Flashing lights, awesome music (provided by parents Dallas and Simon) and voices singing in unison to familiar songs were to be heard last Thursday night at the two school discos. Megan and I had such fun dancing and being part of the PFA discos. The students had a wonderful time and I never cease to be amazed at their endless energy and stamina to dance throughout the night—even the littlest ones!

Special thanks to Alison Dunn, Suzie Pitman, Michelle Wridgway, Sue Daglish, Tash Sinclair and all PFA members who organised not only the student discos but also nibbles and refreshments for the parents in waiting.

Wednesday night was a late night for the Finance sub-committee of the School Council. We called an end to the night at 11.00p.m. after looking at our revenue and expenses for the past two months and undertaking some preliminary planning for 2013. We are indeed fortunate to have the expertise of Tim Humphries (father of Will 2L and Holly FH) and Stephen Burgess (father of John 4D) who support and offer informed insight into the school finances.

The contribution of Mrs Robyn Hunter, the school's office manager is invaluable. Robyn has been pivotal in ensuring that our school accounts and finances have been efficiently managed for over 20 years. Her diligence and dedication to the school is unsurpassed.

A snippet of some of the costs that the school has been required to pay from our own budget this year may be of interest—reconnecting security, electricity and computer networking for our two portable buildings at a cost of $7,600 the rough-in for air-conditioning in the new two storey building as well as the installation of 4 air conditioners in the downstairs rooms. The building design did not provide an option for air-conditioning. Cost to the school $13,000

New telephone system throughout the school $16,000
These are just three examples of what schools are expected to pay from their own budgets. No provision of funds from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development are forthcoming for these expenses.

Art teachers Paula Frost and Annmaria Antonino are to be congratulated for the Art Show that they conducted last Thursday night. (It was a busy night!) It was a magnificent display showcasing a piece of each student’s work throughout the school. Our students’ certainly have the opportunity to experience a range of materials in the art room to create and express their ideas. The art room was awash with colour, creations and design. Well done to all students on the quality of the exhibition.

Our new website goes live on Friday evening. All current subscribers should automatically transfer over to the new site. Special thanks to Megan Ganter and parent Jordy Kaufman (father of Zac 1P) who have spent hours setting up photos, reformatting documents, adding new content and deleting old information. The website is always a work in progress and in reality is never static with new information and photos added regularly. Megan and Jordy have done an amazing job.

Congratulations to Margaret S 4D who will be representing Victoria in the state championships of high jump later this month in Adelaide, South Australia. Raffle tickets are on sale for $2.00 to assist School Sport Victoria (SSV) in raising funds to support all competing junior artists. If you would like to purchase a ticket please see either Joy or Vicki at the office.

Step Up To School Sessions conclude next Wednesday for our next year Foundation students. Three Foundation classes will operate next year, with classroom teachers to be announced shortly.

Next year there will be a number of changes in the allocation of staff to teaching positions. An extra classroom teacher is needed due to the increase in enrolments. At this point in time we are very close to an enrolment of 400 students.

The movement of teachers to different classes is due to a range of reasons. It can be to match particular teaching expertise to the learning needs of a cohort of students. It may be to develop and enhance the existing skills of teachers.

Teachers at Wattle Park very much value the opportunity to work in a professional team where they learn from one another to improve their teaching and reflect on their current teaching practices.

A professional practise that is common for teachers in China is to be critiqued by their colleagues every two weeks to improve teaching performance and reflect on better ways to engage and support students in their learning. Although this practise may be considered confronting by teachers in Australia it is held in very high regard by the teachers in China.

Speaking about China - Mrs Dwyer, Anna and I took a huge amount of photos to document our visit in China. Please see a sample of them in the attached document. Our Study trip to China was a wonderful adventure. We learnt much about the education system, especially through our sister school- Mingde Primary School. I have yet to successfully recontact them via Skype but I am persisting and once this has been achieved I am hoping that our Wattle Park students can meet a class of Mingde primary students. How amazing is that!

I have signed a number of notices that will be distributed shortly about upcoming school events. I am very much looking forward to the Music Soirée on Wednesday 21st November, I will certainly not miss that event!

One last reminder- next Saturday the 17th November our Stephanie Alexander gardener, Julie Jensz is hoping to install a drip watering system throughout the vegetable gardens in preparation for the hot Summer months ahead. If you can help out, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please see attached flyer.

Enjoy the weekend and make sure you take time out to smell the roses!

Regards Gayle
China Study Tour
Help save the Wattle Park Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden from a HOT summer!

Please come and join us

**Saturday November 17th 9:00am**

to help us install an irrigation system.

And perhaps learn about installing irrigation for your own garden.

Piping, joiners and a 4 point solenoid to be installed.

Please RSVP

Julie Jensz, Robyn Gilmour

Or turn up on the day
8th November 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Re: Term 4 Industrial Action—AEU Campaign**

On behalf of teachers, principals and support staff, the Australian Education Union has been negotiating with the Baillieu Government for a new enterprise agreement for over a year however still no agreement has been reached.

