What's happening...

Again this week sees a number of special activities occurring around WPS. The second day of our 2014 Prep Orientation programme will be held on Friday, while Friday also sees Ricky and a number of the 3-6 students and teachers attending District Triathlon.

We always like to celebrate students who have represented our school in the community. Recently, eight of our year five students attended the "Sustainability Summit" at Northcote High School. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day while learning new things about our environment and sustainability. Also, on Monday 28th October Lachlan M (3/4 S) represented our school at the State Athletics Championships in Albert Park, where he finished 9th in Discus for Boys aged Ten and under… An outstanding achievement!

Here is an excerpt from a report that Mia P and Lili wrote after attending the Sustainability Summit at Northcote High… The summit was attended by Mia P, Lili, Lola, Josh B, Jemima, Eleni, Jasper and Ben S. “After having attended we have been inspired to make a difference to life and seeing what past Westgarth students are doing made us realise that every little thing counts and that when we go to high school we can build on ideas. The students at Northcote showed us ways that they have helped their school, such as blending a milkshake while pedalling on an immobile bike which we then got to drink. While we were there we got some ideas and inspiration on what we could do to change our school environmentally. Some of our ideas for our school are, a pledge for the planet, planting more trees and an op swap where you bring old clothes to school and swap them with your friends”.

School Transitions/Class Formations for 2014… Next year our workforce plan allows for 27 classes. There will also be four specialist classes; namely, Art, Music, PE and Greek. Opportunities for extra-curricular activities will be announced at the start of next year and are likely to include senior choir and band. The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program will also continue in 2014. We are, at present, continuing to work through the workforce plan to determine which classes will participate in the Kitchen Garden program next year.

In the process of developing classes each year, teachers work collaboratively to ensure there is a balance of students' social-emotional needs, cooperative skills, student academic abilities and gender (where possible) in each class. Our approach is to afford students the opportunity to mix socially and develop friendships with a wide range of their peers, in keeping with our school motto "Be Safe, Be Fair, Be Friendly". Class lists take several weeks to develop and teachers want to ensure that class cohorts are established on the basis that students are matched with whom they work well with in classrooms.

As a staff, we will this year be developing 27 class lists for 2014. To ensure our practices match the development and growth of our school, class lists will be based predominantly on our teachers' professional expertise and their knowledge of the students. Students will be asked to identify names of four peers with whom they work well. We encourage you to discuss possible selections with your child over the next few days. It is important to us that parents are able to communicate any specific concerns they have or matters of importance about their child regarding grade placement. If any parent has a specific family consideration or confidential issue that you believe should be considered by staff when forming 2014 classes, please forward a note detailing your issue by Tuesday 19th November. Please mark your letter ‘Confidential’ and address it to Grace Conway.
Prep Orientation... Last Friday saw the commencement of our 2014 Prep Orientation programme, when we officially welcomed around 90 future Westgarth students into our school for the first time! Students participated in a variety of activities, including visualising themselves at school, navigating the Brooke Street campus, experiencing our specialised sport, music and visual arts programmes, and participating in a variety of simulated Prep learning activities. The Prep Orientation programme will take place again over the following two Fridays (15th of November and 22nd of November) and is designed to familiarise students with different learning spaces, the school playground, teachers, and school routines. To facilitate a smooth transition for the 2014 Preps, our grade two students also took the opportunity to experience a new learning environment, participating in their first classes on the Clarke Street campus, under the watchful eye of Betty, Nettie, Noreen and Kenji.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Emily, Heidi, Nadine, Barb, Cam and Julia who are playing host to our 2014 Preps throughout their Orientation. I would also like to pay particular tribute to Kat for the commitment she has shown in managing our 2014 Prep Orientation programme, as well as co-hosting our first Prep Information Session. Many other staff have been involved in the transition process including office staff who focus on enrolling students ensuring that all details are correct upon enrolment, a special thank you to Janine, Nella and Susan for your assistance.

Year Six Graduation... And so, as we prepare to welcome another group of lively Preps, inevitably we must also prepare to bid farewell to our year six students who will soon be leaving us, ready to embrace all the excitement and challenges awaiting them at high school. The WPS legacy will be spread far and wide in 2014 as our year six students branch out to ten different high schools throughout Melbourne.

