What’s happening...

Grade organisation 2014...At this stage, the proposed grade structure for 2014 will be based on 27 classes. The Brooke Street structure will comprise straight Prep classes and composite 1 / 2 classes. The Clarke Street grade structure will comprise composite 3/4 classes, straight Grade 5 classes and straight Grade 6 classes. A total of 27 classes overall.

The process of class formations for 2014...... Later this week staff will be speaking with students in their grades regarding class placements for 2014 and assisting students to identify ‘four peers’ that they work well with. As always, at WPS we focus on continuing to build resilience with our students and the opportunity to meet and mix with a wide range of students and build social connections. As outlined in last week’s newsletter the process is that teachers work collaboratively to ensure there is a balance of students’ social-emotional needs, co-operative skills, academic abilities and gender balance (where possible) in each class.

We encourage you to discuss with your child/children their possible selections over the next few days. If you have any specific concerns or confidential issues that you believe should be considered by staff, could you please forward them by tomorrow Wednesday 20th November at the latest, marked confidential and addressed to Grace. These confidential letters will be considered as we develop grades. We know that parents/ carers will speak positively to their child/ children and trust the expertise and professionalism of all staff to ensure the best possible placement for all students.

District Triathlon......Thank you to Ricky, staff and parents who worked together to support the 188 year three to six students who competed at the Northcote Pool last Friday. A great partnership between everyone concerned to promote sport, cooperative team participation and resilience. Well done!

3 Way Student- Teacher- Parent Conferences........Thursday 5th December 1.00pm - 7.15pm.
Students who will be in attendance during the morning will be working on an alternative timetable with specialist staff between 9.00- 1.00pm, however you may prefer not to send your child during the morning. All students will be required to be collected at the 1.00pm dismissal time.
You will receive an invitation to attend the 3 Way Conferences from your child. Could you please let us know if your child/ children will be attending between 9-1.00pm by returning the slip on your invitation.
Staff and students are excited about the opportunity to celebrate with parents at the 3 Way conferences we are trialling this term. The focus is on child centred learning where each student will learn to reflect and evaluate and set personal goals with parents in attendance. This round table reporting is a student lead sharing of work and experiences with the focus on student growth and development. Parents listen and ask questions, engaging in conversation around the student’s achievement’s and learning. Teachers will clarify growth and potential development during the discussions.
School reports will come home prior to the 3 Way Conferences and student portfolios after the conferences.

Cont’ next page...
5 /6 Staff and students will begin their conferences at 11.15am with P-2 Staff beginning their conferences at 12.30pm. The time allocation for conferences is 13min to allow for a changeover of conferences every 15mins during the afternoon and early evening. Conferences will only be available on this day, however, as always, your class teacher will be happy to speak with you by phone or in person, either before or directly after school, if you have any other concerns.

Specialist staff will not be involved in the 3 Way Conferences however, will be available during the afternoon from 3.30- 5.30 pm if you would like to speak with one of them.

Additional information regarding the location of the conferences will be outlined in a following newsletter. A booking slip with time selections will be sent home shortly. Times will be allocated on a first in best dressed basis, as return slip are received from the following morning. The on-line booking service cannot be used on this occasion.

I am excited about the opportunity to pop in and listen to the brilliant achievements of our students and will be a silent observer at a number of conferences across the two sites.

End of Year Concert.....Preparations are well under way for our concert to be held on the Brooke Street playground on Tuesday 17th December from 9.15-10.30am.

All students should bring a refillable water bottle and their wide brimmed hat to wear when they are not performing. A small cushion to sit on or small towel may also add to the comfort factor while waiting to perform!

The students have been busily practising their songs and John and the staff are looking forward to seeing many parents join us in celebrating the end of year whole school event. Please try to leave home a little earlier on Tuesday as we plan to have all students seated by 9.10am ready for performances to commence at 9.15am sharp.

The concert is held early in the morning in line with our Sun Smart policy, however for your comfort please ensure that you wear a hat as well as we will be outdoors for over an hour. Unfortunately, we would not be able to fit into the gym and provide seating for family member that wish to attend, so we have opted for an outdoors event to ensure that no one misses out. There will be limited seats available as are mindful that everyone needs a clear view of the performances, so please bring a cushion, towel or rug to sit on.

