

## **Welcome back**

Welcome back for another fantastic year at Westgarth Primary School. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and holiday period and are ready to settle into the new school year. With the devastation caused by the horrific bushfires, our condolences go out to those within and outside of our school community who have lost their lives or property. The loss of life and destruction of the habitat for many native species of plants and animals is shocking and we will look at ways our school can support the communities in the affected areas.

We welcome our new 105 prep students and their families and to the seven students and their families who have joined our school at different year levels. In all we have 59 new families joining our school community this year. The new preps started, along with the rest of the students, last Wednesday, and have settled in quickly demonstrating how well their families have prepared them for school. We trust you will all have a lovely year and feel welcomed by our lovely Westgarth Primary Community.

We will be having our Welcome Picnic on Friday 21 February from 6 – 8pm on the front oval on the Clarke St site. This is for all families in the school to come and meet each other and to celebrate the start of the new school year. This year's welcome picnic is BYO everything (dinner and drinks) due to the construction works in the canteen.

I would also like to welcome our new and returning staff, who have joined our committed team to provide a quality education for your children. New this year are Hannah Saunders-Pederson to Year 1, Amanda Nicholls to Year 2, Elise Mackie to Year 3, Ben Jones to Year 3/4 and Tahlia de van der Schueren to Year 6. Returning from leave is Yolanda Stevenson and Terri-Anne McCrink who will be grade sharing in Year 2. We welcome back Simon Lewis who will be teaching music on Wednesday and with Marta returning to live in Spain this year, fluent Spanish speaker and artist, Rose Gordon has moved into the Spanish Art role. We also welcome Pippa Campbell who is our new Kitchen specialist as part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and integration aides Hannah Thornell and Olga Pettinella. We also welcome Jess Williams into her new role as Business Manager.

## **Say hello to our new staff**



**Olga (Integration)**

**Hannah (Integration)**



**Hannah (Yr 1)**



**Amanda (Yr 2)**

**Elise (Yr 3)**



**Tahlia (Yr 6)**



**Ben Jones (Yr 3/4 & Maths Learning Specialist)**



**Yolanda (Yr 2 share with Terri)**



**Pippa (SAKGP – Kitchen Specialist)**



**Terri-Anne (Yr 2 share with Yolanda)**

We start the year with two building projects on Clarke Street. One being the improvement of the disabled toilet and consequently the boy's toilets in the WEB. This project, which is funded by the DET Accessible Building Fund was expected to be completed before school returned, however is yet to start due to the builders waiting



for fixtures to become available. The other is the refurbishment of the canteen which is part of stage one of the Master Plan. These works are funded by the fundraising efforts of this wonderful community over a few years and we



are grateful to you all for this contribution. This space will be multi-use and will enable wet science lessons to occur in a purpose built facility, OSHC office and storage and new canteen kitchen facilities in a more open and useful space. We are confident both of these projects will be completed by the end of term one.

On Brooke St, we have had a change of two office spaces swapping the business manager and the Assistant Principal offices. In the coming months we will be starting work on the brick wall in the front of Brooke St which will include some improvements to the front yard space. The amount of works completed will depend on the available funds.

### **Parent Information Night**

- **Years P – 2 Tuesday 18 February 6 - 7pm**
- **Years 3 – 6 Wednesday 19 February 6 - 7pm**

Each year we run an information session to inform parents about the classroom organisation for the year, some minor insights into the teaching and learning program and to answer general questions parents may have. This year the sessions will be run over two nights both starting at 6.00pm (until approx. 7pm). The Brooke St session for years P -2 will be on Tuesday 18 and the Clarke St session for years 3 – 6 will be on Wednesday the 19th. Details about session locations will be sent out via Compass newsfeed closer to the date.

### **Compass** <https://wgps-vic.compass.education/>

Compass is now our preferred communication platform and we would like to encourage all parents/carers to utilise this tool. It is used to keep you up-to-date with news, parent payments, manage attendances, reporting, excursion permissions, sickbay notifications and more as the year progresses. We have a new kiosk where parents (only) can sign students in or out, which is located inside the middle double doors of the WEB for students on Clarke St, as well as the one in the Brooke St office. As parents are the only ones with permission to sign in or out their child, if a family member or au pair needs to collect a student, they will need to come to the Brooke St office for staff to manage this process. It is imperative this occurs for the safety of the child.

Qkr will only be used for Out-of-School-Care payments for this year. All other school payments will be through Compass, or through the office.

### **Newsletter**

With the introduction of Compass, we will be changing the newsletter. I will send a 'Principal News' item to update you on school events, news, celebrations etc. General information will be sent out in 'School news' at the beginning of each month and will include SAKGP, Parents and Friends and Sports news etc. Community notices will be on the Community Notice Boards (located on each site).

### **SunSmart**

We would like to remind all students that they are required to wear a sunsmart hat and clothing until the end of April. Caps do not provide adequate sun protection so please make sure your child wears a broad-brimmed or legionnaire style hat. It is also recommended that students apply sunscreen to protect their skin. Singlet and tops with narrow straps are not suitable to wear at school. Hats are available for purchase at the office. The school does supply sunscreen but students are welcome and encouraged to bring their own.

