PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy yet smooth start to the year. At recess and lunchtimes our playgrounds are a sea of students. It will be lovely for everyone when we do finally have all of our grounds returned to us! At a building site meeting yesterday, the builders reiterated that they definitely want to be off site in March, and if you haven’t noticed already, their work sheds have disappeared.

Yesterday, Mrs Chetcuti and Mrs Nield accompanied me as I did a walk through the near finished building and it is so very impressive! A number of challenges lay ahead in planning and rejuvenating the surrounding grounds but it will be so rewarding to see garden plots arise from the rubble!

Speaking about school grounds please be aware that the school has a policy with regards to dogs in the school yards. Last week one of our students was bitten by a dog, there was no malice meant by the dog and the student was behaving in an appropriate manner. Just an unfortunate incident. However it served as a timely reminder about dogs in the school grounds. They are welcome in the school grounds, but definitely not in the school buildings. Dogs need to be on a leash and at least 100 metres away from any doorway. Any droppings need to be removed from the school.

Other Curriculum Days,

Friday 1st June
Monday 5th November

UNIFORM SHOP OPEN:
MONDAYS AFTER THE AFTERNOON ASSEMBLY & THURSDAYS 8.30-9.30am

Visit your local dealership where experience counts
Penfold Mazda 59 Burwood Highway Tel: 03 9268 1222
Proud sponsor of Wattle Park Primary School and generously supporting the Wattle Park community.
grounds and disposed of in either the dumper or off site.

Some children are most comfortable in the company of strange dogs but it is also important to realize that some children are quite fearful of them.

This week we have commenced a new initiative for the students - Foundation Friends! Wattle Park currently has 68 Foundation students and even with their grade 6 buddies not far away, some of them find play times daunting. So the Weeping Willow tree near the current grade 6 portables is now called the Friendship Tree. Any students (and not just the first timers) who don’t have anyone to play with or are feeling a bit sad can sit under the Friendship Tree. Four grade 6 students will assist those students who need a friend to play with, or find their hat, or help fill-up their drink bottle or generally help out with their particular concerns. You can recognise the Foundation Friends as they will be wearing bright colored vests very similar to the teachers on yard-duty.

Hopefully the rain will not interrupt our Foundation barbecue tonight! This is the first event where Foundation students and their parents have the opportunity to meet one other over a drink and a sausage as well as having a casual chat with the classroom teachers.

Thank you to the many parents that have attended our Assemblies to date this year; it is lovely to look up from the stage to see parents participating in singing the National Anthem and responding so positively to the students’ performances. It has been particularly pleasing to witness our young leaders speak with such confidence and enthusiasm about our school. Even though speaking at Assemblies can be a little daunting initially; the reward of doing so successfully makes it all worthwhile.

Please take note, that at next Monday’s assembly, February the 20th the students who have been selected to be our Scarecrow Monitors will be presented with their badges.

Now for School Council News;

School Council Elections 2011 – Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council for Wattle Park Primary School. All DEECD Government schools in Victoria have School Council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of the school within centrally provided guidelines.

There are 3 possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected parent category.** Department employees can be parent members at their child’s school.

- **A mandated elected Department employee category.** The Principal of the school is automatically one of these members

- **An optional community member category.** Its members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the membership must retire each year and this creates vacancies for the annual school council elections. All you need is the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

Nomination forms for vacancies on School Council are available from the Office. If you cannot come to school to collect forms, we would be pleased to receive a telephone call from you requesting that
we send forms home with your eldest child.
If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.
A minimum of eight meetings are held each year (4th Tuesday) and the annual general meeting is held in March.

**Vacancies:**
5 Parent members of Council
2 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development members.

The time line for this most important process is as follows:

- Notice of Election and Call for Nominations distributed on Friday **February 17**.
- Nominations close at 4.00pm on Friday **February 24**
- If the number of applicants exceeds the number of vacancies, an election will be held. Ballot papers will be distributed on Friday **March 2**
- The ballot will close at 4.00pm on Friday **March 9**
- The new council will meet for the first time on **Tuesday, March 27**.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of an effective school council. This group has responsibilities in virtually every area of school organization, and is an integral part of a school’s decision making processes.
As such, I would take this opportunity to both urge and encourage interested parents to consider nominating for school council, and stress that you do not have to have specific expertise in education to become an effective member of council.

