Dear Parents,

Recently Ms Megan Ganter and I had the opportunity to reflect on the amount of parent involvement at Wattle Park Primary School. On our last Parent Opinion survey in 2013 which is sent to 10% of families, and the majority are returned, parents perceptions are that parent involvement at the school is not high. So we started to make a list:

School Councillors who are mandated to meet eight times a year

School Council sub-committees: Buildings and Grounds, Communications and Marketing, Education, and Finance

Parents and Friends Association (who organise fundraising events and all the parents who support them)

Parent classroom volunteers

Kitchen and garden volunteers for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

Chicken monitors during weekends and holidays

Parent volunteers providing clean linen for the first aid room

Book Club organisation by a parent volunteer

A parent who consistently writes grants for the school

The school Noticeboard each fortnight is produced and collated by a parent

Parent volunteers for excursions and camps

Canteen volunteers

Uniform shop manager

Parents who volunteer their expertise in music and graphic design

Sausage sizzle cooks for various events at and out of the school

Parents who assist in Working Bees

Chauffeurs who transport our students to regional sporting events

Year 5 parents who provide salads for Year 6 Graduation

I probably haven’t encapsulated everyone, so please let me know if I have missed others. But it certainly lists the enormous amount of goodwill we have in our school community.
as well as the enormous amount of participation we do actually have in our school. State government schools cannot operate effectively without the voluntary contributions of their parent body. I feel blessed to be the Principal of a school with a committed and supportive community. Not all schools have what we have here at Wattle Park.

All the students and staff appreciate wholeheartedly your contributions to our school. So thank you!

It’s hard to believe we are more than halfway through Term 1. The Foundation students are attending five days a week and all curriculum programs are well and truly underway.

Megan and Curriculum Team Leaders; Mrs Amanda Chetcuti, Mrs Amanda Dwyer (English) Ms Helen Sterling, Mrs Samantha Teng (Mathematics) Ms Julie Nield (History), Dr Karl Jenkinson and Ms Robyn Gilmour (Science) have spent much time and deliberation ensuring that our curriculum programs are aligned to the new AusVels curriculum. Our teachers do spend a number of days away from their classrooms either hearing from the experts or collaborating with other colleagues to see and hear about best teaching practise. It is an inconvenience on the usual classroom routine but it is imperative that our teachers see what happens beyond our school not locally now but globally!

This Sunday we have a Year 3 and 4 Working Bee led and organised by our Building and Grounds convenor, Ms Carol Hensley (mother of Matilda). Carol does an absolutely amazing job. She works tirelessly for our school on so many jobs. The Centenary Square in front of the Gymnasium foyer is one of them, the garden looks magnificent and in time should be a wonderful shady place for students to congregate. ((Unfortunately a delivery truck damaged the newly garden tiles this morning $%*$+#! )

On Monday 31st March during our assembly time we will be having a special assembly to celebrate our successful application for the National Australia Bank award. We will be collaborating with Swinburne University to promote Science excellence at our school. A number of dignitaries will be in attendance; Ms Anna Burke Federal member for Chisholm, Professor Tom Spurling who is a current CSIRO Board member and Professor of Innovation Studies at Swinburne Business School and Dr Emily Cooke also from Swinburne University. After the assembly there will be an afternoon tea for invited guests.

The school, thanks to Megan’s successful grant writing has also been awarded a ‘Towards Victoria as a Learning Community’ grant of $11,920 to assist us with Science education.

This will certainly help improve the teaching and learning of all that is wonderful about our Earth.

One last but very important reminder, please ensure that no parent cars enter the staff car park before or after school. I sometimes take on the role of the enforcer but obviously cannot be present at all times. If you happen to see any parent who does drive into the car park can you please pass on their number plate details to me and I will then communicate these to the Burwood police.

Our children are too precious to be ever endangered by irresponsible drivers entering or exiting our school.

Enjoy the beautiful Autumn weather- my favourite!

