



## Principal News – November 2023

### Spring Fair



Congratulations on a wonderful Spring Fair. Thank you to the many parents, students, staff and extended families for supporting this wonderful and important school event. It is amazing to come together as a community. These events take the work of many. We are grateful to the team of volunteers who worked on the day as well as everyone who attended, donated and participated. In particular though, there are two groups that I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to; the

coordinators and the stall holders who got onboard and organised the many tasks associated with pulling together a fair of this size. Without you, the fair would not be possible. Our gratitude to the many people who assisted in the lead up and of special note to those who stayed at the end and in the days following the event who worked on the pack down, clean up and tying up of loose ends. Huge thanks to: Fair Coordinators – Sarah Spencer and Anna Peters; Logistics – Maria Woloszyn and Clodagh Cunningham; Social Media and Comms – Adrienne Biscontin; Silent Auction – Jo Wallis, Talia Susman, Elyse Hogan, Jacinta Tse and Mark Redston; Kids Activities coordinator – Emily Blyth; Market Stall Coordinator – Lyndall Shelly; Food and Drinks – Cassie Eyres; Sound and stage – Andrew Schudmak; Design coordinator – Owen Richards and a huge thanks for many years of design work and support of the handover, Matt Clare of Mono Design.



I would also like to acknowledge our incredible students who contributed through organising and helping with the setup and pack down, performing on stage, making crafts, cakes, fruit and veg sculptures and helping on stalls. What a great team we are here at Westgarth PS. And what an outstanding amount of fundraising that was made on the day. At this stage we have raised a whopping **\$100,000**.

On top of this, Realtor of the Year, Sam Rigopoulos, and Jellis Craig Northcote has raised/committed an additional \$39000 through the very generous donation from the auction for an auction. These funds will be available in the future when the property has sold and settled. We cannot thank Sam and the Jellis Craig Northcote team enough for their continued support and sponsorship over the past 11 years. On behalf of the Westgarth community, Thank you Sam.



*Thanks again for the wonderful donation from the Westgarth Idol Band's Parents Battle of the Bands. Don't forget to support the Northside and grab your ticket to the North vs South Parents Battle of the Bands at the Corner Hotel Richmond, Thursday 16 November at 7pm.*



Furthermore, I would like to thank the many companies and individuals who made donations to our Spring Fair. If you are able to support these business and mention our appreciation for their donation to the school, it goes a long way towards building our relationship with them. Thanks to:

### **Main Sponsor:**

- Jellis Craig Inner North

### **Ride, Stall and Activity Sponsors:**

- Trav's Trees Services
- Wildlife Wonders
- Aspect Underwriting
- Supagroup Constructions
- Hansen
- Northcote Cougars Junior Football Club
- Saint David Dairy
- Bakers Delight Fairfield
- Kid You Not Agency
- Phil's Bakehouse & Cafe
- Mobile Skips
- Biviano & Sons Florist

### **Silent Auction, Stall Donors and Supporters:**

1800 Lasagne, Adrienne Biscontin, Arthur Reed Photography, Aquila, Australian Sports Camp, AWM Electrical, Beaumont Rise Wines, Biba Academy, Body Fit Physio, Bop til you Drop, Bunnings Fairfield, Bytes of Northcote, Canva, Chocolatier, Channel 10, Cinder, Circus Nexus, City Cave Ivanhoe, Collingwood Toy Library, Daily Fix, Dean Dyson Architects, DenDeke Japanese Restaurant, Deans Art Supplies, DIY Blinds, E & A Salce, Elk, Eve Studio, Fairfield Books, Fairyfields, Feel Good Choir, Fitstop Northcote, Fort Green Yoga Studio, Funfields, Funderdome Highpoint, GJ Discount Fabrics, Glow Dance, Glowworm Studios, Good Time, Gospel Whiskey, Go Climb, Grandwash Auto Fairfield, Hey Caddy Northland, Holdsworth Bros Jewellers, I Dream a Highway, Ice HQ, iFly, Joval Wines, July, Jump Swim School Fairfield, Kate Jungwirth, Kelly Sports, Local Brewing Co, Louisa Yim Architect, Luna Park, Mae Taylor Hair and Make-up Artist, Margo Studio, Merry People, Moon Dog, Muka Potraits, Museums Victoria, Natio, Nest Legal, Northcote Aquatics Centre, Northcote Electrical, Northcote Social Club, Northcote Tennis, Northern Ball, Outcircle Social Club, Patra Massage Therapy, Phase 1 Performance, Philhellene Moonee Ponds, Project Skin, Rain & Lucky, Rationale Skin Care, RT Edgar, Ruckers Hill, Samuel Pepys, Slow Clay Centre, Sessions Northcote, Spitjack, Stageworks Academy, Street BBQ, Tahina, Tallboy and Moose, The Peacock Inn, The Seafood Station, The Terminus Hotel, Three Thousand Thieves, Weapon City Supplements, Who Gives a Crap.

And all the parents, carers, families, friends and staff of WPS who gave their time, energy and resources.