The only prerequisites to being an effective school council member are the ability to attend monthly meetings, the time to serve on a council committee, an interest in your child’s education, and the enthusiasm to work with other parents and teachers in the best interests of the Wattle Park Primary School Community.
If you are at all interested, please consider this opportunity carefully. Additional information can be obtained by calling me at the office.
The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th March, after which the 2011 School Council will meet.

Again, please consider!

And one last thing before I go, please take extra special care of your children at drop off and pick-up times. The amount of vehicle traffic around our school is considerable. If you could either walk, ride or scoot to school it would help to alleviate the congestion of cars around our school. Remember to be vigilant pedestrians also and check for oncoming traffic not once, not twice but thrice!

**Regards Gayle**
Notices to go home soon.
In the next couple of weeks each student will be bringing home:

- **Student Information Update**—please make any alterations to the form and return it as soon as possible to your teacher. It is most important the school has the latest contact details for your child/ren. Even if there are no changes, please return.

- **2012 Permission and Authority Form**—giving permission for children to go on local walks outside the school grounds

- **Head Lice Inspection Permission Form**

- **Religious Instruction Permission Form**

- **Photographic Permission Form**

- **Internet Permission**

Please return these forms to your child/ren’s teacher as soon as possible

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### Sun Smart Policy

A reminder that students must wear a hat for Terms 1 for all outside play. If children do not have a hat they must stay in shade at playtimes and lunch times.

**Remember: No Hat No Play**

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**Head Lice Check:** Please be mindful of these pesky critters. If your child is found to have head lice please inform the school office. A letter will then be sent to the class asking parents to check their child’s hair, treat if necessary and return the slip next day to the teacher. A week later a second notice will go home for a further check and again, please return the slip to your teacher. If the slips are not returned, Susan Wright our school first aid coordinator will do a follow phone call of those families who have not returned the slip.
The teaching arrangements for 2012 are:

**Prep**  Julie Gledhill, Katie Hardy (TL), Tracy Mc Phee- Lam

**Year 1**  Vicki Phillips, Moira Spierings

**Year 2**  Kathy Skantzos, Helen Sterling and Kim Wheatley (TL)

**Year 3**  Drew Baxter, Amanda Dwyer (TL)

**Year 4**  John Davey, Robyn Gilmour

**Year 5**  Amanda Chetcuti (TL), Anna Saaksjarvi

**Year 6**  Julie Nield, Cynthia Tuck

**Specialists:**

**Art:** Paula Frost/Annmaria Antonino

**Physical Education:** Melinda Downes

**Music:** Lorelle Caulfield-Lloyd

**LOTE Mandarin:** Ainslie Peszynski

**Reading Recovery:** Rhonda Lush

**SSO Support:** Vicki Keith, Susan Wright, Debbie Alderson-Roes, Kirsten Braun, Michelle Harris, Siobhan O’Reilly

**Library Technician:** Ros Cordner

**IT Technician:** Ashley Flentjar

**Gardening Staff:** Mrs Julie Jensz and Mr Gavin Cass

**Car Park Reminder:**
Please remember the car park is for staff only. Do not drive children into the school grounds. Children are to keep off the road and keep on the footpath. Please remind your children of these guidelines for everyone’s safety.
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Information for 2012

Education Maintenance Allowance forms are now available at the school office. If you are eligible please ask office staff to provide you with a form.

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

* be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
* be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (1st February 2012 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (16 July 2012).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school no later than 29th February 2012 for the first instalment and 5th August 2012 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $235 for primary school students and $470 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Students turning 16 in 2011 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

Payment Amounts

<table>
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<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Portion</th>
<th>Primary School*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td><strong>$235.00</strong></td>
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* Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will form the basis for calculating the amount payable to parents and school.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2010 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 29th February 2012 and prior to or on 3rd August 2012, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.
Welcome to 2012! All Music activities have started and the children are all keen to be involved.

