Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to see many parents visit the school during Book Week and on behalf of the staff thank you for your support and efforts to make Book Week so successful.

Staffing… There are some staffing changes that I would like to make you aware of for the remainder of term three. Assistant Principals, Lynne Mackie and Carolyn Shiels will be on personal leave for the next four weeks. Kate Copping and Barbara McKoy will be sharing the acting Assistant Principal role. Barbara will be acting in the role on Monday, Tuesday and part of Wednesday. Barbara will be conducting her normal classroom duties on Wednesday morning through to Friday. Sarah Lugton, who has been a regular replacement teacher at the school and familiar with the students and the school programs, will be teaching the 1/2 class. Additionally, Barbara will be in the acting Assistant Principal role this Friday 30th August. Kate Copping will be in the acting Assistant Principal role on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. During the next four weeks, Barbara and Kate will be involved with many aspects of student support and welfare. They will be liaising with regional staff, such as Speech Pathologists and Education Psychologists who visit the school on a weekly or fortnightly basis. If you are concerned about any aspect of your child’s cognitive development or social, emotional well-being please do not hesitate to contact either, Barbara, Kate or myself at any time.

Staff/Parent Information Session… Last Wednesday we were fortunate to have staff and parents join together for a session on Values for the 21st Century presented by Ms Chris Daicos. During the session Chris presented some latest research on what helps to grow children into young, resilient adults. At tables, parents and staff discussed the different school values and together we came up with a range of questions that guided our discussions, these included… Do the current values of getting along, confidence, persistence and organisation still have currency? Do they match the values we uphold at home? Are these values still relevant for our children, and if not which ones should we be focusing on? Are more values needed to add to the list or would it be better to have fewer values to concentrate on? We watched a brief video of Westgarth students presenting their perspectives on what the school values mean. At many of the tables, teachers talked about how the values are ‘unpacked’ in the classroom and how they are brought to life. Parents provided lots of ideas and thoughts about what the school values mean to them and how values and particularly teacher-student relationships have changed over the years. It was highlighted that at Westgarth there is a strong sense of mutually respectful relationships between staff and students. Of course, all staff like to hear this as we all strive to build these important connections in young children. During the remainder of the year staff will be revisiting the values and collating the documentation during the session with Chris with the intention of linking the work we have done into strengthening our values program. This work will also inform our Student Engagement Policy which is currently under review. Interested parents are welcome to join the Policy Committee, we meet Friday mornings so please check the newsletter for dates and times. I have included a DEECD pamphlet, “Frequently Asked Questions” about Student Engagement in this Newsletter for your information.
**Book Week Activities...** Thank you to all the students and their families, as well as staff, for the effort that went into making the book week parade last Thursday a huge success. Everyone really got into the spirit of the occasion by dressing as their favourite book characters. Thank you to Hannah for leading the book week activities and to the book week team for all their hard work. Thank you to Dianne who organized the Book Fair. Dianne organises the Book Fair every year and it provides an opportunity for children and parents to purchase books which in turn raises funds to purchase additional books for our library. It was a fantastic week made even more meaningful by the lengths everyone went to ensuring it was fun.

**End of Term Three Arrangements...** After this week there are just three more weeks until the end of term three. The staff will be busy working on finalizing projects and activities with students relating to their unit of work or “Discovery”.

Year 5 and 6 students have been busy with their expos on ancient civilizations and each class had the opportunity to ‘teach and tell’ each other about their learning. There has been so much impressive work covered by students evidenced in the Expos they held last week where I saw many amazing projects and heard all the students giving presentations on their chosen topic.

The 3/4 classes are learning about Victoria and have just visited The State Library this week. They will be holding an exhibition of their work in the last week of this term.

Our 1/2’s are learning about ‘Sound’ - how sounds are made, how sound travels and various musical instruments ready for an end of term ‘Garage Band’ performance.

The Preps have been learning about ‘Toys’ and are busy making toys to share in their exhibition which will be held in two weeks time.

Term dates for 2014 will be in next week’s newsletter.

Well done everyone!

