What’s happening...

Student Reports...Today your child will have received a report to bring home*. We encourage parents and carers to share the report comments with their children. We have sometimes received feedback about the report style used at the school. The format used by the school is the one endorsed by Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and generated through the QUICKVIC reporting system. Each report shows your child’s achievement over semester two. Students in Years Prep to 6 are assessed against AusVELS (Formerly VELS) with the exception of LOTE. Formal LOTE assessment standards are introduced at years five and six, therefore students in years prep to four do not receive a LOTE ”standard” which is in keeping with AusVELS Guidelines.

Please contact your child’s teacher if you are having difficulty reading your child’s report or need any clarification. The report content is reflective of your child’s development, behaviours and attitudes during the past six months. Please do make a time to see any of the specialist staff if you require any clarification about your child’s progress in any of the specialist classes. I take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have been working on the reports over the past 5 weeks and to Cameron for coordinating the reports across the school.

*Apologies from Kat (Prep). Due to some added excitement in Kat’s class, the reports were not distributed - these will be distributed tomorrow. Apologies from 1/2 Betty, it has been noted that 8 reports were not distributed and will be distributed tomorrow.

Student Led 3 Way Conferences... In addition to our term one Meet the Teacher and mid-year parent teacher interviews we are holding Student Led Conferences on Thursday 5th December. As such the school attendance times have been varied accordingly for this Thursday. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. we will conduct a modified teaching and learning program and at 1 p.m. all students will be dismissed or attend the after school care program. To support the changed routine, please speak with your child about your family’s organisation for Thursday afternoon. The 3 Way Conferences will provide a great opportunity for students to celebrate and showcase their work. During the process of preparing for their presentations, we believe that students will have had increased opportunities to develop confidence and communication skills. We hope that you find the conferences both informative and interesting.

School Council ... There was a packed agenda at School Council last Wednesday night, 27/11/13. Among the agenda items we discussed and ratified the new Enrolment Policy. We also endorsed the Family Payment recommendations arising from the Finance Committee. Requests for Family Payments will be made in February at the start of the new school year. The Family Payments Schedule is broken up into three parts, “Section A: essential items-non voluntary”, Section B: Special Programs and Section C: Tax Deductable Voluntary Contribution with funds going directly into the “Westgarth Primary School Building Fund”. This table outlines the changes to the Family Payment Schedule for 2014. If you have any questions about the payment schedule please do not hesitate to contact the school or speak to one of our school councillors. Please also note that any family may meet with me confidentially to discuss any payment request matters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Increase</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years P/1/2 Students</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3/4/5/6 Students</td>
<td>$215</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3/4/5/6 Students</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Kind Regards,
Grace Conway. Principal
Diary Dates
Thurs 5th December  No Assembly due to 3 Way Student Lead Conference
          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
Fri 20th December  Last day of Term 4. Students dismissed at 1.30 pm.
                  OSHC is available for care. Please call Mike on 9482 3323 or email asc.westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Meetings
Parent Club  Thursday 5th December 7pm in the Art Room

Term Dates 2013
Last day of Term 4:
Friday 20th December 2013
Students dismissed at 1.30 pm

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

Junior School Council Fundraiser - Toys for Christmas - Anglicare Foster Care Home
Westgarth Primary School is holding a fundraiser for Anglicare Foster Care Homes, which are homes for unfortunate children who can't live with their parents. We will be helping by donating new toys and resources to help these children have a Happy Christmas. JSC has decided to help this cause by collecting new toys (for infants to 13 years old). Toys such as, books, Lego, arts and craft materials and anything else that you think would be great for these children. We ask that the toys that are donated are new and unwrapped. The school would like the gifts by Friday the 9th December and the Anglicare Foster Care Home will be collecting these on the Thursday 12th December.
Kind regards, Alanah N and Michael T on behalf of J.S.C 2013

Music News
This Thursday is the Students Led Three Way Conference day and is also the day of Woodwind lessons. Woodwind classes will go ahead on this day for those who are able to attend. Guitar and Woodwind students will have their last lesson in the week commencing 9th December. Cheers, John

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
Congratulations to these Students of the Week!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep Emily - Ada S</th>
<th>1/2 Yolanda - No selection this week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Heidi</td>
<td>3/4 Bianca - No selection this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Kat</td>
<td>3/4 Hannah - Sasha S &amp; Thomas T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Nadine</td>
<td>3/4 Holly - Sophie H &amp; Alex M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Sarah</td>
<td>3/4 Ryan - Joshua S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Barbara</td>
<td>3/4 Sarah - Zac R, Mena M &amp; Stan N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Betty</td>
<td>3/4 Taryn - No selection this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Cameron</td>
<td>5 Brenda - Whole Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Julia</td>
<td>5 Gaby - Talisha E-Y &amp; Bridie S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Kenji</td>
<td>5 Glenn - Oscar B, Jack S &amp; Elliot V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Nettie</td>
<td>5 Mark - Alice G &amp; Shae I-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Noreen</td>
<td>6 Andy - Milla D &amp; Patrick S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Rosie</td>
<td>6 Phana - Reuben McG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Art Show Sausage Sizzle
A huge thank you to Karen, Linda, Janine, Anita, Damian, Andrew, Michael, Dan, Alistair, Dave & Andrew for a stellar job behind the hot plates & a cook up Jamie Oliver would have been proud of.
Cheers, Tim Jenkins