Kind regards,

Carolyn Shiels
Assistant Principal
Diary Dates

Thurs 21st November  School Assembly in gym 2.40pm. Item: Gr 3/4 Taryn
Fri 22nd November  Prep Orientation
Thurs 21st November  Art Show 5.30pm - 8pm
Thurs 5th December  Variation in Attendance 9am - 1pm
                      Students dismissed at 1pm
                      Three Way Student Lead Conference.
                      P-2 from 12.30 pm
                      3-6 from 11.15 am
Mon 9th December  Volunteers Morning Tea 10.30am - 11.15am
Tues 10th December  Grade 6 Orientation Day (State Secondary Schools)
                      Whole School Transition
Thurs 12th December  Grade 6 Graduation
Tues 17th December  End of Year Concert 9.15am - 10.30am Brooke St

Meetings
Finance  Thursday 21st November 8.30am Grace’s Office
School Council  Wednesday 27th November Staffroom. Time: TBC

Term Dates 2013
Last day of Term 4: Friday 20th December 2013

Term Dates 2014
Grade 1-6 commence Thursday 30th January 2014
Prep Commence Monday 3rd February 2014
Term 1 30/01/14 - 04/04/14
Term 2 22/04/14 - 27/06/14
Term 3 14/07/14 - 19/09/14
Term 4 06/10/14 - 19/12/14

District Triathlon
Thank you to all the students who participated in the District Triathlon last Friday.
We had 188 students compete and they all gave their best. A big thank you to all the staff and parents
for their help on the day. Also, a special thank you to the students that helped out other teams by
swimming, running or riding twice to replace students that were absent. Special thanks to Mia I who
competed in swim leg for her team and then quickly changed into runners and competed in the run leg
as well!
There are many local triathlon events for students so if you loved the experience, keep your eyes open
for when these are on. Thanks again to everyone involved.
Cheers, Ricky Davis. PE Teacher

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
The Art Room is abuzz with final preparations for the Westgarth Art Show, on Thursday 21st November 5.30pm until 8pm.

All the art work has been produced by our highly talented and creative students. Students were able to select a piece of 2D art work from their art folio that they were proud of. This was then mounted on to a coloured piece of card. Students were guided in choosing a complementary colour for their art work using their knowledge of the colour wheel. Students created a 'name' for their 2D masterpiece. 3D pieces have also been selected for the Art Show. Every student has chosen their favourite 3D piece that they designed this year.

We are very proud of the art work all students produced during the year and we hope you can join us in celebrating their achievements this Thursday evening.

At the Art Show, there will be food and drink available for purchase, as a fundraiser for the school. Wine and water for adults, cordial for the children as well as a sausage sizzle, bags of popcorn and icy poles.

The WEB will be set up as an art gallery so we ask you to please refrain from bringing food or drink inside.

Art Show Helpers
The Arts Committee is looking for parent/guardian helpers to assist in putting up displays the morning of Thursday 21st November. If you're interested and have the time please call the office on 9481 5577 or drop into the office to register. Thank you to the parents/guardians who have registered so far. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Art Show Music
A reminder that Senior Band and the Grade 4 recorder group will be playing at the Art Show this Thursday evening from about 6:30pm. Members of these groups need to be at the Art Show by 6:15pm and gather at the stage area. They have been working really hard and it promises to be very entertaining.

Woodwind lessons will continue as normal on Thursday.

Thank you, John Carr (Music Specialist)

Art Show Sausage Sizzle - Help Required!
We are attempting to cook up a storm for the Art show, but it will only be in a tea cup if we don’t have any helpers.

So if you can spare an hour this between 5pm-7pm this Thursday please call Tim on 0448 575 250 (Kyra 3/4 Sarah, Amber Prep Kat & Skye Prep Nadine) or leave your name and contact number at the office.

Westgarth Primary School
Congratulations to these Students of the Week!

| Prep Emily - Emily C | 1/2 Yolanda - Nicholas K & Ollie S |
| Prep Heidi - Adam P | 3/4 Bianca - Lulu S & Jackson M |
| Prep Kat - Zara S | 3/4 Hannah - No selection this week |
| Prep Nadine - Emmett C-F | 3/4 Holly - Whole Class |
| Prep Sarah - Grace H | 3/4 Ryan - Beau S |
| 1/2 Barbara - Alex L & Odette M | 3/4 Sarah - Hugh C |
| 1/2 Betty - No selection this week | 3/4 Taryn - No selection this week |
| 1/2 Cameron - Lewis B & Dean K | 5 Brenda - Rupert S & Sinead W |
| 1/2 Julia - Harper W | 5 Gaby - Daniel E |
| 1/2 Kenji - Ilaria H | 5 Glenn - No selection this week |
| 1/2 Nettie - Nathan McI | 5 Mark - Genevieve P |
| 1/2 Noreen - Amy H | 6 Andy - No selection this week |
| 1/2 Rosie - Maggie J | 6 Phana - Dylan B |

What’s happening in OSHC?  Term 4, Week 7. Nov 18th – 22nd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside</th>
<th>Indoor</th>
<th>Outdoor</th>
<th>Raining (gym)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Mixed Sandwiches</td>
<td>Emotional Faces</td>
<td>Outdoor Painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Pita bread, vegies, cheese</td>
<td>Draw a Treasure Map</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Pita bread, vegies, cheese</td>
<td>I-Spy Super Challenge</td>
<td>Bean Bag relay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Mixed sandwiches</td>
<td>Paper Tee Pees</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Pita bread, vegies, cheese</td>
<td>Slime</td>
<td>Musical Chairs</td>
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</table>

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.