To celebrate this auspicious occasion we will celebrate Grade 6 Graduation on Thursday 12th of December at the Fogolar Furlan Club in Thornbury. Further details about this grand event will be made available closer to the date.

Whole-School Transition... In readiness for 2014, all year six students attending government high schools will spend a day at their new school on Tuesday 10th of December. Accordingly, WPS will host our own whole-school transition on this day, where students from prep to grade four will also experience first-hand what a typical day at school will be like for them in 2014.

On this day, Year 5 students will take part in first-aid and CPR training before participating in a range of team-building activities designed to promote interpersonal skills including problem-solving, communication, co-operation and negotiation.

2013 Art Show... The 2013 Art Show is now only nine sleeps away! Our hard-working art teachers Rushe and Julia are working with students to finalise pieces for inclusion in the Art Show, as well as preparing the exhibition space in the WEB (ex-BER) for next Thursday 21st of November. Some wonderful exhibits are promised!

Also fine-tuning for the big night under John’s tutelage are the Senior Band and Grade 4 recorder ensemble, while the Junior and Senior Choir also apply the finishing touches to their performances, with the assistance of Yolanda, Ryan and Nadine.

Triathlon... This Friday sees 188 of our year three to six students descend upon Northcote Swimming Pool for our annual inter-school triathlon competition. Students participate in teams of three, completing a 100 metre swim, 2 kilometre cycle and 800 metre run.

As ever, we wish all of our competitors the very best of luck this Friday. It is pleasing to witness such a high participation rate, with approximately 2/3 of eligible students taking part in the triathlon. A large part of the credit for this goes to Ricky, our fantastic PE teacher and Inter-School Sports Co-Ordinator, whose hard work and enthusiasm is a source of great motivation for all of our students. Thanks Ricky!

Parent Thank You Morning Tea... Each year the staff host a morning tea for parents who have helped the school in many and varied ways throughout the year. Invitations to attend the morning tea is in the newsletter today. The date for the morning tea is Monday 9th December at 10.45 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

And finally a note of acknowledgement to Glenn, Barbara and Carolyn and students who made contributions to today’s column. Soon we will be providing you with details about the coming Student-Led Three-Way Conference day coming up on Thursday 5th December. Please mark this date in your diary.

Kind regards, Grace Conway, Principal.
**Diary Dates**

- **Thurs 14th November**: School Assembly in gym 2.40pm. Item: Gr 3/4 Sarah
- **Fri 15th & 22nd Nov**: Prep Orientation
- **Thurs 21st November**: Art Show 5.30pm - 8pm
- **Thurs 5th December**: Student Lead Conference.
- **Tues 10th December**: Grade 6 Orientation Day (State Secondary Schools)
- **Thurs 12th December**: Grade 6 Graduation

**Meetings**

- **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

**Languages Working Party Survey**

This week the WPS Languages Working Party will launch a survey designed to establish the different languages spoken in the WPS community, as well as to gauge community preference for the language to be taught at WPS. The survey will be open until Friday, 29 November 2013.

This survey is designed to be completed online (using computer, smartphone or tablet), and it is our intention that each household complete the survey only once. For this reason, the survey will be sent via email separately to this newsletter, which is often received by several members of the same household.

If you believe your family circumstance means that you should complete more than one copy of this survey, please email westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au detailing your request.

If you are unable to complete this survey online, a hard copy of the survey will be available at the school office. Please be advised that you will need to sign for any hard copy requests (although the survey itself will remain anonymous unless you elect otherwise).

With kind regards, WPS Languages Working Party

**Art Show Thursday 21st November 5.30pm to 8.00pm**

Call on Parent / Guardian Helpers

Westgarth Primary School Children’s Art Exhibition will be held on Thursday 21st November 2013.

**Art Show Helpers** - The Arts Committee is look for parent/guardian helpers to assist in putting up displays the morning of Thursday 21st November. If you interest and have the time please call the office on 9481 5577 or drop into the office to register.

