Dear Parents,
Recently I have been greeting parents and students as they walk in the Warrigal Road gate of a morning. It’s a great test to see whether I can instantly recognise and name all of the students as they walk through the gate. I think my success rate with students is pretty good but not so with parents. I often know parents as Mia’s mum or Harry’s dad!

One of the strengths of our school is that all students are known by name by most teachers and to one another. This is not the case in all schools, especially schools with large enrolments.

In the April school holidays, an incident occurred where a student was brought to the school in the holidays unbeknown to them and their parents that holidays had commenced. Another parent passing by noticed that the student was at school and that the staff from our Team Holiday program did not know the identity of the student or emergency contact details. The parent went out of her way to assist in the matter and contact me by phone.

We talk about being a strong community school and this incident highlights the care that the whole community has toward our students. We are indeed fortunate.

No school can guarantee the safety of all of their students 100% of the time. People and incidents occur beyond our control. However here at Wattle Park we have very robust emergency and safety processes in place.

The staff at our recent staff meeting this week decided to increase the number of teachers in the yard before and after school as well as break times.

Just recently when I was here late one evening last week it was reported to me that a person from the general public was destroying and damaging property in the area known as ‘the bushes’. Mr Chris Roberts accompanied me as we spoke to the person concerned and asked him to leave the property. Which he did, promptly.
I followed up immediately with a call to the police. The police take these matters extremely seriously and advised me to leave the premises immediately even offering to accompany me to my car.

The message they gave me was ‘Not to be alarmed but to be alert.’

I would like to announce and congratulate Mr Chris Roberts as the successful candidate for the recently advertised classroom position. Chris will remain with the Year 6 class until the end of this year.

Mrs Kathy Skantzos and Ms Pia Chadwick visited neighbouring kindergartens last week informing them about our school and our Open Day on Saturday. Enrolments for neighbouring kindergartens have been low last year and again this year. This can certainly have ramifications for whole school programs and the numbers of staff employed.

However the interest in our school tours has been very strong for next year. The school ambassadors, Ewan D, Hayley M, Morgan C and Zoe K accompany me on most tours and they are wonderful advocates for our school. Last week for the first time ever, they conducted a tour without me or Megan. They did a superlative job with the result being that the family returned this morning to enrol for 2015!

The autumn weather has been uncharacteristically warm and I’m hoping that this will extend to our Open Day on Saturday morning. The school community is invited to attend the morning between 9.00-11.00a.m. and have an informal chat to their child’s class teacher and see the work the students have been completing on the school’s history for our 100th birthday. The 100th birthday photo is scheduled for midday today. (Thursday) That will take some organisation but I’m sure the result will memorable. I’d like to thank Mrs Ainslie Peszynski and Ms Hayley Kellahan for the scheduling of this event.

One last reminder from Mrs Peszynski, who is actually on Family Leave, that the Language Perfect competition is open for all students from Years 3 to 6 inclusive. Even while Ainslie is on leave she is checking the competition traffic on her computer at home! The competition closes next Thursday evening 29th May. Our recently appointed Mandarin teacher Ms Liangzhe Xu is following in Ainslie’s footsteps and conducting a night after school next Thursday for Year 5 & 6 students to maximize our scores.

Please see the attached information on our website. That’s it from me, see you on Saturday.

Regards Gayle

Gone home since last ‘The Wattle’

- Yr 5 & 6 Language Perfect
FOUNDATION 2015 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 2015. 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.

For Your Diary……
Curriculum Day 6th June—Student Free Day

Lost Property
Please make sure all clothing is clearly named. There is a brand new hoodie in the office which cannot be returned to the rightful owner as it is unnamed.

Whole School Photo
On Thursday 22nd May the whole school photo was taken. If you wish to purchase a copy of this photo, please collect an envelope from the office. All envelopes need to be returned to the office by Monday 26th May.

House Cross Country
Two weeks ago all children in grades in 3-6 participated in cross country. The winning house will be announced on Monday’s assembly. All children who came 1st 2nd or 3rd in the age groups will be presented with their ribbons.

Mel Downs
Sport Coordinator
THE CREEK

Early school records mention a creek that ran through the school grounds from approximately up near the Top Oval, near the back fences of the existing houses today, and across the Bottom Oval to near the front gate on Warrigal Road.

There was also a small dam in the top right hand corner of the grounds near the present road to the High School. A vegetable garden also existed near it and was tendered by boys of the Burwood Boys’ Home.

The dam was drained later with agricultural pipes but the drainage seeped onto the site of the present Top Oval. The site was later “cut and filled” to form the present oval. In 1985 this seepage was still a problem in very wet weather. A police car chasing two Turana Detention Centre escapees down from the High School became bogged on the oval much to the embarrassment of the officers concerned.

Until the 1960’s the entrance to the school was from Warrigal Road, a busy road even in those days. In 1963, Mr Lloyd Thomas proposed the successful acquisition by the Education Department, of five building blocks on Banksia Street, in the south west corner of the present grounds, thus providing an entrance off that street.

Despite the extra land purchased, however, there still existed the problem of adequate drainage, particularly of the children’s playing areas.

The Head Teacher Mr. Oswald Green was greatly concerned at the poor appearance and lack of facilities of the grounds, and together with Mr. Lloyd Thomas and school councillors, worked industriously to improve them, so they would resemble those of a school named “Wattle Park”. Rubbish was being dumped in the school grounds from Warrigal Road, and the children still did not have a cricket or football oval.

Mr. Green placed a notice on the Warrigal Road reading “The dumping of rubbish is prohibited — by order of the Education Department”.

This came to the notice of the local school inspector at the time.

