Dear Parents,

On Monday at assembly selected students from Foundation to Year 6 were presented with their Scarecrow and Student Representative council badges by Mr Graham Watts, State member for Burwood and teachers Ms Samantha Teng and Miss Emma Goldsworthy.

The school’s SCARECROW environment group was established in 2007 and is an acrostic poem for School kids Care About Respecting the Environment Come on! Recycle, reuse Our World.

As Rose M told us at assembly the sign is painted on our storage shed near the chickens and that the history of SCARECROW is on our website.

A special thank you to the Le Vagueresse family who donated two chickens to our flock. The school now has a total of seven chickens.

One fox still occasionally lurks in the school grounds at night, but hopefully for not much longer. The fox family who did reside under the main building are thankfully gone!

You may have noticed that our website has been updated. Megan and Mrs Joy Roberts in the office are responsible for maintaining our website and they do a mighty job. It’s wonderful to now have a ‘translate’ facility for those families whose first language is other than English.

Our Movie Night is fast approaching- 34 sleeps and it is wonderful to have our major sponsor Penfolds Motors on board again this year. I met with Mr Sam Johnstone the Principal Dealer last week and we had an interesting chat about significant birthdays; Wattle Park’s 100th and Penfold Motors 50th, both this year!

Two important dates to include in your diary now to commemorate our birthday year is our Gala Night on Saturday 23rd August and our whole school fete on Saturday 22nd November.
Many thanks to the families who attended our Information Night for Years 1-6 on Tuesday. The forums were well attended and timely information was communicated about the year’s curriculum and class expectations. Just a reminder that each year’s classroom booklet can be downloaded from the front page of the school’s website.

Our Year 6 Leadership badges will be presented at assembly on Monday 3rd March. For our new families to the school, you are most welcome to attend our whole school assemblies which are conducted every Monday at 3.00p.m. in the school gymnasium. Liam S, John B, Ashlei F and Margaret S were great presenters this week along with some of our new Foundation students who took to the stage and microphone like professionals!

It’s that time of year again, time for the call of nominations for School Council elections open at 9.00a.m. on Friday February 14th. See the following attachment about the role of the School Council and detailed information about the call for nominations. The parent representatives whose term finishes at this election are Mr Tim Humphries, Mr. Jordy Kaufman, Ms Carol Hensley and Dr Graham Parr. The DEECD members whose term finishes at this election are Mrs Amanda Dwyer and Mrs Anna Saaksjarvi. Nomination forms are available from the front office. Nominations close at 4.00p.m. on Friday 21st February.

Stay safe and enjoy your weekend.

Regards Gayle

Scarecrow Leaders

SRC Leaders
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 18th February at 7pm in staffroom.

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Education Committee is a sub-committee of the Wattle Park School Council. The committee’s role is to:

- Inform the school community of new education initiatives at Wattle Park Primary School
- Communicate current education programs and policies in the school
- Include parents in the consultative phase of school policy development
- Support parents through parent forums on a range of topics

AGENDA

In this meeting we will go over a number of policies that must be renewed annually. It is a great way to find out about policies and procedures in the school.

RSVP

All parents are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Megan Ganter (Assistant Principal) ganter.megan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
School Council Elections 2014 – Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council for Wattle Park Primary School. All DEECD Government schools in Victoria have School Council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of the school within centrally provided guidelines.

There are 3 possible categories of membership:

* A **mandated elected parent category**. Department employees can be parent members at their child’s school.

* A **mandated elected Department employee category**. The Principal of the school is automatically one of these members

* An **optional community member category**. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the membership must retire each year and this creates vacancies for the annual school council elections. All you need is the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

Nomination forms for vacancies on School Council are available from the Office. If you cannot come to school to collect forms, we would be pleased to receive a telephone call from you requesting that we send forms home with your eldest child.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

A minimum of eight meetings are held each year (usually the 4th Tuesday) and the annual general meeting is held in March.

**Vacancies:**

4 Parent members of Council
2 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development members.

The time line for this most important process is as follows:
* Notice of Election and Call for Nominations distributed on Friday **February 14th**.

* Nominations close at 4.00pm on **Friday 21st February**

* If the number of applicants exceeds the number of vacancies, an election will be held. Ballot papers will be distributed on Friday **February 28th**

* The ballot will close at 4.00pm on Friday **March 7th**

* The new council will meet for the first time on **Tuesday, March 25th**.
It is impossible to overstate the importance of an effective school council. This group has responsibilities in virtually every area of school organization, and is an integral part of a school’s decision making processes.

