as quite often, problems can be quickly resolved if they are discussed early.

Toilet Upgrade - Clarke Street... The long awaited upgrade to the Clarke Street toilets is almost completed. All going well, the new toilets should be fully functional by the end of this week. New basins, a brighter colour scheme, sturdier cubicles, soap dispensers and hand driers replace the old and we hope that all our students and families find the refurbishments to exceed their expectations. Thank you for your understanding and patience whilst the upgrade has been in progress.

Have a healthy and happy week.

Grace Conway
Principal

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Values in the 21st Century Seminar

RSVP: VALUES IN THE 21ST CENTURY - A SEMINAR FOR WESTGARTH PARENTS AND STAFF
DATE: WEDNESDAY 21ST AUGUST - 7.00 - 8.30 P.M.
WHERE: LIBRARY SPACE CLARKE STREET

I/We be attending Values in the 21st Century Seminar:

Name/s: ________________________________________________________________

Number attending: ________________

My child/ren name and grade level-

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Westgarth Primary School 2
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) For Instalment 2, 2013

What is Education Maintenance Allowance - EMA is provided to assist eligible families with the cost associated with the education of your child/ren. To be eligible you must hold a valid Centrelink Pension / Health Care Card as at Monday 15th July 2013.

Continuing Claims - Parents who successfully applied for EMA in the first half year and who are still entitled to EMA, do not have to reapply for the second instalment. Please contact the office only if your circumstances have changed and you have a new card.

New claims - if you are new to the school and hold a valid Centrelink Pension / Health Care Card as at 15th July 2013 or have acquired one during the year, please call in at the office and fill out a form.

Closing Date for Application - Forms must be returned to the school office by Friday 2nd August 2013. Late applications will not be accepted.

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Diary Dates
Thursday 25th July School Assembly in gym 2.40pm. Item: Gr 3/4 Holly
Thursday 25th July Grade 5/6 IMAX and Museum Excursion
Friday 26th July Prep Pirate Dress Up Day
Wed 31st July Lego Excursion Prep Heidi, Sarah & Nadine
Thurs 1st August Lego Excursion Prep Emily & Kat
Thurs 15th August Grade 3-6 House Athletics Day
Thurs 15th - 21st Aug Book Fair
Mon 19th Aug Notification of Year 7 Placements for 2014
Tues 3rd Sept Grade 3-6 House Athletics Reserve Day
Sun 20th October Westgarth Fete
Tues 10th Dec Grade 6 Orientation Day (State Secondary Schools)
Thurs 12th Dec Grade 6 Graduation

Meetings
Environment Committee Thursday 25th July at 4.00 p.m. in Resource Room
Policy Committee Friday 26th July at 8.30 a.m. in Resource Room
OSHC Committee Monday 29th July at 2.00 pm in the BER Office
Parent & Friends Monday 29th July at 7.30pm in the Staffroom
Finance Committee Thursday 1st August at 8.30 a.m. in Grace’s Office
School Council Wednesday 7th August at 7.00 p.m. in Staffroom
Kindergarten Committee TBC
Languages Committee TBC

Chocolate Fundraiser - Money is now due for chocolates (box $60).
Each bar sells for $2.50 and the whole boxes equates to $60. Additional boxes are still available upon request (we are unable to send any chocolates back so if you can still sell them in your work place etc. that would be fantastic).

Contacting the School by Email
If you need to contact the school by email please note the email address to use is westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.
When emailing the school please record the contact person in the subject line in order for us to redirect your email to the correct staff member.

Newsletter Items
For information about the newsletter items, emails can be sent to Nella at bordin.nella.n@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Contacting OSHC
To contact OSHC for bookings you may call 9482 3323 or email asc.westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Term Dates 2013
Term 3 15/07/2013 - 20/09/2013
Term 4 07/10/2013 - 20/12/2013

Uniform Shop
Open Tuesday from 3:15pm

Term Dates 2013
Term 3 15/07/2013 - 20/09/2013
Term 4 07/10/2013 - 20/12/2013

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Spotlight of Sustainability at Westgarth

Did you know that Westgarth Primary has been taking part in the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic Program for the past 7 years? There are 5 modules in the program that schools are required to complete to be accredited a 5 Start ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic school. We were accredited with the Biodiversity Module in May this year and will be working towards the Water Module for the rest of the year and into next year. The school has already undertaken the Core, Energy and Waste Modules.

