What's happening…

Principal Selection……
Two weeks ago the Principal selection process commenced. The Job Posting has now closed and the panel, consisting of a staff member and a parent representative, the School Council President and two DET personnel will be working to select a new Principal for Westgarth. We wish them well with this important process.

Parent Teacher Interviews….  
Thank you to all the parents/carers who made times to see their child’s teacher last week. Teachers very much appreciate meeting parents and sharing your child’s learning goals at an early point in the year. If you have not yet met with the classroom teacher please ring or email the school as soon as possible to organise a parent/teacher interview time.

These rich conversations, using the evidence from teacher pre and post tests, the student’s participation in differentiated and explicit teaching sessions, teacher observations and student achievement on a range of assessments conducted throughout the year, give teachers a clear and evidence based snapshot of where your child sits on the learning continuum. Parent teacher interviews are just one way to share your child’s learning, to report to you about their progress and to set future goals for each student, with participation from you, the parent/carer, the student and the teacher.

Please continue to communicate with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns, either prior to the school day [8.45], after school or it might just need a phone call - 9481 5577 or an email. Teachers require some notice to be able to speak at length with you. Generally we do not give out individual staff email addresses as teachers are timetabled to be teaching most of the school day. All emails can be sent via the Westgarth address westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au. It is important to place the staff members name on the subject line so it can be forwarded on. The staff member will get back to you as soon as possible over the next few days.

Planning Week…….
Next week the timetable will be an alternative one so students will be having their specialist classes at different times. Teachers will be working together in their teams to plan teaching and learning programs and to build on teaching strategies that foster communication and student engagement.

Term 1 finishes at the end of next week. The finishing time for students will be 2.30 p.m. (please note amended time) on Friday 27th March. OSHC will operate from 2.30 - 5.50 p.m. on this day. Please contact OSHC for bookings.

Have an exciting week everyone - it’s been a very busy term, fitting everything into 9 weeks.

Cheers,
Lynne Mackie
Assistant Principal
Diary Dates 2015

**Sun 22nd Mar**  Working Bee Postponed till Term 2  
**Thursday 26th Mar**  Hot Cross Bun Day  
**Fri 27th Mar**  Last day of Term 1. Students dismissed 2.30 pm  
(please note amended time)  
**Wed 27-Fri 29th May**  Grade 6 Camp 2015  
**Sat 30th May**  Westgarth Idol  
**Wed 9th Sept-11th Sept**  Grade 4 Camp 2015  
**Sun 18th Oct**  Whopping Great Fete

Meetings

**Wed 18th Mar**  Finance Committee Meeting 8.30 a.m. Resource Room  
**Tues 24th Mar**  Governance Working Party 7pm Resource Room  
**Wed 25th Mar**  Safe Travel Working Group  - 7.00 pm 19 Hayes St  
Northcote  9481 3321  
**Wed 25th Mar**  School Council AGM 7pm followed by 1st meeting of new council.

Term Dates 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>29/01/15</td>
<td>27/03/15</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>13/04/15</td>
<td>26/06/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>13/07/15</td>
<td>18/09/15</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>05/10/15</td>
<td>18/12/15</td>
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**OH&S**

Yesterday, we once again asked the department to come out and make sure that all damaged window surfaces were safe and stable. The school is currently waiting for DET to authorise the final payment for all glass replacement on Clarke Street. Until this work is completed students will be having their music sessions either outdoors in the fresh air, the gym or in individual student classrooms.

On Saturday we had the Kitchen Garden sprayed for spiders as a precaution to students and parents using this area. This is an annual preventive measure.

Carolyn Shiels, Assistant Principal

**Safe Travel To School Survey**

Just a reminder to all to please fill out the Safe Travel to School Survey if you haven’t already as it closes on Sunday 22nd March.

**IT’S BACK! BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER, WESTGARTH IDOL**

The special date to set aside in your busy calendars is **Sat 30th of May**, at the deluxe **Thornbury theatre** with its marble staircase, super round tables and sparkling disco ball.

