From the Principal

Yesterday we welcomed our new prep students and their families. They settled in quickly and happily which is a reflection on how well their family has prepared for this next stage of their education. We look forward in seeing them grow and develop over the next seven years. After dropping the students into their new class the parents headed to the staffroom for a cup of tea, homemade biscuit and slice and a hanky or two.

I would like to thank the ‘Parents and Friends’ for welcoming our new parents, hosting and baking the morning tea.

Welcome Picnic

On Friday 19th February ‘Parents and Friends’ will host a welcome picnic from 6pm – 8pm on the Clarke St site. All families in the school are welcome to attend. Sausages, sushi and icy poles will be on sale. Families are welcome to bring their own picnic if they like. We hope to see you there - don’t forget to bring a picnic blanket.

School Council

School Council is the school’s governing body made up of parent, teachers and members of the school community. School Councillors are elected for a two-year period. The School Council year runs from March – February and each year approximately half of the Council comes to the end of their term. The next School Council meeting, Wednesday 24th February, will be the final meeting of the current Council.

The Council also has a number of sub-committees – Education, Environment, Finance, Out-of-School-Hours-Care and Policy. Parents and Friends Association and Westgarth Kindergarten also have representatives on Council.

If you would like to join School Council there will be four parent vacancies and two community vacancies for the new Council. Current members of Council can re-nominate if they would like to continue on the Council. Alternatively parents are welcome to contribute to the sub-committees. Information about the next meetings can be found in the diary dates in the newsletter and on the school website.

The timeline for the new Council is:

- 19/2/2016 Nominations open
- 26/2/2016 Closing date for nominations

If we have more nominations than places on Council then an election will be called.

- 29/2/2016 List of candidates and nominators will be posted
- 8/3/2016 Ballot papers distributed
- 16/3/2016 at 4pm Close of ballot and votes counted
- 17/3/2016 Declaration of ballot
- 23/3/2016 Special Council meeting to co-opt community members
  First meeting of the new Council

Spanish/Performing Arts

This year we are excited to be able to increase the Spanish program for all students for a term. Like Spanish/Art and Spanish/Science the extra sessions will be through the area of Performing Arts. This class is in addition to all the other specialist programs. We welcome Esmi Marketou back two days a week to teach the students for this subject. Schedule: Term one – Years 3 and 4, Term two – Years 1 and 2, Term three – Years 5 and 6 and Term four – preps and a few extra sessions for years 3 and 4 (to accommodate term one being a short term).
Surveys
Thank you to the 100+ people who completed the two surveys on student leadership and reporting to parents. The details will be available once we have looked at the data however if you would like to find out more, come along to the Education Sub-committee of School Council on Tuesday 9th February in the staffroom at 7pm.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Prep teacher Kenji Thompson and his family on the safe arrival of their baby boy, Quin on Monday 1st February. Kenji was called home from school yesterday when the baby decided the time had come. Luckily last year’s prep coordinator Ruth was able to jump in to take over the class. The prep students met Ruth last year during the transition process. Ruth will cover in Kenji’s absence until he returns from leave in a few weeks.

SunSmart
We would like to remind all students that they are required to wear a sunsmart hat and clothing until the end of April. Caps do not provide adequate sun protection so please make sure your child has a slouch or legionnaire style hat. It is also recommended that students apply sunscreen to protect their skin. Singlet and tops with narrow straps are not suitable to wear at school. Hats are available for purchase at the office.

School payments
You will receive a hard copy form with school charges today outlining the payments for 2016. We have organised an app for your iPhone or iPad called Qkr which makes paying easier and quicker (hence the name). Details on how to use Qkr are available on the payment form. Other payment methods are available as well, but Qkr is our preferred method.

Working with children check
Parents/carers who wish to volunteer at Westgarth Primary School are required to have a current WWCC. Volunteering with reading in class, going on an excursion or helping out with sporting events or kitchen garden will require a current WWCC.
Once you have applied for your new card at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au you will need to bring your receipt to the school office to register.

Ambulance Cover
We strongly recommend that all families take out ambulance cover. Though serious injuries are rare we have a policy of calling for an ambulance when in doubt about a student’s welfare. The minimum charge for transport in an ambulance is $1,146.00. The cost is $495 for a call out without transport. On all occasions we attempt to contact a family member for advice but we have found that in many cases it is safer for the parent and the child to be transported in an ambulance. It can be a distressing time for parents when their child is injured and is often not the best time to be worrying about how to get to the hospital or doctor.
Families are liable for any ambulance costs.