### **School payments**

You will have received a paper copy form with school charges on Monday, which outlines the payments for 2020. Details about how to make the payment are included in the note. A copy was also posted on Compass if the note did not make it home. Please note that our original price for swimming was \$110 however has now reduced to \$60. As many of our students already have private swimming lessons we have reduced the number of sessions from 8 or 9 down to 5. This combined with the increased subsidy from the Education Department means the cost is significantly reduced.

### **Working with children check**

Parents/carers who wish to volunteer at Westgarth Primary School are required to have a current WWCC. Volunteering with reading in class, going on an excursion or helping out with sporting events or kitchen/garden will require a current WWCC. Once you have applied for your new card at [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au) you will need to bring your receipt to the school office to register.

### **Sanitary products for students**

DET are funding sanitary products for female students for the next four years. A unit was installed in the girls' toilets in the WEB over the break. While we are educating the female students about the unit, it would be helpful if parents of students on Clarke St (particularly year 5/6) could have a discussion about the use of sanitary products particularly about tampon use and not flushing either down the toilet (or sticking them on the walls - yes this did happen!). We have disposal units in the cubicles for this purpose. We did not have the option to remove the tampon facility from the unit.

### **Ambulance Cover**

We strongly recommend that all families take out ambulance cover. Though serious injuries are rare, we have a policy of calling for an ambulance when in doubt about a student's health. We ring an ambulance first and then attempt to contact a family member, and we have found that in many cases it is safer for both the parent and the child to be transported in an ambulance. It can be a distressing time for parents when their child is injured and is often not the best time to be worrying about how to get to the hospital or doctor. Families are liable for any ambulance costs.

### **Asthma policy/practices**

Parents of students who have asthma are reminded that they need to provide medication and an asthma management plan for their child. Each classroom has a first aid kit housed near the external door, which has a school supplied inhaler and spacer and used in emergency situations. While children will use their own medication when having an asthma attack, an emergency supply will be at close hand so no time is wasted locating medication in an emergency. Teachers also have an asthma medication notification pad to let parents know if their child has required medication during the day. While many students, particularly the older ones, manage their own medication, please encourage your child to let their teacher know when they need their medication and/or if they had some during a break time, so that it can be monitored and they can be assisted by an adult. Our Asthma Policy is on our school website at

[http://www.wgps.vic.edu.au/uploaded\\_files/media/asthma\\_policy.pdf](http://www.wgps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/asthma_policy.pdf). If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher or a member of the school's leadership team. See page 14 for details about Asthma management plans.

### **Anaphylaxis Management**

#### **Potential allergic reactions to nuts, nut products, seeds & other food products**

As you may be aware for some children, even a minor exposure to nuts or foods containing nut products or seeds can set off a severe allergy, which may cause loss of breathing. The parents of children who may have a severe reaction would like you to help us make the school environment as safe as possible by exercising caution when packing school snacks and lunches. Whilst students with severe allergies can learn to manage and control what they eat there is no real way of protecting themselves from nut traces that may be present in the environment such as on clothing, furniture, drink taps and of course on other people's hands.

- Please avoid preparing school lunches with products that contain nuts, nut spreads, sesame products or chocolate that may contain nuts (e.g. Peanut Butter, Nutella and Tahini)
- If sending party food to school please avoid using recipes that require nut products (e.g. almond meal)
- As part of our Policy we do not encourage students to share food. All students will be encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.
- Please avoid packing any whole nuts as part of lunches for children under eight as they may get caught in small children's airways presenting as a choking hazard.

This year we have students who have anaphylaxis in Prep Kenji, Prep Tarni, Year 1 Stacey and 1 Lucy, 1/2 Jess, 2 Amanda and 5/6 Brenda.

## Diary Dates and Links

### Diary Dates 2020

#### TERM 1

Wed 5— Fri 7 Feb

Thurs 13 Feb

Tues 18 Feb

Wed 19 Feb

Fri Feb 21 & 28

Fri 21 Feb

Tues 25 Feb

Fri 6 & 13 Mar

Mon 2 Mar

Tues 17 Mar

Thurs 5 Mar

Grade 6 Camp

Cougars Football Clinic—Year 4  
(for the remainder of the term)

Parent Information Night

Years P—2 (6pm—7pm)

Parent Information Night

Years 3—6 (6pm—7pm)

Interschool Sports

Welcome Picnic (6pm—8pm Clarke Street)

District Swimming

Interschool Sports

Division Swimming

Regional Swimming

Grade 6 Cricket Blast Day



#### 2020 School Council Dates

Wed 26 February

#### 2020 Term Dates

T1 29/01/20 - 27/03/20

T2 14/04/20 - 26/06/20

T3 13/07/20 - 18/09/20

T4 05/10/20 - 18/12/20

#### Meeting Dates 2020

Finance

Policy

Environment

Communication

Education

RPWP

OSHC

Parents and Friends

Parents and Friends

School Council

Tues 18 Feb 8.15am Jo's Office

TBC 8.00 am Jo's Office

TBC Jo's Office

TBC

TBC 7pm Resource Room

TBC 8.30am Jo's Office

TBC 2.00pm Carolyn's Office

Thurs 13 Feb 7.30pm Staffroom

Annual General Meeting

Tues 3 Mar 7pm Staffroom

Wed 26 Feb 7pm Resource Room

**\* OSHC services will be available via bookings for all curriculum days.**



**Please note**—Allowing students to settle into the new year, optional homework tasks will commence in March.



[eSmart!](#)



[Be you!](#)