**JUNIOR CHOIR and SENIOR CHOIR** had a good show for their first sessions. These are on a voluntary basis with the children being called up at their relevant times. Junior Choir, Monday 2.30 – 3.00 pm and Senior Choir, Wednesday 1.40 – 2.10 pm (lunchtime). We allow the children a few weeks settling in time, after which we ask that they make a commitment with regular attendance. Those children who then indicate they wish to be a member of either Choirs for the rest of the year will receive a note informing parents of the expectations and requirements.

**INSTRUMENTAL LESSON** – These all started last week.

- At the beginning of the year Geoff Dawson, our Band Leader provided an entertaining and informative demonstration of the instruments children are able to learn through the Band program. We have many students who have been learning to play an instrument for a number of years as well as some enthusiastic students who have enrolled this year. This program is run by Musicorp.
- The Guitar program is also up and running with lessons taken by David Powys. At the end of last year the children also attended a guitar demonstration and we have had a good response with some new enrolments this year. This program is also run by Musicorp.
- Bernadette Packer also commenced her piano lessons last week which are held on a Friday.

If your child is interested in learning to play an instrument please do not hesitate to contact me and collect an enrolment form.

Thank you.

Lorelle Caulfield-Lloyd
(Music Teacher)

Notices gone home this week

School photo pack Grades 1-6
Bobstar Dance
SCHOOL PHOTOS

Just a reminder that school photos are now on Tuesday, the 28th of February, due to a clash with Transition Interviews.

Please remember the following on Tuesday:
- To be on time for school
- To be dressed in the Wattle Park uniform
- To bring your completed photo order form in the permanent plastic seal bag.

Thank you and look forward to seeing all your beautiful smiles on Tuesday.

Kind Regards,
Ainslie Peszynski & Gayle Cope
FIRST AID ROOM ROSTER 2012

It is that time of year again when we need to call on volunteers to assist in keeping our First Aid Room clean and tidy. We need approximately 40 families on our roster to ensure that every family only needs to do this once per year. It is not time consuming and requires approximately 20-30 minutes of your time on a FRIDAY afternoon.

The duties include:

- Changing the sheets, pillow cases and re-making the bed with clean linen (all provided in the first aid room).
- Washing and returning the clean linen for the following Friday.
- Checking that the area is clean and tidy.
- Wiping over the cupboards, bench tops and the sink.
- Tidying the spare clothes cupboard if needed.

If you are able to help with the above, please return this form to the office as soon as possible so that the roster can be drawn up. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Borden or myself at school.

Thank you in anticipation.

Susan Wright
First Aid Co-ordinator

Jane Borden
Parent Roster Co-ordinator
Mob 0402 400 271

FIRST AID ROSTER 2012

I am willing to be included on the First Aid Roster for 2012.

NAME__________________________________________

TELEPHONE NO____________________________________

EMAIL___________________________________________

CHILD’S NAME AND GRADE__________________________
LAST EVER $10 NUTRIMETICS LIPSTICK SALE

Hi ladies,

February 2012 is the last ever month for our famous $10 Lipsticks, so please call me now if you want to stock up on your favourite colours, or hop onto my website and order direct.

Tips for great looking lips
Firstly, line your lips using a lip pencil – your lipstick won't bleed and it'll last longer.
Secondly, polish your pout! Exfoliate and nourish with Lip Apeel for instantly smoother lips.
Thirdly Pucker up! Accentuate lips with a dab of Glossy Shine Lip Lacquer over your lipstick.

Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any skincare concerns or need help with colour products.

Thanks!
Trish Lanendorfer
Executive Sales Manager
Nutrimetics
Tel. 0408 102 584
Email: trishlan@optusnet.com.au
Website: www.my.nutrimetics.com.au/trishlan
LUNCH TIME DRAMA
THURSDAYS – 1.45 - 2.25pm
Venue: Gym

$14 per class!
Term 1 - $98

If you would like your child to participate in the lunch time DRAMA PROGRAM at
WATTLE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
in Term 1, 2012 please either mail the form below or email the information to...
Email: rene@dramatime.com.au Mail: 19 William St, Balatcla 3183