Jo Wheeler,
Principal

Volunteers for Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program Grade 3/4G and Years 4 - 6
An information and induction session will be run for volunteers on Wednesday 10 February at 9.15am in the Farmhouse.
A note was sent home yesterday with your child’s scheduled day and time.
Please note the composite grade will participate in Semester 1.
We are looking forward to meeting you.
Mary and Virginia
## Diary Dates 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 3 Feb</td>
<td>Year Level Information Night P-2 6.30pm - 7.10pm and Years 3-6 7.20pm - 8.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Feb - Wed 10 Feb</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10 Feb</td>
<td>Kitchen Garden Volunteer Information and Induction Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 22 Mar</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 24 Mar</td>
<td>End of Term 1. Students dismissed at 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 28 May</td>
<td>W.P.S Idol</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Meetings 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>Wed 3 February 8.30pm</td>
<td>Jessamy’s house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Tues 9 February 7.00pm</td>
<td>Staffroom (note change of date)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Fri 12 February</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSHC</td>
<td>Wed 17 February</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Thurs 18 February 8.30am</td>
<td>in Jo’s office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Council</td>
<td>Wed 24 February 7.00pm</td>
<td>Staffroom</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## School Term Dates for 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28 January to 24 March (25 March is Good Friday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11 April to 24 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11 July to 16 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 October to 20 December</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Emailing Newsletters 2016

We are anticipating newsletters to be emailed as usual to parents and carers, however due to a department technical problem we’re hoping the issue to be addressed shortly. If you have changed your email address or if you have not yet advised the school of your email address please contact Nella on bordin.nella.n@edumail.vic.gov.au. Please include details of your name, your child’s name and grade.

Cheers,
Nella

## After School User Pays Instrumental Lessons

- after school music lessons continue this year. If you would like your child to learn guitar, strings (violin/cello) or a woodwind instrument (flute/clarinet/saxophone), please contact one of the teachers listed below via email directly to arrange a time. These lessons take place after school either in the music room or another room TBC. They are a half hour in duration and are usually individual lessons however lessons in pairs or small groups can be negotiated with the teacher but it is up to their discretion.

Initially this program is open to students in years 4, 5 and 6 but if places are available, it will be opened up to year 3 students.

Lesson fees are in line with the current rate determined by the Victorian Instrumental Teachers Association, which are $36 per half hour for individual lessons and $47.50 for group lessons (this is the total amount that the teacher would receive for the group lesson). Students will need to use their own instrument and provide any books that the teachers will be working from.

If you are interested in participating in this valuable program, please contact one of the teachers listed below. Lesson times will be determined on a first come first served basis.

- Elyane De Fontenay (Strings)- Tues, Wed  elyanedefontenay@gmail.com
- Jonathan Dexter (Guitar)- Mon, Wed, Thursday  strikeachord@tpg.com.au
- Tom Hamnett (Woodwind)- Thursday  t.a.hamnett@gmail.com

If you have any further questions, please contact me.
John Carr, Music Specialist
Sport News

Welcome back everyone. We hope you had a wonderful holiday and spent lots of time outdoors keeping active. We are so excited about the new school year and looking forward to Westgarth students having fun and achieving their best in sport. We love to see students keeping healthy and active both at school and at home. Once again the PE program will be asking, at different stages of the year, for parent helpers to support the many extra curriculum activities that are provided by the school throughout the year. These include cross country, basketball, athletics, triathlon, interschool sport, orienteering, swimming and many different incursions from sporting organisations. Keep reading the newsletter each week for this information. All the dates for our 2016 sports events will be confirmed and published in the next newsletter.

Please help your child to dress appropriately (sun hat, runners, shorts, and t-shirt) on the day they will have their Physical Education class. Your child’s classroom teacher will be able to tell you when this is.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions throughout the year in regards to your child and PE.

Aimee Murphy (Monday & Tuesday)
Josie Felton (Wednesday)
Rushe Lynch (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

5/6 Interschool Sport

The Interschool Sports Program will begin this Friday with our first official game being on Friday 12 February. Each student has selected one of the summer sports (cricket, rounders, bat tennis, softball) as their nominated team.

Each week a team is selected from the Grade 6 squad and these students need to be at school on time on Fridays and in a Westgarth Primary t-shirt or polo top, black shorts/netball skirt/trackpants and sports shoes. All Grade 5 students will be members of one of the Summer Sports teams and will be involved in training and playing practise games at school on Friday mornings. This will provide a great base for them to be involved in representing Westgarth and playing other schools when they reach Grade 6. The Summer Sports Program runs during Term 1 and continues in Term 4.