If you would like to learn more about this program go to this site.


You may also not know that Westgarth has a team of teachers who work towards embedding sustainability into whole school curriculum. This team also drives the daily operations of sustainability at the school, ensuring staff and students know how to recycle and compost correctly, promote waste free lunches and ‘green’ friendly methods of travel to/from school. The team also encourages others to carefully consider the resources and energy used at school such as paper and electricity.

The weekly Golden Boot and Lunch Pack Awards are just one way to highlight waste minimisation and environmentally friendly methods of transport. The students are surveyed about waste in their lunch boxes and methods of travel on a particular day (which changes). These results are then turned into percentages giving us the winning classes from Brooke & Clarke Street campuses. We understand that not all students live within walking distance to the school, so if this is your family try parking the car at least 200 metres from school and walking the rest of the way. We believe every family can work towards a rubbish free lunch box. Remember that compostable food scraps are not considered rubbish nor are reusable plastic containers.

If you have any feedback please make contact with a team member.

The Sustainability Team: Heidi, Rosie, Bianca, Mark & John

Book Club News

Book Club orders are due back at school by this Friday 26th July. Orders cannot be processed after this date.

Please record your child's name and grade on the order form. Orders may be returned to school anytime before the due date. Dianne (Book Club Organiser)

What’s happening in OSHC? Term 3, Week 2 July 22nd - 26th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inside</th>
<th>Indoor</th>
<th>Outdoor</th>
<th>Raining (gym)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Mixed sandwiches</td>
<td>Scrabble Tournament</td>
<td>Target Practice</td>
<td>Pony Express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Pita Bread, veggies &amp; cheese</td>
<td>Foam Printing &amp; Roller painting</td>
<td>Chalk Drawing</td>
<td>Capture the flag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Cous cous (v)</td>
<td>Scrabble Tournament</td>
<td>Red Light, Green Light</td>
<td>Block Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Pasta with Sauce &amp; Cheese</td>
<td>Foam Printing &amp; Roller painting</td>
<td>Chalk Drawing</td>
<td>Golden Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Mixed sandwiches</td>
<td>Make Your Own Pizza</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Skittles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reminder: Please notify OSHC either by phone 9482 3323 or email asc.westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au if your child is absent or has been collected from sickbay during the day and will not be attending the program.
Music News
Last week I sent a note home with woodwind students about a make up class this Wednesday. Unfortunately, there are not sufficient numbers of students able to take part. Therefore, there will be no woodwind lessons this week. Sorry for any inconvenience. Parents of Grade 3/4 students are reminded to help their children remember to pack their recorder and music folder in their bag on the day that they have music. Please refer to the note sent home last week which includes details about what the students need for learning the recorder. A note will be going home this week with Grade 3/4 students calling for musical parents to come into the music room and talk about their involvement in music with the students. Please take the time to read this note and if you think you are able to help out, fill out the form and send it back to school with your child. Thank you, John Carr.

Sports Diary Dates
Term 3
Tuesday 13th August District Basketball Tournament (selected students only)
Thursday 15th August Grade 3-6 House Athletics Day
Tuesday 3rd September Grade 3-6 House Athletics Reserve Day
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 Information
Parents & Friends Working Party
The Parents & Friends working party is holding its first meeting on Monday 29th July commencing 7.30pm in the school staffroom.
This is in response to a number of issues and suggestions around parental involvement that were raised at the Parents Forum earlier this year.
We will be considering:
♦ the role of P&F at Westgarth Primary School
♦ what opportunities exist for all parents and carers to get involved, including those who work fulltime and want involvement out of school hours
♦ better supports for parents, carers and families who are new to the school
♦ information sessions to assist parents and carers in supporting their child at school
♦ establishing social, networking and contact opportunities e.g. through establishing a parent/carer contact/representative for each class
♦ the use of social media as a communication tool for P&F activities, including special interest groups
♦ based on the above, developing some terms of reference to put forward to School Council for consideration

Feel free to come along if you'd like to contribute to the discussions, or send me an email if you can't make it but have an idea you'd like discussed (please include plenty of detail so I can represent your idea accurately!).

See you there! Emma Savage emma@weller.id.au 0413 185 350.
Do your children have asthma or allergies?