Twice now AEU members have voiced their disappointment in the Government by taking a day’s Stop-work action and voting to continue the campaign.

This term, therefore, AEU members have begun a ban on providing written comments in the December 2012 student reports. Parents and guardians will receive a written assessment of their child’s achievement against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards, VCE, VCAL, VET or other equivalent standard and a record of attendance and effort and class behaviour. They will receive a grading for each of the assessed subjects and an indication of their progress over a 12 month period.

AEU members will not provide any other written information or comments.

AEU members do not take such action lightly; however feel that they have been left with no alternative.

**The following staff will not be providing written comments on December reports:**

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<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Gledhill</td>
<td>John Davey</td>
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<td>Katie Hardy</td>
<td>Robyn Gilmour</td>
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<td>Tracy McPhee-Lam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vicki Phillips</td>
<td>Amanda Checuti</td>
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<td>Moira Spierings</td>
<td>Anna Saaksjarvi</td>
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<td>Helen Sterling</td>
<td>Julie Nield</td>
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<td>Samantha Kwong</td>
<td>Cynthia Tuck</td>
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<td>Natasha Larocque</td>
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<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Specialists</th>
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<tr>
<td>Drew Baker</td>
<td>Melinda Downes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Dwyer</td>
<td>Lorelle Caulfiel-Lloyd</td>
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The AEU members at Wattle Park Primary School thank you for your support.

Our teachers and education support staff are committed to providing the best education for your children. Our goal is to improve conditions across the Government System so that we not only maintain but improve the quality of education we provide for your children.

John Davey  
AEU Sub Branch President  
Wattle Park Primary School

Gayle Cope  
Principal  
Wattle Park Primary School
On Thursday 1st November the PFA disco was held in a great new venue, the community room. Over 200 Students attended the 2 sessions and had a great time. There were some fantastic dancing with Gang Nam style eliciting a big cheer and some amazing dance moves.

Special thanks to Megan and Gayle who were enjoying the dancing at both sessions!

A big thankyou to the PFA volunteers, who set up, served in the canteen, sold Glowies and managed crowd control! Thanks to Kerry Dehring, Nat MacDonald, Michelle Wridgway, Suzie Pitman, Jane Macintosh, Lachlan Dunn, Sam Wridgway, Bec Pitman, Jason Wridgway and Angela Wridgway.

It was a fantastic night that raised over $1400 for our school.
A massive thank you to our sensational DJ’s, Dallas and Simon Rayner.

Thanks also to Sue Daglish, Tash Sinclair ad Yuli Meneilly for running a successful Nibbles and refreshments night as well!

Alison Dunn and Suzie Pitman

Thank you to those parents who attended our first ‘Refreshments and Nibbles’ event during the Children’s Discos on Thursday 1st November. Although we didn’t quite have the balmy weather of the night before, and endured gusty winds instead, it was a successful event, nonetheless!

We received donations of almost $400 to WPPS, and wish to thank all of those parents who came along, donated bottles of wine, and to coles for donating vouchers which were used to purchase antipasto and cheese platters from the Tooronga store.

Tash Sinclair & Sue Daglish

Save the Date

A reminder that the next PFA meeting will be held on Monday November 12th at 9 AM after drop off.
All welcome!
PEACE FORUM: Q & A STYLE
With Moderator Murray Baird

Dr Helen Szoke
Australian Race Discrimination Commissioner

Mr David Vincent
Community Leader & Founder of Peace Palette NGO

Ms Sarah Bond
Award winning Film Maker and champion of indigenous arts.

Mr Chin Tan
Chairperson, The Victorian Multicultural Commission

Dr Melika Sheik-Edin
AMES—Strategic Community Relations & Mentor—Community Guides Network

Peace and Harmony
Eliminating Racism
Indigenous Harmony
Share Your Story
Community Relations
Leadership

Tuesday
27th November
6.30 for 7pm
Box Hill Lower Town Hall
1022 Whitehorse Road
Box Hill

Forward your question for the Panellists to
rotarypeaceforum@gmail.com

FREE EVENT
Bring your friends, bring your teenagers!

RSVP preferred to rotarypeaceforum@gmail.com or call / SMS 0450 472 723 by Sunday, 25th November. Entry without booking is welcome on the night

Event Supported by City of Whitehorse
GANGNAM STYLE LUNCHTIME DANCE

LEARN THE FAMOUS HORSE DANCE

PLUS

DANCE, PLAY GAMES AND SING ALONG WITH YOUR BEST FRIENDS TO YOUR OTHER FAVOURITE SONGS

ONE TIME ONLY
TUESDAY 27.11.12
$7 PER CHILD
(PLEASE SEND IN ENVELOPE TO BE GIVEN TO ROBERT ON THE DAY)

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
PHONE NOW! 98892022
EMAIL: CHARISMADANCE@BIGPOND.COM
WEBSITE: WWW.CHARISMADANCE.COM.AU

CHARISMA DANCE CENTRE
1 QUEENS PDE
GLEN IRIS

Gone home since last ‘The Wattle’
Flyers: Anytime Fitness, Futsal,
Head Lice Letter to affected class,
Music Soiree—Wed 21st Dec
CSIRO presents
Holiday Science Activities
at Highton and Glen Waverley!