Regards,

Grace Conway
Principal

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**Melbourne’s Eastern and Northern Suburbs Measles Outbreak**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been reported in the media that there have been cases of measles in Melbourne’s Eastern and Northern Suburbs.

**Symptoms of Measles** - the illness usually begins with common cold symptoms such as fever, sore throat, red eyes and a cough. The characteristic measles rash usually begins three to seven days after the first symptoms, generally starting on the face and then spreading to the rest of the body.

**Exclusion from school** - Until at least five days from the appearance of rash or until receipt of a medical certificate of recovery from infection.

If diagnosed with measles please notify the school.
Diary Dates

**Wed 28th August**
- Prep Student’s Nurse Questionnaire due back
- Gr 3/4 H & R Excursion to State Library

**Thurs 29th August**
- School Assembly in gym 2.40pm.
- Item: Gr 1/2 Yolanda
- Father’s Day / Special Person’s Day Stall
- Enviro Week - Wear something green

**Thurs 5th September**
- Gr 1/2 Arts Centre & Birrarung Marr Excursion

**Fri 6th September**
- Election Day Sausage Sizzle
- Last Day of Term 3. Students dismissed at 2.00 p.m.
- OSHC available for care.

**Sat 7th September**
- Father’s / Special Person’s Day Stall

**Thurs 5th September**
- Father’s Day / Special Person’s Day Stall

**Fri 20th September**
- Last Day of Term 3. Students dismissed at 2.00 p.m.
- OSHC available for care.

**Sun 20th October**
- Westgarth Fete

**Mon 4th November**
- Student Free Day. OSHC available for care

**Tues 10th December**
- Grade 6 Orientation Day (State Secondary Schools)

**Thurs 12th December**
- Grade 6 Graduation

**Meetings**

- **Environment**
  - Thursday 29th August 4.00 p.m. Resource Room

- **Policy**
  - Friday 30th August 8.30 a.m. Resource Room

- **OSHC**
  - Monday 2nd September 2.00 p.m. WEB Office

- **Finance**
  - Wednesday 4th September 8.30 a.m. Grace’s office

- **School Council**
  - Wednesday 11th September 7.00 p.m. in Staffroom

**Term Dates 2013**

- Term 3 15/07/2013 - 20/09/2013
- Student Free Day: Monday 4th November
- Term 4 07/10/2013 - 20/12/2013

**Uniform Shop**
Open Tuesday from 3:15pm

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**Art Fundraiser - School Calendars, Cards and iPhone Covers.**

1 weeks left to order!

The order forms and money will need to be returned to school no later than Friday 6th September, 2013. Any late orders will not be accepted due to processing deadlines.

It is very important that a separate order form is used for each child, as this identifies each child’s artwork.

Thanks, Rushe & Julia R

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**Prep Student’s Nurse Questionnaire**

A reminder to all Prep parents/guardians that the nurse questionnaires are due back tomorrow, Wednesday 28th August 2013.

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**Premiers’ Reading Challenge**

A quick reminder to all students participating in the 2013 Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge to add all of the books you have read to your student record by Friday 6th September, and to make sure that all of the books you have read are marked ‘Finished’. This will allow teachers the chance to verify all books by the challenge closing date of Thursday, 12th September 2013.

Many thanks,

Noreen, Emily & Glenn - PRC Co-ordinators
Congratulations to these Students of the Week!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep Emily - James D</th>
<th>1/2 Yolanda - Cara M</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Heidi - Whole Grade</td>
<td>3/4 Bianca - Kiri O &amp; Darcy T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Kat - Lila S</td>
<td>3/4 Hannah - Madeleine L &amp; Charlotte S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Nadine - Sirinya H</td>
<td>3/4 Holly - Sebastien R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Sarah - Kiki F</td>
<td>3/4 Ryan - Baptiste E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Barbara - Sophie A</td>
<td>3/4 Sarah - George D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Betty - Darcy A &amp; Oliver W</td>
<td>3/4 Taryn - Charlie V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Cameron - Bella L-A</td>
<td>5 Brenda - Ruby P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Julia - Finn W</td>
<td>5 Gaby - Cristian P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Kenji - Camille C-B</td>
<td>5 Glenn - Jacob B &amp; Mia P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Nettie - Remy C-C</td>
<td>5 Mark - Finn H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Noreen - Eva G</td>
<td>6 Andy - Hassan A &amp; Daniel G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Rosie - Ingrid C</td>
<td>6 Phana - Liesa S &amp; Lulu S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Jump Rope for Heart

