



Principal News – June 2023

School Review

The school review provided us with the opportunity to do an in depth look into our practices and achievements. We are very happy with the outcome of this robust process which identified many strengths and highlights and informed the direction for the next four years. School Council President, Jacob Spencer, and I have made a short video outlining the school review report and a brief outline for a future foci. It will be shared on SeeSaw before the end of the term.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program funding

The school community completed a review of the SAKGP in 2016 in its tenth year. It was clear at that time as well as in our most recent school review that the program is highly valued by our school community, by both parents and students. For those who are new to the school, you may not be aware that the SAKGP is a school funded program, meaning that apart from the initial building grant received, the school funds the full program itself. This includes the staff funding as well as the food for classes, the garden supplies, all equipment and consumables. At the time of the review, the school community agreed that the costs would be shared through a small voluntary contribution from all families in the school and a larger cost for those in years 3 – 5. These students have a meal as part of the program each fortnight when they participate in kitchen lessons. The amount of the voluntary contribution amounts to approximately \$4.50 per week. In 2022 the program cost the school \$ 106,251 and families contributed \$47,138 in voluntary contributions. This is with approximately 85% collection rate; the school funded the remaining \$59,000 from the staffing budget. This year, the percentage of families paying the voluntary contribution thus far is 44%. For the school to be able to sustain this program into the future we need the financial support of the community.

Curriculum and Professional Practice Days – Fri 3 & Mon 6 November

In 2023 the Department of Education has provided schools with 4 curriculum days (pupil free) and 2 professional practice days (one of which is pupil free). School Council approved the Mon 6 Nov (before Melbourne Cup Day) as our joint Professional Practice Day. We have been waiting to finalise the final curriculum day and the date that the presenter had available was the Friday prior this. The school's OSHC program will offer care on both days (Friday 3 and Monday 6 November). Please note that Tuesday 7th November is the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

Parent Teacher interviews (22 June) & open classroom (19 June)

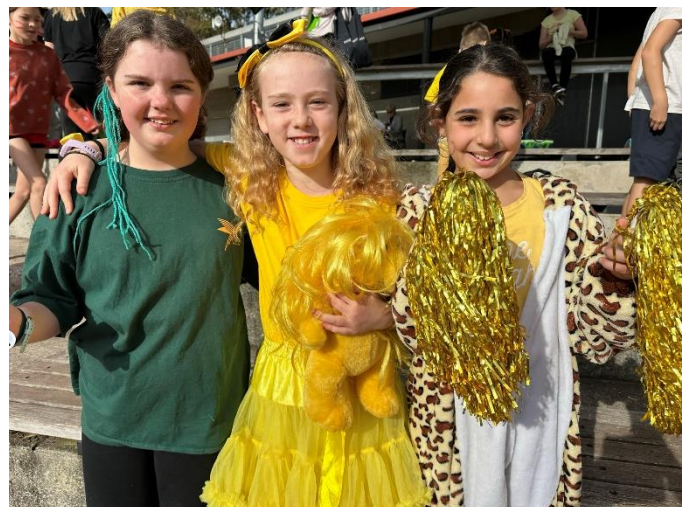
Parent/Teacher Interviews will be happening on Thursday 22nd June. This will be a pupil-free day and OSHC will offer curriculum day care on that day. Interviews will be via WebEx again this year. Details will be sent via Compass to make a booking. On the Monday morning of that week, 19 June from 8.45 -9.15 we are opening our classroom doors for parents to come in and look at their child's classroom and workbooks, ahead of the interviews. There will be no assembly on that morning.

Marvellous May

We have had many events over the past month for our students and community. On the sporting field we have had our athletics sports, year 6 gala day, swimming for years 1, 5 & 6, cross country and year 2 students enjoyed sports clinics run by Northcote High students. We have had a number of incursions including STEAM workshops for years 5 & 6 students, and preps had The Life Education program, learning about healthy bodies. We celebrated Reconciliation Week, National Simultaneous Storytime, Walk safely to school day. All of this was topped off by the best night on the Westgarth calendar, Westgarth Idol. Thanks to everyone who has organised and participated in these wonderful school events.

