What’s happening...

**Student Leadership Programs**

**Year 6 School Captains**... Voting will take place this Friday the 23rd March with all 5/6 students and staff taking part in the election process. WPS is fortunate to once again have Graham from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) conducting and supporting the election. Ballot papers are printed and students use AEC ballot boxes. Graham acts as the scrutineer to ensure the ballot is conducted and counted using the preferential voting system. Many Year 6 students put themselves forward with enthusiastic speeches outlining their personal qualities as part of the short listing process. We want to congratulate all candidates who showed leadership and resilience during this process. Best wishes to all candidates who are up for election.

**House Captains**... Voting for Year 6 House Captains will follow next week after the School Captain elections are completed. House Captains will lead the athletics carnival later this year and may also coordinate other in-house sports activities.

**Junior School Council**... The JSC is an opportunity for students to experience leadership at school, and to have an input into the development of the school facilities. Representatives are drawn from students in each of the 3-6 classes and are elected by their peers for a 2013 term of office. The JSC will meet with nominated staff members and is chaired by the School Captains. They discuss any items raised by the students from the various 3-6 classes, as well as performing a range of fundraising events to support various charities and special causes.

Prior to the shortlisting process in each of the classrooms, it is a good opportunity to speak with your child about their personal leadership qualities that they could bring to the position. On occasions, JSC members may be required to give up part of their outside lunch break to begin a meeting or be available for an 8.30am breakfast meeting. JSC members may be required to act as hosts during open days and school celebrations, assist by providing feedback with planning the improvement of school facilities, contributing newsletter items, organising fundraising events, supporting sustainability practices within the school community to name a few...

The formal voting process will occur next week. Ballot papers will be developed for each classroom after the shortlisting process and students will use voting cubicles to cast their vote. All members of each class will vote and will be able to do so in a confidential manner. The child with the most votes per gender within each class will be elected.

Successful councillors will be announced in early Term Two. I look forward to the first meeting early in Term Two with the new Junior School Councillors.

**Planning Week**... Please note that next week is planning week and an alternative timetable will be operating. This means your child may have a specialist class on a different day. School also concludes at 2.00pm on Thursday the 28th March with OSHC being available from 2.00pm till 6.00pm.
Harmony Day...We will be celebrating Harmony Day, on Thursday 21st March, our theme is ‘One Australia-Many Stories’. Harmony Day is celebrated around Australia on the 21st March each year. It is a day when all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation’s International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination. On Harmony Day the staff and students will be taking part in activities to celebrate and promote respect and understanding of our cultural diversity within each class, across the school and to get the message out into the broader community. As a symbol of unity we are asking all students and staff to wear the chosen colour of orange to celebrate this day.

There are a number of activities planned, including buddy activities, thank you to a team of staff, for organising the day. Our cultural diversity is something we acknowledge, value and try to celebrate throughout the year.

Notice of AGM / School Council...You are all welcome to attend the AGM which starts at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20th March. The AGM will be followed by the first meeting of the year with our new school council members at 7.30pm.

Student Safety... Whilst it is always tempting in our busy lives to take short cuts, we are reminding parents that the school car parks are not suitable or safe to use as a thoroughfare to access either classrooms or the street. For everyone’s safety, we ask that the community observe the no pedestrian signage in these areas of the school. Please do not use the Clarke Street car park to pick up or drop off students at the beginning or the end of the day as this is not a safe practice. We ask that parents/guardians use other safer pick up and drop off points to avoid a serious accident and use the footpaths designated for pedestrian access on Clarke Street.

Just a bit squeezy... The Environment Committee of School Council are currently developing plans to install a third pedestrian access gate on Brooke Street. This will include some new fencing and a wider pathway to run along the West side past Prep Emily and 1/2 Kenji, and leading down past the 1/2 portable. While plans for this work are being completed, parents please be aware that there is a wide pathway suitable for prams leading along the East boundary of the Brooke Street site. We all look forward to the completion of these upgrades to our school.

RIDE2SCHOOL DAY... Once again the school has registered to be part of the Ride2School Day. The program helps children build the skills, know-how and confidence to ride, walk and scoot to school and other places. So join with your friends to walk, ride or scoot to school this Friday 22nd March. You will be reducing the traffic congestion around our school, getting fit and having fun. Please remember to get off and walk your bikes or scooters once you reach the school gates. It is also recommended for the safety of others that you dismount and walk your bike or scooter once you get closer to the school. Extra bike/scooter parking will be available on the day. P/1/2 students will be parking their bikes and scooters in the Brooke Street car park. The gates will be locked at 9.00am and unlocked at 3.30pm. Staff cars will not be using the car park on Friday, to allow for students to safely leave their bikes and scooters in a locked space. Students on the Clarke Street site will have access to the bike shed plus additional temporary racks directly outside the North windows of the library. Please ensure your bikes are locked and wear your helmet. We look forward to seeing everyone riding and improving their fitness on this day!!