Next week is our Jump Off day on Friday 6th September, so keep practising your skipping.
If you would like to raise money please log on to: www.heartfoundation.org.au/sites/jumpropeforheart
and follow the directions! Money can be raised up until the Friday 13th September.
It's great to see so many students skipping!

Sports Diary Dates

**Term 3**
- 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
Whopping Great Fete  
Sunday 20th October 2013

SOFT DRINK DRIVE!!!!
With the fete drawing closer it’s time to start the fabulous WPS Soft Drink Drive!
This year we are collecting soft drinks, water and/or juices for the Fete.
There will be a wonderful prize for the classroom(s) with the largest donations.
You can drop your donation off at the classroom or in the foyer on Brooke Street, and
please remember to pop your child’s name and class on it!
If you have any queries let me know – Megan 0417 168 098.

Treasure Donation
Don’t forget to keep those fantastic donations of all types of ‘treasure’ coming in.
Anything that glitters will be appreciated. This is a new activity at the Fete, and the
kids will LOVE it. Need to ask any questions? Call Libby 0418 324 674.

Special Person’s Day / Father’s Day Stall - This Thursday 29th August.

Raffle - Check out the raffle prizes in the office foyer:
1st Prize - Sterling Silver Cufflinks hand made by Ali Limb (parent)
2nd prize - Blaq stainless steel Watch
3rd prize - Melbourne Bicycle Centre, Clifton Hill $50 voucher
4th prize - Wine pack - 2 glasses and a bottle of Red wine
5th prize - Wine pack - 2 glasses and a bottle of Red wine.
6th prize - Wine pack - 2 glasses and a bottle of Red wine

Plenty of goodies for Special People and Dad’s have been organised for this Thursday. Please remember
to give some spending money to your child/ren to minimise disappointment. There are approximately 2
items per child and items range from $1-$4.

Please return raffle tickets and money by tomorrow, Wednesday 28th August to be in the draw on
Thursday. Items on display in the office foyer.

If you can, baked goodies for the stall will be very welcome! Bags and ingredient labels are at the
office and goodies can be dropped off from 8.30am at the Canteen near the Gym/Music Room on
Clarke St on Thursday or at the office on Wednesday.

Looking forward to the day and thanks for everyone’s past and future help.
Myf (0418 122 663) and Caroline (0412 367 153).

Election Day Sausage Sizzle – More Helpers Wanted
Saturday 7th September 2013

If you can spare an hour or two on the 7th of September to don your sizzle suits
and wield tongs, please contact Tamsen on tamseno@optusnet.com.au. Help needed
from 7.30am onwards!

We need 3 to 4 people minimum at any one time, with possibly 5 or 6 during the
peak at lunchtime otherwise our queues will be longer than the ones for the ballot
box!

If you can’t help on the day but can on the Thursday or Friday before and have excellent onion slicing
skills/machines please email me.
**Westgarth Primary School**

**SealPony Soccer** is a developmental & participation program that introduces boys and girls aged between 5-10 to the game of football (soccer). It focuses on teaching the basic skills. * Fun games & activities * Great giveaways. For more information call Joe 0415 388 028 or email jyamen@optusnet.com.au. Every Sunday Morning starting 6th October 2013. Registration Date: Saturday 10 am - 11 am 28th of September 2013 at James Street Reserve Heidelberg Heights 3081.

**Girls Basketball Team** - Players needed
For girls born 2006, who would be interested in forming a Basketball team for the forthcoming season. Shooters practice at Santa Maria, day to be determined, please contact Joan on 0425 714 084 if your daughter is interested.

**Music Lessons at Jika Jika Community Centre**
Learn guitar, piano, singing lessons also available. 30 minute sessions, Thursday afternoons. For more information call 9482 5100.

