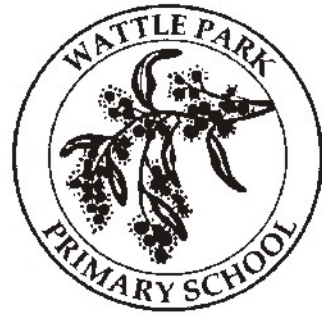


The WATTLE Newsletter



Newsletter No. 4

Thursday 20th March 2008

Warrigal Road, Burwood 3125

Principal: Mr. Nick Farley

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

.19/03/2008

Dear Families,

Movie Night

Last Friday's movie night was a wonderful success for Wattle Park Primary School, both as a Community event and as a fundraiser. We do not have final figure in but we will make a clear profit of over \$11,000 which is an outstanding success. We have estimated crowd numbers at about 1000 which is a record. My thanks go to the organising committee led by Anne-Marie Laslett –Konstantopoulos for the way they managed this great event. This was our sixth movie night and the last where we will have Steve Walsh, the driving force behind the huge success of the event. Jaime his daughter leaves the school at the end of the year as she is in grade 6. I do however feel that Steve, his wife Jenny and Jaime will come along to have a look as interested spectators next year.

PFA & Class Reps

My thanks go to the 15 parents who have nominated as Class Representatives for their children's class for the 2008 School Year. I really hope this group has a successful year and that we can build on this success for the years to come. We are also encouraged by the talk of parents coming on board and joining the PFA. I know Jane McIntosh would love some more support so please don't just think about it put your hand up and pitch in

Holiday Changes

Work begins on the Grade 5/6 area during the term break. The decking will be built and some carpentry changes made in the 5/6 D&G area. The Scarecrow work should also be started and the Bluescope Tank we won last year will be installed.

School Council – New Staff Members

We welcome Kate Anderson and Lia James to School Council this year. They are replacing Robyn Gilmour and Kim Wheatley who have served as staff representatives for the past two years. Kate and Lia are in their second year at the school and are looking forward to having greater involvement in the school.

Staff – LSL Rachel Farfaglia

Rachel Farfaglia is taking 3 weeks Long Service Leave from the beginning of term 2 and her replacement is Kay Jarvis who is well known to the school and the children in Rachel's class. I'm sure she and her husband Joe will enjoy the extended break together.

Finally please take care when you are out and about during the Easter Holidays & we look forward to everyone returning to school on 7th April 2008

Nick Farley
Principal

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Proud sponsor of Wattle Park Primary School and generously supporting
the Wattle Park community.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

FOLLOW UP FROM LAST YEAR

With new parents to our school, the Education Committee thought it would be a good opportunity to revisit an item I placed in The Wattle last year on the learning of tables. It is important to note that tables form a small part of the overall Maths curriculum. Also important to mention is that knowing a table off by heart does not necessarily mean that a student has the mathematical understanding of the operation taking place. It is important that we teach these concepts when a child is developmentally ready. Having said this here is the piece I included last year:

The curriculum covered at Wattle Park is derived from the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). The standards are the expectations at each level of the school.

2.0 Standard	Students skip count by 2s, 4s and 5s from 0 to 100 starting from any natural number. They describe and calculate simple multiplication as repeated addition, such as $3 \times 5 = 5 + 5 + 5$;
3.0 Standard	They provide automatic recall of multiplication facts up to <u>10</u> \times <u>10</u>.
4.0 Standard	They create sets of number multiples to find the lowest common multiple of the numbers. They interpret numbers and their factors in terms of the area and dimensions of rectangular arrays (for example, the factors of 12 can be found by making rectangles of
End of Year 6	

The teaching of tables formally occurs in our Year 3 and 4 classes. There may be some students in Year 2 who begin to learn their tables. This only occurs once they have developed the foundational understandings required. By the end of Year 4 all students should know their 10x10 tables. With a metric system we no longer need to learn up to the 12 times tables. Having said this students often like a challenge so there

might be some children who learn their 11, 12 and sometimes beyond.

The following are a list of the types of activities we undertake at school to support this area:

- Tables Challenges
- Tables ladders
- Tables tapes
- A range of backline master activities
- Tables card
- Tables charts
- Setting goals

JULIE SHEPHERD UPDATE

As mentioned previously we had a most rewarding professional development day with Julie Shepherd at our recent Curriculum Day. A number of new initiatives have begun at Wattle Park. Spelling Journals is one example. These have been implemented from Year 1 – 6. At Level 3 the following have been employed:

- Discussing the purpose and audience when considering the refinement of spelling accuracy required.
- Spelling Analysis

Some of the popular games/activities in level 3 are:

- Word Mastermind - What word could it be? M - - - - -
- Word Grid – Write a word then construct a grid underneath to initiate interest in spelling words relating to the number of letters. Lots of discussion has been promoted – especially when the students tried to ensure the words related to the unit under investigation.

See example on the next page.

	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T
1.											
2.											
3.											try
4.		next								next	
5.											
6.											
7.			vehicle								
8.					recycle						
9.											
10.											
11.											