Are you a part of the local footy team, scouts club or netball club?
Do you worry about your children’s asthma when they are not at home?
Learn practical strategies for helping your children to live well with asthma each day from people who know.
Join The Asthma Foundation of Victoria’s online forum. Ask a question, share your story, meet with others in your area. Call (03) 9326 7088 for more information or follow the link below.

Asthma tips for Parents and Carers this Winter

Winter can be a hard time for people with asthma as could weather, coughs, colds and the flu can bring on more symptoms and attacks.

- The common cold is caused by a virus and it is important to try not to cough and sneeze near other people, and to wash hands properly to prevent passing on the infection. The flu is different to the common cold and can be a much more serious viral infection.
- People with asthma are recommended to have an annual influenza vaccination (the flu shot). Preventing the flu protects people with asthma, as those with asthma are often unwell for longer and have a much harder time recovering from the flu.
- Make sure your child’s asthma is well-controlled; this will help them to bounce back quicker from a cough or cold and will help prevent asthma attacks when they are unwell.
- Some medications and herbal remedies that we use for colds and flu can make asthma worse. Speak to your doctor or pharmacist about any concerns you may have.
- Antibiotics are not normally prescribed for the common cold, or influenza, as these medications will not help a cold get better. Effective medications may include paracetamol and decongestants; however seek advice from your doctor or pharmacist before purchasing them for your child.
- Suggested remedies for the flu and the common cold are: rest, staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water, staying away from cigarette smoke, using steam inhalation, gargling with salty water for a sore throat and seeking medical advice if concerned at any time.

For more information on the common cold, medications and references used in this article please see the Better Health Channel (State Government of Victoria) - www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au and the NPS website - www.nps.org.au. Contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462) or www.asthma.org.au.
**You Can Do It!**

**Congratulations to these Students of the Week!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep Emily - Aila D</th>
<th>1/2 Yolanda - Matthew S</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Heidi - Denison L</td>
<td>3/4 Bianca - Mira V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Kat - Jessica McK</td>
<td>3/4 Hannah - Ella P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Nadine - Sophie W</td>
<td>3/4 Holly - Ella J</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Sarah - Thomas H</td>
<td>3/4 Ryan - Toby T</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 Barbara - Sabine M</td>
<td>3/4 Sarah - Connor H</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 Betty - Mia W</td>
<td>3/4 Taryn - Sienna C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Cameron - Ariel J</td>
<td>5 Brenda - No selection this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Julia - Darcy W</td>
<td>5 Gaby - No selection this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Kenji - Serene K</td>
<td>5 Glenn - No selection this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Nettie - Avery H</td>
<td>5 Mark - No selection this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Noreen - Alice M</td>
<td>6 Andy - Charlie M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Rosie - Percy N</td>
<td>6 Phana - Elena W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Entertainment Books are running out – free postage until 31 July**

Welcome back from holidays everyone. If you haven’t got around to buying the new Entertainment Book, now is the time to do so. We will wrap up selling the books over the next few weeks, so get in now to enjoy all the savings on dining out, attractions, activities, accommodation and of course the all year round 5% savings on supermarket shopping at both Coles and Safeway. As an added incentive, if you order online before 31 July, you get free delivery to your door (contact me for details). Of course, you can still get the book by dropping into the school office or by contacting me directly.

Books cost $65 of which $13 goes towards our school’s fundraising. You can “share” buying a book with a friend, and save even more. Books are valid until 1st June 2014.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me Mary Skarpetis on 0423 195 001 or mskarpetis@optusnet.com.au.

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**Community News**

**GIRL GUIDES** - Friendship, fun, challenge and achievement! Yarra City District Girl Guides have units for all ages: Brownie Guides ages 7-10 yrs, Girl Guides ages 11-14yrs, Ranger Guides age 14-17 yrs. Adults also welcome as members & volunteers in a number of roles. Our units are open to new members at any time. You are welcome to visit a unit to see how you like it. For more information or to register interest, contact Gresley Wakelin-King 9482 4584, email: yarra@guidesvic.org.au Website: www.guidesvic.org.au.

**SPAN Community House** - 64 Clyde Street, Thornbury VIC 3071

For information on programs at SPAN Community House please call 9480 1364, Email: admin@spanhouse.org

Or visit their Website: www.spanhouse.org. There are lots of exciting programs available.

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