**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Dear Parents,

So much has been happening at Wattle Park this term it’s hard to know where to begin!

We’re in! The new two storey teaching and learning space is almost 100% complete with only minor details to be completed such as locks on teacher doors and bag hooks to be organised.

Unfortunately due to a family bereavement of the Project Manager, I wasn’t actually given an official handover of the building. However the timing of the move during the last school holidays was perfect so we moved regardless.

It is important for the school community to be aware that the staff and students have commenced a new journey with their teaching and learning. We’re still experimenting with the spaces. Sometimes the spaces are fully open, sometimes they are partially opened and then there will be times when the learning spaces will be completely closed.

How lucky are we that we can truly have ‘flexible’ learning spaces.

The decision of how the spaces are to be organised is one for the team of teachers who are working in them. The Level 4 team have visited other schools to view their flexible learning spaces as has some of the staff in Level 1.

Mrs Nield in Level 4 is currently participating in a Bastow Institute Course about the research behind how pedagogy drives the way in which the new teaching and learning spaces are utilised.
Questions we are currently asking ourselves; what type of learning do we value and want to encourage? How do different spaces help to meet the individual and social needs of students? What furniture and what ICT will be used in the new spaces?

In years past, perhaps when you were attending school, re-designing classrooms would have been a relatively simple task – space for desks facing the front of the room, probably in rows, a chalkboard/whiteboard and not much else.

The way today’s students learn and teachers teach, is significantly different to our experience of schooling. The nature of today’s information and technology-rich world demands that we challenge some of our long-held beliefs about schooling to better meet the needs of today’s students.

So please feel free to ask us questions, however we also ask you to support us on our journey of discovery as to what works best for our students’ learning.

Last week we said farewell to seventy desktop computers that we had leased over the past three years. (Thank you to the group of mum’s who assisted our ICT technician Ashley Flentjar in boxing them all). Megan Ganter our new assistant principal has been wheeling and dealing over the past two weeks to source what we feel will be the best way forward to introduce a whole new range of technological devices into our school. The remaining desktop computers owned by the school will be relocated to the main building for our grade one and two classes.

Banks of netbooks and iPads are soon to be purchased for Level 1, Level 3 and 4 spaces. While we wait for them to arrive we are asking more questions - Why and how should we use iPads. How do students engage with iPads? Do you need an iPad for each child or can you share them? How do we use iPads to differentiate curriculum and support individualised learning?

As with all other technology, we want to know what the learning benefits are and how we can make the most of these tools.

On Monday and Tuesday the year three and four students had their first ever kitchen class with Nadia Gallo in our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen. Although we are still waiting for the upgrade of the electrical work to be completed at our ovens and stoves to function, classes commenced anyway.

The excitement of the students was palpable and the cooking smells emanating from the kitchen were enticing indeed! The baba ganoush, hommos, tabouleh and Phillipa’s bread were delicious.

There are a few more things to arrive before our kitchen is completely finished but once again we just couldn’t wait any longer!

There are so, so many people to thank for constructing the kitchen. Lots of donations of goods, time, effort and energy. We will be conducting an official opening later this year where all of the people and sponsors will be acknowledged.

Mr Con Ballis (father of Petena and Rhys)and Mr Ashley Pitman (father of Rebecca and Mitchell)have worked tirelessly donating over 150 hours of their time to construct and organise a dedicated band of volunteers who demolished, constructed, tiled, installed and cleaned our beautiful kitchen. Just can’t thank them enough. They are very special people indeed.

Earlier this year Wattle Park, Surrey Hills and Orchard Grove Primary Schools successfully wrote and were awarded a grant for the EMR Internationalising Education China Project. Principals and two teachers from each school will be travelling to Suzhou province in either October or November this year. The study tour is fully funded by Eastern Metropolitan Region and the purpose is to develop a sister school relationship to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum and language learning at the three schools. Stay tuned for more information about this very exciting initiative.

Many thanks to Mrs Melinda Downes and Mr. John Davey who spent considerable time in preparation for Wednesday’s Cross Country event at Cooper’s Reserve. It was a glorious day- and just so inspiring to see the efforts of all students do their personal best. Thank you to all staff members who manned key spots on the route and providing first-aid where needed. Also to the spectator parents who attended.
News about NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for Years 3 and 5 students will be held next Tuesday 15 May, Wednesday 16 May and Thursday 17 May. These NAPLAN tests are conducted by the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) on behalf of the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child’s performance in Literacy and Numeracy. This information is used by teachers at the school to support learning and teaching programs and improve student achievement.

Later in the year, you will receive your child’s personal report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to National minimum standards. These describe minimum standards for students across Australia.

