Dear Parents,

Welcome Back! It’s always reassuring to return to school after a holiday break and have everyone back safe, well, relaxed and ready to go for another action packed term of learning!

Last weekend while reading the Saturday newspapers I came across the following article by Nikki Gemmell, a freelance writer for The Australian newspaper. I often read her articles as they make me ponder and reflect on what is best for our students as they journey through primary school and the teenage years ahead.

Nikki has kindly given me her permission to reproduce this article for our newsletter. I’m sincerely hoping that what Nikki outlines here is built into the environment and culture that we promote here at Wattle Park Primary School. Please see her article following.

Just before I go, special thanks to Mrs Peszynski who organised a new company, AdvanceLife, to take our school photographs this year. They are indeed delightful!

Enjoy your weekend

Regards Gayle

Last night after the storm there was a double rainbow over our playground. It was spectacular!

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**DIARY DATES**

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<td>Term 3 Begins</td>
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<td>Years 5/6 MSAC All day</td>
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<td>School Council 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Tues 30th</td>
<td>Mathematics Parent Forum 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Foundation—Chesterfield Farm</td>
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<td>Coach Approach Athletic Expo</td>
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<td>Tony Bones Performance</td>
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<td>Tues 3rd</td>
<td>District Athletics Years 4-6</td>
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<td>Fri 20th</td>
<td>End Term 3 2.30 Finish</td>
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<td>Casual Clothes Day</td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>Start Term 4</td>
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<td>14th</td>
<td>Grandparents Day</td>
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<td>24th</td>
<td>Foundation Teddy Bear Maths Night</td>
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<td>School Concert Yarra Valley Anglican School</td>
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<td>Curriculum Day—Student Free Day</td>
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**UNIFORM SHOP OPEN:**
Mondays after the Afternoon Assembly & Wednesdays 8.30-9.30am
Kith. An old, quiet word, obsolete now. Yet often used in that expression of solace and return, “kith and kin”. What does the word actually mean? Originally, your land and your people; that which is deeply known, familiar, in terms of country. A new book, Kith by Jay Griffiths, looks at the way our western world is estranging its children from nature, from the earthy world of their early years, the kith that sings so naturally in their blood and their bones. We’re evolving away from the natural world, and Griffiths despairs of it.

“My eldest childhood memories have the flavour of the earth,” Spanish poet Federico García Lorca wrote. Don’t we all have recollections of childhoods marinated in nature? Mine: tadpoles in jam jars, red-bellied black snakes in gutters, my brother’s redback spider farm in ice-cream containers in the carport [poor mum], burying my head in the dog’s neck, peeling paperbarks, the dry stink of grasshoppers through tall grass, the summer shill of cicadas rising, falling then dropping into a crisp silence, the thrilling crackle and spit of the bonfire on cracker night, the moon endlessly following us in the car. It was a childhood of wonder, freedom, daydreaming. As American author Barry Lopez explains, the energising joy of the natural world that’s discovered in youth can be a lifelong solace: “a long, fierce peace can derive from this knowledge”. And those meandering days basking in nature teach us autonomy, courage, risk-taking, self-rule – and respect for the beauty of the world around us. We carry those lessons through life.

A continual theme running through Griffiths’ examination of modern parenthood is enclosure. The horror of it. Our children’s worlds are becoming relentlessly interior; time is fenced off, boxed in; heads are bowed to screens; everything is compartmentalised, organised, minutely planned. Griffiths argues that the way we’re raising the current generation is deeply unnatural and children are becoming more fearful, depressed and dependent as a consequence; that it’s causing unrecognised damage. She says the human spirit needs to feel rooted somewhere on earth, within the vivid green of our world. As American commentator Theodore Roszak wrote, “No separation is more pervasive in this Age of Anxiety than our disconnection from the natural world.” Griffiths argues that the fundamental rights of children – to roam, meander, play, explore, risk – must be protected in this new parenting regime.

It’s relatively easy in Australia to be steeped in nature – our ravishly beautiful, unique landscape is at our fingertips. Even a big city such as Sydney feels so fecund, abundant, spoiling over into rampant nature compared to somewhere as built over as Paris or Rome. We’re fortunate. We can baste our children in it without much effort – if we choose to. Grubby them up. Awaken them to the wonder of the world around them, instil in them that soldering sense of kith. And with it, always should be twinned that other most lovely and obsolete word: ludic. Which means exhibiting a sense of fun, silliness, play. For as poet William Blake wrote, the child, like the bird, is ‘born for joy’.

