Dear Parents,

Doesn’t the Banksia Street drive look magnificent? Our Buildings and Grounds Committee led by Ms Carol Hensley (mother of Tilly) worked consistently for most of the day to plant ten beautiful miniature lemon scented gums. Special thanks to the Beatie, Blackburn, Choi, Dankestreither, Doig, Earle Rosback, Hore/Hensley, Peel, Stanaway families who dug, mulched, watered, planted and staked the trees. It was a glorious day to be out working in the garden and then to look back and admire the collective achievement.

We’ve had a number of special guests already this week for Education Week and we’ve yet to have our Open Day which is scheduled for this Saturday!

Megan and I met with ‘Artist in Residence’, Alex Samson on Tuesday who is constructing a wood and steel sculpture to grace the Banksia Street driveway entrance nearest the gymnasium. Alex has shown us one concept drawing but he would like to see some student work to inspire him to ensure he has captured the true spirit of Wattle Park Primary. It all sounds so very exciting!

At 11 o’clock on Tuesday, Mr James Merlino, Minister of Education and Deputy Premier, Mr Phillip Daladakis, Upper House member for the Southern Region, Ms Anna Burke, federal member for Chisholm and Mr Rod Williamson, Senior Advisor for Regional Performance and Planning, all arrived. Their purpose being to officially announce and celebrate the fencing grant of $37,000 to the staff and students. I must admit I was slightly apprehensive having my direct superiors and employers at the school! However everything ran smoothly and our school ambassadors Ben R, Lulu C, Olivia R and Tim C were confident, calm and informative representatives of our school. They were ably assisted by Ava M in 2G who does happen to be Mr Merlino’s niece!

What was most impressive was that the students were all going about their task of learning; Year 5 students were competing in Language Perfect exercises, Year 3’s were eating gnocchi that they had prepared and cooked with Nadia, Year 1 and...
2 students were involved in junior choir, individuals were having instrumental music lessons and then others were outside playing. This was all at recess time! It did highlight what a constructive and varied environment we have here at school, activities for everyone.

At last Monday’s assembly cross country ribbons were presented to students who were placed first, second or third. Congratulations to the following students:

8 & 9 year Boys 1st – Blake L 2nd – Seb M 3rd – Aiden C 
8 & 9 Girls 1st – Amelie G 2nd – Ava M 3rd – Mika R 
10 year Boys 1st – Izak B 2nd – Peter H 3rd – Owen H 
11 year Boys 1st – Ed K 2nd – Sam P 3rd – Nate C 
11 year Girls 1st – Amy C 2nd – Estelle B 3rd - Lu H 
12/13 Boys 1st – Finn P Equal 2nd – Eli A and Blaine S 3rd – Ben R 
12/13 Year Girls 1st – Pim R 2nd – Hayley E 3rd – LuLu Chen

The winning house was Waratah but just! A special thank you to Mrs Melinda Downes for her organisation and class teachers in Years 3 to 6 for their support.

As part of the transition program from Year 6 to Year 7 Wattle Park Primary continues to develop relationships with our surrounding State Government secondary colleges. Koonung Secondary College emails their newsletter for us to keep abreast of information and educational initiatives that we may find interesting. This week I have included an article that I read called ‘8 Ways You May be Raising Your Child to Be a Bully’. With my parent hat on, it certainly made me reflect on whether I unknowingly encouraged bullying to my children. A dreadful thought! But probably on occasions I did. It’s difficult to be a perfect role model all of the time. I hope you find it insightful and a reminder of what is actually important to achieve.

Fingers crossed for fine weather on Saturday morning for our Open Day from 9.00-11.00a.m. Everyone is welcome to visit their classroom and teacher and grab a scone and cup of tea from the staffroom. I don’t really mind if it rains, it will be beneficial for the newly planted trees!

*Regards Gayle*

**News Flash!**

We found the missing chick! Teachers Pia Chadwick and Helen Sterling heard distant chirping after the Foundation Information Evening. With a torch they located the chick huddled against the fence nearest the compost bays. It slept (a little) at the Sterling residence overnight. Happily back at school now thank goodness!
8 Ways You May be Raising Your Child to Be a Bully

Posted on March 30, 2015 by Dr Ramesh Manocha

We want our kids to grow up happy and successful, but putting happiness and success before caring is raising a generation of bullies.

