Welcome back to the new school year! We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer break. Our team of teachers are looking forward to working with you and your children this year and we would like to begin by keeping you informed about term one’s curriculum and events.

Meet the Teachers...

Miss Catherine Churchward (Year 5)
Catherine grew up in Queensland and has taught in both Bundaberg and Cairns. She has also taught in London. She moved to Melbourne 5 years ago to teach and is absolutely loving life here (especially dining out at all the amazing restaurants!). Eating and travelling are Catherine’s favorite pastimes.

Mr Haydn Thompson (Year 6)
Hadyn lives in Blackburn South and is very excited to be teaching in Year 6 this year. He is in his fourth year of teaching and is looking forward to the learning challenges that 2016 will bring. Hadyn enjoys spending time with his wife and new puppy as well as watching the mighty Bombers.

Miss Kim Duong (Year 6)
Kim completed her teaching studies at Australian Catholic University last year. She is extremely excited to be teaching Year 6 this year and is thoroughly enjoying the experience so far. In her spare time, Kim loves doing pottery, baking and all sorts of puzzles.

Dr. Karl Jenkinson (Year 5)
Karl lives with his family in Blackburn. He has been teaching senior primary school for 7 years at WPPS and in Dandenong. Prior to teaching, Karl spent time as a research scientist at the University of Melbourne and coordinating public health projects for the Gates Foundation. Karl loves travel, playing games and watching the Hawks with his family.

Mr Richard Abell (Year 6)
Richard has just joined the Wattle Park Primary team and is excited to be teaching Year 6 in 2016. He has taught Year 6 in Melbourne’s south eastern suburbs for the previous two years and is looking forward to making this year a memorable final year for the WPPS Year Six students. Richard loves to be active, playing any type of sport or travelling the world and seeing new sights.

Integrated Curriculum

SCIENCE

Year 5: The Solar System. The earth is a part of a system of planets orbiting around the Sun. Students will consider the role of the Sun as the provider of energy to the earth.

Year 6: Geological Change. Sudden geological changes or extreme weather conditions can affect the surface of the earth. Students will consider the effect of e.g. drought on living and non living aspects of the environment.

HISTORY

Year 5: British Colonies in Australia Before 1800. Students will study the economic, political and social reasons for British settlements in Australia.

Year 6: Moving to Federation. Students will study the events leading towards Federation and the influences on Australia’s form of government.

Maintaining A Great Working Environment: we love our Y5/6 learning spaces and being able to work with enthusiastic, energetic students. To help us maintain a healthy environment for all, could each student please provide to their classroom teacher: one Coles Antibacterial Handwash Pump 250mL OR Woolworths Select Handwash Antibacterial Original 250ml, AND one box of tissues. Thank you!
### Literacy

#### Reading
This term, students will develop reading strategies aimed at improving their overall reading ability and comprehension. Through the use of author studies, Reader’s Notebooks and Literature Circles, students will focus on making connections, identifying character traits and discovering meanings within texts. Students will also be encouraged to ask questions when reading and will track their thinking on post-its. Students will focus on who they are as a reader, what their strengths and weaknesses are and will be active in improving their reading. Students should continue to read at home each night and ensure Literature Circle homework is completed and ready to be shared with their group on a weekly basis.

#### Numeracy

Students will be encouraged to take risks and be confident in their personal knowledge of Mathematics as they investigate many different areas of the Mathematics curriculum. Students will investigate whole numbers, developing strategies to be applied in mental and written computation. They will focus on counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Other areas of mathematics to be covered include statistics, probability and chance, measurement and geometry.

#### Writing
Students will take time to set up their Writer’s Notebook and understand the process of developing a piece of writing from ‘seed’ to published piece. They will be encouraged to bring in a variety of their own ‘seeds’ to brainstorm ideas for possible writing pieces. Through the use of the Writer’s Notebook, students are able to follow their own interests and write about ideas and topics that are truly their own. As well as using the Writer’s Notebook, students will also be involved in writing lessons focussed the purpose, structure and features of Narratives and Exposition texts.

#### Spelling
A variety of spelling strategies will be investigated in weekly spelling lessons focussing on phonetic awareness, visual strategies and morphemic and etymological strategies (word origins). Students will select their own spelling words based on need and interest and complete LSCWC (look, say, cover, write, check) of their words before regular testing.

#### Speaking and Listening
Students will contribute to class discussions and sharing sessions developing suitable tone and volume. Listening and responding appropriately are also a focus of these sessions. Students will also take part in debates linked with their understanding of expository texts.

### ICT

The Senior School ICT goal for 2016 is to extend the use of ICT to develop 21st century learning skills and improve student learning outcomes, across all curriculum areas. Students will use ICT for research, communication and presentation purposes. Students will be exposed to a range of programs and will be encouraged to develop their information technology skills. The students will participate in a Cyber Safety unit aimed at ensuring students use ICT in a safe and responsible manner.

### Transition to Year 7

Year 6 students will receive documentation later this term regarding secondary school placements for 2017. Please keep an eye out for these important documents and ensure these are returned to your child’s teacher by the due date to ensure your child has the best chance of gaining a place at the school of your choice. Many schools will have Open Days so please contact the schools directly to find out when the tours will occur.