What's happening...

School Transitions

Prep Parent Information Session... Thank you to the parents and guardians who were able to attend the Prep Information Session held last Wednesday afternoon. Chris Daicos our guest speaker, spoke about the importance of the development of positive life-long learning skills and how we can assist children in learning to be independent. Emily, Heidi, Sarah, Nadine and Kat, our Prep teachers each gave a mini presentation on the "You Can Do It Program", Classroom Helpers, Information Communication Technology, Literacy and Numeracy.

Meet the Teacher... Parents of students in Years 1-6 will have the opportunity to ‘meet the teacher’ this Wednesday afternoon 20th February. The normal teaching program will be suspended from 2.00 p.m. so that classroom teachers can be released to meet with parents/guardians. During the afternoon some students will be in different parts of the school and not necessarily in their own classroom. Please note that parents may be meeting with their child’s teacher in different parts of the school:

1-2 Betty, Noreen and Yolanda - parents/guardians meet in Betty’s classroom
1-2 Nettie and Kenji - parents/guardians meet in Nettie’s classroom
1-2 Barbara and Cameron - parents/guardians meet in Barbara’s classroom
1-2 Julia and Rosie - parents/guardians meet in Julia’s classroom

Parents of 3-4 students please meet with your child’s teacher in the Gymnasium on Clarke Street
Parents of 5-6 students please meet as follows:

Year 5 Brenda, Gaby and Mark - parents/guardians please meet in Brenda’s year 5 classroom
Year 6 Phana, Andrew and Year 5 Glenn - parents/guardians please meet in Glenn’s year 5 classroom

At 3.30 p.m. students will be dismissed from the morning assembly area by specialist staff.

Thank you for the support shown by our parent community during the first few weeks of school. The current meet the teacher sessions are planned so that all students achieve an optimum start to the school year. Some suggested questions were distributed last Friday, the questions have been designed to assist the meet the teacher session and also to hear what is important to you as parents. We really want to know your views about what you believe your child’s strengths and interests are and hear about anything that may be of concern to you and or your child. If you did not receive the question sheet there will be some available at the meet the teacher session.

School Directions in Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Ongoing School Improvement

Prior to the start of the academic year for students, teachers took part in a two day seminar focusing on the WPS Strategic Plan and setting directions for student learning in 2013. I am inspired about what the 2013 school year will bring. There will be a renewed emphasis on developing teacher capacity in areas relating to the teaching of information technology. We will be revisiting our Enquiry Topics with a more direct focus on learning tools and questioning techniques. Teachers have been sharing stimulating ideas through their team planning and creating highly engaging literacy and numeracy activities. I am proud of the contributions teachers are making to all our programs ensuring that the content is matched to student interests and abilities. As a staff we will also be looking at the DEECD White Paper. There are different areas we can focus on and together with parents we will harness feedback about some of our programs including Languages Other than English which has been generating interest in past years. Please watch this space for further news and developments. I genuinely look forward to working with everyone during the year in making WPS the best it can be!

Cheers, Grace Conway, Principal
Diary Dates
Wed 20th Feb  Classroom Helpers’ Briefing
Wed 20th Feb  Meet the Teacher
Thurs 21st Feb  Classroom Helpers’ Briefing (Repeat session)

Meetings
Wed 20th Mar  School Council AGM 7pm
              School Council Meeting 7.30pm

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

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 accepted.

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

Kitchen Garden News
All the children in the kitchen and the garden at WPS are excited to be harvesting tomatoes, zucchini, corn, coriander, silver beet and parsley in the garden all week.

These vegetables and herbs will be used in our South American inspired menu.
• Columbian festive salad.
• Chimmi Churri (an Argentinian dipping sauce).
• Blue corn tortillas.
• Mexican beans with rice.

Cheers and happy cooking and gardening.
Betty V
Kitchen Garden Specialist
Westgarth Primary School
WHOPPING GREAT FETE

Roll up Roll up - Westgarth Primary School is desperately seeking a Fete Coordinator or team of coordinators.