Regards

Gayle
Due to the public holiday on Monday the Class Awards for last week were:

Tyson H  1C  For challenging himself to sound out his letters when writing.
Isaac B  1E  For being a caring class member and standing up for others in our class.
Maria A  1E  For being a responsible class member and taking care with her work.
Tom V    1G  For being observant to details.
Oliver B  1G  For working well in reading groups.
Jacinta L 2P  For all her hard work to improve her reading.
Bethany L 2D  For her enthusiastic approach to all activities in the classroom.
Elyse   F  5T  For persisting with her science experiment until she achieved success.
Christopher K 5T  For consistently filling in his diary and being super organised.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

At Wattle Park PS we have several students with severe food allergies.

**WE WORK TOGETHER TO MINIMISE RISK BY:**

- Avoiding bringing nut products to school (including peanut butter and choc hazelnut spread)
- Minimising the trading and sharing of food as much as possible.
- In the case of class parties, students with allergies will be encouraged to provide their own food. (As educators we seek to develop responsible behaviours in our students.)
- All drink bottles and lunch containers should be clearly marked with student’s names.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Gone home since last ‘The Wattle’

- Lice letters to affected classes
- Winter Uniform Order Form
- Pre purchased Movie Night tickets

Notice of forthcoming AGM for
WPPS Parent and Friends Assoc.

8pm Wednesday March 26th,
WPPS Staff Room
All Committee Positions Open
All Welcome
Come along and join us for a light supper and meet some friendly faces
PPS WORKING BEE
Years 3 & 4
Students & Parents
Sunday 16th March 9am-1pm
Please bring a plate of food to share

We are building seating for SAKG classes
Installing a sink and bench to wash vegies
Moving a piece of playground equipment
Giving the school a general tidy up for movie night
Bring your gardening gloves and good cheer.
Come for a short while or longer. All help appreciated!
Wonders of the Sea

Don't forget to visit the Year 2 corridor to experience the fantastic efforts of our students!

Walk under a “smack of jellyfish”, look at our marine creature data charts, check out the rockpool and coral reef windows and follow the path of water from raindrops to our taps.
Stephanie Alexander Kitchen
Eastern Region Swimming Final

Congratulations to the 10 year boys freestyle relay team (Elijah, Bailey, Ed and Hugo) for making the Eastern Region Swimming final last Friday, a huge effort. Also congratulations to Charlie B and Bailey M for qualifying for the final in their individual events and the 10 year girls relay team (Alice, Astrid, Phoebe and Zoe) who only just missed out on making the final by one place. Alice and Astrid also swam wonderfully in their heats for their individual events. Great work swimmers, you represented Wattle Park brilliantly and we are all very proud of your achievements.
SCHOOL PHOTOS

Just a reminder that school photos are on

**Friday the 4th of April 2014.**

Please note the following:

- Photo envelopes will be handed out to students next week.
- Please hand in your completed photo envelope/s (this includes individuals and siblings)
  to your **classroom teacher** by **Thursday the 3rd of April 2014**.
(Please note that order forms will not be accepted after this date)
- If you need an extra photo envelope please ask your classroom teacher for a new one.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing all your beautiful smiles on Friday 4th April.

Ainslie Peszynski, Hayley Kellahan & Gayle Cope
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 18th March 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 discuss student reporting. What are parents looking for in a student report card? What information do you find valuable?

RSVP

All parents all welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Megan Ganter (Assistant Principal)
ganter.megan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
WATTLE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTS

TWILIGHT MOVIE NIGHT

FROM 6PM
FRIDAY 21 MARCH

ALL LOCAL FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WELCOME

TICKETS ON SALE NOW OR BUY THEM AT THE GATE ON THE NIGHT
FOR BOOKINGS CALL 9808 2165
PICNIC BOX

A selection of gourmet finger foods including delights from Zimt Patisserie and Bakery Cafe', Wattle Park Cakes, Wattle Park Green Grocer, Meredith Dairy and other local suppliers.

Cost: $20 per box or 2 for $35. Picnic box to be collected upon arrival from the Movie Food Stall. Be sure to order as last year was a great success – “a meal in a box”.

Please return order form together with payment by no later than Monday 17th March, marked, Movie Night Picnic Box. Please contact Nat Macdonald on natmacconald@tpg.com.au or 0418355420 with any queries.

