Dear Parents,

It has been a very eventful month with three successful grants awarded to the school. We have been awarded a NAB $15,000 Seed Grant working with Swinburne University to promote Science Education with our Year 5 and 6 students for 2014. This is a considerable achievement for the school and it provides an endorsement of our strategy to raise the profile of Science at Wattle Park.

Secondly, a $5,000 Bully Stopper grant from the Victorian State Government to support parents, teachers and principals in working together to make sure all schools are safe and supportive places, where everyone is empowered to help reduce the incidence of bullying. The grant is for this year and our current year 5 students will be involved.

Our third grant is a $3,000 Creative Stars Federal Government Grant to provide instrumental music tuition for selected students in Years 2 and 3.

I would like to personally highlight the contribution of both Mrs. Janine Dankestreither (mother of Ewan 5N) and Ms Megan Ganter who have been instrumental in collating the information necessary to write comprehensive and authentic reports that meet very strict criteria. It is indeed a skill. The students as a result of the grants will benefit by accessing a wider curriculum with specialist expertise to facilitate their learning.

On Thursday after school Mrs Ainslie Peszynski conducted a Chinese professional development session for all Chinese language teachers in the North Eastern region. Seventeen teachers in all participated in a session that Ainslie conducted on community engagement.

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Ainslie does a marvelous job in promoting Chinese language and culture in our school community. It is indeed a testament to her passion and commitment that we have a highly regarded and quality program here at Wattle Park.

Please take the time to read the flyer on the upcoming Moon Festival celebration that Ainslie has once again organized for the school. Chinese language will continue to grow at Wattle Park as we develop stronger links with our sister school, Mingde Primary School in Suzhuo Province.

Monday was a superb day for our annual House Athletics carnival with Box Hill North Primary School. Participation and enjoyment are the qualities that are promoted at our sports carnival. We do indeed have some very talented athletes at our school in a diverse range of events. However what is most important is that everyone has a go regardless of their ability.

It’s vital that physical activity is a part of everyone’s day, no matter what age. I love seeing students walking, riding or scooting to school of a morning. It’s a great way to start the day.

Many thanks to Mrs Melinda Downes and Mr John Davey who spent considerable time organizing the sports day as well as the year 3-6 teachers and parents who assisted at events, and provided first aid treatment.

There are a number of photos attached of the day’s events.

Each year Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Rotary conduct a Speech Night for two year 5 & 6 students from each invited primary school in the area. Krishan D 5N and Freya P 6T represented our school this year and were both magnificent. Krishan’s speech was titled ‘If I could change the world’ and Freya’s ‘The importance of being on time’. Freya was the actual winner last year and this year Krishan kept the tradition by being placed second. Congratulations to them both. Teachers Anna Saaksjarvi, Cynthia Tuck, Samantha Teng and I were part of the audience and we sat beaming with pride at Krishan’s and Freya’s performance.

If you have been around the school yard lately you may have observed an epidemic amongst our staff. Pregnancies! Three of them! It is with great pleasure (but also a sense of foreboding loss) that I can announce that Mrs Cynthia Tuck, Mrs Katie Hardy and Mrs Anna Saaksjarvi are all expecting their first child. Cynthia will be with us until the end of term 3, Katie until halfway through term 4 and Anna will complete the year with her 2013 class.

Congratulations to them all.

Next week Megan and I are accompanying the year 3 & 4 students on camp to Phillip Island Adventure Resort. The weather ahead looks promising. It’s sure to be a wonderful and eventful experience for the students, teachers and accompanying parents.

Mrs Amanda Dwyer and Mrs Anna Saaksjarvi will share the leadership of the school in our absence.

It’s lovely to see the art installation of flowers on the embankment near the basketball court that Ms Chadwick has installed of the student’s work made from recycled PET bottles. It certainly adds color to our playground!

Regards Gayle
Hi all,

Congratulations to Gayle Cope, Principal of Wattle Park Primary School, and her team for becoming successful recipients of a NAB Schools First Seed Funding Award.

Swinburne's opportunity for involvement as a partner arose through Emily Cook's work as our local In2Science Coordinator.

Emily and I look forward to working with the School to help build expertise in Science education through the establishment of a targeted peer mentoring relationship.


