**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Dear Parents,

Annmaria Antonino (our Foundation Art teacher and ESL teacher) consistently comes up with ideas for new initiatives—one of them being a Grandparents’ and Older Person Day to celebrate and recognise the importance of the adult generation on our youth. Our last Grandparents’ Day at Wattle Park Primary School was held (we think) five years ago. Always one to support an impassioned idea we ran with it expecting approximately 100 grandparents to attend. But the responses kept coming in over the week and to our delight over 230 grandparents and special older friends attended our Monday morning assembly.

It was quite a daunting experience for four of our grade six leaders—Bec P, Petena B, Zach P and James E to face an audience of approximately 650! But they did so with great aplomb. Our students certainly rose to the occasion and we had performances by our Junior and Senior choirs, two instrumental groups and individual performances by Jay C and Estelle B on the keyboard.

Throughout the previous week, assistant principal Megan Ganter filmed a random selection of students who spoke spontaneously about their grandparents. The film was shown at the assembly and it is so, so endearing. It is one we will certainly keep in our archives and we are attempting to put it on our website once we have gone through the legal requirements obtaining all parents’ consent of the participating students.

It was a very special morning and one that I’m sure will be an annual event. Special thanks to the PFA who organised the morning tea. Very scrumptious date scones I was informed!

Although the school day for students is from 9.00am-3.30pm, many people work well beyond that time slot in order for the school to operate as effectively as it does.
Throughout the past two weeks sub-committees from School Council; Finance Committee, Building and Grounds have met to discuss and plan their agendas for the year. Rowena King and Megan co-convenors of the Education committee have also met organising meeting dates as well as term forums.

A staff ‘Data Team’ consisting of myself and Megan, Amanda Dwyer, Drew Baxter, Anna Saaksjarvi, Cynthia Tuck and Tracy McPhee-Lam convenes weekly to scrutinise our student achievement data over the past four years. We look to unpack reasons as to why the school data is as it is and areas of identified improvement. For example, why are our reading data results consistently above the State mean and similar ‘like’ schools? Why are our mathematics results in some years just managing to maintain just above state means at Year 3, yet by Year 5 those same students are considerably above?

We are indeed fortunate at Wattle Park to have the goodwill and expertise of teachers and parents who continuously strive to make improvements to our school to benefit our students.

After much research and discussion with staff, students and the school council, substantial purchases have been made to bring Wattle Park PS into a new age of ICT innovation, including strong infrastructure to support growth in the future. ICT is used for visualising thinking, for creating and communicating, across all subject areas. Digital devices such as interactive whiteboards, ipads and laptops are powerful tools that can enhance engagement and understanding in the classroom. We have purchased a range of devices so that students and teachers can choose the best ICT tool for the particular learning task at hand. We are expecting to have all new devices in classrooms before the end of term. What an exciting time for the students and teachers at Wattle Park!

- Replacement Server
- UPS (Uninterrupted power supply for improved stability of the network)
- Server backup facility
- Switches, wireless gear for the new building and related maintenance
- 32 X ipad2 including protective covers and screen protectors – 8 ipads to share per area
- 1 X 16 bay synch and go ipad trolley per area
- 48 Lenovo x220 Standard laptops – 3 banks of 16 to be used in the prep/1 and 5/6 areas in the new space, and the 3/4 area
- Extended 3 year onsite warranty for laptops
- 3 X 28 bay laptop charging and security trolleys
- Removal and installation of IWB from portables

Megan has certainly hit the ground running at Wattle Park and I would like to especially thank and acknowledge her for all the work that she has done to ensure that we have made the very best ICT purchases at the very best prices. These purchases have been possible through the Library Trust fund that families pay via the Pupil Requisites and Contributions as well as funds raised through the PFA.

Congratulations to the 56 cross country competitors who represented our school in the district final on Wednesday in very windy weather at Westerfold’s Park. Congratulations to Sacha T, Emily P, Megan F, Sam S, James E, Bill C, Dougal K, Cody S, Indigo P, Ella B, Steffany G, Ruby M, Ashley B, Liam C and Charlie B who have made it through to the next round, Whitehorse Division. I’m not sure whether it is just natural talent or the spaciousness of our grounds but Wattle Park students certainly do well at cross country!