Please do not return form to school office.
Class details will subsequently be emailed. If you don’t have an email account please include mailing address

Name: ____________________________ Grade: ____________________________
Parent name: ____________________________
Parent mobile: ____________________________ Home phone: ____________________________
Parent email*: ____________________________
School: ____________________________

PAYMENT OPTIONS (please tick a box): Direct debit Cheque Credit Card

- Direct deposit: Please insert your name when paying online or at bank. Westpac Bank: 858 033047 ACC 453136
- Cheques: Payable to: "Drama Time Pty Ltd". Mail to: 19 William St, Balatcla 3183
- Credit card: Visa or Mastercard only. Please note there is a 3% surcharge on credit card.

Ph: 9528 8998 Email: rene@dramatime.com.au www.dramatime.com.au
Mondays 3:30-5:30pm
12th Feb – 26th March

Grades 4 - 6

A ministry of St. Thomas’ Anglican Church meeting at:
1201 Riversdale Road, Box Hill South
www.stthomasburwood.org.au

For more info contact George – 0408 598 648
george@stthomasburwood.org.au
KIDS CLUB

Meeting at 1201 Riversdale Road, Box Hill South
www.stthomasburwood.org.au

PREP - GRADE 4

COST $5 (incl. dinner)

Thursday After School (3:30 - 6:30pm)

TERM I 16TH FEB - 22ND MARCH

Food, Friends, Fun, Faith

PANCAKES IN THE PARK

Tues 21st Feb 6pm (Wattle Park BBQ Area)

For more info contact George - 0408 598 648
george@stthomasburwood.org.au
It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

That's not a reason to be away!
It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either
Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...
As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go to school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

Michael Grose. Presented to Michael Grose Presentations. All rights reserved. For more ideas, support and advice for your parenting challenges please visit our website.

Join Michael's community of parents on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/michaelgroseparenting and click on the Like button.
Tennis coaching programs at Wattle Park and City of Camberwell tennis club. Children’s after school and weekend, group and private lessons available. To enrol, or for more information see www.energytennis.com.au or contact Val on 0409581322, val@energytennis.com.au  'Mums morning lessons available.

St Benedict’s Netball Club
Winter Season -starts March 17
We need players for our Grade 5 team, if your daughter is interested in playing, please contact Melanie Rath on 0425 328632 or melanierath@optusnet.com.au
Take control of your life!!!!

Do you want to lose a few kilos and change your life style?
Do you need to change bad habits that are sabotaging your chances of being a better you?
Do you want to make good on those New Years resolutions to be healthier?
Do you want to join a group of like minded people and make some new friends?
Here is an opportunity to stop wanting and start doing.
I am running group outdoor exercise sessions that involve, cardio, resistance, flexibility and weight bearing activities.

Where: **Wattle Park. (Meet at the clock tower)**
When: **Every Wednesday and Sunday.**
Time: **9.30am**
Conducted by: Graeme Hobbs Personal Training
Cost: $10 per person per session.
Duration: Approximately 45min.
Contact details; Graeme Hobbs (M) 0417 553 548,
Email; gdhobbsy@hotmail.com
Note; If times or dates don’t suit your needs get a group of 5 or more together and contact me for alternate arrangements.
ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN FOR TERM 1, 2012

- Weekly term classes
  Act, Sing & Dance
- Holiday Theatre Workshops
  every school holidays
- Ages 4-16
- Venues: East Malvern,
  Glen Iris, Rowville & Hampton

ph: 1300 369 443
www.stageleft.com.au
PERFORM BETTER IN LIFE, NOT JUST ON THE STAGE

SHARKS FUTSAL IS HERE!
SHARKSFUTSAL.COM.AU

$50 - 5 WEEK PROGRAM
STARTS WEDNESDAY 29TH FEBRUARY
INCLUDES SHARKS T-SHIRT & BALL
WHERE: BOX HILL HIGH SCHOOL
WHEN: WEDNESDAYS 4:30-5:15 (7,8,9 YEAR OLDS)
       WEDNESDAYS 5:30-6:15 (10,11,12 YEAR OLDS)

CALL 0450 711 861 FOR DETAILS

FREE FIRST SESSION