**Sausage Sizzle Co-Ordinator** - We are also looking for a sausage sizzle co-ordinator. If you can spare some time to co-ordinate the sizzle please call Emma Savage on 0413 185 350 or email: emma@weller.id.au.

**Wanted:** The Art Room needs some more egg cartons! If families are able to contribute please leave them in the box provided outside the art room.

Thanks, Rushe & Julia
Congratulations to these Students of the Week!

| Prep Emily | Minna M & Amie S | 1/2 Yolanda | Francis L |
| Prep Heidi | Max HC          | 3/4        | Bianca - No selection this week. |
| Prep Kat   | Alice P & Max R | 3/4        | Hannah - Sam K |
| Prep Sarah | Joe R & Jasper T| 3/4        | Ryan - Will N |
| 1/2 Barbara| Fatima J & Max M| 3/4        | Sarah - Tilly K |
| 1/2 Betty  | Alex B, Laird R & Tom W | 3/4 | Taryn - Christian G |
| 1/2 Cameron| Olivia C & Bubloo M| 5         | Brenda - Fern N |
| 1/2 Julia  | Thomas BC, Olivia V & Jacqueline W | 5     | Gaby - Amos J |
| 1/2 Kenji  | Angie M         | 5          | Glenn - Rupert R |
| 1/2 Nettie | Isaac B & Tara J| 5          | Mark - Despina K & Jamie S |
| 1/2 Noreen | Raffy A & Leo C | 6          | Andy - Hassan A, Eadie J & Alex M |
| 1/2 Rosie  | Dulcie C-F      | 6          | Phana - Keenan H |

Book Club News
This is the final Book Club for this year. I would like to thank all students, parents and carers who supported Book Club and Book Fair this year.
I hope that you have enjoyed reading your books. This issue of Book Club is due back at school by Friday 22nd November 2013. No late orders please.
Please ensure you have recorded your child’s name and grade on the order form and the envelope.
Thank you Dianne (Book Club Organiser)


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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. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to pick up your child/children no later than 5.50pm to ensure that you have enough time to collect your child/children and their belongings. This enables staff to lock up and leave the building by 6.00pm.
If you are running late, please phone the program on 9482 3323 to let the staff know. A late fee will be charged to parents/carers who arrive after 6.00pm.
Extra Curricula Activity

Last Friday, ten students from Westgarth Primary School competed in the Victorian Primary Schools Orienteering Championships at Hanging Rock near Woodend. There were 530 students from all over Victoria competing. Our results were fantastic and they helped us come 4th overall out of 14 schools.

Here are our results:
Alia & Ella 2nd in Girls 4 pairs
Ben & Alexander 7th in Boys 5 pairs
Bronte 2nd in Girls 5B
Finn 7th in Boys 5B
Lewis 9th in Boys 5B
Sophie 5th in Girls 3B
Mason 1st in Boys 5A
Torren 1st in Boys 3A.

We all had a great time and maybe we can come 3rd next year! Mason A and Torren A

State Discus Trial

Congratulations to Lachlan McK who competed at the State Athletics trials on Monday 28th October in discus. Lachlan finished 9th overall in the competition which is a great effort. Well done.

Cheers, Ricky Davis. PE Co-Ordinator
Extra Curricula Activities - Northcote High Sustainability Summit

On Thursday 31st October, eight grade 5 students were invited to Northcote High School to discuss with some year 10 students ways to help our school and community environmentally. The summit was attended by Mia P, Lili, Lola, Josh B., Jemima, Eleni, Jasper and Ben S.

And having been there we have been inspired to make a difference to life and seeing what past Westgarth students are doing made us realise that every little thing counts and that when we go to high school we can build on their ideas.

The students at Northcote showed us ways that they have helped their school, such as fundraising to buy solar panels, a program called bike and blend where you pedal on an immobile bike to blend a milkshake, which they then got to drink and another idea was planting some trees in their school grounds.

While we were there we got some ideas and inspiration on what we could do to change our school environmentally. Some of our ideas for our school are:

- A pledge for the planet
- An op swap where you bring old clothes to school and swap them with your friends
- Mobile phone recycling
- Planting more trees and renewing the fallen ones
- Save water and install more water tanks
- Cut down on green house gases
- More solar panels for on the WEB
- Collect plastic containers that have been left outside
- And to raise awareness in our school.