If you park near the school please follow the parking restriction signs. These are designed to improve safety for everyone, especially our children.

Westgarth Primary School 5
Spotlight on Sustainability
Great news! The Farmhouse has had a washing line installed. What does this mean for the environment?
‘An average tumble dry cycle uses just over 4kWh of energy and produces around 1.8kg CO2. If all households with a tumble dryer, hangs up one load of washing outside each week, we would save over a million tonnes of CO2 in a year.’
So we should be saving a huge amount of CO2 with the regular laundering of aprons, tea towels and table cloths from OSHC and the Kitchen Garden Program.

Water Wise
Please keep sending in plastic ice-cream containers to catch water runoff from the drink taps. While we have maintained the number of buckets collected on Brooke Street, the Clarke Street buckets require regular replacing.

Student Reflection
Yarra Valley Water Grade 1/2 In-House Activity
Choose Tap

Last Thursday the 1/2’s had an in-house activity run by Yarra Valley Water (YVW). After the presentation 1/2R reflected on what they had learnt in the session with the YVW presenter Will.

We learnt that;

- Melbourne is one of 5 places in the world that has closed reservoirs. It is important to have closed reservoirs because otherwise pollution and rubbish would enter our water. This might make us sick and we want clean water.
- Melbourne’s reservoirs are untouched and surrounded by forests. The trees clean the air and the water only falls on the trees.
- We get our water from dams and reservoirs that are made by humans. This means our water is clean.
- When your brain doesn’t have enough water you get angry and confused.
- If we don’t get enough water our eyes shrivel up and our mouths feel like they are full of flour.
- There is about 20 litres of water in an 8 year old. If you loose 10 litres of water you could/will die.

It was a very entertaining in-house activity!

By 1/2 Rosie
School Council Environment Report

Safe Travel Plan for Westgarth.

The time has come to put your hand up if you're interested in being part of a safe travel working group for WPS. Following on from the travel survey Darebin Council organised earlier this year, the Environment Committee has formulated a rough course of action to follow in partnership with the Council in order to create a safer walking/cycling environment around the school area. We are now in the process of setting up a working group that will get this project up and running, hopefully for completion by the end of 2014. So, if you are keen to improve the safety and ease of travel to and from school, put your hand up to be part of the working group. Without some passionate parents and/or staff it will be difficult to get the momentum required to get the project moving. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Bettina de Chateaubourg on paddybetts@optusnet.com.au with any queries or offers of help. We would hope to have the group in place by the end of November, ready for action next year. We need YOU!

Orange Bottle Tops

You may have seen the beautiful mosaic artworks the Sustainability Squad have created up on the back fence on Brooke Street. These are made entirely of plastic bottle tops and look really colourful and totally gorgeous. There are a couple more in production but to complete them more orange bottle tops are needed, so please send in any orange coloured plastic lids you can find! And thanks to the Sustainability Squad for such a wonderful splash of colour in the yard.

Environment Committee Report

The Environment Committee met for our final meeting of 2013 last Thursday, and we wrote out our wish list for things to make and do in 2014 and also took a moment to celebrate the many achievements of 2013. We have been working hard to improve the school grounds and keep WPS looking great and staying sustainable! This year we lost several trees to canker and storm damage, however, we also planted 13 mature trees in the Brooke St grounds, upgraded the front fence on both campuses, and put in a new access gate on Brooke St which is universally beloved by one and all (except maybe the yard duty teachers who have another gate to keep an eye on!) New monkey bars and a climbing net, the wonderful caterpillar sandpit, toadstools and the grass hill fort were also added to the Brooke St grounds, giving the prep to grade 2s a fabulous play area for the future. Also, a big thank you to Bianca and Rosie for giving up so much of their time to work with the grade 2s on Sustainability Squad, which has done lots of really creative and useful things around sustainable learning. You guys are GREAT!! We are all looking forward to an equally big 2014, and once the kinder works are complete, hopefully some new play areas on Clarke St can be developed. Thank you to all the subcommittee members...your hard work has really achieved some great results, and it’s great to know that there is energy and enthusiasm left for the coming years!

Community Advertisements

WESTGARTH COMMUNITY CAROLS!!
ALL WELCOME!!
Wednesday 18th December 7.30pm

Get into the spirit of Christmas!! Come to Westgarth Community Carol sing-along: 7.30pm, Wednesday December 18th, 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). CHECK OUT OUR WESTGARTH CAROLS FACEBOOK PAGE!!!!

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