Athletics Carnival

The school's intra athletics carnival was held on May 12 to select the Westgarth team for the interschool competition which is run in August. This is earlier in the year than they used to be run. Athletics is a winter sport on the Victorian Schools Sports calendar, so the interschool competition is run in term three. Team selection happens at the intra school event however the winter weather has caused many cancellations over the years and if they were able to run, were uncomfortable to be spending the day in the cold and wet. So Rushe now organises them for May to avoid the miserable winter weather. And Melbourne put on the perfect day for the event. Slightly overcast, no wind and no rain! The students had a wonderful day and showed great sportsmanship, after all the good sport award ranks more highly than placing in an event in our house competition. We are proud of how our students supported each other regardless of the team they are in. The winning house on the day was Rucker. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the parents, carers and extended families, who supported the event by volunteering for a role on the day, or as a spectator.



It's a wrap! Westgarth Idol 2023

What I love about Westgarth Idol is the wonderful sense of community. The parent group come together as one, to have fun and be together, plus throw in a touch of competitive spirit to add some excitement. I wouldn't feel comfortable getting on stage dressed up like a very unfortunate looking Taylor Swift, in any other community! So, I would like to make a huge shout out to **Sam Hooper**, who with the band transposed, learnt and rehearsed many songs over many hours. Thanks also to Team Idol **Amy Greetham**, **Lucy Davidson** and **Nicole Guest** for organising everything to do with the event, liaising with the contestants, venues, school office staff, volunteers, donors, raffle, and organising the ticketing, stage management, etc. Thanks to our host with the most, **Tony Wilson** Idol MC. To our very talented **The Idol Band** for giving your time and musical talents to keep the vibe alive on stage: **Cam Macklin** – Guitar & Vocals, **Tim Williams** – Percussion, **Guus Hoevenaars** – Guitar, **Ed Farrar** – Trumpet, **Jess Mahler** – Sax, **Cam Lobb** – Trombone, **Carl Pannuzzo** – Vocals. And a very special call out to **Roland Cox** (Drums) and **Rob Hay** (Bass) who have been on the Idol band wagon for many years now. Thanks to photographer **Dan Mahon** for his brilliant photography and **Tim Burgess** for capturing all the evidence in live action. And a big thanks to our volunteers for helping out on the door, selling raffle tickets, chaperoning talent for photos, token counting and heaps more...

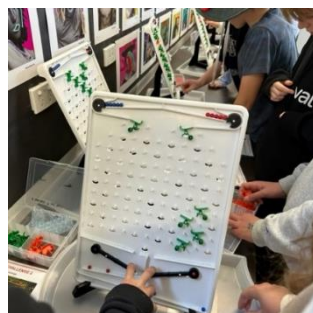
Dougal Hunt, **Natalie Craig**, **Gary Wissendon**, **Kellie Burns**, **Amy Hubbard**, **Maddy Miller**, **Emily Pandya**, **Lucy Yeo**, **Alex Kapowski**, **Katherine Bell**, **Nikki Anderson**, **Tim Monte** and **Claire Monte**. To our merry band of singers and groovers, each act was amazing. Thank you for your interest, time and bravery providing the competition and entertainment on the night. And finally, to everyone who supported the event by donating to the raffle, coming along to the show, and for buying the raffle tickets. Thanks to those Idols who are leaving the Westgarth shores this year. You will be missed. That's a wrap for 2023 and now performers (current and new) can start focussing on their 2024 acts!

Magnificent Photo below: 'Yard Duty' who performed their version of the Taylor Swift song 'Shake it off'.



Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics activities

Over two Thursdays in May, students in years 5 & 6 participated in some exciting STEAM lessons. Students had a wonderful time exploring a mine via virtual reality, participated in logical thinking activities, engineering marble runs, and building electrical circuits.



Year 3-The first half of this term students worked on their coding skills using SPHERO. How to make your robot draw a square/straight line/triangle etc. Groups then worked on a 2D maze for their robot to move through. The second half of the term will be time for SPHERO art. Groups engineer a device for their SPHERO to hold a pencil/Texta etc. They then program their robot to move around drawing onto paper as it does.



Year 4-The first half of the term we learnt about loops in coding and had a turn at coding our SPHERO's to perform different functions.

The second half of the term, groups had 2 mini projects to work on.