The competition draw will be included under Sport Diary Dates in the newsletter each fortnight. If it is an away game, the bus will cost $10 for the students that are playing. Parents are welcome to come and watch or if you are keen on a particular sport, you can see me if you would like to assist with coaching or umpiring. Please ensure you have a Working With Children Card.

Thanks,
Rushe Lynch

Sport Diary Dates - Swimming (selected students only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23 February</td>
<td>District Swimming 9.30am-1pm Northcote Aquatic Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2 March</td>
<td>Division Swimming 9:30am-2pm Northcote Aquatic Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 March</td>
<td>Regional Swimming 9:30am-2pm Northcote Aquatic Centre</td>
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Grade 6 Interschool sport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Game Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12 February</td>
<td>Home game against Northcote P.S (cricket &amp; softball played at McDonnell Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19 February</td>
<td>Away game against Wales Street P.S (cricket &amp; softball played at McDonnell Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26 February</td>
<td>Home game against Preston South P.S (no softball, cricket played at McDonnell Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4 March</td>
<td>Away game against Bell P.S (no bat tennis, cricket played at Capp Reserve)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Asthma Management

An asthma action plan allows you and your doctor to create an individual plan for you to manage your asthma. An action plan advises you about what you must do to stay healthy and what to do when your asthma is unstable and you need help.

There is no ‘standard’ asthma action plan, as everyone’s asthma is different. Your plan needs to be written to deal with your individual triggers, signs and symptoms, and medications.

Your action plan might be based on symptoms, peak flow readings or both.

An asthma action plan outlines:

- How to care for your day-to-day asthma (it lists your regular medications and how many times each day you should take them)
- Key things that tell you when your asthma is getting worse or an ‘attack’ is developing, and the steps you should take to manage it
- Symptoms that are serious enough to need urgent medical help (with emergency information on what to do if you have an asthma ‘attack’).

Have your action plan reviewed every six months or after a severe asthma attack.

It is just as important for parents to obtain a clear, succinct, written summary of their child’s asthma management (an Asthma Action Plan). This will provide a source of reference to reinforce the advice given by the doctor.

This Asthma Action Plan is also an important tool for anyone caring for your child. It provides up-to-date, detailed information (including your child’s emergency first aid plan) to help manage your child’s asthma.

A copy of the asthma action plan is to be sent to your child’s school, kindergarten, childcare centre or to anyone caring for your child.

When the child is old enough to understand, make sure that you explain asthma to them and encourage them to be aware of their symptoms and how to treat them.

Asthma First Aid

An asthma attack can take anything from a few minutes to a few days to develop. It can be a very frightening experience and people having an asthma attack may need help straight away.

This resource satisfies the guidelines and standards approved by the National Asthma Council and Asthma Australia. The materials contained in this publication are distributed for information purposes only. Suitable medical and professional advice should be obtained before acting on any information contained herein.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING-ANAPYLAXIS

Potential allergic reactions to nuts, nut products, seeds & other food products

As you may be aware for some children even a minor exposure to nuts or foods containing nut products or seeds can set off a severe allergy which may cause loss of breathing.

The parents of children who may have a severe reaction would like you to help us make the school environment as safe as possible by exercising caution when packing school snacks and lunches. Whilst students with severe allergies can learn to manage and control what they eat there is no real way of protecting themselves from nut traces that may be present in the environment such as on clothing, furniture, drink taps and of course on other people’s hands.

- Please avoid preparing school lunches with products that contain nuts, nut spreads, sesame products or chocolate that may contain nuts (e.g. Peanut Butter, Nutella and Tahini)
- If sending party food to school please avoid using recipes that require nut products (e.g. almond meal)
- As part of our Policy we do not encourage students to share food. All students will be encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.
- Please avoid packing any whole nuts as part of lunches for children under eight as they may get caught in small children’s airways presenting as a choking hazard
NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL - TOURS AND OPEN DAY 2016

School Tours commencing Tuesday 9 Feb
School day tours for prospective parents and students run several times per week in Term 1 and early Term 2. The tours depart from our foyer at 9.10 am and take about one hour. See our website for exact Term 1 dates. Please ring to book a place as numbers are limited (9488 2300)

School Open Morning - Wednesday April 27, 2016
Open Morning will be held on Wednesday 27 April between 9 am and 12 noon. All prospective parents and students are welcome, and there is no need to book in advance for this event. There is an information session at 6.00pm that night, for parents who were not able to come during the Open Morning.

ACE Program Testing - Saturday May 7 (TBC)
Further information on the ACE program is on our website. Applications close Friday 22 April.