**What’s happening in OSHC?** Term 3, Week 7. August 26th –30th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside</th>
<th>Outdoor</th>
<th>Raining (gym)?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday Pita Bread &amp; Vegies</td>
<td>Parachute Play</td>
<td>Golden Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday Mixed Sandwiches</td>
<td>Pin Puppets</td>
<td>Elephant Tag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Pizza</td>
<td>Father’s Day Cards</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Mixed Sandwiches</td>
<td>Paper Butterflies</td>
<td>Commando Ball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Bruschetta</td>
<td>Pin Puppets</td>
<td>Around The World</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Children’s Choice</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.

**Fairfield Primary School**
Preview Night: Friday 6th September 6pm-9pm
Opening Night: Saturday 7th September 7pm-10pm
Buy tickets at artforall.com.au
Family Day: Sunday 8th September 10am-3pm
Langridge Street, Fairfield artforall.com.au

**Girls Basketball Team** - Players needed
For girls born 2006, who would be interested in forming a Basketball team for the forthcoming season. Shooters practice at Santa Maria, day to be determined, please contact Joan on 0425 714 084 if your daughter is interested.

**Music Lessons at Jika Jika Community Centre with Monika**
Learn guitar, piano, singing lessons also available. 30 minute sessions, Thursday afternoons. For more information call 9482 5100.

**Holy Trinity Cricket Club – The Family Friendly Club 2013-14**
Junior Cricket Registration Day Saturday 7th September 10.00am - 12.00pm, Hayes Park, Flinders St, Thornbury. All boys, girls and families welcome. Experienced coaches running all teams. Season starts during Term 4. *Milo Cricket:* Sat 10-11.30am “In2Cricket” is a fun way for boys and girls from 5-10 years old to get involved with cricket. U11: Games Mon 5-7pm; Training Sat 9-10.30am. U13: Games Fri 5-8pm; Training Wed 4-5.30pm (TBC). Any queries call Dan Bradford 0405 256 012 or Damian O’Sullivan 0421 177 230.

**SealPony Soccer** is a developmental & participation program that introduces boys and girls aged between 5-10 to the game of football (soccer). It focuses on teaching the basic skills. * Fun games & activities * Great giveaways. For more information call Joe 0415 388 028 or email jyamen@optusnet.com.au. Every Sunday Morning starting 6th October 2013. Registration Date: Saturday 10 am - 11 am 28th of September 2013 at James Street Reserve Heidelberg Heights 3081.

The Westgarth Primary School Council does not endorse any of its sponsors or advertisers, but we do acknowledge their support.
Student Engagement Policy Guidelines
Parent/Carer FAQ Sheet

Q: What are the Student Engagement Policy Guidelines and why are they being introduced?
A: The new Effective Schools are Engaging Schools: Student Engagement Policy Guidelines will replace the existing Guidelines for developing the Student Code of Conduct (1994) and the Student Attendance Guidelines (1997). The new guidelines have been developed to promote positive school cultures and increase student wellbeing and learning outcomes. There is a strong focus on the development of pro social behaviours in the new guidelines, which means the guidelines emphasise prevention and early intervention rather than punishment as a way to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Q: What is a Student Engagement Policy and why do I need to know about it?
A: The Student Engagement Policy is a school document that every Victorian government school will need to have in place by the beginning of the 2010 school year. The Student Engagement Policy will focus on prevention and early intervention for students who are experiencing behavioural or attendance related issues. Student Engagement Policies are unique to each school, and set out the rights, responsibilities and shared expectations of everyone in the school community, including students, parents/carers, teachers and schools staff. Schools need to ensure that you, as a parent/carer in the school community, has the chance to provide input into the development of the policy. This will ensure you also have a sense of ownership over the policy.

