What’s happening...

Thank you… for your understanding this morning while a storm water pit was cleared. The heavy overnight rain caused a small wading pool effect in the small courtyard on Brooke Street near the gum tree close to Betty, Barbara, Julia, Cameron and Rosie’s classrooms. The result was students and parents had to be diverted to their classroom using a different path. The pits are usually cleared every few months however the unexpected heavy rain caused a sudden blockage. We are currently checking all the storm water pits on both campuses. The new double portable classroom on Clarke Street was also affected by the rain with some damage to planning documents and other teacher reference materials.

Well Done… to all the students who represented the school in the swimming carnival held last Thursday 21st February. Thank you all for being your best! By all accounts it was a fun day with some students making it to the next stage of the competition. I extend a warm thank you to Ricky, all the teachers and parents for supporting the students.

Communication Processes… Seeking information and clarifying a school issue as early as possible can save time and solve problems. The process for following up any issues relating to your child involves an easy process. We ask that where possible you speak with your child’s classroom teacher first. Usually questions are quickly resolved at this point, however if you and or the classroom teacher feel the issue needs further consideration then please speak with the year level coordinator. The coordinator may refer the matter to either, Lynne, Carolyn or myself depending on the query or issue. If there are any concerns involving before or after school care then please speak with Mike or Maria first. You may see any of the staff or call first to make an appointment. If after speaking with the staff you feel the issue was not able to be resolved then please contact either Lynne Mackie or Carolyn Shiels (Assistant Principals) who will be very happy to discuss any concerns and seek a satisfactory resolution in the best interest of students. Our aim is to clarify your questions or concerns and if there is an issue, aim to find a solution in a timely manner.

Please also check this newsletter for important information even if you feel you have read the same item in a previous newsletter. Sometimes revised information may be repeated from previous years, this is because we are always striving to improve our processes.

Newsletter Publication… As you will be aware the WPS Newsletter is generally published weekly each Tuesday (unless there has been a technical problem we try to keep this routine). We have been advising parents of the fact that the Newsletter is soon to be distributed electronically only. The WPS E-Newsletter will go electronic only from the start of term two. During term 2 as we make this transition we will have some paper copies of the Newsletter available at the school office and also have access to the newsletter by going to the school website. We understand that not all families will be in a situation to receive an electronic email only so please help yourself to the paper copy in term two. We want all families to receive our news so please speak with Nella or Janine at any time if the changes are proving difficult. The new electronic system has been phased in as a response from family requests. Through the Newsletter we aim to provide as much information as possible about our school. There is also a dedicated website that parents may like to refer to as well. Please visit… http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/default.htm - This website provides up to date information about early childhood, learning, helping at school, social development and much more.
What to do when your child arrives late or needs to leave school early... Teachers follow a routine every morning that requires recording student daily attendance. The roll is marked at approximately 9.05 a.m. Students who are not in attendance in the classroom are marked absent so if your child arrives late, a late pass is required from the school office. All schools will eventually be using an electronic student attendance roll, meaning that once the data has been entered it cannot be changed. We ask that ALL students arrive at school on time, anytime between 8.45 and 8.59 a.m. This will give your child a much needed positive start to the day as well as save time coming to the school office. Teachers mark the roll twice daily. The roll is a legal document and due to Occupational Health and Safety requirements we ask for your cooperation in assisting your child to arrive at school on time. If your child needs to leave school early to attend medical/other appointments please go to the school office where you will be provided with an early collection slip which is then passed on to your child's teacher when your arrive at the classroom to pick your child up. The late pass and early collection slip is retained by the teacher as a formal record. If your child is unwell and is unable to attend school you may send a brief note to your child's teacher when he/she returns to school. If your child is going to be away for a few days you may leave a message with the office and we will inform your child's class teacher. Please let the school know if your child has measles, mumps, chicken-pox, meningococcal or other strains of infectious diseases. The purpose of informing the school is to help prevent the spread of infections to those most at risk (as in the case immunosuppressed people - young, elderly, pregnant and others).

Classroom Helpers Program... This program has now commenced in years one through to six. It is not too late to volunteer as a classroom helper. If you missed the briefing session and would still like to participate, or your circumstances have changed and you now have a spare hour available, please let Carolyn know by calling the school. Carolyn will outline the process and what is involved. The classroom helpers program relies on a roster whereby you and your child's classroom teacher mutually agree on a day, time and task that will be of benefit to all the students in the class.

Other ways of supporting the school... we understand that not everyone is in a position to volunteer their time. The school appreciates your support in various ways, big or small. Some parents may prefer to work as a team in helping set up the annual fete, kitchen garden, nominate for School Council or be part of a sub-committee such as Parents and Friends, Environment, Finance, Outside School Hours Care. There are many options so let us know if you are keen to volunteer. All parents are very welcome and encouraged to participate in the life of the school.