Please put this date in your diary. 3 June – Parent Forum with Julie Shepherd – “How you can assist your child with spelling at home.” This will be from 7.30-9.00 p.m. More details will follow.

LIBRARY AND ICT FOR 2008

An item which came up at our recent Information Evenings and our Getting to Know You Family Teacher Meetings was clarification as to why Library lessons are occurring for Prep to Year 2 but not for the other levels of the school. All classes have an hour of library time allocated on the timetable. The library is also open during two lunchtimes and at other times during the week where students are able to come for independent research. The library catalogue is also available throughout the school accessing Bibliotech, our library software. You'll all be aware of the shift in terms of accessing information. With the digital age, a book and libraries are not the only way to find information. At Wattle Park we have ICT lessons in years 3 – 6. Much of the focus is on the use of email to contact people from far and wide to find the answers to our questions. Accessing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and information on the internet is another mechanism. With use of the internet comes a raft of skills our students require. How do we know the information is accurate and credible, how can we access information efficiently using the range of search engines available, how can we be safe using the technology? These are just a few of the

many areas I cover while working with the Year 3-6 students. We don't want to underplay the important role that the library has but we do need to acknowledge the new technologies and the need for our students to be proficient users. The shift in focus and time from the library to ICT is a responsible recognition of the change.

CLASS REPS

A big thank-you to the parents who have volunteered as Class Representatives. Nick met with many of the Reps last week. I will meet with the team on the 16th April at 2.30 in the school's staffroom for an afternoon tea (an email was sent to all reps with respect to this). This will provide an opportunity for us to meet and to talk about the work we will do together to support the great links between home and school. One of our first tasks is to compile Class Friendship Lists. A note about this went home this week. Please have your returns in to your child's teacher as soon as possible so these lists can be formulated.

VPRC

By now you will have returned the consent form for your child to participate in the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge. If you haven't and you need another copy could you see your child's teacher please? Bookmarks are being given out to students as they return their consent forms. There are posters around the school advertising the initiative. I have checked that all students are registered

on the website. They can now begin logging their reading at <https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/challenger/weblogin.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> Students in Years 3-6 will be shown the process in ICT lessons and those in Year 1 and 2 during their library sessions. Our Prep students will undertake the Challenge through their classroom program. This site has changed significantly this year to provide excellent information to all the children.

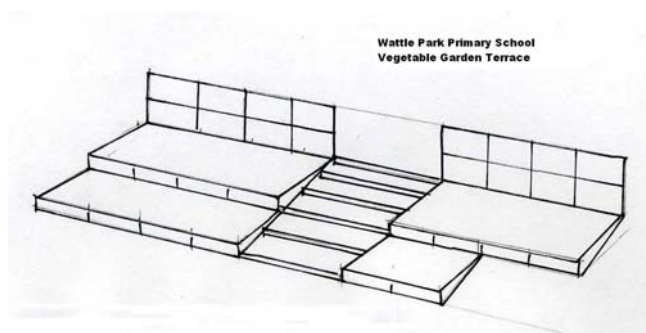
Children who complete the Challenge will have their names mentioned in the Wattle and where consent has been given, in the newspaper.

We look forward to our school performing well in this initiative and thank you in advance for your support.

SCARECROW

With the very warm weather the building of our vegetable garden has been postponed. Once started the building program will be completed over a three week period. Once again we thank the people from Homes Glen, particularly Paul de la Motte, who is coordinating the project.

As in our last Wattle here is a rough design for our garden which will be situated at the back of our Level 3 classrooms as they lead up to the top oval.



Preparations have begun for our 27,000 Bluescope Steel tank to be installed next to our other tank, outside the Level 3 classrooms. Together the tanks will provide approximately 40,000 litres of water. These will be an excellent resource for our vegetable program. Soon a smaller tank will be placed alongside the main building. This will provide

water for the staff toilets. Soon after, the remaining tank will be housed next to the Hall so as to provide water for our student toilets. Wattle Park is certainly doing its part in caring for our valuable water reserves.

Currently we have two Scarecrow parent members investigating the Whitehorse Council "Sustainability Street" program. It is "a community program to assist residents to live more sustainable lifestyles by saving energy, water and waste through environmentally friendly actions at home, school and work. It is made up of a group of people who live in the same street, neighbourhood or suburb." We will keep you informed on this initiative.

Have you heard of the **Earth Hour**? It's on March 29 at 8.00 p.m. The idea is turn off your lights for one hour. Its purpose is to send a message for action on global warming. For further information see www.earthhour.org

We look forward to involving and sharing our initiatives with you.



The Scarecrow logo is all about looking after our environment.

ICT – MATHLETICS

Just to let parents of students in Year 1-4 know that Mathletics can be accessed from home. You no longer require a separate licence. www.mathletics.com.au

Randal Symons
Assistant Principal

CERES REPORTS

On the 6th of March the level 3 team went to C.E.R.E.S. The bus trip took 1 whole hour. When we got there we put the lunch baskets on the ground. We were then put into class groups.

