



## Principal News – July 2023

### Safety concerns

I am concerned by the numbers of parents and students using the school car parks as a pedestrian thoroughfare. A child was hit and killed by a reversing car at an Alphington school a few years ago. I do not want this to happen at Westgarth. Parents please do not walk through or park in the school car parks, they are for staff parking only. Please remind children when they are walking across driveways to be looking for cars. An accident can happen in a moment and results can be catastrophic.



### Working Bee – Sunday 23 July

Keep Sunday 23 July free to come to our Christmas in July working bee. See the School News for details.

### Open morning & Parent Teacher Interviews

Many parents and carers met with teachers via WebEx for Parent/Teacher interviews in the last week of term 2. If you were unable to meet with your child's teacher that week, you are welcome to make an appointment at another time or have a telephone conversation with them.

Parents are welcome to meet a teacher at any time throughout the year, not just at formal interview times, by calling in or telephoning to make an appointment or contacting the teacher via Compass.

There was positive feedback received about the open classroom morning on the Monday prior to the interviews. We aim to run another closer to the end of the year.

### Prep Enrolments 2024

If you have a pre-school student who is due to start school next year, i.e. children who turn five before 30 April 2024, please complete an enrolment form as soon as possible. If you know of a neighbour with a pre-school child, please let them know to finalise enrolments now. All enrolment information can be found on the school's website <https://www.wgps.vic.edu.au/page/169/Enrolment-Prep---Year-6->

### Will your family be at Westgarth next year?

If your child is in Prep – Year 5, and will not be attending Westgarth next year, please let the office know so we can factor this into our 2024 planning.

### Musical August 23 or 24

Our whole school musical will be on 23 and 24 August. Information about ticketing will come out soon. In the meantime, we would like to alert families to the fact that we will be sending notes home regarding costuming shortly. The school may be providing some costume elements, but families will need to provide some elements as well. Please keep an eye out for a costume note which will be sent by Compass, so you know what your child will need. As with other aspects of school, if your family has difficulty with this, please contact your child's classroom teacher for support. If your children are in Urquhart or Rucker they will perform on Wednesday 23 August and students in Walker and Gerrard will perform on Thursday 24 August. At this stage we have been unable to secure a videographer for the event. If there is anyone in the school community who would be available to record over the two nights and edit after the performances, please let the office know.



## NAPLAN – changes to reporting (Year 3 & 5)

Ahead of NAPLAN results for students in years 3 and 5 being released this month, I would like to inform you of some changes to this year's reporting. These are changes being introduced nationally by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

NAPLAN will continue to measure student achievement in numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, and grammar and punctuation but the results will now be presented in 4 proficiency levels:

These are:

- exceeding
- strong
- developing
- needs additional support.

This change will give schools, parents and carers clearer information that details student achievement against new proficiency levels.

Students' NAPLAN reports will continue to show how they are tracking against their peers and provide an indication of their skill levels against national averages and where we would expect them to be in order to get the most out of schooling. This provides valuable information to teachers about how we can continue to support your child.

Each set of NAPLAN results is an important milestone but it's also important that students know that one result does not define them – these results are about making sure every student gets the support they need so they can continue to get the best from their learning.

When we provide you with your results, you will also receive information about what the new proficiency levels mean.

As ever, you're welcome to speak to me, or your child's teacher with any questions about these changes.

## Preparing for the Building Works

In preparation for the commencement of the building of our new gym and classroom buildings we can confirm that the front three double portables will be removed in the September school holidays. We will start the process of moving three classes (3 Liv & Habiba and 4 Glenn), the OSHC classroom and associated furniture and supplies from the middle of term. The start date of the build is yet to be confirmed and is subject to favourable tender results.

## Dads & such – The Hunger Games



Westgarth Dads and Such  
presents

**THE  
HUNGER  
GAMES**

27 July 7:30pm  
**Archery Attack**  
118-120 Henty St, Reservoir VIC 3073

90 minutes of arrow tag \$45 + b.f.  
Followed by catch-up & drinks

Westgarth Dads & Such: The hunger games  
Archery Attack

Thursday 27 July 7:30pm  
118 Henty St Reservoir

For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/westgarth-dads-and-such-archery-attack-tickets-661876459307>

## School Council Report – June meeting – Jacob Spencer (School Council President)

The last School Council meeting was held onsite at 7pm on Wednesday 14 June.

To open our school council meetings each month we do an Acknowledgement of the traditional owners. This year we are reading an acknowledgement written by different classes at the start of the year during the Setting the Scene (first few weeks of school). This month we read 3 Jenny's acknowledgement.

*"In 3 Jenny, we would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land on which we live, learn and love. We meet today on the land of the Wurundjeri people and pay our respect to Elders past and present. We aim to learn from the land, skies and oceans. We respect Bunjil's wishes by taking only what we need and give back what we can. Always was and always will be Aboriginal Land."*

**Principal's Report** – Topics discussed: Strategic Plan, Westgarth Idol, Parent/Teacher interviews and open morning, and the use of the WhatsApp groups.

**Formal Motion:** School Council would formally like to thank the organisers of the Idol Event for conducting such a successful community event and the donation to the school. Thanks go to Sam Hooper, Nicole Guest, Amy Greetham and Lucy Davidson.

**Finance** – The Finance Committee meets 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, the school received \$ 11,839.75 as a donation from Westgarth Idol team.

**Environment** – The environment sub-committee met on both June 1 and 8. We discussed the capital works project and queries to ask the program control group. General maintenance, building security, the purchase of new solar panels for Brooke St and the 2024 centenary celebrations were also on the agenda. We are waiting on quotes to repair the retaining wall behind the year two portable, and with the employment of maintenance staff two days per week, many of the minor repairs and maintenance jobs are managed efficiently.

**OSHC** – We hope your students are enjoying their time in the OSHC community! As we head towards the end of term, we look forward to welcoming students on our Curriculum Day on 22 June, and we are excited about the activities we have planned for Term 3! If you need Before or After school care for your family, please get in touch!

**Education** – The Parent Forum/Education sub-committee met on June 6 and discussed the swimming program and whole school celebrations and recognition days. Feedback provided is valuable and will be taken into account when making decisions with regards to these two topics.

**Fun & Fundraising** – nil report

### **Next meeting dates:**

OSHC	Wednesday 19 July @ 10am WebEx
Finance	Tuesday 18 July @ 10.00am WebEx
Education	Tuesday 18 July @ 7pm WebEx
Environment	Thursday 20 July @ 8.00am Jo's Office
Fun & Fundraising	Monday 17 July @ 8.00pm Staffroom (Brooke St)
School Council	Wednesday 26 July @ 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