- Animal throwing game – SPHERO will make a random sound when thrown from one person to the other.
- Addition challenge. SPHERO will use coding to perform addition equations.



Year 5-The first half of the term year 5s used the SPHERO to work out the perimeter of different shapes. The second half of the term groups worked with the SPHERO RVR completing activities such as programming it to turn on headlights, change colour using its sensor and moving up steep gradients without flipping.



Year 6 -The 3 classes have been working on different projects this term.

6 Hannah – Has had various projects including, Coding with OSMO Duo, Mini projects with the RVRs and building chariots for SPHERO to be raced around the gym.

6 Archie – Have spent the term building various robots using the two Lego kits we have.

6 Erin – Spent time coding using Swift Playground which uses text to code.

School Council Report – 24 May meeting

– Jacob Spencer (School Council President)

The last School Council meeting was held onsite at 7pm on Wednesday 24 May.

Principal's Report – Topics discussed: School review findings, Development of the new strategic plan, Athletics sports, Musical, and Year 6 graduation.

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.

Environment – Environment committee discussed the current stage of the capital works project and fundraising to ensure we get all that is needed but not funded under the project. We will have a better idea of what is needed once the tender process is complete. The committee and school are delighted with the Inclusive Playground and new fence, which is now complete. Thanks to the parent body who supported fundraising last year. The school contributed approximately \$100 000 to the project, including full payment for the new fence. The school applied for a Federal Government Grant with the hope of completing some works on the east side of the Brooke St frontage, however, was not successful. We thanked the team for the working bees which has improved the garden beds north of the John Cain building (art room, year 3 classes). The next working bee will be in July and will focus on the Kitchen Garden and will include home-made (school-made) pizza! New carpet has been laid in the year 2 classrooms and the Brooke St portables. We are awaiting quotes for the retaining walls on both sites to replace existing.

OSHC – We hope your students are enjoying their time in the OSHC community! Please take a moment to review our Quality Improvement Plan which is displayed on the OSHC noticeboard. This will help families understand the program's immediate priorities for student education and care, plus staff development. We are busy planning activities for later in the year, including for our Curriculum Day on 25 June. If you need Before or After school care for your students, please get in touch!

Education – Education sub-committee trialled a new style of meeting. In a similar approach to the parent forums run as part of the school review, we set the topic of Bullying and asked for feedback on current practices and areas

for improvement. Thanks to the small group who attended. We are hopeful that attendance will increase for future meetings/forums.

Fun & Fundraising - Fun and Fundraising has been busy behind the scenes. We have the following events coming up soon:

- Super Science Night on 17 June, 6-8pm: An evening of discovery and wonder for the whole family. Come along to the farmhouse for some fun science activities run by our very own parents. DNA extraction, geology, refrigeration, and star gazing will be on offer and the pizza oven will be running to sort your dinner. Check Compass for further details. This event will be looking for parent helpers from Grades 1 and 2.
- July 14 The parents will be hosting a Grade 5/6 Disco like no other. No blue lights, no messy soda, and a real DJ. See Compass for details. This event will be looking for parent helpers from Grades 5 and 6.
- July 29 The much-loved Trivia is back. This is a parent social and fundraiser. A great opportunity to get to know other parents (why not get a class table together?) and show off your brainpower. The organising team is looking for extras, so if you have an interest in supporting this event, please contact FaF (see below).

Our class rep list is slowly growing, thank you to those who have signed on. If you haven't been getting messages to your class WhatsApp about these types of events, then your class probably doesn't have a rep. Maybe you'd like to volunteer? We're especially thin on grade 2. No meetings required!

Lastly, FaF has a new email address to match its new name. Please feel free to get in touch with suggestions, ideas, and amazing jokes to funandfundraising@westgarthschoolcouncil.org
Our next meeting will be on 17 July at 8pm in the staffroom and is open to anyone (no jokes).

Next meeting dates:

OSHC	Wednesday 7 June @ 10am WebEx
Finance	Tuesday 6 June @ 10.00am WebEx
Education/Parent Forum	Tuesday 6 June @ 7pm WebEx
Environment	Thursday 8 June @ 8.00am Jo's Office
Fun & Fundraising	Monday 17 July @ 8.00pm Staffroom (Brooke St)
School Council	Wednesday 14 June @ 7.00pm 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