

# The WATTLE Newsletter



**Newsletter No. 20**

**20th December 2013**

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Last Monday we celebrated the educational journey of our Year 6 students at a gala Graduation Dinner and Presentation ceremony conducted in the school gymnasium.

Special guests included our former principal Mr Nick Farley, Ms Anna Burke (Federal Member for Chisholm), Mr Will Bishop (a Cameron Close representative) 2007 Prep teachers Mrs Lia Richardson, Mrs Ainslie Peszynski, Mrs Amanda Chetcuti and many parents, grandparents and siblings.

It was indeed a showcase of our students' singing, dancing and public speaking skills. It was a memorable night for all involved. Our Year 6 Leaders have been a very special group of students who have taken their responsibilities seriously and been wonderful role models for our younger students. We will miss them dearly.

Sincere thanks to all staff who contributed to the Graduation evening - Year 6 teachers, Mrs Anna Saaksjarvi, Mrs Vicki Papastergiadis, Year 5 teachers, Ms Teng and Mrs Nield and all teachers who have had input along our Year 6 students' journey. Thank you for the fantastic support from the Year 5 parent helpers who made a most significant contribution to this year's graduation by providing all of the salads for the graduation meal. Thank you also to the Year 6 parents for decorating the Year 5 room turning it into a most salubrious dining room.

The following families will conclude their association with Wattle Park Primary School as their child graduates this year. The Konstantopoulos and Barr families.

## DIARY DATES



### DECEMBER

Fri 20th End of School Year 1.30pm dismissal. Casual Clothes Day

### JANUARY 2014

**30th January School Return  
First Day for entire school**

### Curriculum Dates for 2014

28th/29th January

6th June

3rd November

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

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Penfold Mazda 59 Burwood Highway Tel: 03 9268 1222  
Proud sponsor of Wattle Park Primary School and generously supporting the Wattle Park community.

WPPS is a Learning Community. We achieve this through a focus on the following 'Norms' or 'ways of treating each other'.

Respect

Encourage

Value

Care

Challenge

Responsible

Our best wishes and thanks go to these families for their support and assistance over the years.

To students who are leaving Wattle Park PS for a range of reasons, before the completion of Year 6, I wish you well at your new schools. I hope you and your families will all look upon your time at Wattle Park with fabulous memories.

I would especially like to thank our School Council President Jo Holland for her unwavering support for the school – staff, administration and community; her leadership of School Council; her wise advice on many issues and her always passionate and positive conversations both public and private about our school.

Also to our School Councillors; Mr Tim Humphries, Mr Graham Parr, Mr Arpi Cseh, Mr Brent Dankestreither, Mr Jordy Kaufman, Mr Kit Leong, Mr Scott Sutherland, Ms Carol Hensley, Mrs Amanda Dwyer, Mrs Anna Saaksjarvi, Ms Megan Ganter and Mrs Robyn Hunter an enormous thank you for their commitment to many night time meetings and reading considerable reports.

On behalf of the school community and teaching staff I would like to acknowledge some very important people who work around our school other than in a teaching capacity. Without them our school would not be able to operate! Many thanks to:

- Our Administration staff -Mrs Robyn Hunter, who does an absolutely superlative job in managing the office and our school Finances along with our School Council Treasurer Mr Tim Humphries, and Mrs Joy Roberts and Mrs Vicki Keith who capably manage this busy area of the school
- Our Integration Team –Vicki Keith, Michelle Harris, Alexandra Watson, Brodie Taylor, Susan Wright Deb Alderson and Deb De Stafanis who give ongoing support to teachers and students across the school
- Michelle Wridgway and Georgia Kelly for the support they have provided with uniform supplies
- Alison Dunn for her work in managing the canteen
- Alison Dunn and Gemma Anderson and their PFA team who raise considerable funds for the school and students
- Our After Care staff led by Nicole for their contribution to the Wattle Park community
- Gavan Cass for the garden and maintenance service he provides each week
- Our Computer technician Mr Ashley Flentjar
- Our chicken monitor families coordinated by Mrs Kate Richardson

The school will be a very busy place during the holidays. We are having new LED lights installed in our gymnasium, the gymnasium floor is being resurfaced, painting in the two storey building and stage area, considerable earthworks and landscape gardens installed in front of the gymnasium entrance, an art installation of an adobe house and further oval works! The school may be unrecognisable when we return!

Please do keep an eye out over the holiday period for any unwelcome guests or damage. A community presence around our school does much to ensure our school buildings and grounds are safe.

One last thank you, to our wonderful teaching staff. We are indeed very lucky to have the calibre of the staff we have here at Wattle Park Primary School and to our assistant principal Ms Megan Ganter.

Megan is such a wonderful support to me personally; she is always with me on every decision and is an exceptional leader. I think we make a great team!

A reminder that school resumes for students at 9.00a.m. on Thursday 30th January 2014. Our first whole School Assembly will take place on the following Monday being the 3rd February at 9.00am in the Gymnasium.

***Thank you to all members of the Wattle Park Primary School community for your support throughout 2013 and for your many good wishes and words of appreciation.***

***Have a peaceful, safe and Merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday period. Best wishes to all for a prosperous 2014.***

***Gayle  
Principal***



**From the Uniform Shop**

Please help me in welcoming Georgia Kelly to the Uniform Shop. Georgia will be taking over next year and I know she will do a fantastic job!

Many thanks to the school community for their support and friendship over the past 13 years. It has been a pleasure to run the uniform shop and I take many fond memories from my time at Wattle Park.

Thank you to all the families who placed uniform orders for summer items. Stock will be distributed as soon as it arrives with all outstanding items available on the first day of Term 1, 2014.

A quick request—please try to pay with correct money or small notes as change can be tricky to come by.

Thanks again and good by for now.

Michelle Wridgway

## **My first year in the School Council**

"As we draw to the close of the school term, we reflect on the year gone past for the School Council. The Council spent many nights in total on many administrative decisions, policy making and governance activities in the interest of the school. The various sub committees also worked very hard to organize various fund raising events , maintain the grounds and generally engaged the wider school community.

Some highlights this year through the efforts of parents and teachers were the various grants that were successfully given to the school for educational and artistic pursuits; research engagements with various Universities and the pending construction of an "adobe" playhouse this summer.

We also had to address some challenges whereby a restrictive permit was issued by the city council to reduce the number of nights that the gym may be rented out due to complaints from local residents. Unfortunately, this will significantly impact a source of funding (by more than 50%) for the school and also restrict the many local sports clubs that rely on the gym for their activities. The School Council is currently considering this impact and the appropriate response to this restriction while wanting to be good neighbours to our local residents.

If you have any concerns about this restriction, please do contact one of the School Council members or leave a message with the office. Nevertheless, it has been a wonderful year working together with the many committed parents on the council and sub-committees, teachers and principals towards a better school environment for all our kids.

Kind regards,

Kit Leong

# Music Lessons

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