



Principal News – October 2024

Welcome back

It is wonderful to be back for our final term for 2024. How quickly the year has progressed. Term four is always a full term. This is also the last term for our year six students and for many, the last year as families at our school. As mentioned in the September newsletter once the fete is over the builders will move the temporary fences and works will begin on the playground. Temporary toilets, a cleaner's pod and a shipping container were placed in the grounds until we have access to the new buildings. Fingers crossed that the new basketball/field area will be ready for our current year 6 students to enjoy before they head off to secondary school.

Pupil Free Days – 14 October & 4 November

There are two pupil free days coming up this term. One is on **Monday 14 October**. On this day, teachers will participate in professional learning in the teaching writing. The other is on **Monday 4 November** (Monday before Cup Day holiday), which is a professional practice day. OSHC will be running curriculum day care on both days so please book in to reserve a place.

Spring Fair VOLUNTEERS – we need you!

We urgently need volunteers to sign up to help on the various stalls at the Spring Fair. We know many people wait until the last minute to see where the need is, BUT we need people to sign up now. It is very stressful for the fete organisers when large spaces are on the rosters. If we can't staff the stalls, the stalls can't run. Please add your name now. Put your name down as many times as you like, on as many stalls as you like. Sign-up to fete stalls scan the QR Code on Fete posters around school or **click here** https://signup.com/mobileweb/2.0/vspot.html?groupkey=352372636023#group_page.



Spring Fair

Excitement is building for our Spring Fair on Sunday 20 October. Only a week and a half remain. Please send along donations to support the various stalls as requested and complete the volunteers' roster to help this wonderful school event be successful. All details via Compass notices. A HUGE thanks to everyone who is working behind the scenes with preparations for the fair. This is our biggest fundraiser and with the building works well underway, it will be great to have funds available to make up any shortfall from the government funded improvements. This year, in place of the 'Principal for the day', I am offering a **Tea Party with the Principal** in the **Silent Auction**. It is for up to four children to come and have a lunch party with me in my office. We will have loads of fun over lunch time with some yummy food and games. I promise to provide some of my famous piggy cakes and a take home party bag! So, gather your friends together and combine your funds to bid on this once in a lifetime lunch date! Parent and 'Realtor of the Year', **Sam Rigopoulos**, and **Jellis Craig Northcote** have very generously donated another **auction for an auction** this year. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone wishing to sell their property in the next 6 – 12 months. Make sure you come to the live auction on the main stage Sunday 20th October if you wish to bid on this item. Sam has also been back training our year 5/6 students in the junior auctioneers' program so they too, will be auctioning items at our live auction.

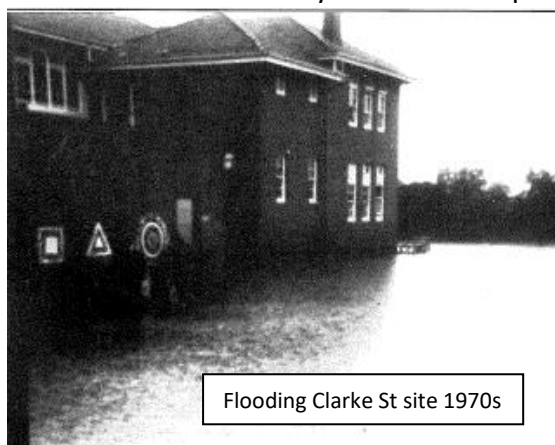


Centenary - 100 years of Westgarth PS

March 12, 1924, the foundation stone was laid on the Clarke St site by John Cain Snr. and on November 24, 1924, Westgarth Central School was officially opened. The original building red brick building was positioned at the street frontage of the Clarke St site. The land was not stable due to regular flooding and the foundations were not adequate. The building started to move, and the walls required bracing. At this point, in the early 1970s, the department of education purchased the land in Brooke St, which was locally known as Smith's Paddock prior to its annexure by Westgarth Central and was used as a playground by local children. It would play host to a large bonfire on Guy Fawkes nights with large numbers of local residents gathering to view the fire and fireworks. The Brooke Street building was built in the 1970s and as the original building deteriorated the students were moved onto the Brooke St site, and the original building demolished. The Clarke St cream brick building, that we call the John Cain building, was built in the 1990s and provided a $\frac{3}{4}$ size gym, art room, canteen and three classrooms. That was the only building left on that site. It was opened by John Cain Jnr. on August 14, 1992. Since then, we had an extension to the Brooke St site adding three classrooms to the rear of the building and the WEB on Clarke St, both in 2009. Former principal Charles Parkinson organised for a kindergarten to be brought onsite to help the local community and grow the school's enrolments over thirty years ago. The new kindergarten building was built in 2013. The farmhouse was added to support the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program and OSHC in 2006. Move ahead 100 years and a new building is being erected on the exact place of the original building.