Science Futures

Partner: Swinburne University of Technology

The Science Futures partnership has been established between Wattle Park Primary School and Swinburne University of Technology to expand and enhance the school's Science curriculum. The school recognised an opportunity to improve the science resources on offer to students and provide the teachers with greater confidence in teaching science. Both partners realise the value and importance of science education, as students will acquire skills in enquiry, problem solving and reasoning, which can then be applied to all areas of learning. Swinburne University students will conduct fortnightly visits to the primary school and implement a program of science activities and experiments. The university students will have the opportunity to act as mentors and positive role models for the Grade 5 and 6 students, and engage them in hands-on learning activities that will increase engagement. The partners will share resources, with the teachers offering their expertise in classroom management and education, and the university mentors sharing their expertise in Science. As a result of the partnership, the school expects to see improved academic outcomes for students and a broader appreciation for and understanding of the importance of science in everyday life. Teachers involved in Science Futures will be able to share their increased professional knowledge in Science education with their peers.

What the judges said: A great opportunity to enhance the school curriculum has been identified and addressed with this partnership.

Regards
Chris Fluke
Associate Professor
Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing
Swinburne University of Technology
Krishan D and Freya P along with Ms T and Mrs T at the Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Rotary conduct a Speech Night. Congratulations to you both.

Don’t forget to check out our website at: www.wattleparkps.vic.edu.au to keep up to date with the happenings of the school: notices, news, events, dates etc.
A snippet of the action at the Standardized Sports Day on Monday, 26th August.
Mandarin & Asian Studies

Term 3 is moving quickly along. As such, it is time to update you on upcoming events relating to our Mandarin and Asian Studies program at WPPS. This term, we will be celebrating the Moon Festival also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Moon Lantern Festival. Additionally, we will continue to use Language Perfect both in the classroom and at home for Year 2 to Year 6 students.

Language Perfect

With regards to Language Perfect any students from Year 2 to Year 6 who has lost or needs their password reset, please email me at peszynski.ainslie.a@edumail.vic.gov.au. I hope you and your child/children are enjoying learning many Mandarin phrases and vocabulary together.

Moon Festival Celebration for WPPS Families

The Moon Festival is once again upon us and the school community is invited to celebrate the festival over lunch at China Bar Signature – Asian Buffet in Burwood. Last year, the event took place over 4 sessions in two days, with more than 250 members of the Wattle Park community sitting down and sharing a meal together.

This year, the event will be held on only one day, Sunday 15th September and you will be invited to choose one of two sessions to come to. Please keep an eye on upcoming notices, newsletter and noticeboard entries to find out further information regarding the WPPS Moon Festival Lunch Celebration. The key aim of this meal is for community engagement.

http://www.chinabarssignature.com
Chinese and Asian activities out in the wider community
Out in the wider community activities and celebrations are constantly occurring. If you are ever looking for things to do as a family, please refer to some of the following websites for some ideas.

Asian Food Festival
The Asian Food Festival will be running from September 1st to October 15th with the slogan ‘Truly, Madly, Deeply Scrumptious’. For those of you who like food hot and spicy, sweet and sour and all those Asian flavours in between check out the following site for program details. Things such as Floating Yum Cha, East Meets West, Under the Dome and All-You-Can-Eat Dumpling look like some stand outs on the program. http://asianfoodfestival.com.au

Melbourne Chinese Museum - Lighting Up Multiculturalism Exhibition
From the 15th July to the 12th September, the Melbourne Chinese Museum are hosting the exhibition ‘Lighting Up Multiculturalism’. This exhibition explores the ways in which multicultural Australia celebrates the Mid-Autumn Festival. Visitors will be able to read the stories, celebrate the culture and contribute towards the creation of a poem wall. The Chinese Museum also has five floors that include a Chinatown Visitor Centre, a temporary exhibition gallery, a Dragon Gallery displaying three generations of Chinese dragons, interactive ‘Finding Gold’ experience, Australia’s 200-year Chinese history told through artefacts as well as the story of recent arrivals from all parts of the Asia Pacific region since the 1950s. You can also take a self-guided iPod tour of Chinatown or book a guided heritage tour. Or you can also take the kids on a treasure hunt. http://www.chinesemuseum.com.au