**Hello new parents:** This is the evening in the year for grown ups when we turn the dial up to 11: part trivia, part dining, part wining, part socializing, part sensational Westgarth Idol acts, part dance frenzy, part fundraiser! We all have a ball and the Idols never fail to astonish. New parents are warmly welcome to get involved as an Idol or attendee.

Further details to follow soon but till then you may wish to run to your calendar on the fridge and put a red circle around **Sat 30th of May** and write WI night, Yeah!

**Chocolate Drive 2015 – Easter Fundraiser**

Wednesday is the final day to hand in your Easter Fundraising Orders. As Easter is only around the corner, this fundraiser has some great items at great prices. Your purchase will be supporting the school (and Royal Children’s Hospital if you buy a Bunny).

On various days next week we will be having a Pop Up stand selling Easter products near the WEB building / Art Room in the mornings and afternoons. Feel free to come along to purchase any last minute gifts. Helpers will be needed for sorting orders and manning the pop up stand ... if you can lend any time please message Annette 0419 810 395.

Thanks.
Regional Swimming Competition Grade 3-6

Westgarth had a large group of swimmers who competed at the Regionals last week. It is such an amazing achievement reaching this high level of competition. 1000s of students compete in the school swimming competitions so our students should be very proud of themselves. Thank you to Erica (Jonah) and Margarita (Kala) who helped us walk to and from the pool as well as all the parents who cheered us on at the pool. Below is a list of all the students who competed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jonah A</th>
<th>Liam D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nathan M</td>
<td>Zac I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kala B</td>
<td>Jasmine L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine M</td>
<td>Isabelle M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torren A</td>
<td>India W</td>
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<td>Imogen A</td>
<td>Kyra J</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camille I</td>
<td>Dominic H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben S</td>
<td>Jade L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Y</td>
<td>Charlotte S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikaila Y</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Thanks,
Go Pies!
Rushe Lynch

Active April
It’s that time of year again – time to get active (or more active) in April. Active April is a government initiative to encourage people to be active for 30 minutes a day during April. There are lots of prizes just for joining up! Please see the attached flyer for more information. We have registered a Westgarth Primary team. All you need to do is log on to the Active April website and create your own profile and password. It’s easy to join our team.

Team name: Westgarth Primary
Team ID: westgarth-primary3
We look forward to seeing your names appear on the team!

Rushe, Hannah & Aimee

Sport Diary Dates
Grade 6 Interschool sport
Friday 20th March (changed from 13th March)
Away game against Preston South Primary (No softball or bat tennis. Cricket played at Blake Park)
School Council - Policy Sub-Committee: Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy up for review

The Student Engagement and Wellbeing policy is up for review and there will be opportunities for parents, teachers and students to have input to the updated policy during term 2.

The Student Engagement Policy articulates the expectations and aspirations of the school community in relation to student engagement and learning and including strategies to address cyber bullying, harassment and bullying, school attendance and student behaviour in accordance with State and Commonwealth Law. The Student Engagement Policy also promotes the shared school community values and the creation of a positive and engaging school culture that provides opportunity and inclusiveness for all students to participate and proactively engages with parents, guardians and carers.

The Policy Sub-Committee met on Wednesday 11 March to plan the process to update the policy it was agreed that the Kids Matter framework would be used to guide the process. Kids Matter is the Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative.

The process to update the policy will be driven by a small action team from the Policy Sub-committee and will include a consultation phase including surveys and focus groups with parents, teachers and students. Consultation will kick off early in term 2. Watch the newsletter for further information on this.

Ian MacLean - Acting Convenor - School Council Policy Sub-committee

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Wow, what a great day Friday was. Thanks to all the eager riders, scooters, walkers and roller bladers!

The helmet parade was an absolute highlight for both the P-2s and 3-6s, the teachers are still raving about how much fun they had. We saw such an array of helmet designs; from fire breathing fish to fruit covered sombreros, flashing helmets, streamers and rainbows adorned many. A very impressive effort by the creative Westgarth school community.