My daughter’s preschool teacher described her as a ‘true child of nature’, brimming with joy when she’s getting mucky in the bush, climbing trees, cupping insects, patting blue-tongue lizards. As a parent, I have to honour all that. Remind myself not to shut off the wonder of a fat butter moon, the glorious roar of sunset before nightfall bleeds in, the mighty comfort of the Southern Cross; to point out the oddness of a banksia and the beauty of a cicada shell. Because in adulthood she may well spiral back to it all and find a great solace in it. As I have, with that long, fierce sense of peace, thanks to the lessons of childhood and the sense of kith bred so strong in me.

nicki.theaustralia@gmail.com
Chicken Pox

Please be aware a case of chicken pox has been reported in the senior level of the school.

The Education Sub Committee met on Tuesday evening (18th June) to address the ICT Policy and First Aid Policy. As parents, we would like to draw your attention to some specific things you can do to support these policies:

1. Students are not to bring ICT devices or storage devices (USB’s, CD’s etc.) from home, unless approved by the school. 3G enabled devices are not to be brought to school.

2. Parents are encouraged to get involved in their children’s ICT use at home. In the same in which we check the ratings of movies, it is important that children only have access to electronic games, apps and online content that is appropriate for their age.

3. Please encourage your children to tell a teacher (or yard duty person) should they injure themselves or feel unwell. The child’s wellbeing will be assessed by the first aid officer and given the appropriate medical attention.

Further details of these policies are found on the school website:

http://www.wattleparkps.vic.edu.au

As a parent and a School Council member, I strongly encourage all parents to support the teachers in these policies to create a safer and healthier student environment for the kids! Do come along and join us for the next Education Sub Committee and share a cuppa with a chocolate or two!

Kit Leong

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**2013 Book Fair**

Our fantastic 2013 Book Fair will be held in the library on:

- **Monday, August 5th**
- **Tuesday, August 6th**
- **Wednesday, August 7th**

We will be open for browsing and sales from 8.30-9.30 and 3.30-4.30 each day.

- School Photos
- Kelly Sports
- Superspeak
- Box Hill Tennis
- Book Club
Please pop Tuesday 30th July into your diary as our first parent forum for 2013.

The forum will be run by our principal, Gayle Cope and will focus on the Mathematics curriculum and in particular how it is addressed at Wattle Park.

We’d love to see as many parents attending as possible. 7.30-8.30p.m.

If you would be interested in attending please email Megan at: ganter.megan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au. Alternatively you can ring the school on 9808 2165.

Megan Ganter          Gayle Cope
Assistant Principal   Principal
On Tuesday 25th June 2013, Jason from CSIRO discussed the various jobs and experiences that learning **science** can take you to!

In a hands-on session we discussed and investigated:

- simple machines such as a wheel and axle
- small and large forces that can create movement
- forces that can be applied to an object
  - pushing and pulling forces
  - the effect of gravity
  - matter and weight
  - gripping force called friction
  - levers and fulcrum

Thank you to the parents who got involved with the fun activities organised by the Level 3 Team.
WPPS PFA
Fundraising Event

Trivia Night 2013

Get together with a group of friends and come along to test your general knowledge!

Saturday August 3\textsuperscript{rd} 2013, from 6:30pm
$25 per person
Teams of up to 12 people

Trivia – Silent Auction – Games – Disco

Complete, detach and return this slip to the School Office:

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<th>Name:</th>
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<td>No. of Tickets:</td>
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Please co-ordinate with those on your team and combine all fees payable in one payment. This is an adult only event.

Thank you.
July 19th 2013

Dear Parents,

We need your help in the Kitchen Garden Program, could you please contact the school on 9808 2165 or by email wattle.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au if you are able to assist on any of the following days and times.