It should be noted that the NAPLAN results represent only a snapshot of your child’s progress at a particular point in time in their educational journey. The results should not be viewed as predictive of future academic success and are used by teachers to identify areas for improvement and enhancement on both an individual and collective level.

If you have any questions about the NAPLAN tests please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or Ms Megan Ganter our Assistant Principal.

Just before I close, may I express my sincere thanks to Alison Dunn and Suzie Pitman of the PFA for their organisation of this week’s Mothers’ Day Stall. May all the mothers and female carers of our students have a special day this Sunday and especially enjoy the carefully selected gift just for you!

It’s been a bumper issue this week!

Regards Gayle

EDUCATION WEEK - A reminder that our Education Week planned events are as follows:

Open Day – Saturday 19th May (9.00-11.00a.m.)
Grandparents’ Assembly and Morning Tea- Monday 21st May (9am–11am)
Assembly/Classrooms/Morning Tea in the Hall coordinated by Annmaria Antonino.
Foundation Information Night 2013-Thursday 24th May (7.30-8.30p.m.)

Piano Students of Bernadette Packer

Classes for piano students of Bernadette Packer were interrupted due to the ill health of her dog Wilhelm.

Wilhelm is not expected to live beyond today. Classes for those students will be rescheduled at the earliest convenience.
In the kitchen with Nadia
The Library is back and it’s standing room only!

Notices gone home this week

Mother’s Day Stall
Grandparent’s Day
Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden News
Grade 2
Quadrama Exhibition
PARENT FORUM

On a cold and wet Wednesday evening, a group of approximately 18 parents from all year levels came together for our first Parent Forum for 2012. Claire Maharaj presented an excellent and interactive talk on the topic ‘How do you talk to your kids about sex?’ We have had great feedback from the parents who attended this evening and have included some comments to give you an insight into the talk.

‘I enjoyed the Sex Ed discussion tonight. Claire was engaging and knowledgeable. Gave me some food for thought.’ Janette

‘I found the forum to be very informative. It gave me a lot to think about in terms of how to approach talking to my children about puberty, sex and sexuality. I now feel more confident that I can help guide them through what can be a difficult and confusing time.’ Kerryn

Claire spoke about someone useful books on this topic which we have included in the newsletter for general reference.

For younger children:
Hair in funny places, Babette Cole
Mummy laid an egg, Babette Cole
Everyone’s got a bottom, Tess Rowley
The family book, Todd Parr

For puberty:
Secret boys' business, Angelo, Pritchard & Stewart
More girls' business, Anderson, Angelo & Stewart

For children with special needs:
Special Boys' business, Anderson, Angelo & Stewart
Special Girls' business, Anderson, Angelo & Stewart

For parents:
Sextalk for parents of young children, June Morris
Sextalk for parents and teenagers, June Morris
Everything you never wanted your kids to know about sex (but were afraid they’d ask), Justin Richardson and Mark Schuster

Please feel free to submit ideas for future Parent Forums to Megan Ganter (ganter.megan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au) or Rowena King (jrking38@bigpond.com), of the Education Committee.

HEAD LICE

Please check your child’s head regularly for nits or head lice. These little pesky creatures are out once again and with everyone being vigilant we can minimise their activity. As per our school policy both notices regarding head lice, must be returned to the classroom teacher, indicating hair has been checked.

If you need advice please do not hesitate to contact the office.

PREP 2012 ENROLMENTS

It is that time of year when schools are preparing for the following year and student numbers are critical to the school’s staffing structure.

Could you please complete the required Student Admission Enrolment Form if you intend enrolling your child at Wattle Park Primary School in 2013. This form is available from the main office or on the school’s website. It can be forwarded by mail if requested.

If you are aware of any families who may live near you and have not enrolled, please encourage them to put in their enrolment forms as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
Foundation News

What a wonderful start to Term 2 we have had. The children have enjoyed writing about all their adventures during the holidays. Foundation students are now learning about the topic of “Transport” this term and are eagerly exploring the types and purpose of a range of transportation vehicles.

Over the break, the children have grown and the teachers have all noticed a new level of maturity and independence in their daily interactions with teachers and students alike. It is very pleasing to see our students develop and blossom into responsible, self-directed learners.

The children are excited by their new building and have become familiar with new routines quickly.

The three Foundation classrooms look very inviting and we hope you have all had a chance to wander through them, and to experience the engaging atmosphere of the learning areas for yourselves.

Katie Hardy, Tracy McPhee-Lam and Julie Gledhill.

SRC NEWS

Jelly Baby colouring competition
All students are encouraged to take part in the SRC fundraiser this term. Colour and decorate your picture the best you can for a chance to win a fantastic prize!

Three children will be awarded a prize to take home!

The SRC has chosen this fundraiser to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Well done!