By Mia P and Lili

INVITATION... TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOL HELPERS

You are cordially invited to a special morning tea on

Monday 9th December 2013

In the Staff Room from 10.30 a.m. to 11.15 a.m.

I/We ___________________________ Number attending:__________

Accept the invitation to attend the morning tea being held on Monday 9th December 2013

Please return this slip to your child’s classroom teacher or call the school office on 9481 5577 by Friday 22nd November 2013
Thank you to the kind person who approached me regarding being a witness to another driver impacting my car. In order to follow through with insurance could you please contact Kate on 0408 230 601.

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

**Whopping Great Fete - Thank you**

Asian Flavours food stall debut - What a fantastic effort well done Whooping Fete crew! Special thanks to the organisers Chloe and Inger who made it all seem so easy. Also Mel for her guidance. Chug and Megan for help at setup and pack up. Thanks to all the 1/2 Noreen mum’s and dad’s. All the stall helpers on the day Mel (Lucas), Justine (Eva), Bettina (India), Leonie (Camille), Marisa (Leo), Ian (Lachy), Peter (Lewis), Noreen of course! and other parents who helped out with cooking when we so desperately needed a break. Sarah and Ramone (Lizzy & Charlie) and Blair (Sunday and Loui). Apologies to anyone that we may have left off. You are all legends. It was a great test run and we have new ideas for the following year to help fine tune the food selections and service. Scottie and Nicci Leung (Jasmine & Jade).

Snow Cone - A huge thank you to all the wonderful people who helped out on the snow cone stall. Thank you so much, Peter W, Katrina, Raphie, Sendi, Kathy & Peter, Liz & John, Mary & Con, Marina, Llewellyn and Rhonda. All the best, Tina

Cake Stall - Thank you very much to the wonderful bakers who baked for the cake stall - Westgarth families can bake and decorate! A big thank you to the cake pack packers (Bettina, Dora, Justine and Mandy) parents and Rosie who worked on the stall (Carolyne, Caroline, James, Dora, Mandy, Liz, Susan, Bettina, Leonie, Summer, Darren, Tony, Sam, Monique) and Mandy and Liz who helped with Saturday’s cake drop. Thanks again Sarah.

**Community Advertisements**

**2014 SEASON REGISTER NOW FOR U7 & OLDER**

Do you want your children to participate in the greatest game in the world? If so we are the club for you. With qualified coaches and support staff, we will make sure your child develops proper football techniques but most importantly has great fun. We pride ourselves in giving all kids a fair go. We are situated at Hayes Park Flinders St Thornbury. If you would like more information please contact: Tanya Franco 0415 547396, Max Loche 0400 486 192 or John Zanin 0417 554 577 or visit www.northernfalcons.com to download a registration form. Secure your spot on a team by sending us your details at northernfalconsjnrs@gmail.com so that we can keep you informed of important dates.

**Tickets to ‘Grease’ for sale**

I recently purchased these great tickets for Grease for our family for Christmas. Unfortunately the dates now clash with the Year Six camp!!! They are for Wed 12 February 2014 at 1 pm. Seats are in the stalls in row D, seats 11-14. They are for two adults and two children. Tickets are $95 per adult and $70 for children. Totaling $330. I am keen to sell as I would like to purchase more on a suitable date. If you are interested please call Chris on 0418 342 667.

**WESTGARTH COMMUNITY CAROLS!! ALL WELCOME!!** Get into the spirit of Christmas!! Come to Westgarth Community Carol sing-along: 7.30pm, Wednesday December 18th at Johnson Park. We provide the music - we will have a brass ensemble and music sheets to hand out. You provide yourselves, your friends & family, snacks, picnic blankets etc. See you there!! Kate and Hal (parents of Sam, Ryan 3/4). Go and like the Westgarth Carols Facebook page!!

Thank you to the kind person who approached me regarding being a witness to another driver impacting my car. In order to follow through with insurance could you please contact Kate on 0408 230 601.

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