Northcote High School, St, Georges Rd, Northcote, 3070, Australia. Phone 9488 2300

CLEAN JARS & BOTTLES WANTED
The Jammy Team is gearing up for another year of making delicious goodies for Westgarth’s Whopping Great Fete Home Produce Stall and we need your help. All clean glass jars and bottles with lids will be gratefully received and we would love it if you are able to remove the labels. Please leave all donations in the shopping trolley at reception. Many thanks from the Jammy Team.

P.S: Keep an eye out for the next cook-up date that will be announced soon!

Jammy Goodies

Share Your Love of Food
JOIN US FROM 9.30AM, SUNDAY 14 FEB
WESTGARTH FARMHOUSE

You don’t need to be a cook to join a Jammy Goodies cook-up. Just come along for a cuppa, some cake, a chop and a chat and help make some delicious home produce for this year’s Whopping Great Fete. At this cook-up it’s all about tomatoes! We will be making tomato sauce and tomato chutney. RSPV: by email to Kellee (kellee.frith@ozemail.com.au). Further details will be emailed to you.

BYO: Please bring with you an apron and a sharp knife.

Can kids come too?: Children are most welcome to come and help or just have a play, but please remember to bring any games or equipment with you as we do not have access to OSHC resources.
First Term News

Welcome to all new WPS families, and welcome back to current families! Parents and Friends already has a full calendar of events for the year, starting with our annual **WELCOME PICNIC on Friday 19 February from 6pm on the Clarke Street side turf (south end)**. This event is for the whole school, but particularly for families starting at the school in 2016. Sausages, sushi, icy poles will be on sale. BYO rug, drinks and extra food. Live music provided too!

We need some help! Volunteers required for one hour shifts between 5.30-7.30pm. Please email westgarthpandf@gmail.com or text Jessamy on 0411 825 315.

MEETINGS

The first WPS Parents and Friends meeting will be held this Wednesday 3 February at 8.30pm at the Wesley Anne. RSVP to Jessamy 0411 825 315.

EVENTS

**Makers Group** will start crafting for the Mother’s Day Stall on Sunday 28 February in the Farmhouse from 2pm.

**Yarnbombing Project.** We have permission to yarn bomb the art classroom veranda. Knit / Crochet up your favourite granny square or creation and then join in the fun piecing it all together. Dates TBA.

**Westgarth Fete**

Watch out for ways you can get involved in this year’s Fete. Already the Jammy Team have been wrangling plums and apricots into jams and chutneys. Join in the chopping and chatting on **Sunday 14 February** at the Farmhouse from 9.30am – 12pm.

INTEREST GROUPS

**Get Idol-ready!**

Parents!! Get into the groove for this year’s Westgarth Idol with some funky dancing with parent **Deb Prentice each Thursday night at Jika Jika Centre from 7.45pm.** A Pilates-style warm up is followed by an inspiring (but not too tricky) jazz routine. Starts Thurs 11 Feb. Casual $16, Term $12 per session. Enquiries call Deb on 0412 215 328.

**Science Club**

After our launch and stunning events in 2015, Science Club will hit the ground running with Lego Robotics and other activities in 2016. See item in newsletter.
JOIN CUB SCOUTS for games, craft, challenges, adventures, leadership and more! TUESDAYS 7:00-8:30pm 5th Northcote Scout Hall - 6
Ethel St Thornbury Sue McCracken 0431 889 699, Chris Ballard 0400 001 228 NorthcoteCubs@yahoo.com.au

Proposed Johnson Park off lead area
Darebin Council is currently proposing to allow dogs off lead in parts of Johnson Park, which is widely used by the Westgarth school community. This proposal raises a number of issues, including the need to consider the interests of dog walkers and the safety of children. Council is calling for community feedback on the proposal by 12 February. More info on the proposal is at http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Your-Say/News/Public-Notices
Submissions should be addressed to: Chief Executive, Darebin City Council PO Box 91 PRESTON VIC 3072. Please also email ward councillors: steven-tsitas@cr.darebin.org; oliver-walsh@cr.darebin.org; and trent-mccarthy@cr.darebin.org

Season 2016 - Registrations NOW OPEN
Alphington FC, based at the beautiful Alphington Park Oval, warmly invites expressions of interest / registrations from new and returning players for our Miniroos Development Squad and teams for the 2016 season. Registrations now open for boys and girls (prep-age 9 Miniroos Dev. Squad), boys and girls age 9 to 18 for our small sided field(SSF) and full pitch (U12 and up) teams.
Girls Soccer @ Alphington FC in 2016 Alphington FC’s priority and aim this year is to actively promote, support and strengthen the participation of girls only teams, to join a thriving and rapidly growing competition we need your support in doing this, so spread the word! For general enquiries, information and registrations please visit us online: www.alphingtonfc.com

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