Year 7 Transition applications
A reminder to Grade 6 parents and students, all transition forms and additional documentation is due by the Friday 18th of May.

Please submit these documents directly to Mrs Tuck.

Thanks,

Mrs Tuck
The First Kitchen Session

By Will Borden

At our first kitchen program, I was so excited I thought I would explode! (Literally.) Our group the banana splits, started off learning how to use a knife. It wasn’t easy to be a beginner, first we chopped onions and my eyes were hurting so much I thought they would fall out! (Literally.)

After the chopping we made a fruit platter. It had Feijoa, Cantelope and watermelon. Then we all sat down and ate what we made- and it was great!
On Monday the 7th of May, we did our first kitchen class. My group Mango Tango made potato salad. Before that we sat down and Nadia, the kitchen specialist, told us what we were making. I made potato salad. We used a lot of ingredients. When we ate it, I thought it was delicious!!!

Written By Brynne O’Brien

As soon as I stepped into the kitchen, I knew this was going to be very exciting. I was so happy to be in there and I just wanted to start cooking. When we did start cooking, it was very loud with everyone chatting about what they would be doing, but it was so much fun.

I thought this was such a great activity, even though there were a few tiny accidents, I had such a brilliant time!!!

Written by Claudia Wilhelm.
Our First Cooking Class

I thought that our first kitchen session was great and was definitely yummy! When we came in Nadia (the cook) told us what we were going to make.

My group and I were going to make potato salad. When we got to our cooking station I stated to chop the potatoes and the others chopped the veggies. Then we made the sauce. It was fun. Then we put all the veggies and sauce into a bowl and mixed it.

Then it was time to eat what the other groups made. It was yummy. My favourite was the hummus on bread.

By Finn
GRANDPARENTS’ DAY

All grandparents & special older friends are invited to visit

Wattle Park Primary School

on

Monday 21st May 2012

We hope you will join us for a morning of entertainment!

8.50am Grandparents & special older friends arrive and are seated in the hall.

9.05am Whole school assembly, including performances by school choirs & band.

9.45am Classroom visits.

10.30am Morning Tea in the hall.

11.15am Conclude.
Community notices

Children’s Attention Project
School Newsletter Advertisements

Week 4 Term 2 – Initial Notice

ATTENTION ALL GRADE 1 PARENTS
Wattle Park Primary School is participating in the Children’s Attention Project (CAP), which is an exciting new project being conducted by the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at the Royal Children’s Hospital.

Keep an eye out for an important envelope that will be sent home with your child in the next week or so. This will include information about our research and a short (5 minute) survey for you to complete. Please complete this survey as soon as possible and return it to the CAP mail box in your child’s classroom.

We are hoping to have as many parents as possible complete this survey! As an incentive, there will be a prize for the school with the highest response from parents. Thank you for your participation in this project.

Week 6 & 8 Term 2 – Reminder Notice

ATTENTION ALL GRADE 1 PARENTS
Thank you to the many parents who have returned their Children’s Attention Project (CAP) survey. This research is being conducted by the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute at the Royal Children’s Hospital.

We are hoping to have as many parents as possible complete this survey! If you have not returned your survey yet, please complete and return it to the CAP mail box in your child’s classroom as soon as possible. Remember, there will be a prize for the school with the highest response from parents.

If you have lost your questionnaire but would still like to participate, please contact the CAP team on 8341 6363.
EDUCATION WEEK OPEN MORNING

Wednesday 23rd May  9am – 1pm

Come and see our students at work and join us for morning tea

STUDENT CHOIR

performing 10.45am – 11am in our School Hall

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORY READING

11am in our School Library

Montpellier Road
Ashwood Victoria
Melway ref. 60 K8
PH 9808 7444

ALL WELCOME
Fordham Avenue Kindergarten Open Day
Saturday 26 May 2012, 10am – 12pm
We offer a variety of programs for three and four year olds in a stimulating and fun environment. Come and meet the teachers and view the Kindergarten, located at the corner of Bringa and Fordham Avenues, Camberwell. Enrolments are accepted through Central Enrolment at City of Boroondara Council.

Box Hill South Pre School

OPEN DAY
Saturday 26th May
10am to 12noon

Join us for a Sausage Sizzle

👉 Community Kindergarten
👉 3yo and 4yo Groups
👉 Spacious indoor room
👉 Large outdoor playground

Meet our teaching team.

Come in and see us...
Rotary Crt, Box Hill Sth (cnr Riversdale Rd/Station St)
Ph: 9808 1329 www.boxhillsouthpreschool.org.au
WATTLE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are open
Saturday 19 May 2012
9am - 11am

Foundation Information Night
Thursday 24 May 7pm

225 Warrigal Rd. Burwood
Phone: 9808 2165
www.wattleparkps.vic.edu.au