What's happening...

Today’s Newsletter is another full edition. We have information about school and community coming events, information about school survey data, an update about the work of the Languages Working Party, an overview of Languages at WPS and much more.

As you will probably be aware the school has formed a working party to conduct a languages review to determine the language to be taught at Westgarth Primary School (WPS). The review came about after a newsletter survey was conducted in April and then a Parent Forum conducted in May. The Languages Working Party (LWP) comprises parents and staff and one of their objectives is to find out more about languages education and what language will best fit the Westgarth Primary School Community in the future.

The review also comes at a time when the Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) are recommending all schools to have in place a languages program by the year 2015. The Department is currently conducting staff briefing sessions and we look forward to attending these to gain a better understanding of the new directions being proposed by DEECD. Earlier this year, the DEECD Languages Manager of the DEECD visited our school and stated that the best language a primary school can adopt is the one that is most represented in the community. With this in mind, the LWP is developing two surveys to find the answer to establish, among other things, languages spoken in the community and community preferences for the language to be taught at WPS. Watch out for the first survey which is about two weeks away. We encourage all families to complete the survey when the time comes.

In today’s newsletter you will find two attachments, the first attachment is a languages background paper prepared by the LWP research team and the second is how the school currently implements LOTE as well as some background about the language taught at our school. Thank you to the parents and staff who have contributed to the respective papers. We hope that you will find the information useful.

School Report Data...just as students receive a report card so too do schools. The school report card which mainly contains NAPLAN results for years 3 and 5 as well as other information is accessible on the My School website which you may be familiar with but if not can be found on the ACARA website. This website has stored information about WPS between 2008 and 2012.


2013 Survey Data/Student Attitudes to School Survey... students in years five and six participate in an annual survey where they respond to questions about their school. The survey explores such things like do your children feel safe at school, do they feel as if they have a say, do they feel that their school is supportive and nurturing and if they feel stimulated and challenged whilst at school. Our results for 2014 are very similar to the State and National means. Like NAPLAN, the school results are examined and analysed by staff to inform their overall planning. Teachers will also have an opportunity to discuss the results and plan for 2014.

2013 Parent Opinion Survey... 56 surveys were returned out of a possible 88 responses. Responses from the 56 surveys returned highlighted parent perceptions in the following-School Improvement was down from 2012 at 25% to 14% in 2013, perceptions about Extra Curricula were up when compared to 2012 but still below the 25% mark, student School Connectedness was just over the 25% quartile but lower than 2012 when it was approximately 47%. These percentages are compared to the state-wide mean scores. The challenge will be to lift our combined efforts and performance to ensure a more favourable outcome next year.
The staff will continue to examine both the student and parent opinion survey data and as a staff will formulate strategies on how this data can improve in 2014. The information will also inform our school self-assessment scheduled for 2014.

**Meteorites and Cosmic Forces...** Today we were fortunate to have two of our grandparents visit the school and speak to students in years 1-2. Professor John Lovering and Kerry Lovering (AOM) came to speak with our students about meteorites and other forces in our galaxy... here are some quotes from students in Grade 1/2 Barbara.

“My grandad came to school today and told us about space, the Earth and the atmosphere” Alex

“A meteorite travels 20 kilometres per second” Seb

“John told us about the continental drift where parts of the world parted and it was very interesting” Roland

“It was fantastic because he told us about space and Earth” Matilda

“The Earth gets earthquakes because the Earth moves” Macy

**Chilean Educators...** Last Wednesday 23rd October the school hosted an afternoon visit by 35 Spanish speaking educators. The visit was arranged by The University of Melbourne and Westgarth was asked to showcase its innovative teaching and learning programs. Delegates from Chile were inspired by what they saw and were extremely interested to know more about the Victorian Education system. There was much knowledge to be shared and a great deal was learnt about the schools in Chile. For example their class sizes range from 40-46 students. Via interpreters, our visitors were keen to find out more about our programs, leadership structure and specialist programs. Of particular interest to our visitors was the implementation of our Inquiry learning. They were further impressed with our students who enjoyed showcasing their work and creative talents.