We had over 500 students who came to school sustainably with 388 students who rode, scooted or skated and 144 students who walked. Thanks to grade 6 Cameron who surveyed the whole school on their chosen form of transport. Coming to school by riding, walking, skating, scooting is a great way to exercise, improves concentration and of course is much better for the environment. Well done Westgarth PS. Keep up the great work everyone. (Special thanks to Andy who gave me a lift on Friday morning!)

Rosie and Andy
Chess Kids - Lunchtime Chess Club Term 2 2015
Grade 2 – Grade 6 Students

Dear Parents/Carers,

In Term 2, we are once again offering a lunchtime chess club which is an extra curricular activity for students in Grade 2 to Grade 6, organised by the company Chess Kids (www.chesskids.com.au).

The classes will be on a Tuesday and commence in the second week of Term 2 on Tuesday 21st April in the Resource Room on Brooke St. The cost for the term is $65.00. Nettie Heron (Grade 2) will assist during each session.

Due to the limited spaces of 20 in the group, you are asked to return the permission slip together with payment as soon as possible to secure a spot. It will be on a first in basis. Please forward $65.00 in cash/cheque or credit card (slip below) and return it directly to the school office as soon as possible and not their classroom teacher or fax to 9489 2518. Cheques are to be made payable to Westgarth Primary School. Please complete the slip below and return it by Friday 20th March to the school office.

Please note we require 20 students to run this program.

Regards,
Nella Bordin

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Chess Kids - Lunch Time Chess Club Term 2 2015
Grade 2 – 6 Students

My child_____________________________________________________ Class Teacher_________________________
would like to participate in Lunchtime Chess Club.

I have forwarded $65.00 cash/cheque/credit card (please circle). Please complete details below.

Parent/Guardian Signature_______________________________________ Phone Number_______________________

CHESS PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Card AMOUNT: $…………………………………..

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐

Expiration Date: ☐ ☐/☐ ☐

Cardholder’s Name: _____________________________________________(Please Print)
Cardholder’s Signature: _________________________________________ Date: ____/____/_____
OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW! Who has a drawer full of bras they don’t wear? In March I am collecting them for Project Uplift who ships them to the third world. I am also an Intimo lingerie stylist. Go through your drawers ASAP, drop them to me, have a personal fitting if you need new bras, or get a few friends together and gather up the unwanted bras whilst checking out the new collections that are expertly fitted and perfectly made. Myf Browning 0418 122 663. Mother of Harry (5K), Akira (3S) and Kipp (PT). www.intimo.com.au

City Of Darebin Holiday Program
Brochure and enrolment form can be collected from the school office or call City of Darebin on 8470 8520.

Trad Netball Junior Clinics
A fun atmosphere with skill learning in a positive environment. Ages 7-13 years. 4.30pm Thursdays at Northcote High School. PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN: the rules of netball, throwing and catching skills, goal shooting technique, footwork, attacking and defending skills. Please use contact details below to register or to make further enquiries www.netballcomp.com 87 Elder St, Watsonia VIC 3087 Dave: 0433 098 444 Email: admin@netballcomp.com

NORTHCOTE COUGARS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB: UNDER 11 PLAYERS WANTED
Come join the fun of our great family friendly football club. Spaces are still available for under 11’s for the 2015 season. All Cougar players are given the chance to play in the FWD, CENTRE & BACK lines every week with the team rotation policy ensuring that FUN AND PARTICIPATION are our #1 priority. Pre Season training has already commenced with the season starting on Sunday 12 April. If your budding AFL star was born in 2004 and is looking at playing AFL Football on a Sunday morning please check out our club website at www.njfc.com.au or contact the Team Manager ANDREW BELL (Anson in Grade 5 Ryan) on drew1602@gmail.com or 0413 455 921 for more details.

Thornbury Women’s Neighbourhood House Holiday Program
Call 9480 0466 or email office@twnh.vic.edu.au for further information.

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