Admit it. You've watched and wondered: is my kid a bully?

Not all the time. Not most of the time. But some of the time. The rough-handed grab, pushy attitude, resentful looks. Is it a bad day, a phase, or something more? Maybe no one has told you to your face you're raising a bully, but sometimes you can't help but wonder if other parents are talking about it behind your back.

Bullying starts and ends with an imbalance of power. Too much or too little, the results are often the same: bullying behavior is simply a means to gain more power.

So how do you make sure you're raising a kind child, and not a bully?

You've heard all the usual talk about what causes bullying – overly permissive parenting, violent video games, abuse. What might surprise you is how even the best-intentioned parents – parents just like you – are unknowingly sabotaging their efforts to raise kind, caring kids.

Here are eight ways you may be unknowingly encouraging bullying.

1. Gossiping

Want to raise a mean girl? Act like one. If you wouldn't include your child in a conversation, you shouldn't have it within earshot of them. Kids hear everything. The first time my daughter got hold of my phone to mimic me was truly eye-opening. My little cutie-pie morphed into a gossip girl. Eyes wide, hands waving, hips sashaying, screeching, "Wow! No! Hahaha!" She wasn't even two years old. It was sobering to see myself through her young eyes. Catty comments are no better than outright bullying. It's indirect bullying, and many of us do it all the time. At some point in your life, someone probably decided you weren't "cool", and you didn't get a say in the matter. Didn't feel so good, did it? Remember that feeling. Then do your best to shut off your inner gossip, especially in front of your kids.

2. Being too busy to show you care

You love your family. But relationships have their ups and downs, with the direction often being down after children enter the picture. When was the last time you told your partner or family members that you loved them? In front of your kids? Not, "I love you, but..." but just, "I love you." Positive displays of intimacy in the home are the basis for our kids' relationships. You're busy, but a simple hug and kiss for each family member on the way out the door in the morning is a great start towards teaching healthy intimacy. Show them you care, so they can show others they care.

3. The “I hate my...”

You hate your job. Those last few pounds you struggle to lose, or dealing with that messy house, or frizzy hair – your attitude reflects how you view the world. And when we act like we can't change the outcome, we act helpless. How you feel about life has a long-lasting impact on your kids. They hear their hero (you) act helpless and that will make them feel powerless too. If your kids feel powerless, they may act to reclaim that lost power through bullying behaviour. Save the negative talk for after the kids go to bed (or better yet, channel your frustration into a hobby you love). Let your kids be kids.

4. Mini-me syndrome

Kids today are ever more mature at an ever younger age. Current culture encourages us to treat our kids like mini-adults. But we forget that we are adults (trying to be, anyway), and most of us took decades to be able to even partially manage all this stress. Fully disclosing financial burdens, family illnesses, and work issues all the time just adds additional layers to our kids’ stress. And an outlet for stress? Bullying.

5. Over-scheduling your kids' activities

We are scared our kids will be at a disadvantage if they don't participate in everything. So we rush to register them for ballet, karate, soccer, and so much more. But the only thing they miss out on if they have a slower schedule is anxiety and depression. If your child has a passion, by all means allow them the opportunity to explore it in more depth. But kids need unstructured free time. Play time, creative time, quiet time. The damaging effects of full schedules are well documented. Over-scheduling quickly leads to stressed kids. Stress leads to anxiety, anger, and aggression, which paves the way for bullying behaviour.
6. Inconsistent rule enforcement
The last thing I want to do after a long day of pickups, drop-offs, work, and errands is deal with rule breakers, time-outs, and temper tantrums. So we choose to enforce as few rules as possible. But we enforce those few rules all the time. Inside those boundaries lies freedom. Lay the ground rules, enforce them, and give your kids permission to be themselves within those boundaries. They’ll feel a healthy sense of power and independence, and they won’t feel the need to bully in an effort to regain lost power.

7. The triple-play: wincing, waiting, watching

Bullying happens at every age. Every time you watch someone or something happen that you could help prevent with word or action, you are a peer to bullying. You are allowing it to continue through inaction. I understand the appeal of the squirrel-launching rocket videos on YouTube. Really, I do. But the more you watch, the less you care. Turn it off. The long-term effects of desensitisation are very real. Watch and laugh if you must, but remember your child is learning how to react to life through your actions. Make what you do count.