Parent Feedback... Thank you to those parents who have completed the Parent Feedback attached to last weeks paper copy of the newsletter dated the 12th March. A copy is now available on the school website if your paper copy has been misplaced. Please visit www.wgps.vic.edu.au. If you have not yet had a chance to complete yours we would appreciate their return by this Friday 22nd March. We value and appreciate your constructive feedback.

Kind Regards,
Carolyn Shiels, Assistant Principal
**Diary Dates**
- Thurs 21st March: Harmony Day - Wear something orange
- Fri 22nd March: Ride2School
- Tues 26th March: Hot Cross Bun Day
- Thurs 28th March: Last Day of Term 1. Students Dismissed at 2pm. OSHC available from 2pm.
- Easter Raffle Drawn
- Mon 15th April: Term 2 commences
- Fri 19th April: Icy Pole Day
- Fri 26th April: Pupil Free Day. OSHC available.
- Tues 28th May: School Photos
- Sat 1st June: Westgarth Idol
- Thurs 12th Dec: Grade 6 Graduation

**Meetings**
- Wed 20th March: School Council AGM 7pm & Meeting 7.30pm

**Sport Diary Dates - Interschool Sports Grade 5/6**
Friday 22nd March: Westgarth V Bell (AWAY at Capp Reserve for cricket. Rounders, Softball and bat tennis are at Bell Primary)

**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**
Open Tuesday from 3:15pm

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**Whooping Cough**
There has been a confirmed case of Whooping Cough on the Clarke Street site. Whooping cough is a highly contagious disease caused by bacteria and is spread by droplets from coughing and sneezing.

Susceptible people are those who either, are not vaccinated or have waning immunity since childhood vaccinations, young infants under 12 months of age, women in the last four weeks of pregnancy or people with suppressed immune function.

The symptoms may vary, however the first symptoms are usually similar to a cold. Severe cases develop sudden attacks of repetitive coughing and often a characteristic “whoop” as the person gasps for air. Vomiting often follows a coughing spasm. A person with Whooping Cough is infectious for up to three weeks after they start coughing.

**If your child has Whooping Cough they should not attend school for 21 days or until they have completed the first five days of treatment with antibiotics.**

We would appreciate you contacting the school office if you suspect or if your child is diagnosed with this illness. Regards, Carolyn Shiels.

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**Northcote Regional Swimming Carnival**
Congratulations to all the children that competed at the Regional Swimming Carnival last Wednesday. Congratulations to all the swimmers that gave their best on the day. Congratulations to Giulia L who received two third medals for freestyle and backstroke and to Adem I who came first for freestyle and butterfly. Adem will now compete at State swimming trials at MSAC later this month. Good luck Adem! Below are all the swimmers that competed at the Regional Carnival last week.

Cheers, Ricky.

**Westgarth Primary School Regional Swimming Team**

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**Westgarth Newsletter Emailed to all Families**
Email Nella at bordin.nella.n@edumail.vic.gov.au with your children's name and grade to receive the newsletter electronically. Paper copies will be sent home until the end of Term 1. Cheers, Nella.
Hot Cross Bun Day - Tuesday 26th March

The school is holding a Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser on Tuesday the 26th March. Order forms were sent home yesterday with students.

You can:
- Order individual buns for your child to eat for morning tea at school, and
- Order 6 packs for your child to bring home that night.

We're offering two flavours – traditional and non-fruit.

The school earns 75cents for each individual bun ordered and $3.25 for each 6-pack ordered so stock up for Easter and help the school at the same time!

Please ensure your orders and payment are returned to the school by Friday 22nd March to avoid disappointment! Any queries, please contact Emma on 0413 185 350 or emma@weller.id.au

Lost Property

A reminder to all families that lost property will be on display on the last week of Term 1. Please check if any items belong to you. All items not collected will be donated to charity.

Extra Curricula Activity – Responsible Pet Ownership – School Visit

On Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March we are lucky to have representatives from ‘Responsible Pet Ownership’ booked to visit the children in grades Prep to 4. With so many dogs in the community it is important that children not only act responsibly around animals but know what to do when approaching or being approached by an unfamiliar dog. Some children may be fearful or anxious around dogs and we know that this session will help to teach them how to manage their anxiety.

The children will have the opportunity to hear about looking after dogs, how to behave around dogs and what to do when meeting dogs in the community.

During the session (approx 40 minutes) the children will meet a trained dog from ‘Responsible Pet Ownership’ together with the trainer and have the opportunity to ask and answer questions.

The sessions will take place in the library on Clarke Street.

There will be 3 sessions conducted on both days and the grade visits will be -
- Tuesday 26th March – all 3/4 classes, 1/2 Netty, Betty, Cameron, Kenji, Noreen.
- Wednesday 27th March – all Prep classes, 1/2 Barbara, Rosie, Yolanda, Julia.

Thank you, Barbara

Volunteering at Westgarth Primary School

Working With Children Cards

A reminder to parents, guardians and friends that while volunteering at Westgarth Primary School it is mandatory that you hold a current Working With Children Card.

New Families: Working With Children Application Forms are now only available from the Post Office.