These school holidays the
CSIRO Science Education
Centre is offering a fun-
filled day of entertaining and
educational science
activities in your area!

**Cost**
7 – 13 year olds (full day)
$95 ($85 for Double Helix
club members) *Pizza lunch
and morning tea provided!*°

5-6 year olds (half day)
$55 ($50 for Double Helix
club members) ° Morning
tea provided!*°

**Booking procedure**
To make a booking, please
visit our website:
www.csiro.au/VicHolidays

**Locations**
**Highton** - CSIRO Science
Education Centre, Graham
Rd, Highton (Melway 77
E10)
**Glen Waverley** - Glen
Waverley Guide Hall,
bogong Ave, Glen
Waverley (Melway 71 A3)

Holiday Science
Activities are also
held in Kew and
Yarraville. Please
check our website
or call for details.

### ACTIVITIES
*(all activities are covered in one day)*

#### Highton

**Cartesian Divers**
Make your very own obedient diver. Amaze your friends with this clever
device, and learn about density along the way.

**Reduction Construction**
Dive into the mystery of what happens to the things we throw away.
Learn all about recycling and use your creativity to turn something old into
something new!

**Origami Tsunami**
Think there’s no science to folding paper? Think again as we unravel the
mathematics, geometry, wizardry and beauty of this amazing Japanese art.

**Dates**
**Senior** (10-13 y.o.) Tue 15th January, 10am – 4pm
**Junior** (7-9 y.o.) Wed 16th OR Thu 17th January, 10am – 4pm

#### Glen Waverley

**A Matter of State**
You have probably heard of solids, liquids and gases before, but what about
a plasma? And what happens when one of them turns into another? Learn
all about the states of matter by doing your own experiments and watching
some mind blowing demonstrations!!

**Crash Test Eggs**
Ever wondered how a parachute works or why cars have a crumple zone?
We’re going to use all our engineering know how to design and make a
vehicle to launch our crash tests eggs down a 3 meter drop.

**Dinosaur Discovery**
Calling all Palaeontologists… dinosaur bones have been discovered in
Melbourne! Take part in an archeological dig and help us unearth this
dinosaur, and learn about the history of the earth at the same time!

**Dates**
**Senior** (10-13 y.o.) Tues 15th January, 10am – 4pm
**Intermediate** (8-10 y.o.) Wed 16th and Thu 17th January, 10am – 4pm
**Junior** (7-9 y.o.) Fri 18th January, 10am – 4pm

#### Little Learners
*(Highton ONLY)*

**Cartesian Divers**
Make your very own obedient diver. Amaze your friends with this clever
device, and learn about density along the way.

**Reduction Construction**
Dive into the mystery of what happens to the things we throw away.
Learn all about recycling and use your creativity to turn something old into
something new!

*Parents and guardians are welcome to attend Little Learners sessions
One date only! Friday 18th January, 10am – 1pm*
Wattle Park Primary School Teacher Appreciation Lunch

The school year will be drawing to a close next month and we thought it was an important time to acknowledge the wonderful job our teachers do at Wattle Park Primary School. To show our appreciation, we are organising a special lunch for our teachers in the staffroom on **Tuesday 11th December, 2012**.

We ask our school community to contribute to this special event by baking, making or donating something. We hope to present our teachers with a choice of wonderful hot and cold delicacies for this special luncheon to honour their hard work and dedication. Ideas for the lunch include salads, quiches, gourmet sandwiches, sushi, curries, rice dishes, antipasto platters, cheese platters, fruit platters, cakes, pavlovas, tarts ... just about anything that you can think of!

It would also be great to decorate the tables so if baking is not your thing and you would like to bring a bunch of flowers (from your garden is fine!), please let us know. Importantly, as this lunch is all about expressing our thanks, please don’t hold back on notes, cards, etc.

**Please let us know if you are able to contribute something to this event and indicate what you will be bringing.** As much as we all like cakes, we don’t want to end up with 30 cakes and 4 savoury dishes, so a bit of menu planning is required!

Dishes (labelled underneath, please) or other items can be dropped off as follows:

- **The morning of Tuesday 11th December** – the canteen (from 8.45am to 9.15am)
- **Hot food** – ideally just before lunch at 1.15pm to the staffroom
- **Early in the morning on Tuesday 11th December or the night before**, dropped at our homes – by arrangement

**Please join us in making this event a great success!**

To confirm your contribution or for any enquiries, please contact:

- **Rowena King** (Archie 5S and Ed 2S) - 0418 887867 or jrking38@bigpond.com
- **Sally Cleland** (Harry 5C and Nate 2H) - 0408 771899 or peterandsally@netcore.com.au