8. Forcing your kids to share
Sharing is a learnt skill that takes time, maturity, and encouragement to develop fully. Ripping a toy out of your kid’s hand to give it to another kid? Bad idea. Talk about sharing, encourage sharing, but most importantly, teach sharing. Offer to loan your child something he’s been wanting to explore. Offer a bite of your dessert. Offer to help with a difficult chore. Forced sharing only results in a feeling of powerlessness. (Taking turns is something different. Don’t confuse the two.) Don’t make your child search for ways to regain their power. Because who’s the most powerful kid in class? The bully. As parents, we want our kids to grow up happy and successful. But putting happiness and success before caring is raising a generation of bullies. A recent Harvard study discovered that our kids are on to us. The majority of 10,000 kids surveyed believed that achievement and success were their parents’ main priorities, rather than caring for others. We need to change that. You know your child’s true personality. Deep down, you know if they’re a bully or testing boundaries. Be the person your kid wants you to be, so your kid can be the person you want them to be.

– Ashley Trexler

Gone home since last ‘The Wattle’
• Ordered books from Scholastic Book Club
Wattle Park is going mobile with Konnective

Konnective is a mobile app solution that will allow us to communicate with you, our parents, straight to your smartphone. You will be able to receive important alerts (similar to a text message) as soon as they are released.

Via the app, we can send communication to specific grade levels, so you will receive information specific to your child’s grade as well as general news or updates that will go to everyone. This will extend and enhance our existing communications (eg. Newsletter, website).

For those without a smartphone, there will be a link to the general updates on our website.

Please see the instructions on how to register, log in and connect to Konnective.

Registering and logging in to Konnective

Step 1: Download the Konnective app from the AppStore or Google Play

Search for Konnective or use these quick links:


For all other smartphones or if you don’t have a smartphone you can register on the Konnective website http://www.konnective.com.au/register

Step 2: Register with Konnective

When you open the Konnective app tap on the Register button

To register, enter your email address, first name, last name and setup a password that you will remember (phone number is optional).

You will be sent an email asking you to click on a link to verify your email address. Check your spam/junk folders if it does not arrive.

Step 3: Login to Konnective

Once you have verified your email, open up the app and tap the Login button

Enter your email address and the password you set when you registered.

You’re done!

If you aren’t connected to all of the feeds you need:

Go into the Menu and select My Connections. Then hit Add (in the top right corner) and choose the business and feeds relevant to you.

You can automatically connect to any public streams (those with a Connect button) or else request Approval to be added to any other feeds that are relevant to you. Upon Requesting Approval, the connection will remain in a pending state until you can be reviewed and approved onto that feed by the school or business.

For any help or queries, please contact support@konnective.com.au

konnective.com.au
FOUNDATION  2016 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 enrolling your child at Wattle Park Primary School in 2016. This form is available from the 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.

SCHOOL DENTAL NOTICE

Last week all families should have received a School Dental Notice. Please note that these forms must be returned to the office no later than 9th June.

WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH

Envelopes are still available at the office if you would like to order the Whole School Photograph. Please return envelopes to the office by Tuesday, 26th May. Orders received after this date may incur an extra charge of $8.00.

STUDENTS NEEDING TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY

If your child/ren need to be collected from school early, please sign your child/ren out in the big book outside the office window. Time, date, their name, reason why and parent/guardian signature.
What’s happening in Year Two?

This term the Year Two students are exploring the historical unit “The Olden Days”. The focus is a study of local history and they have been researching how Burwood has developed since the pioneer Sir James Palmer built his house “Burwood” in Coppin Grove, Hawthorn. Models of “Before White Settlement, Ballyshannassy, Norwood and Burwood” have been planned and developed by students, working collaboratively to reuse many recycled materials.

We have visited local icons such as Wattle Park, noting the historical icons and links to the tramways. Yarra Trams representatives visited us to outline the importance of the number 70 Wattle Park tramline in its establishment and how the tram network has since developed. Fauna and flora of significance have been investigated and a colourful flock of parrots now adorn the Year Two corridor in the main building. A mural of our visit to Wattle Park has been recreated near the stairs leading to the library.

This week we visited the Burwood Cemetery to discover more of the local area’s pioneers and discussed the importance of why these areas should be preserved.

We are looking forward to our excursion to Rippon Lee on Friday 19th June!