Grace Conway
Principal
Diary Dates

Thurs 31st October  School Assembly in gym 2.40pm. Item: Gr 1/2 Rosie
Mon 4th November  Student Free Day. OSHC available (booking essential)
Tues 5th November  Melbourne Cup Day
Fri 8th/15th/22nd Nov Prep Orientation
Thurs 21st November Art Show
Tues 10th December Grade 6 Orientation Day (State Secondary Schools)
Thurs 12th December Grade 6 Graduation

Meetings
Policy  Friday 8th November 8.30am Resource Room
Environment  Thursday 14th November 4pm Resource Room
OSHC  Monday 18th November 2pm WEB Office
Finance  Thursday 21st November 8.30am Grace’s Office
School Council  Wednesday 27th November Staffroom. Time: TBC

Term Dates 2013
Term 4:
07/10/2013 - 20/12/2013
Student Free Days:
Monday 4th November

Working With Children Card (WWCC)
A reminder to parents/carers if you have received a new WWCC please present it at the school office. In recent months there has been a high volume of WWCC which have expired. If you have received a renewed WWCC please present it at the office for us to update our records. Please note that you are unable to volunteer if your card has expired. Thank you, Nella

Remembrance Day - Monday 11th November 2013
Junior School Council (J.S.C) will once again be selling poppies and wristbands for Remembrance Day. J.S.C will be selling items at both campuses at the start of lunchtime. Items for sale between $2 & $5.

Fete Re-Imbursements - This is a reminder to all fete stall holders to submit their reimbursement requests to the office as soon as possible so a final tally of the money raised at the fete can be announced. Please fill in a reimbursement form (which can be found at the office) and attach your receipts. Thank you to everyone for making this year’s fete so wonderful.

What’s happening in OSHC?  Term 4, Week 4. Oct 28th – Nov 1st

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inside</th>
<th>Outdoor</th>
<th>Raining (gym)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Pita bread, vegies &amp; cheese / pop corn</td>
<td>Cardboard Tube Mummies</td>
<td>Toss the Pig</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Chicken noodles</td>
<td>Vanilla Cupcakes</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mixed sandwiches and vegies</td>
<td>Halloween masks</td>
<td>Tennis Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Pita bread, vegies, cheese / fruit salad</td>
<td>Comic Workshop</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Bruschetta / Fruit salad</td>
<td>Magic Sand</td>
<td>Book Circle</td>
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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.
Congratulations to these Students of the Week!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep Emily - Costa A</th>
<th>1/2 Yolanda - Deanna P</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Heidi - Tallulah C</td>
<td>3/4 Bianca - Anthony B &amp; Camille I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Kat - Maxwell H &amp; Zeke H</td>
<td>3/4 Hannah - Liam W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Nadine - Pamy E</td>
<td>3/4 Holly - Zac T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Sarah - Ineke V</td>
<td>3/4 Ryan - Kate P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Barbara - Hunter S</td>
<td>3/4 Sarah - Duncan P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Betty - Joon C &amp; Dahna McG</td>
<td>3/4 Taryn - Ella P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Cameron - Tom L</td>
<td>5 Brenda - Neo D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Julia - Isabelle K &amp; Ellery M</td>
<td>5 Gaby - Dion P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Kenji - Gustave H-M</td>
<td>5 Glenn - Kyron S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Nettie - Ash D</td>
<td>5 Mark - Alexander P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Noreen - Isabelle M</td>
<td>6 Andy - Leah M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Rosie - Jojo McB</td>
<td>6 Phana - Aidan M &amp; Dimitri P</td>
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Whopping Great Fete – Thank you

**Ticketing** - A big thank you to Janine for helping with the wristbands. Thank you to Inger for organising such great rides for all the kids to enjoy. Lastly a huge thank you to all that helped sell tickets and wristbands on the day. “or you can get 12 tickets for $10!!.” Tanya.

**Fairy Floss Gloss** - Never in the field of fete was so much raised by so few. My great thanks go to Peter Stewart who without his toil of nearly 5 hours we could never have sold over $1000 of spun pink sugar. Thanks also to our other volunteer Anne and the Fete Organising Committee. And thank-you, to the happy children of Westgarth, especially ‘C’ for so many purchases. Ross, Sugar Dealer and TFFB.

**Silent Auction** - Thank you to all kind donations from families to the Silent Auction. It was a great success, thanks to you all. I’d like to also say a huge thanks to Kristie Payne who stepped in to help and ended up having to do almost everything. Amazing. Tamsin Franklin.

**Kids Café** - A thousand apologies to Louise (Mum of Thomas in Prep S), Finn (5M) and Olie (6P) and Arnica (friend of Amanda) who I so rudely left out of the thank you in the last school newsletter. Louise did a brilliant job baking and then selling at the stall on the day, Finn and Olie were around bright and early to set up tables and hang up signs and Arnica helped out with the selling of goodies at the stall. Thank you so much for your help and enthusiasm. Apologies to anyone else that I have missed, we needed you all and you all came through. Thanks. Sarah and Nikki.