Existing Card Holders: If you have received a renewed card in the mail please present your new card to the school office so we are able to update our records.

Please contact the office on 9481 5577 if you require further information.
Easter Raffle

Booklets of raffle tickets are being distributed to all students today for our annual Easter Raffle. We have some great prizes lined up for display in the school foyer.

- First Prize: A magnificent Cadbury hamper
- Second Prize: A yummy Hilliers Ultimate Egg
- Third Prize: A Cadbury Rabbit and Egg boxed set
- Fourth - Tenth Prizes: A Red Tulip Elegant Rabbit each

Tickets are 50 cents each. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 28th March (last day of school term).

Please return your tickets and money to the School Office by Thursday 28th March to ensure you go into the draw!

Westgarth Primary School - Parents & Friends Association
Requests for Assistance

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<td>Hot Cross Bun Drive</td>
<td>Collecting orders from Bakers Delight, Fairfield</td>
<td>Emma Savage</td>
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<td>Fete</td>
<td>Raffle Assistant Coordinator</td>
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<td>Fete</td>
<td>Kids Activities Coordinator</td>
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Thank you to those people who have put their hands up to help out! I now have two helpers for each of the Hot Cross Bun Day morning and afternoon runs, but one more for each would be fantastic.

If anyone is interested in helping on Tuesday 26th March in either:

- collecting the order of buns from Bakers Delight and delivering it to the school canteen (having a 4WD or station wagon is a must!) (approx. 8.30am), or
- the morning (approx 9.00am until 11.00am) or
- the afternoon (approx 1.00pm until 3.00pm),

Please contact Emma on emma@weller.id.au or 0413 185 350. Any assistance would be appreciated!

Thank you to Annette for taking on the Icy Pole Day. Stay tuned for further details.

We need a Fete Raffle Assistant Coordinator. We already have someone organising the prizes, we now need someone who can organise to have our booklets of tickets printed, and to roster people to sell tickets on the day of the Fete.

We also need a Fete Kids Activities Coordinator. Please, please, please – this one is getting urgent! The main rides and stalls are booked. All our activity stallholders are back and we have a couple new ones who have put up their hand. We need someone who can liaise with the kids activity stallholders to check they have everything they need in the lead up to the fete, can bring back requirements to the other members of the Fete Committee for sourcing, and to help put together the relevant notices calling for assistance etc. for the Newsletter. We’d also like you to consider any additional ideas for new stalls that people put forward and work out if they can be incorporated into the grand plan of things.

If you are interested in either of the above Fete roles, please contact either Chloe 0400 977 849 chloe@parca.com.au or Inger 0412 703 521.

Stay tuned for calls for assistance for the Mothers Day Stall in the forthcoming newsletters.

If you have any queries about WPS Parents & Friends, please contact Emma Savage on emma@weller.id.au or 0413 185 350.
What's happening in OSHC? Term 1, Week 9. 18th March to 22nd March

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* served at 5pm in addition to 3.30pm snack.

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

Jammie Ladies News Update and 24 March Cook-up Reminder
Oh my, there's a lot going on in Jammie Lady Land this week! Here are just the highlights:

Thanks so much to everyone who came to the Kasundi Kook-up last Sunday and helped create 55 jars of loveliness for the fete. And extra thanks to Dan and Brigitte for doing the labels.

Please keep those jars coming in - drop in the trolley at the office or call us to arrange pick-up. No jars with plastic lids please, and don't forget the extra dollops of karma that flow to the donors of cleaned jars.

We are looking for donations of figs, quinces and limes so if you have a surplus please call Trudy and she will pop round to collect.

And don't forget the next cook-up is this Sunday 24th March, 10.30am – 2.30pm at the Farmhouse on Clarke St campus. Please RSVP to Anne so we can plan.

Thanks! Anne: 0417 114 088, wundernelli@bigpond.com, Trudy: 0434 376 411, ttandberg@bigpond.com

Community Advertisements

Extend Holiday Program - To enrol visit extend.com.au or call 1300 366 437.


City of Darebin Primary School Holiday Program - Forms can be collected from the school office or call City of Darebin on 8470 8112 or visit www.darebin.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram.

Twilight Kindergarten Open Evenings March 19th & 21st 5pm to 7pm - The City of Darebin will be facilitating two evenings to provide you with an opportunity to visit services to help you in making informed decisions when deciding on your preferred kindergarten. Visit www.darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten to view the list of participating centres.

The Darebin Bulldogs Junior F.C - Football Training commences Thursday 14th March at 5.30pm at W.R Ruthven V.C Reserve on the corner of Albert St and Malpas St, Preston. Free registration for all kids. Come meet former players North Melbourne Champion—Brent ‘Boomer’ Harvey and Richmond Star—Jake ‘The Push Up’ King.

School Holiday Program at the Abbotsford Convent - Activities include dance, drama, pottery, drawing, craft, writing and puppetry. For more details and registration visit abbotsfordconvent.com.au or contact 9145 3600.

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