Q: Can I be involved in developing a Student Engagement Policy? How?
A: All parents/carers are encouraged to become involved in the development of their school's Student Engagement Policy. By becoming involved in the development of the policy, you as a parent will be able to express your views and expectations about the school environment. In addition, by becoming involved in the development you will also help shape your school's expectations in regards to your rights and responsibilities as an important member of the school community. Schools will approach parents/carers to provide input and feedback into the development of their Student Engagement Policy. This input may be via focus groups, surveys, questionnaires or other forums and formats the school considers appropriate.

Q: At the school level, who will have responsibility for developing the Student Engagement Policy?
A: The Principal will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of the policy. The school council will be engaged in the development of the policy and is responsible for approval, monitoring its effectiveness and evaluating its success. The role of the Principal and the school council is to ensure that the Student Engagement Policy reflects the shared expectations of the whole school community, and that all students and parents/carers are clear about these shared expectations.

Q: What will the Student Engagement Policy look like?
A: A school's Student Engagement Policy will be made up of the following:
- A school profile statement
- A whole school prevention statement
- Rights and responsibilities
- Shared expectations
- School actions/consequences

Each of these sections will be owned and developed by the whole school community, including school staff, students and parents/carers. The first two sections of a school's policy will consist of a few paragraphs which detail the school profile and the prevention programs the school has in place, as well as any key aims they have around prevention of absences and inappropriate behaviour. The third section consists of a statement regarding the rights and responsibilities for students, teachers and parents/carers while the fourth section outlines the
expectations for these groups. The fifth section should clearly outline and define the consequences for these students whose behaviour and/or attendance is of concern. These consequences should be agreed upon by the school community, have an educational role and aim to foster positive relationships and retain the dignity of the student. Suspension and expulsion should only be utilised in extreme circumstances.

Q: How is the Student Engagement Policy different to the previous code of conduct and attendance policy?
A: The Student Engagement Policy will replace the code of conduct and attendance policy because evidence now suggests that we need to take a whole school approach to students experiencing difficulties. Behaviour, attendance and engagement are interrelated elements of a student’s participation in class and this policy ensures that the same emphasis is placed upon each of these elements. The evidence base behind the Student Engagement Policy Guidelines shows that this new approach to student engagement is more effective to ensure that students feel safe and supported and school and achieve the best learning outcomes they can.

Q: What is a whole school approach?
A: Whole school approaches are policies and programs which involve all students, all staff and impact upon all areas of the school. For example, a whole school approach to behaviour would ensure that there were a variety of individual policies and programs that target all groups of students, from those who consistently exhibit positive, respectful behaviours to those who require targeted, individualised support for their behavioural issues. Whole school programs tend to focus on preventing issues before they arise, but they also incorporate varying levels of support services for those students who may require it on an ad-hoc or ongoing basis.

Q: How will the changes affect my child?
A: The implementation of a school’s Student Engagement Policy will affect each student differently, depending on their individual circumstances. Your child will still have access to the same resources and supports that were available before the Student Engagement Policy was developed however they will now, if they did not already, have the opportunity to meaningfully engage with their peers and teachers to develop the policy. It is anticipated, that if your child experiences issues with their schooling, the Student Engagement Policy will provide a comprehensive support structure for them, in addition to what is already provided by your school.

Q: If I want to talk to someone at my child’s school about this policy, who should I call?
A: In the first instance, you should contact your child’s teacher, year level coordinator or the student welfare coordinator if you would like to discuss an aspect of the school’s policy. You may be referred to the Principal or the Assistant Principal, depending on the nature of your query. If you have queries regarding what schools need to include in their Student Engagement Policy, you may also find it useful to consult the Effective Schools are Engaging Schools: Student Engagement Policy Guidelines, which can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au

Q: If I need additional support for my child who can I contact?
A: Victorian government schools provide a number of support services, such as Student Welfare Officers, Student Support Services Officers and Primary Welfare Officers. Parents/carers should contact their child’s school if they with to access these services.

Q: Where can I find further information?
A: There are a number of services available to parents/carers who wish to seek external support. Below is a list of external support organisations parents may wish to contact:

- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Offices a full list of regional office phone numbers can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au/schoolonline/Regions.asp
- Parents Victoria Phone: 9380 2158 or 1800 032 023 (rural callers only) Website: www.parentsvictoria.asn.au