Bendigo Golden Dragon Museum
If you like a road trip and are willing to travel just under two hours one way, then Bendigo is your place. At the Bendigo Golden Dragon Museum they have Yum Cha sessions in their tea room, a winter school holiday program where the kids can participate in dragon puppet making or miniature costume making and they have their Harvest Moon Festival on the 21st September. http://www.goldendragonmuseum.org

2013 Moon Lantern Festival
In Box Hill, in Market Street and Main Street on Saturday 21st September from 10am to 5pm there will be performances, stalls and activities to celebrate the Moon Lantern Festival. http://www.moonlanternfestival.com.au/homepage_mel.html

China town Discounts
If you off to the city one weekend then please refer to the Chinatown website to download 18 FREE vouchers for discounts and specials at participating Chinatown Restaurants and businesses. http://chinatownmelbourne.com.au

Ainslie Peszynski
Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

We are preparing to have a family lunch to celebrate the second year of WPPS having Mandarin and Asian Studies and to get into the spirit of the forthcoming 2013 Moon Festival (otherwise known as either The Mid-Autumn Festival, or The Moon Lantern Festival). The Moon Festival starts on the 15th day of the eighth month in the lunar calendar and is where family and friends gather to admire the full moon and think of absent loved ones.

This is an invitation to share a meal and enjoy the company of family, friends and the school community.

Our lunch will be an Asian buffet from where you can choose from a variety of foods from the Chinese Banquet, Yum Cha Corner, Cook-To-Order and the Patisserie.

(Please refer to [http://www.chinabarsignature.com/](http://www.chinabarsignature.com/) to see what food will be on offer at the lunch buffet).

To find out more about The Moon Festival, please refer to: [http://www.travelchinaguide.com/essential/holidays/mid-autumn.htm](http://www.travelchinaguide.com/essential/holidays/mid-autumn.htm) for details on how The Moon Festival will be celebrated in Box Hill on Saturday 21st September.

Please turn the page for specific information about the Celebration.

**BRING THE FAMILY AND COME CELEBRATE!**
Moon Festival Lunch Celebration

Yes, we would like to come to the Moon Festival Lunch Celebration at the China Bar Signature – Asian Buffet Burwood on Sunday 15th September.

Family Name ___________________ Child/Children’s Name/s _____________________
Childs/Children’s Class/es ___________________
Number of People in total ________
Number of Adults (includes older sibling in Secondary School) ________
Number of Children aged 4 to 12 (WPPS Students) ________
Number of Children aged under 3 ________

Family Email Address ___________________________________________

Amount of money enclosed ________

Our Preferred Time is – (Please circle and indicate the number of people)

Sunday 15th September (Session 1) - 11.30am-1.00pm Adults ____ Children ____

Sunday 15th September (Session 2) - 1.30pm-3.00pm Adults ____ Children ____

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Mrs Ansle Peszynski (peszynski.anslie.a@education.vic.gov.au)
Upcoming PFA Social Event
Save the Date!

Oaks Day Ladies Luncheon
Thursday 7th November
**More information soon**
Aussie Farmers Direct Fundraiser
Information for existing customers to donate 2% of each order

Go to: http://www.aussiefarmers.com.au Select ‘Fundraising’,

Click on ‘Customers’

Then ‘Link your account’
A thank you message will pop up

Many thanks
You might have seen our posters, but to fill you in during the month of September we will be getting involved in raising money for the Smith Family Back2School appeal. Back2School helps to support disadvantaged families in the community by raising money to support primary school kids in 97 of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia.

We will be holding a ‘guess the number of lollies in the jar competition’. We ask that you give a silver coin (that’s a 5 cent, 10 cent, 20 cent or 50 cent coin) per guess, and you can guess as many times as you like! The person or people who guess the correct amount (or the closest amount) will be able to take the jelly bean and snail filled jar home!

In other news, we have been keeping ourselves busy with circus performances, games of footy, craft activities and many, many imagination based games.

We have also been enjoying this Spring-like weather with lots of outside play. We even unearthed our bubble blowers and had so much fun filling the air with bubbles. We used a bit of tricky craft to make a bubble blower that gives a snake of bubbles by combining a plastic bottle, piece of face washer and a rubber band.

Come to visit and see us in action. We’re open 7:30am until 8:45am and then 3:30pm until 6:00pm.

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 www.campaustralia.com.au/newparents

Once registered

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

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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 105 543.

Holiday Clubs

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

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