**Sports Diary Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Friday 15th November</td>
<td>Grade 3-6 Team Triathlon (optional)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 22nd November</td>
<td>Triathlon Reserve Day</td>
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Westgarth Primary School 4
Extra Curricula Activity From the students in Grade 1/2

The Southern continents were all to gather and through drifting of the plates we now see the earth as individual countries.

Jonas A Thomas MP Nathan M 1/2 H

1/2 parents and guardians.
The 1/2's had a guest come in on Tuesday. The guest was Professor Loevinge Alexes Grandfather. We learnt that it takes two days to get to the moon and some plants are made out of gas. and a large meteor landed Russia a few months ago. From Isaac + Holly.
School Council Report

Our October School Council meeting was held last Wednesday evening. No major decisions were made but there was still a lot to discuss. Below is a summary of the matters occupying our time at the moment.

The Policy Subcommittee is currently reviewing the Enrolment Policy. The aim is to provide clear guidelines to ensure a fair, consistent approach to intake. The Policy is still in draft and you can email Belinda Johnston (Policy Subcommittee convener belinda@cobwebs.id.au) if you have comments or queries.

Grace presented us with results from two of the surveys conducted annually by the Education Department (DEECD): the Attitudes to School Survey (completed by Grade 5 and 6 students) and the Parent Opinion Survey. The data relates to perceptions about various aspects of the school. School Council uses this data to track achievement of targets in the 2013 Annual Implementation Plan; to develop the next School Strategic Plan due to be developed next year for 2015-2018; and for policy development and review. We will fill you in on these matters in due course.

We approved the dates and venues for the two school camps to be held next year for 2014 Grade 4s and Grade 6s. The school will provide information about this in future newsletters and class handouts. We also approved an increase in the Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) fees for 2014. More about this will be communicated to the users of OSHC shortly.

We also looked at the timelines for review and approval by School Council of the 2014 Annual Program Budget, the 2014 Annual Implementation Plan, and the 2013 Annual Report to the School Community. These documents relate to the school’s performance in key areas and are mandated by DEECD. The final versions will be made available to the school community at and following the Annual General Meeting held in March 2014. The current Strategic Plan (2011-2014) is in its third year and is already available.

Finally, all subcommittee and working party reports were presented to School Council. This included a progress report from the Languages Working Party. A lot of work has been going on and Mary Skarpetis, the convenor of the Languages Working Party, has provided a report below updating you about this.

Thanks for reading!

Ully Merkel, President
(ullmerkel@hotmail.com)
Languages Working Party (LWP formerly known as LRWP)

Since its inception in the last weeks of Term 3, the LWP has commenced work in a number of areas. A draft project plan has been put together identifying the main stages of the process. The plan will be finalised shortly and made available at that point. In the mean time, here is a summary:

- During Term 4 research will commence and a parent survey will be circulated
- In Term 1 of 2014, various language learning models will be reviewed and selection criteria will be established. Another survey will be circulated to parents.
- In Term 2, 2014 preferred language learning models will be short listed and consultation with the school community will take place e.g. a parent workshop.
- This will all lead to recommendations being made to School Council in Term 3 of 2014.

As you can see from the timeline, parents will have a number of opportunities to become informed about the process and to provide feedback. This will primarily be done via 2 parent surveys and a parent workshop (as mentioned above). As part of the process, the LWP will provide information to the parent community that we believe is useful in assisting parents in getting a better understanding of the factors that need to be considered during this review, so that we can make informed decisions about languages education at our school.

To set the scene, attached to this newsletter are 2 background papers:

- The 1st includes a summary of the legislative and policy requirements in the languages area as well as key points coming out of the relevant research papers.
- The 2nd provides a summary overview of languages teaching at our school.

The LWP believes both these papers will be useful to parents in responding to the 1st parent survey which will be distributed in mid November.

Hard copies of the background papers will be available at the office. If you have any questions in relation to the above feel free to contact me.

Mary Skarpetis
Convenor LWP
(mskarpetis@optusnet.com.au)

Community Advertisements

Lost Bike
Bike taken from school grounds over night (Tuesday 22nd/Wednesday 23rd Oct). It was left behind Tuesday after OSHC and wasn’t there at 9am the next morning. It’s a white brand new ‘Giant’ bike. According to Northcote Police, Northcote has one of the highest rates of bike theft in the state. Can you please let the school office know if you have any information.

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