Amanda, Robyn and Vicki
Deakin Science Sessions

For the past fortnight, students in Foundation, Year Two and Year Six, have participated in sessions with third year Bachelor of Education student teachers from Deakin University. Liaising with supervisors from Deakin and staff from Wattle Park, the student teachers worked with small groups of our students linked to the Wattle Park Science curriculum focus for each level this term.

**Foundation** — “Things that Move” linked to a transport focus with concepts of pushing, pulling, floating and flying

**Year 2** — “Push and Pull” concepts of forces, friction and speed

**Year 6** — “Electrical Circuits”

The Deakin supervisors and student teachers were very positive in their comments and appreciative of the opportunity to visit our school. Wattle Park staff commented on the organisation and creativity which was displayed by the Deakin student teachers in their planning. It was exciting to see the level of engagement and enthusiasm exhibited by everyone involved in what has become a much valued collaboration between Deakin University and Wattle Park Primary.

To see the expectant faces of the children when they notice the Deakin student teachers arrive, to hear comments such as “We love Deakin Science!” and their enthusiastic chatter as they share what they investigated and discovered, is testament to the success of the sessions.
Working Bee

The entire WPPS Community is invited to take part in a

**Weeding and Pruning Day**

Sunday May 31st 9am – 1pm

Come for a short while or stay for the whole bee - all contributions very welcome

Moring tea will be provided

Tools to bring (for example): mattock, shovel, bucket, gloves, broom, rake.

**We Need YOU!**

For more details please contact:

Carol Hensley (Building & Grounds Committee) – [carol.r.hensley@gmail.com](mailto:carol.r.hensley@gmail.com)
Dear Parents and Friends,

The following information relates to the month of May with regards to Mandarin and Asian Studies and refers to both the Language Perfect World Championships and the ordering of Magic Mats and pens.

**Language Perfect World Championships**
-Monday 18th May – Thursday 28th May 2015

At Wattle Park Primary School, we will be participating in the Language Perfect World Championship competition. Students from Year 3 to Year 6 will be participating in the competition as part of their Mandarin and Asian Studies program. The competition starts on Monday the 18th May at 5pm and concludes ten days later on Thursday the 28th May at 5pm.

We wish all the Year 3 to Year 6 students the best in this competition.

**Magic Mat and Pen Order**
-Due back to School by Thursday the 21st May 2015.

We are also offering you the opportunity to order magic mats and pens from 'My Learning Club', which the students use in Mandarin lessons to practice their stroke and character writing and drawing skills.

Please refer to the information below for more details on the Language Perfect World Championships and for the order form from My Learning Club.

Ainslie Peszynski
World Championships 2015

18 May – 28 May

languageperfect.com/worldchamps

Join over 250,000 students in the world’s largest online languages event with $25,000 in prizes up for grabs!
Magic Mat and Pen Order

Dear Parents and Members of the Wattle Park Primary Community,

We are offering you the opportunity to order magic mats and pens from ‘My Learning Club’, which the students use in Mandarin lessons to practice their stroke and character writing and drawing skills.

Below are some images of the various magic mats and pen you may like to order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soft-head Pen Brush</th>
<th>Stroke Practise</th>
<th>Character Writing</th>
<th>Drawing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Soft-head Pen Brush" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Stroke Practise" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Character Writing" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Drawing" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The pen is $5.00 and each of the various magic mats are $5.00.

If you would like to order any magic mats for your own personal use at home, please fill in the order form below. Please remember to put both the form and money in an envelope titled ‘My Learning Club Order’ along with your child’s name and grade. Please hand the envelope to the office.

The payment is due by Thursday 21st May 2015. No order will be taken after this date.

We look forward to hearing how much you enjoyed using your own magic mat and pen to practise and develop your stroke, character writing and drawing skills!

Ainslie Peszynski and Gayle Cope

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Yes, I would like to order a magic mat and/or pen provided by ‘My Learning Club’.

Child’s Name ____________________________ Child’s Class ____________

Amount enclosed ________ (Please note it is $5.00 per mat and $5.00 per pen)

Tick Number of Pens and/or Mats
---
1 Pen
2 Stroke Practise Mat
3 Character Writing Mat
4 Drawing Mat
Wattle Park Primary School

Open Day
Saturday
May 23
9-11 am

2015

Foundation Evening Thursday
May 21 7-8pm

wattleparkps.vic.edu.au
9808 2165