Dear Parents,

Take a look at the vegetable patches located near the top playground equipment and you will see a new addition.

No, not plants but infrastructure! Last Saturday morning a very small band of parents- Guiseppe Vellotti, Carol Hensley, Stewart Hore and Linda Rubens-Jumelet assisted Julie Jensz our gardener commence the installation of our drip watering system. Trenches were dug and electronic timers were linked to our water tanks so that we can water the 4 different garden zones separately.

Mike Napier and Rohan Briglia dug more trenches on Monday morning. Many thanks to everyone for their assistance.

There is still a lot of work to be done until it is fully operational for the upcoming hot months so if you have any spare time through the week or weekend to assist please contact Julie Jensz on jensz.julie.e1@edumail.vic.gov.au and I’m sure she would be delighted to receive any offers of help.

The last of the furniture has finally arrived for the Year 5 and 6 classes. The spaces look very comfortable, colourful and flexible with Kaija sofas, Ari cubes, byte tables, beanbags and toosh- cushions. An
enormous thank you to Jimmy Possum for their creative design, color palette and the donation of tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of furniture.
The old tables have been resettled onto the balconies to utilise the outdoor learning spaces.
Now that these areas are complete, parents are more than welcome to contact the class teachers to view the new teaching and learning areas before or after school.
Congratulations to Julie Nield and the year 5 and 6 teachers who presented and answered questions at the Education Forum on Tuesday night to a group of parents about the flexible learning and teaching spaces.
Parent Rowena King and Assistant Principal Megan are the convenors of the Education committee and they have done a superb job informing and seeking discussion on a variety of topics. See attachment.
Megan and I have been regularly popping in to the Foundation classes over the past week or two in order to hear the students read. And the question I ask myself is, ‘Why haven’t I made that a regular part of my week throughout the year?’
It is a delight to listen to the students read and observe how they employ the appropriate reading strategy to identify unknown words. Not always correct of course, but the journey to read proficiently as we all know takes time, lots of practise and learning from errors.
I treasure the time that I spent with my two boys, who are now adults, reading with them each night and sharing the love of literature.
One son took to reading easily, the other son not so. I can remember the frustration, the patience needed and the challenge to find books of interest to snare the reluctant reader. Eventually it worked- I am forever grateful to Dr Seuss, Emily Rodda and Herge. But it is interesting to note how the elder son reads ‘real’ books and the younger one has a collection on his ipad!
The last month of school is always frenetic with not only school events clogging the calendar but also end of year celebrations for the festive season. Please take the time to check out the calendar on the school website to be familiar with times and dates that involve your children.
A reminder to everyone to take extra special care travelling to and from school. Last week a motorist rang the school distraught after just missing hitting students racing their scooters down Warrigal Road before school! That phone call was traumatic enough- so please instil in your children the need to travel safely and carefully when crossing roads and walking the streets to school.
The end of the year should be a time of celebration not grief.
The year 5 and 6 teachers have been meeting regularly and working tirelessly in preparation for the Grade 6 Graduation Evening to be held on Monday 17th December. May I take this opportunity to thank all parents in Year 5 who have indicated their willingness to donate a salad for the evening meal. The evening planned for the Year 6 students will definitely be one of commemoration and celebration of the past seven years at Wattle Park PS.
The evening is one that students and parents will hopefully always remember and is considered a rite of passage in moving from primary school to secondary college.
Students and teachers will arrive at 6.00pm for the dinner, followed by parents at 7.00pm in time for the official ceremony. The night will conclude with a student disco. All of these events will be conducted on the school premises.
Last night the annual school soiree was held in the Music Room. One word- spectacular! Three years ago the soiree was held at St Thomas’ in Surrey Hills with approximately 16 students performing. The soiree last night involved 49 students performing on a range of instruments including piano, guitar, flute, saxophone, trombone, clarinet and vocals.
The Arts are certainly alive and well at Wattle Park. Music warms the soul and I’m sure all who attended last night had an inner glow after watching their child perform. The students were magnificent and I felt very proud of them all. (See attachment for accompanying photos)
Special thanks to Mrs Caulfield-Lloyd, Simon and Dallas Rayner who organise and coordinate the event each year.
It’s been a busy week, enjoy your weekend.

Regards Gayle
Education Committee Meeting

The Education Committee and interested parents from varied year levels joined together on Tuesday night in the Grade 5/6 area to hear Julie Nield speak about 'Flexible Learning Spaces'. Julie was joined by the Grade 5/6 team in an evening that began by encouraging parents to wander around the area to look at the wonderful furniture and spaces.

Photos were scattered around for us to observe flexible learning spaces in action in the new building for not only Grade 5/6, but also Foundation students. Julie then presented a talk highlighting professional development that she has undertaken this year in learning more about flexible learning spaces, as well as their "journey" with this relatively new style of utilising spaces at WPPS.

This interesting talk provided us with great insights into how these fabulous new resources are being used in the new building. It was also pointed out that other areas within the school are being utilised with more flexibility than ever before such as the Grade 3/4 area with the Farley Forum and adjoining 'outdoor classroom' in the form of the Stephanie Alexander Garden being areas where the children regular learn.