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

How many boxes __________________

Amount enclosed __________________

I am available to help with packing the picnic boxes on Friday 21st March from 12pm.

Yes / No
Remind: In terms 1 and 4 children are required to bring a hat to OSHC. Please also bring personal sunscreens if you are allergic to ingredients commonly found in regular sunscreens.

Big thanks to the Blackburn family (Holly, FC) for donating a CD player to replace our very old boom box. We are enjoying being able to pack up to music again.

Over the past week we have been involved in activities such as playing outside on the oval, in and on the super adobe house and in the newly completed area outside the basketball hall. We have also made some microwave mug cakes, recycled some cardboard into new art projects and made some very cool creations from lego and tessellating blocks.

We would also like to ask if any families have wood offcuts, screws, nails or any simple tools that could allow us to take part in some simple woodworking at OSHC. Our students demonstrated their handy skills when they assisted in putting up new bag hooks and when they dismantled and old chair, and are eager to participate in similar activities in the future.

I would also like to invite parents to take part in our program. If you have any special skills, would like to talk about your occupation or just want to come and read a book, we would love to have you come and visit!

Come to visit and see us in action. We’re open 7:30am until 8:45am and then 3:30pm until 6:00pm.

Once registered
You can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day.

Save on Care
Save 50% or more on before and after school care with the Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343

Holiday Clubs
Don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Club during these school holidays.
Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program:

Healthy Snacks
Afternoon tea is served daily. Menus are tailored to children’s tastes, developmental and nutritional needs. Afternoon tea includes a selection of yummy sandwiches and fruit. Children may also engage in fun cooking activities.

HOW TO GET STARTED
Before using our programs register online for an account. This enables you to make bookings, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day. Registering is quick and easy. Visit www.campaustralia.com.au/newparents

WE MAKE KIDS SMILE
www.campaustralia.com.au
Ashburton Primary School

GRAND FAIR

Sunday 30th March 2014
10am - 4pm

Come along to the Grand Fair for great rides, activities and entertainment - The Cyclone, Giant Super Slide, Chair-O-Plane, Circus Train inflatable obstacle, Cup and Saucer, GI Jane Eliminator and the Octopus ride. This will be the place to be, as we have a huge 2nd hand goods stall with used toys, clothing, books, sporting goods and more. Check out our fantastic Silent Auction, great food and drink, music, free entertainment and lots more!

UNLIMITED ride wristbands (includes Souvenir photo) can be purchased through TryBooking. Book online now at www.trybooking.com.au/CPU
Early Bird Special of $30 ends Midnight 21st March

Contact 9885 2559 or visit www.ashburtonps.vic.edu.au
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Enroll Online: www.techkids.com.au  info@techkids.com.au

Curriculum designed by educators for learning through play
April Tennis Clinic!
Deepdene, North Kew, & Burwood

Weekdays: Mon 7th - Wed 16th
Half day Options everyday
(Full Day options available)

Call: 9830 6618

www.toptenn.com
PO Box 88, Burwood, Vic 3125 Email: info@toptenn.com.au
PUTTING THE FUN BACK INTO FUNDAMENTALS
PLAYBALL BASKETBALL TRAINING @ AQUALINK TERM 2 FRIDAY YEARS 1-3

BASKETBALL TRAINING
Playball is now taking registrations from Year 1 to 3 Boys & Girls to commence training in Term 2 at Aqualink / Camberwell High School. Training prepares children for Friday competition in Term 3.

REGISTER FOR TERM 2
Register a training team at www.playballbasketball.com under ‘Registration’ Tab.
Individual children can be registered online, teams guaranteed commencement.

TERM 2 TIMES & DATES
THUR YR 4-6 4:00-6:15PM May 1 - Jun 19 competition
FRIDAY YR 1-3 4:00-7:00PM May 2 - Jun 20

TERM COST
Approx $80 per child (Based on team of 8. Training Team Invoice $616)

COACHES WORKSHOP
By Melbourne Junior Tigers Sunday 4 & 18 May
At Aqualink in Term 3 - for Playball Parent Coaches register online.

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

PLAYBALL BASKETBALL 9585-6123