Lastly, thank you to everyone who attended last Saturday’s Open Day. Despite the drizzly weather a large number of new and current families came through our doors. Special thanks to Amanda Carter, Suskia Malafu, Chrissy Balchan, Jane Borden, Kellie McDonald Linda Rubens, Chris Nielsen, Lindsey Bangay and Jo Briglia who were kept very busy serving tea, coffee and scones.

That’s all from me! Don’t forget year 1 and 2 working bee on Sunday morning at 9.00-11.00a.m. Hope the weather isn’t inclement!

Regard Gayle
Reminders:
Curriculum Day Friday, 1st June

STUDENT ABSENCES: As a Departmental requirement, when your child/children have been absent from school, on their return they must give to their teacher a note from their parent/guardian stating why and when they were absent. On the website under the Parents tab is a form which you may use. It is called Student Absence Notification.

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. Please inform the teacher or the office if head lice have been found. A letter will then be given to that class asking that each child be checked at home. 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.

Jewish Religious Education is commencing at Wattle Park Primary this Thursday 31st MAY. The classes are being taught by the United Jewish Education Board. Please let the office know if you would like to participate in these classes. They are 1/2 an hour a week on a Thursday afternoon.

Notices gone home this week

Grandparents’ Day movie participants consent form
Scholastic Books
Lice notice to affected classes
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 to enrol 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.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Needs Your Help!

We always need volunteers Mondays and Tuesdays in both garden and kitchen.

Also, can anyone donate aged timber posts of at least 1.5m to help build a rustic fence between the orchard and oval? It would be great to have all different shapes to add to the effect.

Please leave your details at the office so I can call you.

Thanks

Julie Jenz
Garden Specialist

First Education Committee meeting for this year is for Tuesday the 19th June at 7.00p.m. in the staffroom.
This year the particular focus of the Education Committee will be to help set the school’s strategic direction for the next four years.
Please RSVP your attendance to Ms Megan Ganter at ganter.megan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
WPPS WORKING BEE for
GRADES 1 and 2 Parents and Students
Sunday 27th May 9am

Anyone interested in the school grounds please come and help

We are revegetating the school. Lots of planting!

Please bring a plate to share for morning tea – nothing fancy necessary.

We need you to bring gardening gloves and any useful tools (clearly named) you don’t mind sharing for the morning including: shovel, garden fork, hoe, mattock, wheelbarrow, rake, bucket, broom

We will be talking about revegetation with the kids. Come along and help them learn.
Cross Country Snaps
Wednesday, 23rd May 2012
Camp Australia Wattle Park
Pupil Free Day June 1st

Come join us at Wattle Park Outside School Hours Care for nonstop fun with friends, including outdoor group games & sport, cooking, art & craft and much more!!!

Date: 1st June  
Time: 7:30am – 6pm  
Location: OSHC room

To register your child in the fun all day program we have on offer, please visit our friendly Coordinator at the service to register your expression of interest or for more information contact our Customer Service Team on Ph: 1300 105 343.

Please note * Minimum numbers are required to operate this day

www.campaustralia.com.au
Parents Victoria Online Conference

Parents and other interested participants are warmly invited to take part in the sixth annual online conference to be held by Parents Victoria. The conference will be held non-stop on the internet during Education Week, commencing at 6.00 a.m. on Sunday 20 May, with discussion topics including:

- Celebrating Public Education
- Travel to School
- Multiculturalism
- Curriculum
- Bullying
- Mental Health
- School Payments and Funding

There is also the opportunity to comment on other Education issues that may concern you.

No special software is needed just an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions are very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate are provided. There are prizes for schools for participation.

The conference is proudly sponsored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development


For further information, email: office@parentsvictoria.asn.au
Stop Press:

Latest Camp Australia News!

Emily, new coordinator commencing Monday 28th May.
Florence Rd. Pre-School
2 Florence Road, Surrey Hills Vic 3127

OPEN DAY
Sat 26th May 2012
10.30am - 12.00pm

We warmly welcome all new families
to meet our Kindergarten teachers
and see our facilities

Offering:
3 year old Kindergarten
   Emus
   Two half day sessions
   Koorkaburras
   One full day and one half day

4 year old long day Kindergarten
   Wombats and Echidnas
   Two full days and one half day of
   specialist art or music

Just turned 3s
   One half day session during fourth term

Enquiries:
3 year old enrolments enquiries
   phone 0403 094 291

4 year old enrolments enquiries
   phone 0401 443 027

Email: Florence.Rd.Kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au