### **New building project**

This time last year we were announcing the construction of the inclusive playground on Brooke St and this year it is our new gymnasium and classroom building. We have spent what seems like hundreds of hours in meetings over the past 18 months to get us to this stage. I am sure you will agree that moving the portables out and the fourth portable to the carpark has made an enormous difference to the feel of the Clarke St site. The location of the new building project gym and classrooms will be where the original Clarke St building was located back in 1924 at the front of the Clarke St boundary. It is very fitting that the new building will commence 100 years later in the same location. This does mean that the turf area at the front of the school will be built on, and as mentioned in previous correspondence we will be losing some of the trees in the forest area. These will be replaced with suitable alternatives as part of the project. The project is currently out to tender and once the tender process is finalised the builders will be onsite quickly. This will mean we will lose access to the Clarke St carpark and the turf area at the front of the school. The access to the school grounds via the gate closest to the kindergarten will be maintained but this may change throughout the build. We are very excited that the project is about to commence and while we will have some short-term pain, we will have many years of benefit from the new buildings. I would like to thank the parents who advocated for funding for our school and who worked hard on the Redevelopment Working Party to develop the capital works funding submission. The fruits of your labours are about to be reaped!

## What's been happening in S.T.E.A.M in term 4?

**Year 3's-** Sphero Indi has been the tech we have been using this term so far. Students can program these robots using coloured mats. Later in the term we will be designing and building a Town for the Indi cars to drive around. This will involve teamwork, design, building and maths concepts such as angles to ensure the car navigates the course successfully.



**Year 4's- digital art.** Groups have been creating digital art on the iPads. Groups are also completing mini coding projects such as making a spinning top and a Simon Says game using the SPHERO Bolt. Later in the term, groups will be designing and building mini golf courses.



**Year 5's- Animations** on the iPads. Groups have been working on animations using the Apple Pencils. Groups will complete projects using the SPHERO Bolt to code an alarm clock and make a soccer game.



### Year 6's –

This term Year 6s have been finishing off Scratch projects, Chariots to race and OSMO games. Later in the term, groups will be coding a 3 Little Pigs story acted out with SPHERO. They will also be learning about binary code and networks.



**Code club Friday** Every Friday lunchtime the WEB building is open for Code Club. Groups can work on finishing projects, starting new ones, or have fun coding.

**Lights for learning incursion.** Grade 5's participated in an incursion to make solar lights for communities in need in PNG. After the lights were constructed, groups wrote a little message to the student who would be receiving the light. Year 5's had lots of fun and whilst learning about solar, will have hopefully made a difference in someone else's life.



## Working Bee Thanks

Thanks to the wonderful team of volunteers who attended the working bee on Sunday 8 October in the Kitchen Garden: Yuki, Kellie, Travis, Violet, Cara, Des Leo, Mason, Gretchen, Fiona, Clodagh, Zeke, Torin, Jonathan, Jack, Kim, Mason and Estelle, Clare, Frieda, Ben, Harvey, Eddie, Leah, Andrea, Campbell, Maria, Hugo, Allison, Mark, Eve and Christine.





## School Council Report – October meeting

– Jacob Spencer (School Council President)

The last School Council meeting was held onsite at 7pm on Wednesday 25 October.

**Principal's Report** – Topics discussed: Pupil free days for 2024, School camp approvals for 2024, Safe Schools, Use of Chat Groups and the musical costings.

**Finance** – The Finance Committee meet monthly to discuss the previous month's financials. Detailed financial reports are provided to committee members for review and discussion. The committee is happy to report that our positive cash flow allows us to meet our financial budget commitments for both revenue and expenditure.

In addition, we have reviewed our parent payment contribution this year and we thank those families for their contributions to date. If you have not contributed yet, there still is time to do so via your parent Compass portal. Contributions are imperative, enabling quality curriculum resources to be purchased for each students learning.

**Environment** – The environment subcommittee met on 19 October. We are excited that the new gym and classroom buildings job is out to tender. The removal and onsite move of the portables has been a wonderful change to the Clarke St site. Thanks to the community for their contributions to fundraising that enabled the onsite relocation of the fourth portable to occur. The committee would like to look towards the school becoming net zero and developing a plan to meet that goal. We would like to acknowledge the families and staff who attended the working bee on the Sunday 8 October and specifically to Kellie Burns for her contribution to improving the gardens, among many other contributions, over the last nine years.

**Education** – We discussed the school commitment to Safe Schools and what that looks like in our school. We heard from the parents who attended the meeting about their thoughts about what we currently do and how we strengthen our community commitment to Safe Schools.

**Fun & Fundraising** – The Faf has been pretty quiet since the smashing Christmas in July Trivia night, while we've all been helping with Fete. Keep eyes and ears open for information about more events to round out the end of the year.

### **Next meeting dates:**

OSHC	Tuesday 21 November @ 10am WebEx
Finance	Tuesday 21 November @ 10.00am WebEx
Environment	Thursday 23 November @ 8.00am Jo's Office
Fun & Fundraising	Monday 4 December @ 8.00pm WebEx
School Council	Wednesday 29 November @ 7.00pm Staffroom or Library

If you would like to join a sub-committee, please contact the office so we can pass on your details to the convenors of the sub-committees so you can receive the correspondence and meeting invites.

Jo Wheeler  
Principal