If you are at all interested, please consider this opportunity carefully. Additional information can be obtained by calling me at the office.
The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th March, after which the 2014 School Council will meet.
### Year at a Glance 2014

**FEBRUARY**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Parent Induction for Kitchen Helpers 11-12.30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> Foundation Welcome BBQ 4.30-6pm Parents/Guardians students and teachers
- 11<sup>th</sup> Info Night Grades 5 & 6 Two Sessions: 6.00-6.45  7.00-7.45 Attend one session only
- 11<sup>th</sup> Info Night Grades 3 & 4
- 11<sup>th</sup> Info Night Grades 1 & 2
- 12<sup>th</sup> District Swimming Carnival
- 12<sup>th</sup> Foundation Family Information Night 3.50-6.50pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> School Council 7.30pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> Zone Swimming

**MARCH**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Swimming
- 10<sup>th</sup> Labour Day Holiday
- 13<sup>th</sup> Music Incursion Mana: The Spirit of Polynesia
- 20<sup>th</sup> Year 2 Incursion: Seaweed Sally
- 21<sup>st</sup> Harmony Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> Interschool Sport Round Robin Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> Movie Night
- 25<sup>th</sup> School Council AGM 7-7.15?
- 27<sup>th</sup> Regional Swimming
- TBC Bike Ed
- 31<sup>st</sup> Celebration of NAB grant with Swinburne University 3-5pm

**APRIL**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year 6 Transition Information Evening Upper Floor 7pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> School Photos – Full uniform day
- 4<sup>th</sup> Term 1 Finishes 2.30pm

**APRIL**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Term 2 Begins
- 25<sup>th</sup> ANZAC DAY Holiday
- 28-2<sup>nd</sup> May Canberra Camp Years 5 and 6
- 29<sup>th</sup> Interschool Sport Round Robin Day

**MAY**
- 13-15<sup>th</sup> NAPLAN
- TBC School Council
- TBC Open Day 9-11am
- TBC District Cross Country
- TBC Foundation 2014 Information Evening

**JUNE**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Cross Country Zone
- 6<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Day
- 9<sup>th</sup> Queens Birthday
- TBC Education Committee 7pm
- TBC School Council
- 17<sup>th</sup> Cross Country Regional
- 27<sup>th</sup> End Term 2 1.30 Finish Free Dress Day

**JULY**
- 14<sup>th</sup> Term 3 Begins
- 17<sup>th</sup> Cross Country State
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Basketball MSAC
- 31<sup>st</sup> Music Incursion – Oz Opera
AUG
TBC  Trivia Night
TBC  Library Book Fair
14th  Boite Schools Chorus
22nd  Daffodil Day
25th  House Athletics
27th-29th Grades 3/4 Camp Warburton

SEPT
2nd  District Athletics Grades 4-6
TBC  Step Up Transition Night Meeting 7pm
16th  Regional Athletics
17th  Grade Two Maths Party
17th  Music Soiree
19th  End Term 3 1.30pm Free Dress Day

OCT
6th  Start Term 4
8-9 TBC  Division Athletics
16  Regional Athletics
TBC  Grandparents Day
TBC  Prep Teddy Bear Maths Night
TBC  Step up to School Session 1
27th  State Athletics

NOV
3rd  Curriculum Day – Student free day
4th  Cup Day
TBC  Step up to School Session 2
TBC  Grade 2 Sleep over
TBC  Step up to School Session 3
TBC  Step up to School Session 4
18th  School Concert

DEC
TBC  Foundation Transition Morning
TBC  Foundation Transition Morning
TBC  Foundation Transition Morning
11th  Carols Night 7pm
TBC  Graduation
TBC  Reports to go Home
19th  End of School year 1.30 Departure
Financial Assistance - Information for Parents

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses, or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

Website Subscription
If you are new to our school, and as a reminder to our existing families, please remember to subscribe to our newsletter. The electronic newsletter comes out fortnightly and you will receive a reminder via your email when the new edition is out. Please go to our website at www.wattleparkps.vic.edu.au and click on the subscribe button. This is the best way to keep up to date with everything that is happening at school. Visiting the website often will keep you informed on school events etc.

Please be mindful of our neighbours when parking in side streets. Do not park across their drive ways etc. Parking inspectors will be out to make sure local traffic laws are being followed.

NO HAT, NO PLAY
IT’S HAT TIME AGAIN
All students are required to wear hats outside during recess and lunchtime. Any student without a school hat, will need to sit in the designated area. If you know your child has lost his/her hat now is the time to purchase one. Please make sure your child’s hat is clearly named!

Gone home since the last Wattle.
Notice for Years 3 & 4 parent SAKG helpers.
This year, school photos will be held on **Friday 4th April 2014**. This will be the last day of term 1.

The photography company that Wattle Park Primary School will be working with is 'Advanced Life Photography'.

Kind Regards,
Ainslie Peszynski, Hayley Kellahan & Gayle Cope
FIRST AID ROOM ROSTER 2014

In order to keep our First Aid Room clean and tidy, we require volunteers to assist with this task. We need approximately 40 families on our roster to ensure that every family only needs to do this once per year. It is not time consuming and requires approximately 15 minutes of your time on a Friday.

The duties include:

- Changing the sheets, pillow cases and re-making the bed with clean linen (all provided in the first aid room).
- Washing and returning the clean linen for the following Friday.
- Checking that the area is clean and tidy.
- Wiping over the cupboards, bench tops and the sink.
- Tidying the spare clothes cupboard if needed.