Mr. Green and the School Council wrote again to the Education Department, Country Roads Board and local council and eventually the creek was barrel-drained and extensive reclamatory work with clean filling was carried out.

Trees were planted by the children, the Bottom Oval was constructed and landscaping was completed by Ellis Stones in 1965.

Changes continued with the addition of a library at a cost of $13,000 in 1966. A plaque on the wall outside Room 8 commemorates the opening by the Hon. J.S. Bloomfield, MLA. Since then the library has been relocated in the original double classrooms. During this year the High School also opened bringing to fruition, be it somewhat altered, the Department’s plans of 1949.

In 1967 Robert W. Osman took over as Head Teacher, followed by Edward K. Bulman in 1971. During this time the ANZAC Memorial located in the south west corner of the driveway was erected, with the co-operation of Camberwell and Burwood RSL Branches in 1969.

Major construction works were completed in the 1970’s with the addition of the Adventure Playground in 1975, and the Art Room in 1976. This decade also saw three Principals come and go. In 1974, Norman K. Hallebone took up the position followed by Margaret P. Grove in 1976 and Ralph L. Robinson in 1978.
Year 2 Walk to Wattle Park

To complement the Year 2 integrated unit of “The Olden Days” the Year 2 students and teachers walked to Wattle Park, a site of significance in our local area. We looked at the fauna and flora, chalet, trams, historical markers and discussed the links to our school in its history. Ms Gilmour shared her knowledge of the “Lone Pine”, links to the tramways, stone buildings, the frogs in the creek and so much more! What beautiful weather and a lovely way to celebrate Sarah L’s birthday. Many thanks to all the parents who joined us on our exploration of such a local landmark.
5/6 Camp to Canberra

Canberra, the Nation’s Capital. One of the highlights of the senior school’s year. With all the fun and educational places that we visited and topics locked in with our integrated studies, Canberra was the finest place to be. Canberra has lots to offer as a year 5/6 camp. Parliament House, the Telstra Tower, the Australian War Memorial and the Australian Institute of Sport are just some of the places we got to visit.

ELECTION COMMISSION

The Electoral Commission was a great place to learn about voting and standing up for what you believe in. We had the opportunity to participate in a fake election, voting for our candidates, Banana, Apple, Orange and Peach. We all got to have a vote and after three rounds of counting we had elected Apple as our leader.

The Electoral Commission reminded us of the rights and responsibilities an Australian citizen has when voting for its leaders.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

While walking through the grand corridors and up the marble staircases of Parliament House we passed many of portraits of early Prime Ministers and Speakers. We also viewed the centre of the building which marks the very centre of Canberra. Parliament House is an extremely educational and important place to visit on a school camp. With the guided tours of the Senate and House of Representatives; role plays and activities, it has much to offer.

TELSRRA TOWER

The number one thing to do at night time in Canberra is go up the Telstra Tower and experience what it’s like to be on top of the world! With amazing, unobstructed, 360 degree views of the city below, the Telstra Tower on Black Mountain is a fantastic place to take photos and have a fun time 870 metres above sea level.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

The Australian Institute of Sport is a great place for aspiring athletes to see their role models train at and elite level to perform at their best. After a quick tour of the facilities available for the athletes residing there, we went into a room with different physical activities such as; stationary bike riding, rock climbing, basketball and many others. The AIS was an inspiring experience which showed us the level of commitment these athletes have to their respective sports.

To sum up this camp to Canberra, we would use three words: educational, fun and inspiring. It was definitely worth the ten hour bus trip!

By: Margaret & Kavi 6S
Dear Parents,

All Year 5 and Year 6 students at Wattle Park Primary School have been invited to take part in the count down to the Language Perfect World Championship Competition. This will take place from 3.30pm – 6.00pm on Thursday 29th May 2014.

Please be aware that students will be supervised between 3.30pm-6.00pm by Wattle Park Primary Staff. Please note you too are welcome to join in the festivities with the count down at the end of the competition – please arrive with ten minutes to spare at 5.50pm.

Students will be provided with snacks throughout the duration of the countdown session. Please remember that students must be collected from the 5/6 building. Students are not allowed to leave the school without being collected by an adult.

For further information please do not hesitate to email Miss Liangzhe Xu at:

xu.liangzhe.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

We hope your child is enjoying using Language Perfect and enjoying the challenge in participating in both the NEMR competition and the World Championships.

Liangzhe Xu, Julie Nield and Gayle Cope
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 (e.g., 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

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

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.

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
National Simultaneous Storytime

On Wednesday 21st May, students in Foundation to Year 2 participated in Simultaneous Storytime. Instigated by The Australian Library and Information Association, its aim is to promote the value of reading and literacy using an Australian children’s book. This year, the chosen book was “Too Many Elephants in this House” written by Ursula Dubosarsky and illustrated by Andrew Joyner.

The children in their literacy and library sessions read the book or watched the podcast. So many smiles, laughter and pleas for “Can we read it again!” What a lovely way to celebrate literacy in Education Week!
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ARTISTIC DIRECTORS: Jane Thompson & James Rigby

CONCERT DATES

WEDNESDAY JULY 30, 1pm
Deakin Edge Theatre, Federation Square, Flinders St, Melbourne

WEDNESDAY JULY 30, 7:30pm
Deakin Edge Theatre, Federation Square, Flinders St, Melbourne

SUNDAY AUGUST 3, 2pm
Nagle College, Lindenow Road, Bairnsdale

SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2pm
Wangarara/Wattanga
Yenit TBC

cost: $8 Child / $20 Adult / Group of 10 adults $175 / Group of 20 adults $320

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