**Garden Classes**

**Monday**
- 9.00am 4G Ms Gilmour
- 10.00am Ms Helen Sterling

**Tuesday**
- 9.00am 3H Mrs Hardy
- 10.00am 3L Ms Larocque
- 11.30am Mr Davey

**Kitchen Classes**

**Monday**
- 10.00am 4G Ms Gilmour
- 12.00 pm 4H Mrs Helen Sterling

**Tuesday**
- 10.00am 3H Mrs Hardy
- 12.00pm 3L Ms Larocque

**Wednesday**
- 10.00am 3D Mr John Davey

Thank you kindly,

Julie, Nadia and the Level 3 Team
Hello, we are the ICT Leaders, Billy, Bailey, Max and Elliot. To ensure the ICT is adequately cared for across the school, we have written this informational page on the appropriate positions of the computers and iPads in the docks.

**Computers**
You should put the laptop in on its side with the **yellow charging input facing out and up** (Fig.1). Make sure to plug in the charger!

**iPads**
You should put the iPads in with the charging output facing out, and if it doesn’t fit, **do not force it**! Turn it around, and adjust the iPad’s position until it smoothly slides in (Fig.2). If it is a new cover, put the clip inside the cover (Fig.3)!
“It’s the best thing to do at lunchtime in the world! I love it!”
Charli, Elwood PS

EXCITING LUNCHTIME DRAMA AT
WATTLE PARK PS!!!

Junior class (P – 2): Thursday in the gym: 1.45pm – 2.25pm
Senior class (G3 – 6): TBC

Enrolment options are as follows:

- Email the information below to freyja@dramatime.com.au
- Post this form to Drama Time 19 William St,
  Balaclava 3183
- Or call Drama Time on 9528 8998

Please do not return this form to the school, return to the Drama Time office only.

Student name: ___________________________ Grade: ______________

Parent name: ___________________________ Mobile number: _________

Email: ___________________________ Home number: ___________

School: Wattle Park PS

AN INVOICE WILL FOLLOW AFTER THE ENROLMENT IS COMPLETE.

“Elise was so excited to tell me about the amazing fun she had and all the things that she's going to get to do in drama.” Parent, Ormond PS

“Eden loves her Drama class; she always comes home on Tuesdays with stories from the session.” Parent, St Finbar's

“Enrique’s confidence has increased enormously over the last few years thanks to Drama Time.” Parent, Brighton Beach PS

For more information please call us on 9528 8998 or head to our website www.dramatime.com.au
Special Introductory Programme

ONLY $35.00
Includes
New Uniform
Ring Terry on
9886-9025

© Australian Goju Karate

Ashburton Dojo
413 High St.
Ashburton

Special
Beginners
Classes
Six Days
Each Week

FOR AGES
4 YRS & Above

Martial Arts Tuition Specialists
Tuning Into Kids
emotionally intelligent parenting

A six session program for parents/caregivers of children aged between 3 to 7 years

Does your child:
Have difficulty managing their emotions?
Explode easily?
Become fearful in many situations?
Find conflict challenging?

Learn about teaching your child to understand and regulate their emotions, in a small, friendly group environment.

$285 - concession fee available to eligible participants.

* For parents/caregivers only to attend, no children please.

Psychology4Life - 1st Floor, 1395 Toorak Rd Camberwell
Monday Evenings, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
From August 12th - September 16th

Contact: Judy Poll, Psychologist Phone: 98091234

www.psychology4life.com.au
Wattle Park Primary | July 2013

Wet weather hasn’t made us blue

It’s term 3 already and although Winter has definitely arrived and it might be cold and wet outside, we have still been having a blast at OSHC.

We might not be able to go outside as often but we have been keeping warm with activities such as making blanket forts, building realistic dinocars from Lego, watching the occasional G rated movie and indoor 2 square.

We have also recently been very excited to use our mini pool table which has new pool balls and new wooden cues!

We’re excited to be back after the two week break and our room has even welcomed us back with clean carpets. A big thank you to Gayle and to the cleaners who helped make it happen.

Once registered
You can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day.

Save on Care
Save 50% or more on Before and After School Care with the Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 943.

Holiday Clubs
Don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs this school holidays. Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program: www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs.

Healthy Snacks
Afternoon tea is served daily. Menus are tailored to children’s tastes, developmental and nutritional needs. Afternoon tea includes a selection of yummy sandwiches and fruit. Children may also engage in fun cooking activities.

HOW TO GET STARTED
Before using our programs register online for an account. This enables you to make bookings, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day. Registering is quick and easy. Visit


we make kids smile
www.campaustralia.com.au