If you are able to help with the above, please return this form to the office as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Borden or myself at school.

Thank you in anticipation.

Susan Wright
First Aid Co-ordinator

Jane Borden
Parent Roster Co-ordinator
Mob 0402 400 271

FIRST AID ROSTER 2014
I am willing to be included on the First Aid Roster for 2014.

NAME________________________________________

TELEPHONE NO________________________________

EMAIL________________________________________

CHILD’S NAME AND CLASS_______________________
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

**“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
- Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.
- Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an infringement Notice.
- If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Every day counts - school attendance

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child's future - a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they'll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school - each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.
Wattle Park Primary School

Movie Night Sponsorship

This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved, and at the same time, promote your business to the school community.

Sponsorship packages are $165 and include:
- slideshow advertising during Movie Night
- inclusion of your slide in the school's newsletter, “The Wattle” twice throughout the year
- a Family Movie Pass

Join the many other WPPS families and local businesses using this unique form of marketing to get their name out there. It also gives your children a thrill seeing your advertisement on the big screen on the big night!

For more information, please contact me via email to natasha.sinclair@bigpond.com or call me on 0412-153-652.

Tash Sinclair
(Mum to Darcy 5T, Rory 3K & Hamish 1C)
Wattle Park Primary School Movie Night Sponsorship
Music Lessons

Our music lessons are available during and after school hours.
Spaces are limited, so hurry!

Now enrolling for Term 1, 2014

Not sure where to start?

Ukulele Club

Why not join our Ukulele club with your friends every Tuesday for just $8 a week*

*Subject to numbers

Music World

J (03) 9572 3391
musicworld@y7mail.com
EXCITING LUNCHTIME DRAMA AT
WATTLE PARK PS!!!

Junior class (P – 3): Thursday in the gym: 1.45pm – 2.25pm
Senior class (G4 – 6): TBC – please contact us

Enrolment options are as follows:
- Email the information below to contact@dramatime.com.au
- Post this form to Drama Time 19 William St, Balaclava 3183
- Or call Drama Time on 9528 8998

Please do not return this form to the school, return to the Drama Time office only.

Student name: ___________________________ Grade: __________
Parent name: ___________________________ Mobile number: _________
Email: ___________________________ Home number: __________

School: Wattle Park PS

AN INVOICE WILL FOLLOW AFTER THE ENROLMENT IS COMPLETE.

“Elise was so excited to tell me about the amazing fun she had and all the things that she’s going to get to do in drama.” Parent, Ormond PS

“Eden loves her Drama class; she always comes home on Tuesdays with stories from the session.” Parent, St Finbar’s

“Enrique’s confidence has increased enormously over the last few years thanks to Drama Time.” Parent, Brighton Beach PS

For more information please call us on 9528 8998 or head to our website www.dramatime.com.au
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Includes
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Classes
Six Days
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FOR AGES
4 YRS & Above

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Blackburn High School

HIGH ACHIEVERS’ PROGRAM
FOR HIGHLY ABLE STUDENTS

“I have a conviction that it’s only when you are put at full stretch that you can realise your full potential.”
- Sir Edward (Weary) Dunlop

Blackburn High School conducts a highly sought-after High Achievers’ Program for very able students. The explicit teaching of thinking skills guides students’ intellectual development to enable them to rigorously investigate, explore and challenge the ideas and actions of philosophers, writers, social thinkers, mathematicians and scientists.
Parents interested in finding out more about this program are cordially invited to attend our Information Night.

Information Night
Tuesday 4 March, 2014
Blackburn High School
Commences at 7.00pm

Dates for Selection Exams
held at Blackburn High School

Wednesday 26 March, 2014
2.00pm for 2.30pm start
Examination finishes at 5.30pm

OR
Saturday 29 March, 2014
8.30am for 9.00am start
Examination finishes at 12 noon

Download the Application Form
@ www.blackburnhs.vic.edu.au

60 Springfield Road, Blackburn Vic 3130 | T (+61 3) 8804 6464
PLAYBALL BASKETBALL
TEAM TRAINING, AQUALINK
FRIDAYS TERM 2 2014

TEAM TRAINING, AQUALINK
Playball Basketball is now taking registrations from current Year 1 to 3 Boys & Girls to commence a Term of Basketball Training in Term 2 2014 at Aqualink, Box Hill on Fridays from 4.00PM.

COMPETITION TERM 3
Term 2 training by Playball coaches prepares children for competition against other new teams starting Term 3. Register a Training Team for Term 2 by downloading a Team-Registration-Form at www.playballbasketball.com

ALREADY PLAYING
Enter a new Team for Playball Competition
THURSDAY YEAR 4 TO 6 4.00-6.30PM
FRIDAY YEAR 1 TO 3 4.00-7.00PM

CONTACT
Simon: 9585 6123
info@playballbasketball.com
Playball: An affiliated association of Basketball Victoria

www.playballbasketball.com
PLAYBALL BASKETBALL 9585-6123