Call for School Council Vacancies and Elections 2013 (term of office commences on Wednesday 20/03/13) Nomination forms may be obtained from the school from 4.00 p.m. this afternoon and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on Tuesday 5th March. If an election is called ballot papers will be distributed on Friday 8th March. The ballot will close at 4 pm on Tuesday 19th March and the counting of votes and results declared by Wednesday 20th March.

- Tuesday 26th February Notice of School Council vacancies and calls for nominations
- Tuesday 5th March Closing Date for School Council Nominations
- Wednesday 6th March Notification of School Council Elections
- Wednesday 6th March Display a list of candidates, nominators and seconder outside office on Brooke Street
- Friday 8th March Distribution of Ballot papers by mail (voting only required if more than 4 nominations in the Parent category are received)
- Tuesday 19th March Close of ballot at 4:00 pm. Count Ballot- Notify successful candidates
- Wednesday 20th March Voting results declared and posted outside office on Brooke Street

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td>FOUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td>TWO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Library Books, Take Home Reading Books...** some of the staff have recently completed a much needed stock take of children's books that are stored in the library or in the take home book boxes. There is a concern that some of the books may have been accidently left at home during last year. If you have found one of these books during the holiday season spring clean (?) please return to your child’s classroom teacher. Thank You!

**Take Home Books...** During this week many of your children will be taking home a “take home book”. The take home books are specifically to help students learn to read with fluency helping them to become independent readers. The take home books differ greatly to say, a picture story book you may have in your home library or a book you are likely to find in a public library. The take home books are generally published according to commercial reading schemes and are graded so that children are able to pick up a take home book and read it by themselves with little or no assistance from an adult. The text in a take home reading book features frequently used words and sometimes the words are repeated on the same or subsequent pages. Without wishing to go into teacher language another feature of the take home reading program is that books will be geared for use by teachers in primary schools, they are developed by reading consultants so that teachers can use the books at school to help children develop an extensive sight vocabulary and comprehension so students will read for meaning, between the lines and make inferences beyond what the author intended. Staff members with years of experience are entrusted with selecting and building on the take home reading stock. If you want further information about our take home books feel free to direct your enquiries to Anita, Barbara, Ben, Kate or Lynne.

**Prep Parent Briefing...** many parents attended the session on Wednesday 13th February where Chris Daicos addressed issues relating to developing resilience and independence in children. Chris spoke about resilience in the context of Andrew Fuller’s quote, “Resilience is the happy knack of being able to bungy jump through the pitfalls of life. Chris has made available some of her workshop material including, “Fifteen Elements of Resilience” which has been included today. Additional material will be inserted in subsequent newsletters. We trust you will find the information useful. Cheers, Grace Conway, Principal

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**FIFTEEN ELEMENTS OF RESILIENCE**

To overcome adversities, children, youth and adults draw from three sources of resilience.

**I HAVE**

1. People around me I can trust and who love me, no matter what.
2. People who set limits for me so I know when to stop before there is trouble.
3. People who show me how to do things right by the way they do things.
4. People who want me to learn to do things on my own.
5. People who help me when I am sinking, in danger or need to learn.

**I AM**

6. A person people can like and love.
7. Glad to do nice things for others and show my concern.
8. Respectful of others and myself
9. Willing to be responsible for what I do.
10. Sure things will be all right. (Optimistic)

**I CAN**

11. Talk to others about things that frighten or bother me.
12. Find ways to solve problems that I face.
13. Control myself when I feel like doing something not right or dangerous.
14. Figure out when it is a good time to talk to someone or, take action.
15. Find someone to help me when I need it.
**STUDENT WELFARE**
If you have any concerns regarding your child's medical, social or academic development, please see your child's teacher in the first instance or make an appointment to talk with them about this issue at a mutually suitable time. The class teacher is the person who knows your child the best and will be able to guide you and assist to support your child within the classroom.

Sometimes the discussion may need to include the Principal or the Assistant Principal to ensure all avenues of support are sought. DEECD provide Student Support Services to schools in the areas of Speech Pathology, Psychologists, Social Workers and Youth Workers.

We are able to access these services once the class teacher, parent and the Assistant Principal Lynne Mackie or Carolyn Shiels have discussed your child’s learning needs together.

Please contact the school on 9481 5577 if you wish to seek further information in regards to student welfare.

Lynne Mackie, Assistant Principal

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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 accepted.