After two years on the job we are hanging up our fete boots (in that role anyway) and are hoping someone out there is willing to continue the fun.

It’s no secret that’s it can be a busy job. But it is also a fun job, incredibly rewarding and a wonderful way of meeting the wider school community. You will be loved a plenty. It’s also a great way of initiating change and creating a whole new kind of fete if you wanted.

It is especially easy if you can get a team of people together to share the load by taking on some of the following jobs:

♦ Finance
♦ Infrastructure - booking rides, marquees, furniture, equipment, staging (liaising with entertainment coordinator) security, first aid, etc.
♦ Market Stall - coordinating the market stallholders with requirements, helper rosters, etc.
♦ Food & Beveridge - coordinating all the food & drink stalls with requirements, helper rosters, etc.
♦ Entertainment - coordinating the staging, bands & acts
♦ Raffle - someone to coordinate the raffle and sourcing of prizes
♦ Advertising - coordinating billboards, artwork, posters, printing, local advertising, etc.

If you think it may be you or even better a group or committee of you, please give either one of us a call. We would be there to help all along the way should you want. We have a folder of ideas, contacts and timelines to help.

Chloe 0400 977 849 chloe@parca.com.au
Inger 0412 703 521 inger.pearce@incitecpivot.com.au
Garage Sale

- 345A St Georges Road Thornbury 7.30am - 12.00pm

Heaps of great women's clothing (Eastern Pearson, Lee Matthews, Katie Hosking, Sass & Bide and more), car seat (perfect condition), bikes (one each of girls and boys), Book, toys and other great goodies............come and have a fossick!!

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Interested in playing Saturday basketball?

Girls & Boys Under 9 – Under 19,
Register online at: www.collingwood.basketball.net.au or attend Registration Day Saturday 16th February Collingwood College gym. McCutcheon Way, Collingwood 10.30am – 3.00pm. New players welcome. Players must register and pay by 24th February to ensure a place in a Winter team.
Enquiries: Megan Rouse 0417 106 490 manager@collingwoodbasketball.com.au

St Joseph's Parish Northcote

- Religious Instruction Classes are held on Wednesday afternoon 4pm to 5pm at St Joseph's Church. For further information please call Janice O'Rourke 0408 556 862.

St Anthony’s Primary School Fair - Friday 1st March 3:30pm to 8:30pm
Building Communities: food & drinks, rides, plants, books, craft stalls and silent auctions. Fun for the whole family.

Help A Brother Out - will be held in SIDECAR at the rear of 69 Smith St Gallery Fitzroy. 6-8pm Saturday 23rd February. Lance is raising funds for his brother Ken's cancer treatment. Come and buy some art and help a brother out.

Helen’s Personal Training:

Westgarth Grade 3/4 Parent. Are you interested in increasing your fitness, improving overall health & wellbeing, losing weight or increasing strength? If the answer is yes, then come along to my private personal training studio based in Northcote. I also conduct in home and outdoor sessions. I am a qualified personal trainer, gym instructor & triathlon coach with over 10 years in the industry. I specialise in weight loss, injury rehabilitation, and have experience working with the elderly and children. Give me a call on 0419 354 254 to talk about the options available to suit your needs.

Clean Up Australia Day “I always wondered why somebody doesn’t do something about that. Then I realised I was somebody.” Lily Tomlin. We are looking for environmentally-conscious and benevolent Westgarth families willing to give up their Sunday sleep-in. Help us to help Merri Creek! Sunday the 3rd of March, 10-12pm, meeting at the end of Ross Street, Westgarth. Bring your friends and a pair of gloves. We may even reward you with biscuits! Register at cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/Merri+Creek+in+Westgarth or just show up. Note: All adults must be accompanied by a responsible person under 15 years of age. See you there...Cathy, Niko, Thea, and Mira.

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