From the Principal ..........

Dear Parents,

As you can imagine, planning for the 2016 school year is well under way. November and December are the two busiest months of the year in terms of organising student and staff placements. It’s also the time when the School Council’s Finance sub-committee sit down and go through all of the budget information.

It is an arduous task as it relies not only on department funds based on our enrolment numbers but also the parent contributions, some of which are considered essential, some optional and some voluntary. The school bulk buys all of the student resources now in December so that we can purchase them at a discounted rate. The school’s philosophy in terms of ICT devices is that the school will provide them for students to use as a tool throughout the day, sometimes individually, in other teaching sessions as part of a group. Without parent contributions we would not have the number or range of devices that we currently utilise. In fact, without parent contributions we would not have the quality of educational programs that we have to offer across the school.

I am forever grateful for the expertise of the members of the Finance Committee; parent volunteers, Mrs Jo Holland and Mr Tim Humphries and school Business Manager Mrs Robyn Hunter who along with me and the support of the School Council determine what is an appropriate school levy for families to contribute to the provision of an excellent education for all children at Wattle Park Primary. Costs for the 2016 school year will be announced in a newsletter before the end of the year with payment expected at the commencement of the 2016 school year in March.

On Monday at assembly Renee C 6R, one of our Year 6 Music Leaders and an accomplished musician, played the
French National Anthem- La Marseillaise. The events in Paris last weekend were dreadful and our thoughts and wishes are with France and their people. Teacher and parental advice was provided by the Victorian Education Department as to how best to deal with children’s questions and emotions at this time. Please see the attachment to this newsletter which was prepared by the Emergency Management Division of the Department of Education and Training.

Today I have conducted two Year 6 Focus groups with a selection of students who have told me in their opinion, ‘What makes a good teacher’ and ‘What makes a good lesson’. I ask most of the initial questions and then as the students gain confidence they are able to make their own comments. This process is a highly valued component of what we call ‘student voice’ where the students actually have a say about the school rather than teaching staff!

I am always most impressed with the students’ maturity, their ability to verbalise their thoughts in an articulate manner and their honesty. The students’ opinions remain confidential. Once again this year I was not disappointed. Suggestions for improvement are certainly taken on board and implemented where possible. I must admit I do burst with pride when I have completed the sessions to know that in some way the teachers and I have been a part of their educational journey and do feel emotional as the time approaches to say goodbye. They are delightful people and I have every confidence in them that they will contribute as positive and valued citizens.

It’s the last ‘Step Up To School’ afternoon session for our 2016 Foundation students. A morning of school is planned for them during our swimming program where they will meet with their teacher for next year along with their allocated class.

Please keep a look out for this year’s swimming program notices. They will be distributed next week.

These last few weeks are my favourite part of the year, as you reflect on what was achieved and how to improve for the next year. After that exhaustion sets in and you recuperate over the holidays to do it all again but never quite in the same way!

Regards Gayle

Notices/flyers this week:
Lice notices to affected classes
Advice for Parents

- It is wise for you to monitor your child’s exposure to television coverage, print media and social media.
- Some children and young people will want to talk about the tragic events and try to make sense of what they have both seen and heard.
- Other children will avoid any discussion around the events and will be reassured by routine and normality.
- Remember the importance of routine, sleep, exercise and healthy eating.

There is a range of things you can do to assist your child during events such as this, including:

- Acknowledge that the event was distressing
- Reassure children that they are safe
- Look for signs of distress (e.g. some children/young people might be scared)
- Normalise responses - typical response will range from anger to general upset or sadness
- Maintain a normal routine - keeping the structure at home or at school in place
- Allow children to express feelings as they arise
- Telling stories about how people manage during difficult times can be helpful.
- Separate fact from fiction e.g. children may express fears about unrelated events.
- Plan relaxing activities before bed – talk your child through a gentle relaxation, this might include using soothing music and talking them through relaxing tension in their body or simply reading something to them that induces relaxation (i.e. a favourite book).
- Speak in hopeful terms – children and young people will often take their cues from their parents’ reactions; if you are honest, calm, compassionate and open they will be much more able to trust that they will be okay.
- Always remember the value of doing something with children that they like to do such as playing, exercising, being outdoors - have a time during your day to share time with your child.
Student Enrolments and Exits

We are well underway in planning for facilities and staffing for 2016. All planning is based on our student enrolment and exit numbers and we urge parents to complete an enrolment or exit form (see below) as soon as possible. Enrolment forms can be obtained from our website or from the office.

Exit Intentions for 2016

I wish to advise that my child/children as listed below, will not be returning to WPPS in 2016.

Name: __________________________________________________________________
Current Home Group: _______________ Year level: ______________

Name: __________________________________________________________________
Current Home Group: _______________ Year level: ______________

Signed: _________________________________
Date: ___________________________

Reason: We would very much appreciate your comments/feedback to assist with future planning.

☐ Moving house
☐ Family moving suburb/interstate/overseas
☐ Transferring to an independent school The School is _______________________
☐ Transferring to public school The School is ____________________________
☐ School does not adequately cater to the needs of my child/children
☐ Other

I am happy for a member of the school community to make contact with me: Yes No

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE ASAP

Cookbooks

There are some remaining cookbooks available at the office. Please come and check one out when you are next at School.