Here are some comments from parents who attended the presentation:

It was great to hear the Level 4 teachers speak with so much enthusiasm re: the new learning space.

This meeting gave me a great insight into a ‘day in the life’ of our senior students, and it looks like a lot of fun! Teachers are covering all the things that we would expect but in a way that is so much more enjoyable than in a traditional classroom and I’ve no doubt levels of engagement will increase by utilising these new spaces. I have heard nothing but great feedback from teachers and students alike regarding the new learning spaces - thank you to the staff for presenting this evening.

It was great to have the opportunity to be in the new 5/6 area, and to see and hear how things operate. It is an impressive and exciting place to be, even without the children there. Thanks to Julie for her excellent presentation and to all the teachers (and Gayle and Megan) for their willingness to talk with parents.

Thank you to Megan, Gayle, the grade 5/6 team and particularly Julie Nield for speaking at this evening.

If you have any ideas for parent forums/talks etc in 2013, or you would like to come along to some Education Committee meetings to learn more about some of the great things happening at WPPS, then please contact Megan Ganter or myself, or look out for the notices regarding meetings in the new year.

Rowena King - Parent Rep on Education Committee
0418 887867
irking38@bigpond.com
Wattle Park Primary School Teacher Appreciation Lunch - Tuesday 11th December

Thank you to everybody who has responded so far with an offer to bring something to the Teacher Appreciation Lunch to be held on Tuesday 11th December. But we need more!!!

Please contribute to this special event by baking, making or donating something. We hope to present our teachers with a choice of wonderful hot and cold dishes for this special luncheon to honor their hard work and dedication. The luncheon will be held in the staff room during the lunch break.

Ideas include salads, gourmet sandwiches, sushi, curries, rice dishes, antipasto platters, cheese platters, fruit platters, cakes, tarts, pavlovas, a basket of bread rolls ... just about anything that you can think of!

Please let us know if you are able to contribute something to the lunch and indicate what you will be bringing.

Rowena King (Archie 5S and Ed 2S) - 0418 887867 or irking38@bigpond.com
Sally Cleland (Harry 5C and Nate 2H) - 0408 771899 or peterandsally@netcore.com.au

Please joining us in making this event a great success!

Gone home since last ‘The Wattle’

- Swimming Notices, Lice letters to affected classes
From the Uniform Shop ……

Thanks to everyone who placed a timely order (and to those who were a little late!). The bulk of the garments have been ordered, and I hope to receive them in the not too distant future. Current families will have orders sent home in their child’s bag, new families will receive a phone call when all items are in stock.

Just a reminder, there will be a price rise as of 1st January 2013, so if you are thinking of purchasing uniforms for next year, pop in and see me this term for uniforms at the current prices.

I also have some second hand garments for sale, so grab a bargain:

- Summer Dresses $15 Sizes 6 and 8
- Gab Divided Skirts $10 Size 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14
- Winter Tunics $20 Size 6, 8, 10 and 12

For **Foundation Transition mornings** on Monday 19th, Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th December, the uniform shop will be open from **8.45am—closing 9.20am sharp**, so please come in before dropping your child to the classroom.

Any queries please come and see me or phone 9889 9759

Canteen News ……

As we race towards the end of the year, there are a couple of changes to the menu. School straps are no longer available as they are not being manufactured anymore.

Gluten free/Fructose friendly pies are available to order. They are $4 each.

Also watch out for a notice seen for a special lunch day on **Monday 10th December**.

“Swim into Summer” Lunch

Alison
Anytime Fitness Burwood

is opening in early December and we are excited to offer an exclusive Early Bird discount and free sports pack to the WPPS community.

We are located just around the corner on Burwood Hwy between Somers and Edward Streets.

Come and visit the site office at the new venue offering state-of-the-art fitness equipment and open 24 hours per day.

We’ll also be available to have a chat on Wednesday & Friday mornings outside The Foodrinkery, so come and say hi!

**PLUS $15 from every membership sold in November will be donated to the WPPS PE department!**

Ph 9830 6888
Burwoodvic@anytimefitness.com.au
**OSHC NEWS**

Term 4 is well underway now and our OSHC attendance doesn't look like it's slowing down!

During Halloween week you may have noticed our spooky decorations. We were also involved in making slime, cutting and pasting name skeletons, bending spiders and pumpkins from pipe cleaners and even having some green milk on our cereal (with food dye of course).

We’ve been playing a variety of indoor and outdoor games such as Jenga, Uno, Soccer, and Brandy (or ball iggy). Our crafty and drama activities haven’t taken a back seat either as we’ve had fun making bubble paintings and performing singing and dancing acts on a decorated stage area for the rest of the group.

Come join the fun! We offer casual and permanent bookings and would love you to see you before or after school care.

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**REMIINDERS**

**Parents**, you may not know that you can add any comments about our activities and such to our Reflective Journal. Your kids have been encouraged to add their own ideas, likes and dislikes, but we would love to have your input as well. Our Journal is located on the table to the left of the sign-in/out sheets.