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**Parent Payments for 2013** - Forms can now be downloaded from the Westgarth Primary School website www.wgps.vic.edu.au. The form consists of two pages, the first being the Parent Payment and the second is the payment method slip. Please download both pages, complete and return it to school.

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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 until the end of Term 1. Cheers, Nella
## What’s happening in OSHC?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indoor#</th>
<th>Menu*</th>
<th>Outdoor#</th>
<th>Raining (gym)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>Mediterranean Roll Ups (v)</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>TBC (Amelia)</td>
<td>Puff Pastry Spirals (v)</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Marble Cake</td>
<td>Popcorn (v)</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Stained Glass Suncatchers</td>
<td>Bruschetta (v)</td>
<td>Rhythm Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Paper Plate Puppets</td>
<td>Fruits of the Forest w/ ice cream (non dairy icecream available)</td>
<td>Sand Volcanoes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: *served at 5pm in addition to 3.30pm snack (usually sandwiches, wraps, couscous, pasta, or noodles) (V) – non-dairy. # subject to change.

Please note: Term 1 is a SunSmart term and hats are compulsory in OSHC.

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### Northcote District Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the children that competed at the swimming carnival last Thursday. The weather was great for swimming and I started to wish I had brought my bathers. It was great to see so many children from Westgarth competing to their best and a number of students have made it through to the stage of Division swimming that will be at Northcote pool next Tuesday 5th March. Thank you to all the parents and teachers that helped out on the day. Congratulations to all the swimmers that gave me swimming times and tried out for the team. Good luck to all swimmers at Division trials (shown in bold in the table below).

Cheers Ricky

Westgarth Primary School District Swimming team (children in bold will now compete at the Division swimming next Tuesday 5th March)


### Interschool District Tennis Competition

The Interschool District Tennis Competition was held last Monday the 18th February at Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre. Congratulations to James D, Lucas A, Ben A-D, Ella O, and Sadie G who were selected to represent Westgarth Primary on this day. Great effort and well done to all players that tried out for the school team.

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### Sport Diary Dates

#### Interschool Sports Grade 5/6

- **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)

- **Tuesday 5th March**: Division Swimming 10:00am-12:30pm
- **Wednesday 13th March**: Regional Swimming 10:00am-12:30pm
Community Advertisements

**Soccer Soccer Soccer** - Come and play, Fitzroy City Juniors need Girls & Boys from Grade 2 to Grade 6. If you are interested go to: [www.bit.ly/fcjfc](http://www.bit.ly/fcjfc) and register your interest. Enquiries: Peter Pellegrino 0411 701 647 or peter@parca.com.au

Give HOCKEY a try in Term 1, 2013!!! The Yarra Valley Hockey Club are welcoming registrations for its Term 1, 2013 program Hook-in2-Hockey program. Saturday mornings starting 23rd February. 4 sessions. At Cyril Cummins Reserve North Ivanhoe from 10am to 11:15am. No experience necessary, and an ideal introduction to field hockey. Different skills level groups to cope with all levels. Your first session try out is free. Registration fee of $50 for the 4 week program which includes a starter pack of a stick, shin pads and a ball or $25 for the program only (own gear). Gear is also available for loan. Own mouth guard essential. Register now at bha@yarravalleyhockey.com.au

Sourdough Bread Making Workshops - Learn the art of traditional sourdough bread making with Bettina at The Barefoot Baker. In this hands-on workshop, you will learn how to make beautiful, artisan bread using organic grains, fruits and spices. Morning tea and tastings provided. $59 per person (Book 3 people and receive a 10% discount). Phone 9486 8286 or 0413 130 940.

Remember Boo and Nipu, the two sons of Kandy Weerakoon, who were at Westgarth Primary in 2010 and early 2011? Soon after they returned to Sri Lanka, Kandy threw herself into organising the Kelani River Journey to train 21 youth leaders. Kandy now has another venture, and would love support from the W.P.S community. You can help her and Journeys for Climate Justice (JCJ) raise $11,000 to support Paapedi - a bicycle journey to train young environmental change makers in Sri Lanka. 25 bikes : 10 days : 234 km : our shared future. Come and hear about it from JCJ co-founders Jim Crosthwaite and Kandy Weerakoon (via Skype we hope) 7pm - 8pm Thursday 7th March Jika Jika Community Centre. Can't come, then please go online to [www.pozible.com/paapedi](http://www.pozible.com/paapedi) to contribute and watch a video of Kanchana explaining the project. There are great rewards for contributors. Hope to see you there, Anne Martinelli (Zoe 3/4D & Simon 1/2J) and Kate Gorringle-Smith (Sam 3/4)

For Sale: Second hand Yamaha Clarinet in VGC. $100. Phone Jacqui on 0417 502 310.

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