- Great Year 6 Graduation Gift
- Great Summer Planting Guide
- Great Resource for Kitchen and Garden Students in Grades 3 & 4 in 2016
- Great Yearbook for all the students to remember 2015 at WPPS
- Great Christmas Gift Idea

Support the school as all money raised goes directly back into your school. $25.00 each.
YEAR TWO SLEEPOVER

Taskworks

When I went to Taskworks, I enjoyed "The Create a Scene". I dressed up as a Rockstar. I wore a tartan jacket, a wig, some boots, a belt and a guitar! Taskworks felt new and wonderful. It was noisy, fun and crazy. I felt like I fell into another world, carried by a tornado, amazed and excited, courageous and lively. I must end this because we’d need a lot more paper to fit all the events.

Greatly ended,

Lucy
Year Two Excursion to Werribee Zoo

On Thursday 12th November we went to the Werribee Zoo. We saw lots of animals. First we went on a bus and we drove around lots of animals. I learnt lots more facts such as hippos weighed over 2,000 kilos. I did not know that giraffes could go so fast and I did not know that zebras ate grass.

After we got off the bus we had our fruit snack and then we went to a garden. There were activities to do like digging for bugs, watering plants and building an animal shelter. In the digging one we found 2 bugs and you’re meant to find 20! After that we went on a walk and saw lots of animals. My favourite bit was the gorillas or the lions. I liked the gorillas because they were so smart, like they made blankets out of bags. I liked the lions because there was a car and I kept on going in the back of the car and jumping in it. After that we lunch and after that we went on the playground. Then we went for another walk.

Oris

On the 12th November Year Two's went to Werribee Zoo. I came sprinting down the pavement and finally found my partner, Oliver and we climbed onto the bus. We found some free seats and sat down. The bus engine started, we put on our seatbelts and laid back.

After a long two hour drive, we finally reached Werribee Zoo. We all headed for the entrance looking at all the amazing sculptures.

Soon we were through the ticket queue and we went into a habitat garden and me and my partner went over right to the back of the garden and built a bug hotel.

We went out towards the gorillas; the dominant Silver Back was prowling around. Next we went to see the lions. There was a male with a mare right in front of us. After that, we went to see the hippos and the reptiles. The hippopotamuses were on the riverbank. After we had seen the reptiles we had our lunch and went home.

I thought the Year Two excursion to Werribee Zoo was a great success!

By Edward Davey
Wattle Park | 18th November 2015

This week has been busy with the children participating in a number of different activities. Many of them constructed wooden Eiffel towers while the children outside played capture the flag. Many of the children have also started to get in the Christmas spirit early making Christmas crafts and advent calendars.

Next week, as a number of children are from America and as part of the learning outcome being involved in the community we are introducing a Thanksgiving theme. Children will complete a number of different Thanksgiving activities such as a 'What am I thankful for' tree and turkey hats that the children can wear.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>What am I thankful for tree</td>
<td>Turkey glove hands</td>
<td>Turkey paper bags + what I'm thankful for</td>
<td>Turkey hat Brandy</td>
<td>Thanksgiving colouring in sheets and activities</td>
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<td>Running races</td>
<td>Baseball soccer</td>
<td>SPUD</td>
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We're here to make After School Care visits the best experience possible – for you and your child. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to drop by, meet the team and see what happens in after school care first hand.

We look forward to seeing you soon!
Community Announcements

ESSEX HEIGHTS Carnival
Saturday 21 November 2015
11am to 4pm
Rides, Stalls, Music
Food, Coffee, Bar
And more!

EssexHeightsCarnival.com.au
Essex Heights Primary School, Essex Rd, Mt Waverley
Who’s coming: Families (preschool/primary) and the ‘young at heart’

What’s happening: Craft, Scavenger Hunt, Carols, free play and a shared meal (everything provided)

When: Saturday 12th December 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Where: Surrey Hills Uniting Church, corner Canterbury Rd & Valonia Ave

Want to know more? Contact Rob on 9898 1097
robgotch@optusnet.com.au

or Annabel on 9898 5236

www.surreyhillsuniting.org.au
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Samples, Seconds & Discontinued Stock
Ladies & Children’s Shoes, Socks, Accessories and More.
3 Locations. Prices from $2

GEELONG
Wed 25th November
9am-5:30pm
All Saints Parish Hall,
113 Noble Street,
Newtown

SANDRINGHAM
Thurs 26th November
9am-5:30pm
Scout Hall,
74 Barmfield St,
Sandringham

MALVERN
Fri 27th November
9am-5:30pm
St Johns Hall,
5 Finch Street,
Malvern East

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www.walnutmelbourne.com
Shape Station
November Special - Save $45
10 sessions for $100

Relax and enjoy easy and effective exercise lying down while getting into great shape in a friendly and fun atmosphere. 8 different machines including the vibro plate help shed weight, body fat and cellulite. Suitable for young and mature women. The benefits include improved figure, flexibility, posture, circulation, mobility and assists with weight loss and improved sleep patterns.

Shape Station - Burwood East
www.shapestation.com.au
Phone: 9887 6768 OR 0403 517 777
mya.g.grayly@shapestation.com.au
**Enrol Now! - Secure Family Day Care for 2016**

**bestchance** is a not-for-profit with 120 years of child/family support, with qualified educators offering stimulating and educational in-home child care for 0-12 years old.

- Weekly playgroups including our bush playgroup
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- Herald Sun
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ENROL NOW
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