What’s happening...

2013 Art Show... Congratulations to all our creative and talented students, and thank you for contributing the many wonderful artworks that formed part of our art exhibition last Thursday. I received many positive comments about your work. The building silhouettes, ceramic birds, minibeast forest, watercolours, oil paintings and 3D displays were magnificent.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Rushe and Julia for working with the children during the year to ensure they continue to be their best. I think we can all agree that the Art Show was a fitting celebration of the students’ efforts this year! I would like to take this opportunity to recognise all of the work that both Rushe and Julia put in behind the scenes that contributed to the evening being such a great success, and I’d also like to express my thanks to the parents and teachers who contributed their time in preparing the centre of the WEB for the 2013 Art Show.

Furthermore, I’d like to thank our music teacher John and all of our talented year 4, 5 and 6 musicians who entertained us on the night. We truly enjoyed all your performances!

Finally, no Westgarth Primary School function is complete without food and drink aplenty and, accordingly, I would like to thank all of the parents and staff who donated their time on the night to keep us all refreshed. I would like to say a special thanks to Tim Jenkins, who co-ordinated the BBQ and fed half the school population on the night, none of which would have been possible without Tim putting up his hand and forming Team Tim at short notice. Thanks Tim!

I am pleased to announce that the 2013 Art Show raised approximately $3,000.00 and whilst on the subject, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that approximately $4,000.00 was raised this year through the sale of calendars, cards and iPhone covers, adorned with the artwork of our students.

My thanks again to Rushe and Julia for co-ordinating this program, and thank you also to everyone who was able to contribute to either of these celebrations.

Process of Class Formations... Teachers have commenced the huge task of placing students to classes, trying to ensure we match students to the criteria mentioned in previous newsletters. We have been able to maintain very healthy class sizes across all year levels for next year with the largest class coming in at 25 and the smallest at 22.

Thank you to the families who have forwarded confidential requests and comments to me in regard to their child or children. We will do our best to meet these requests, especially where very sensitive issues have been raised. Due to the large volume of requests, it will not be possible unfortunately, to answer each one individually. However, there may be some instances where a phone call might be made where clarification is required. I appreciate the time taken to write these letters. Thank you.

Cont’ next page...
Three-way conferences... All students have been preparing in earnest for student-led conferences that will be held for the first time **next Thursday 5th December**.

An alternative timetable will operate on this day. Students in years 3-6 will commence their conferences from 11.15 a.m. and P-2 student conferences will commence at 12.30 p.m. Please note that there is a time variation to the school day with the start of the day as normal but with an earlier finish at 1.00 p.m.

The earlier finish will help facilitate the conferences, however we are also planning to have after school care operating from 1.00 p.m. We will need to know student numbers so please advise Mike as soon as possible if you plan to use OSHC either for the afternoon 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. time allotment, or from 3.30 p.m. as per the normal time. Or both! Mike can be contacted via email at: asc.westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Parents who have an early conference appointment may decide to take children home after conference/s are finished. If this is the case please let your child’s classroom teacher know. On Thursday children will be dismissed to go home or Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) at 1.00 p.m. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about Thursday.

**2014 Term Dates**... For the forward planners amongst us, please find below the mandated term dates for students for 2014:

- **Term 1** Thu 30 Jan - Fri 04 Apr (Preps commence school on Mon 03 Feb)
- **Term 2** Tue 22 Apr - Fri 27 Jun
- **Term 3** Mon 14 Jul - Fri 19 Sep
- **Term 4** Mon 06 Oct - Fri 19 Dec

**School Council**... Our last School Council meeting for the year is on tomorrow night at 6.30 p.m. Thank you to all the School Councillors for your achievements during the year and to all sub-committee members, including non-school councillors who have helped the school on committees or in various ways.

**Notice to convene a meeting for the purpose of forming a Parents Club**... I have received a request to convene a meeting of interested parents keen to start a Parents Club. The meeting is being held on Thursday 5th December and will be held in the Art Room on Clarke Street. Any member of the school community may attend this meeting.

If you wish to attend or would like to know more there is a flyer attached as well as a message from Emma Savage in today's edition of the newsletter.

**Parent Thank You Morning Tea**... We are so very fortunate at Westgarth PS to receive the support of so many parents who help the school in various ways during the year. Your contributions are very much appreciated and we would like to acknowledge the support you provide through volunteering as a parent classroom helper, assisting in the kitchen garden, helping at the fete, attending excursions and much more! We, the staff at Westgarth cordially invite you to our annual parent helpers’ Thank You Morning Tea being held in the staff room on Monday 9th December between 10.45 and 11.30 a.m. Please join us!