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inside</th>
<th>Outdoor</th>
<th>Raining (gym)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Menu</td>
<td>Bread, veggies, cheese</td>
<td>Undersea Paintings</td>
<td>Bread, veggies, cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Bread, veggies, cheese</td>
<td>Xmas Cards</td>
<td>Sand pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mixed sandwiches</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mixed sandwiches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Bread, veggies, cheese</td>
<td>Uno</td>
<td>Letter &amp; Word shapes game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Mixed sandwiches</td>
<td>Origami Aeroplanes</td>
<td>Fruit Salad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Mixed sandwiches</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Making things out of natural materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.
- Final invoices for this year have gone out this week and include a projected estimate of fees due for the final three weeks of term. This projected fee is based on your average weekly charge for the last 30 days and all accounts should be paid IN FULL by 12th December.
School Council Report

Last Wednesday’s School Council meeting was our final one for 2013 and we celebrated this year’s achievements with pizza, wine and cake. We still managed to get through a lot of items, which I run through below.

We have started looking at the draft annual implementation plan, which is a departmental requirement and builds on the school’s four year strategic plan. We also approved an interim annual budget as well as new Westgarth Primary School Council specific standing orders (guidelines for School Council meetings and other operations).

School Council endorsed a new enrolment policy, which puts into place what we believe to be a fair, consistent approach to intake within the constraints of the Victorian public education system. Thank you to those parents and staff who have provided feedback to the policy subcommittee on earlier drafts. We also ratified the new fundraising subcommittee terms of reference.

The proposed fundraising calendar of events for 2014 was approved. We had an in-depth discussion about the pros and cons of the chocolate drive. This was in response to concerns raised by some parents, including concerns that the chocolate drive departs from the way the school otherwise promotes healthy eating. In the end, School Council voted in favour of retaining the chocolate drive, which raises over $8000 annually. But a number of points have been referred to the fundraising subcommittee to consider, including: the need to represent chocolate as a ‘sometimes food’, increased opportunities for families to opt out of the chocolate drive; looking at different supplier options and the viability of going with a local, more ethical supplier and; possible benefits of aligning the chocolate drive with Easter. As always, your comments are welcome. The fundraising subcommittee is only just formed so has no convenor yet but in the meantime, feel free to email me with any suggestions.

Still on the fundraising calendar item, it is great to see the Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls are now being referred to as Special Person’s Day stalls (note they will still be held in May and September). This renaming recognises that our school includes many different family makeups and that our community comprises all sorts of special people.

Finally, on fundraising, School Council wishes to acknowledge the amazing contribution made by staff, parents, carers and the students who work so hard throughout the year to raise funds which are such an important part of the school’s revenue. Once the figures are finalised, we will make available a summary of fundraising.

Another action coming out of the meeting is for School Council to run information sessions in February so anyone interested can learn a bit more about the work of School Council and the ways they can become involved. We will publicise the dates at the start of term 1, 2014.

Lastly, I would like to encourage parents and carers to attend the proposed parents’ club meeting this Thursday 5 December at 7pm in the Art Room. Even if you don’t plan to take on a role, it would be great for you to show your support to those parents forming the club who are working towards enhancing opportunities for parental involvement at the school, by giving every parent and carer the chance to participate within the school community in whatever way works for them and their family.

Ully Merkel, President (ullmerkel@hotmail.com)
**Westgarth Primary School**

**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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**Xmas card making workshop with Suzanne Hutton**

3 hours, $60 per person includes all materials. Create your own hand printed Xmas cards using simple techniques in a relaxed environment. Weekday and weekend sessions available so grab a few friends and have some printing fun. Please contact Suzanne on 0402 919 682.

**Bright Sparks Creative Workshops Holiday Program - January 2014**

Bright Sparks is a creative arts program designed to help children learn about themselves and develop a sense of inner strength, promoting confidence, resilience and general wellbeing.

10.30am - 12.30pm January 21, 22 & 23
$80 / $70 for a 3 day course or $30 per session
Jika Jika Community Centre - Corner of Union and Plant Streets, Northcote
Bookings essential by Friday, January 17.
Contact Naomi on 0421 914 220 or email: naomi@brightsparks.id.au

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**Can anyone donate children’s books for a fundraiser for rebuilding the Philippines after Typhoon Yolanda?**

Fundraiser including a range of fabulous performances is at The Food Court, Docklands, Friday 6th at 6 pm. If you can donate children’s books call Bagryana on 0433 462 592.

**Beach House for Rent – Pt. Lonsdale**


Please call Anna with any queries. (Harry 3/4 D, Zara Prep Kat) 0410 013 115.

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**Small Space Jewellery**

365a St Georges Rd, North Fitzroy 9489 2328
Wednesday to Friday 10-6pm, Saturday 10-4pm
http://www.smallspace.com.au. We specialize in all forms of repair work, ring resizing, chain repairs, stone replacement and more. We also remodel existing jewellery and we have a beautiful collection of jewels in store for Christmas. Visit us and mention this advertisement to receive 10% off the price during the month of December 2013.

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