Our plans for celebrating our 100 years include having a display of memorabilia in the foyer of the school. We will have a centenary whole school photo taken on **Friday 11 October at 9.15am**. If you do not want your child to be in the photo, please contact the office. You will have the opportunity to purchase a photo if you would like the memento. A whole school celebration will be held on Monday 25 November which will include dressing up as they would have in 1924 when the school opened, participating in olden day classrooms for the day, learning olden day playground games etc. We will have a look at what the excavation of the site dug up during the current construction and design a time capsule to be installed into the new building. Once the new buildings are open, we will have a grand opening and naming celebration, however this won't happen until early next year when the building is complete.



Spotlight on the Year 5 S.T.E.A.M program



Last term the year 5 cohort focused on developing a coding project around fractions. This involved coding a game to use images of fractions that change as the Sphero is rotated. After completing and debugging the code, the students had the opportunity to showcase their work to the Year 2 classes, who enjoyed interacting with the game. Year 5 students then began a digital art project – a digital apple. These artworks will be featured at the upcoming art show (see above for a sneak peek).

This term, groups will work on a range of exciting projects, including animations, the development of a magic 8 ball code, an alarm clock, and a Pong game using Sphero robots.

Yolanda.

Save the date! Art Show - December 5

On December 5, we will celebrate the creative talents of our students and their wonderful art teacher Rose Gordon. This night will be the opening of the art show which will stay open for a few days. The event will commence at 5.30pm and will finish at 8.30pm. Each student will have 2 pieces of work on display. More details will be available in the next newsletter once we know what spaces we will have access to.



Tony Wilson – movie showcase

Fellow Westgarthians, this is your Idol and fete MC of many years, Tony Wilson. I've made a film! It's been a seven-year project, but we have finished a lovely feature documentary called 'Ange & The Boss – Puskas in Australia'. It's a doco with soccer themes, but also touches on immigration, history of Melbourne, and the unlikely story of one of history's greatest footballers, the Hungarian Ferenc Puskas, living behind a garden supply in Ashwood and being taxied around by Ange Postecoglou in a Datsun 200B! Unfortunately, our screening time at the Greek Film Festival is 4.30 pm on fete day, 20th October. Boo! (I didn't have a say in the schedule). It's on at the Astor Theatre in St Kilda, and we've already half filled the 1000 seats. For Greeks and Hungarians in particular, it's a special event. Alice (4 Habiba) will be there, complaining she's not at fete. If you can sneak out early, or you have loved ones who will like this, send them to angeandtheboss.com or link below <https://www.palacecinemas.com.au/movies/gff24-ange-and-the-boss-puskas-in-australia>. We are thrilled that the film's other screening will be at an international sports film festival in Palermo in December. Come to that too! (ha) Tony

To read my writing, watch my videos, listen to my podcasts, sign up to 'Good one, Wilson'.



School Council Report – September meeting

– Darren Boyd (School Council President)

The last School Council meeting was held onsite at 7pm on Wednesday 4 September.

Principal's Report – Topics discussed: Building works schedule, events throughout the busy term 3, school saving bonus, staff professional learning, leading mathematics and system contribution, enrolments for 2025, NAPLAN results, update to the kindergarten agreement and the CCTV and Volunteers Policies.

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 current cash position enables us to meet all cash commitments.

Environment – The environment subcommittee met on 23 August. The new air-conditioning has been installed in the WEB. The final stage for removing gas from Clarke St is changing the existing gas hot water service to an electric one. We appreciate the contributions made by families in the Towards Net Zero fund this year, which has enabled this work. With the fete quickly approaching we will relocate the gate and removable panel fence from front of Clarke St to the gate near the bike shed. This will create a larger

entrance to the rear of the site, and make use the fence, that would otherwise be thrown out as it will no longer be required after the build.

OSHC – no meeting

Education – Education sub-committee discussed the school’s Bullying Prevention Policy. The school takes a proactive approach towards bullying prevention and the data collected by the school indicates there is a low rate of bullying experienced by our students. We also looked at the 2024 NAPLAN data and are pleased with the results which showed our students are exceeding similar schools and the state in nine out of the ten domains. We are also pleased with our relative growth data which was also higher than similar schools. A video with the slides and a brief explanation will be sent out via SeeSaw.

Fun & Fundraising – The Fun and Fundraising committee is about to bring you the kids Disco on Friday 6 September, with Year 3,4 running at 6pm and Year 5,6 running at 7:30pm. Please contact your class reps to volunteer if you’re a parent in those grades. Only volunteers will be allowed into the hall during the event.

Next meeting dates:

OSHC	Wednesday 16 October @ 10am WebEx
Finance	Thursday 17 October @ 10.00am WebEx
Environment	Wednesday 16 October @ 8.00am Jo’s Office
Education	Tuesday 15 October @ 7pm WebEx
Fun & Fundraising	post fete (TBC) @ 8.00pm WebEx
School Council	Wednesday 30 October @ 7.00pm Staffroom

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