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Grace Conway
Principal

Westgarth Primary School
Diary Dates

Thurs 28th November
School Assembly in gym 2.40pm. Item: Gr 5 Brenda

Thurs 5th December
Variation in Attendance 9am - 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

School Council
Wednesday 27th November Staffroom 6.30pm

Parent Club
Thursday 5th December 7pm in the Art Room

Languages Working Party Survey - A Final Reminder

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete the Languages Working Party survey already. This is a final reminder to all families that the survey closes at midnight on 30 November 2013.

If you would like the chance to have your say on the future of Languages education at WPS, please complete our online survey at: http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/wgps/westgarth-primary-school-2013-languages-survey/

Please remember that this survey should be completed only once per household. If you have already completed the survey, we ask that you please do not complete the survey again.

With kind regards,
Glenn, on behalf of the Languages Working Party

Art Work

Calendars/Cards/iphone covers have arrived and will be sent home via the students this week. Please look out for them in their schoolbag.

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

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
Extra Curricula Activity
Spotlight on the Grade 2 ‘Sustainability Squad’

You may have noticed our new art installations on the Brooke St campus. Over Term 3, a large group of enthusiastic students attended an extra-curricular group during their Wednesday lunch times to create these magnificent bottle top mosaics.

The students have created the dragonfly, plague soldier beetle and the monarch butterfly as they considered these insects to be commonly found in our school grounds. They have also completed signs which are to encourage the school community to recycle, compost and save water. These students always come with a fantastic attitude and are always eager to share their knowledge and projects at the whole school assembly.

Recently, Bianca organised a garden bed revegetation day, using the remaining indigenous plants from the school fete. Bianca’s 3/4s and some of the Grade 6 students (and Mark) had spent time turning the soil, in preparation for the Sustainability Squad to plant. Since the planting day, the Grade 2’s have been keeping our new plants hydrated using the water from the buckets which collect any water waste from the bubblers.

Thank you to Odette and Oephilia’s mum Karina who took time out and donated some of her plants to assist with our planting day and the numerous parents who have donated vines for our woven fence.

Matilda, Leo, Dulcie, Kushe and Neave
Rosie and Bianca
Congratulations to these Students of the Week!

| Prep Emily - No selection this week | 1/2 Yolanda - No selection this week |
| Prep Heidi - Lachlan G              | 3/4 Bianca - No selection this week  |
| Prep Kat - No selection this week   | 3/4 Hannah - No selection this week  |
| Prep Nadine - No selection this week| 3/4 Holly - No selection this week   |
| Prep Sarah - Olive E-W              | 3/4 Ryan - Eva H                     |
| 1/2 Barbara - Mahala L              | 3/4 Sarah - No selection this week   |
| 1/2 Betty - Parker M                | 3/4 Taryn - Rufus C & Tahlia G       |
| 1/2 Cameron - No selection this week| 5 Brenda - No selection this week    |
| 1/2 Julia - Simon W                 | 5 Gaby - No selection this week      |
| 1/2 Kenji - Bob F                   | 5 Glenn - Jake B & Sam L-B           |
| 1/2 Nettie - Jonah A & Holly G      | 5 Mark - No selection this week      |
| 1/2 Noreen - Camille R              | 6 Andy - No selection this week      |
| 1/2 Rosie - Sienna G & Luke P       | 6 Phana - Ruby F                     |

Interschool Sports Update

Summer Interschool Sport is over for another season. Grade 5/6 students competed against other schools in our District with the fixture starting in Term 1 and concluding in Term 4.
Our Bat Tennis team will be bringing home the Premiers Flag after finishing first and the Cricket Team were runners up, finishing second. Congratulations to all year 5/6 students and teachers.
The results for our school are as follows:
Cricket: Second, Softball: Fifth, Girls Rounders: Eighth, Mixed Rounders: Sixth & Bat Tennis: First
Cheers, Ricky Davis. PE

Parents Club Meeting

We have a number of parents interested in establishing a Westgarth Primary School Parents Club.
Are you interested in being a member? Then come along to our inaugural meeting to help us set it up!
Meet at 7.00pm Thursday 5th December 2013 in the Art Room on Clarke St Campus.
We’ll be putting the question of whether we establish a club to the vote, and if successful, nominating an interim executive committee to get the ball rolling.
The club will replace the existing Parents and Friends subcommittee of School Council and will operate under DEECD Regulations.
Please see the attached flyer for more details of what we hope to achieve. We look forward to seeing you there!
Please contact Emma Savage if you have any queries regarding this meeting on 0413 185 350 or emma@weller.id.au
WESTGARTH PARENTS & FRIENDS

In response to the parent forum held earlier this year, School Council convened a parents and friends working party to decide on the best way forward for Parents and Friends. Forum feedback indicated a wish for more social opportunities, ways for parents who work full-time to feel more connected, and a greater focus on community building and social inclusion.