We went to Merri creek first (we walked along it). We went into a time machine first (this was pretend) and met Worangbeek and Winnie. After, we walked along Merri Creek and saw a rubbish trap. When we got back to where the lunch baskets were, we ate a snack and then got back into our groups. This time we went with Shane. First we got to hold worms and were told we would not survive with out them. After we got to dig for mini beasts. We next did paper making with Joe. You had to get wet paper and put it in a towel and soak up the water.



We next did a recycling course with Glen. We first had to put rubbish on a time line and that was how long it took for the rubbish to break down. Next we played a game. You had to put the rubbish in the right bin.

I had a fun time at C.E.R.E.S
By Sam Poppenbeek 3-4B

On Thursday the 6th of March the 3/4s from W.P.P.S went to C.E.R.E.S. When we got there we went to a patch of grass, and we lined up in our classes. A lady called Linda told each class where they were going. We went with Linda and we walked down Merri

Creek. It was very interesting because we went outside C.E.R.E.S, and we got to see a rubbish trap which catches the rubbish so it doesn't go into the creek. We walked back into C.E.R.E.S and had morning tea. Our next activity was the worm farm. Me personally I don't like worms, anyway we held worms. My worm went skinny then fat etc... After we held the worms, we had to dig for 'minibeasts' such as: slaters, centipedes, millipedes, slugs, spring tails, red velvet mites and more. That wasn't my favourite activity. Straight after that we went next door to make paper. It was fun.

We had to get a partner. Mine was Tyler. Then we went to a tub with soggy newspaper in it. We got a frame then we dunked it into the tub they took it out then put it onto our paper towel. Then we had to drain all the water out by pushing a sponge into the middle part of the frame. Then take the wooden frame off a decorate it then, fold it up in your paper towel and voilà! You have paper. Then we had lunch. We went with Glenn to talk about rubbish and recycling. We had to put a time line together to see how long it takes to break down. It was a great excursion!!!!!!
By Georgia Tsatas 3/4B.

PREP NEWS—WEEK 8 TERM 1

As term 1 draws to a close it is a good time to reflect on the amazing achievements our Prep students have made. They are confidently lining up on bells, exploring the grounds, sharing in new friendship groups, and demonstrating enthusiasm when approaching new and challenging activities within their classrooms. It was wonderful to see so many of our Prep community enjoying the experience of being enchanted by Enchanted last Friday. As we move into Term 2 we will be asking for parent helpers in our classrooms. Thank you to those families who have already made donations of construction materials to be used during our investigations program. A continuous source of boxes, plastic trays, cardboard and other materials at their disposal. We wish to thank you for your support during this first term and look forward to these happy times continuing through term 2.

Enjoy a happy and safe holiday break.

From the Prep team



Auskick is Back

The Auskick program will run again this year. Auskick is a non-profit organization run by volunteers aimed at primary school aged boys and girls commencing from preps.

Learn the basics and more advanced skills of AFL football in a safe and fun community environment. For the older children there will be the opportunity to play at half-time at an AFL match!

This year, clinics will be conducted at Bennettswood Reserve, home of Wattle Park/Emmaus Junior Football Club, on the corner of Holland Ave & Burwood H'way (beside Deakin University) on Saturday mornings from 9.30 to 11.00am.

The Registration morning will be held on Saturday 12 April at the ground from 9.30am to 10.30am. The cost is \$50 for the year which includes a kit containing backpack, football, beanie, drink bottle, lunch box, DVD, calendar and more.

Clinics will commence on Saturday 19 April 2008.

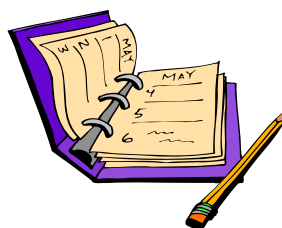
Any queries can be directed to the Area Co-ordinator:
Ross Digby, (H) 9808 3880

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### CANTEEN ROSTER—TERM 2

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Friday</b> | <b>11<sup>th</sup> April</b> |
| 9 – 11.30     | Annie Crow                   |
| 9 – 11.30     | Nicole England               |
| 9 – 11.30     | Jade Fowler                  |
| 11 – 1.30     | Cherie Free                  |
| 11 – 1.30     | Lisa Giles                   |
| 11 - 1.30     | Bronwen Dennis               |
| <b>Monday</b> | <b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b> |
| 9 – 11.30     | Kerry Dehring                |
| 9 – 11.30     | Trish Poelsma                |
| 11 – 1.30     | Sally Cleland                |
| 11 – 1.30     | Anne Green                   |
| <b>Friday</b> | <b>18<sup>th</sup> April</b> |
| 9 – 11.30     | Nita Mahbubani               |
| 9 – 11.30     | Pat Witt                     |
| 9 – 11.30     | Sue DGLISH                   |
| 11 – 1.30     | Penny Frausing               |
| 11 – 1.30     | Jenny Shaw                   |
| 11 - 1.30     | Elaine Milnes                |

# DIARY DATES



**UNIFORM SHOP OPEN EVERY MONDAY  
AFTER ASSEMBLY**

## MARCH

**Thursday 20th March**

Last day Term 1—finish 2.30pm

## MAY

**Monday 19th May**

Education Week

**Friday 23rd May**

Report Writing Day