**How to get started** Before using our programs register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit our website to begin [www.campausreia.com.au](http://www.campausreia.com.au)

**Once registered** You can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime online.

**Save on Care** You can save 50% or more on Before and After School Care fees with the non-means tested Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343 Monday to Friday.


Please remember to contact Camp Australia with any changes to your usual schedule. Using the parent portal online, or calling the customer service hotline will ensure that your booking is correctly processed and recorded on our rolls, especially if you are heading off early for the holidays!
With the warmer weather on the way it’s the ideal time for head lice to be out in force. Please be diligent in checking your child’s hair every week. If you receive a letter notifying you of your class being affected, you must return the slip saying you have checked your child’s hair. There is a follow up notice one week later. Thank you for being pro-active in trying to combat these pesky critters. For further information on what you can do please see the link to http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/faq.htm

Treating and controlling headlice

While children are at school many families will have contact with head lice. The information contained here will help you treat and control head lice.

Catching head lice
Head lice have been around for many thousands of years. Anyone can get head lice.

Head lice are small, wingless, blood sucking insects. Their colour varies from whitish-brown to reddish-brown. Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head they die very quickly (usually within 24 hours).

People get head lice from direct hair to hair contact with another person who has head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together.

Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl.

Finding head lice
Many lice do not cause an itch, so you have to look carefully to find them.

Head lice are found on the hair itself and move to the scalp to feed. They have six legs which end in a claw and they rarely sit on the head. Louse eggs (also called nits) are laid within 1.5 cm of the scalp and are firmly attached to the hair. They resemble dandruff, but can’t be brushed off.

Lice can crawl and hide. The easiest and most effective way to find them is to follow these steps:

Step 1 Comb any type of hair conditioner on to dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This stuns the lice and makes it difficult for them to grip the hair or crawl around.

Step 2 Now comb sections of the hair with a fine toothed, head lice comb.

Step 3 Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.

Step 4 Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.

Step 5 Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least four or five times.

If lice or eggs are found, the hair should be treated.

If the person has been treated recently and you only find empty hatched eggs, you may not have to treat, as the empty eggs could be from a previous episode.

Treating head lice

Treating head lice involves removing lice and eggs from the hair. There are two ways you can do this:

1. Buying and using a head lice lotion or shampoo, following the instructions on the product.

2. Using the conditioner and comb method (described under ‘finding head lice’) every second day until there have been no live lice found for ten days.

If you choose to use a head lice product always read and follow the instructions provided with the product carefully. The following points may also be helpful:

• Head lice products must be applied to all parts of the hair and scalp.

• No treatment kills all of the eggs so treatment must involve two applications, seven days apart. The first treatment kills all lice, the second treatment kills the lice that may have hatched from eggs not killed by the first treatment.

• Cover the person’s eyes while the treatment is being applied. A towel is a good way to do this.

• If you are using a lotion, apply the product to dry hair.

• If you are using a shampoo, wet the hair, but use the least amount of water possible.

• Apply the treatment near the scalp, using an ordinary comb to cover the hair from root to tip. Repeat this several times until all the hair is covered.

There is no need to treat the whole family - unless they also have head lice.

Concentrates on the head - there is no need to clean the house or the classroom.

Only the pillowcase requires washing - either wash it in hot water (at least 60°C) or dry it using a clothes dryer on the hot or warm setting.
Testing resistance

Head lice products belong in one of the following categories depending on the active compound they contain:
- pyrethrins
- synthetic pyrethroids (permethrin, bifenthrin)
- organophosphates (malathion)
- herbal with or without natural (non-chemical) pyrethrins.

Insecticide resistance is common, so you should test if lice are dead. If they are, treat again in seven days using the same product. If the lice are not dead, the treatment has not worked and the lice may be resistant to the product and all products containing the same active compound. Wash off the product and treat as soon as possible using a product containing a different active compound. If the insecticide has worked, the lice will be dead within 20 minutes.

Any head lice product could cause a reaction and should be used with care by women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, children less than 12 months old and people with allergies, asthma or open wounds on the scalp. If you are unsure, please check with your pharmacist or doctor.

Head lice eggs

Head lice eggs are small (the size of a pinhead) and oval. A live egg will "pop" when squashed between fingernails.

Dead eggs have crumpled sides and hatched eggs look like tiny boiled eggs with their tops cut off.

Regulations

According to the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009, children with head lice can be readmitted to school or children’s service centres after treatment has commenced.

The department recommends a child with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school or children’s service centres the next day, even if there are still some eggs present. There is no need to miss school or child care because of head lice.

Preventing head lice

Check your child’s head regularly with comb and conditioner. There is no research to prove that chemical or herbal therapies can prevent head lice.

Further information

The following website offers further information:

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The life cycle of head lice

The information in this pamphlet is based on the research conducted and written by Associate Professor Rick Speare and the team of researchers at, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University.

Cover concept by students from St Patrick’s Primary School, West Geelong. Life cycle diagram courtesy of Nippickers Qld.  