School Council accepted a recommendation that a Parents Club model be adopted under the DEECD guidelines if voted for by the parent body. A parent club will provide support to the school, School Council, students and the broader parent community through:

- assisting parents with the formation of social / interest / support groups (eg. running club, 500 club, knitting club, single parents babysitting group, parents of kids with learning difficulties)
- organising purely social events such as movie nights, welcome picnic, class get-togethers
- actioning community fundraising ideas
- assisting the fundraising subcommittee with school fundraising events
- facilitating communication and community connectedness through newsletter/website
- organising classroom reps to assist parents make and maintain connections with classmates and their families.

WE NEED YOU!

To make all this happen for our school, we need a PRESIDENT, a VICE-PRESIDENT and maybe a SECRETARY, plus lots of people who can do a little bit to help. More people = more fun = less work!

Please call Emma Savage on 0413 185 350 if you are interested.
Wonderland Fun Park will be open selected dates from Saturday 16th November and everyday from Thursday 12th December through to the end of January! www.wonderfunpark.com.au.

**Westgarth Community Carol Sing-Along**

**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!!!!

**Film Adventures is back for January 2014**, and excited to offer a new workshop in the Summer holidays! Enrolments are now open via this link: 
http://filmadventures.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16cd8980cc99b608a24006778&id=102c1c6664&e=363c38b3b2
(Please follow instructions to the Trybooking website)

**Blue Light Preston (Darebin)** 29th November at Preston Town Hall 274 Gower St Preston 6.30pm to 9pm. Byo to 14 yo. $6 Special Guest - KG Thatartist. Children need to be picked up by a responsible adult. Contact Jo Parissis 0418 144 446.

**Babysitter** - Hi, my name is Ellie and I am currently doing work experience here at Westgarth Primary. I am an ex Westgarth student myself and am now attending Northcote High School. I am available for babysitting during the week and on weekends. I already babysit other Westgarth students. Referees available. Please phone 0457 358 164 / 0417 502 310.

**CSIRO’s Double Helix Holiday Science Activities at Kew**. These school holidays the CSIRO Science Education Centre is offering a fun-filled day of entertaining and education science activities in your area. For bookings please visit www.csiro.au/VicHolidays. 1st Kew Scout Hall, Cnr Kellette Grove and Kilby Road, Kew.

**Christmas Shopping Market**. Wales Street Primary School, Thornbury. Monday 2 December, 6pm to 10pm. Over 30 stalls offering hundreds of great gift ideas. Gold coin donation on entry. All welcome.

**Brunswick South Arts Festival 2013** 29th November 6pm - 9pm. 30th November 11am - 5pm Day Art Show continues with live entertainment Saint Jude, Chris Russell’s Chicken Walk, Gator Queen and more. African Drummers, Bollywood Explosion, Food & Drinks, Vintage Clothing, Children’s Side Show Alley. Children under 15 enter free. Pre-sale discount tickets www.brunswicksouthps.vic.edu.au. 56 Brunswick Rd Brunswick.

**Tackers**

Tackers is a Yachting Australia program aimed at getting kids aged 7-12 into sailing.
Each program includes 20 hours tuition from qualified instructors, fun on-water & off-water games and a Tackers Kit & Certificate. Elwood Sailing Club School Holidays and/or Saturday mornings Term 1. Contact us now! 039531 4743
training@elwoodsc.com.au
Www.elwoodsc.com

**New Bubble Dome Minecraft & Design Courses for students 6-18 y.o.**

Learn the latest in Minecraft on one of Bubble Dome’s five exciting courses. Take part in extreme Lego challenges with our Lego Engineering & Robotics course, develop expertise in the realm of Games with our Architecture & Model Making or Fashion Design, Wearable Arts & Photography courses. www.bubbledome.com.

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