Dear Parents,

During the past two weeks the school’s website and newsletters were unavailable due to a technical issue with our website provider SponsorEd. The problem has now been rectified. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused by information not being available.

Suskia Malafu, our parent representative coordinator does a wonderful and often thankless task of communicating important last minute messages to our parent reps. Many texts transpired between Suskia and I during this time, made the more difficult because I was on camp in Canberra. This experience highlighted the need for a school application for our phones. This is something that our Marketing and Communications subcommittee has been investigating over sometime. A decision will be made soon on the app that has been chosen. So stay tuned!

To give you a snapshot of the busyness of a school week I have listed a range of events that were scheduled for this week.

- Teaching and Learning programs for all students Foundation to Year 6.
- Deakin University Science Students visits for Foundation, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 students
- Year 5 & 6 China Information Night (after school hours)
- House Cross Country for Years 3 to 6
- Anaphylaxis Training for all staff (after school hours)
- Year 1 excursion to Yarrabee
- Whole School Writing moderation for teachers with Box Hill North and Hawthorn West Primary Schools (after school hours)
Schools operate well beyond the 9.00-3.30p.m. daily timetable. It also reminds us that as adults and children we lead very busy lives. I know that many of our students are involved in after school sporting activities, Saturday language school, music lessons and for some educational tutoring. All of these activities are valuable and serve a purpose of broadening our experiences and generating new interests and talents. However everyone needs time to relax and unwind. In our high tech world of digital and mobile devices the environment where children experience the joys of peaceful quiet times can be lost. It is important that we do not overwhelm ourselves and our children for our personal health and well-being.

This week we have had the company of our visiting School Nurse Mrs Kathy Griffins. Kathy will be speaking at our Foundation Information Night for 2015 students on Thursday 22nd May. Kathy and I had a quick chat this morning about the Foundation students’ lunchboxes. Kathy asked me to specifically mention that she was most impressed with the types of food that the parents were including in the lunchboxes and were to be congratulated. There was lots of fruit, healthy snack and a variety of main foods such as sandwiches, sushi, wraps and rolls.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for Years 3 and 5 students will be held next Tuesday 13 May, Wednesday 14 May and Thursday 15 May. These NAPLAN tests are conducted by the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) on behalf of the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.

The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child’s performance in Literacy and Numeracy. This information is used by teachers to support learning and teaching programs and improve student achievement. Students are required to participate in the NAPLAN tests. Exemptions may be granted to students with significant intellectual or complex disabilities. Neither special provision nor exemptions can be granted without parental knowledge or consent. Later in the year, you will receive your child’s personal report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in National minimum standards. These describe minimum standards for students across Australia. It should be noted that the NAPLAN results represent only a snapshot of your child’s progress at a particular point in time in their educational journey. The results should not be viewed as predictive of future academic success and are used by teachers to identify areas for improvement and enhancement on both an individual and collective level.

If you have any questions about the NAPLAN tests please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or Ms Megan Ganter or myself.

Last weekend at the Burwood Festival a very successful Wattle Park cake stall raised $1,800.00 for the school. Special thanks to Mrs Kerryn Stirling (mother of Finn, Sam and Louis) who coordinated and organised the stall with a band of willing parent helpers. Thank you also, to the families who donated cakes and goods. You truly are amazing.

May I express my sincere thanks to Mrs Alison Dunn who once again organised Wednesday’s Mother’s Day Stall. No doubt mums you will all reap the rewards of receiving some lovely gifts on Sunday morning, carefully selected just for you. I wish all mums, grandmothers and special women carers a fabulous day on Sunday and hope you enjoy the day with your families.

Another event to add to your calendars is Tuesday 10th June commemorating the school’s official 100th birthday on 9/6/1914. A special assembly, weather permitting, will be held on Tuesday afternoon in our Centenary Square outside the entrance to the gymnasium. The previous Monday is the Queen’s birthday holiday.

That’s it from me this week. Please take the time to have a look at the photos of our Year 1 students who attended the olden day school at Yarrabee on Tuesday. I felt like I was the Principal at Sovereign Hill when they walked past my window. They looked a treat!

Regards Gayle.
Year 1 Yarrabee Excursion
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.

Change of Hours for Uniform Shop next week only

The uniform shop will be closed Monday 12th May and will be open after school only on Wednesday 14th May. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Georgia Kelly
Uniform Shop
WHEN YOUR CHILD/REN ARE ABSENT

Please be aware that it is a departmental requirement that all absences are covered by a written note, explaining the absence.

There is no requirement to inform the school of the absence at the time.

When you child/ren return to school the note must be handed your child’s teacher.

FULL SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Thursday 22nd May. Please make sure your child/ren are in full school uniform on this day. If you would like to order the full school photo, an envelope will be sent home next week. Please return to the office before the 22nd May with correct payment.

STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATES

Please return the Student Information Updated information to your child/ren’s teacher as soon as possible if you have not done so. It is vital the school has the latest contact information.
A CHANGE OF NAME
School settled down in the new building while World War II moved towards its end a year later in 1945. After the War, numbers in the surrounding schools began to rise. In 1949 the Education Department was considering opening negotiations with the Home Authorities, to exchange the present school site for 10 acres of land belonging to the Home situated in the south eastern corner of the Home property. However it did not go ahead with the plan. Instead, in 1951, the school was opened to children in the surrounding district.

At the time, the school numbers were down to twenty-six boys and two teachers. After eight years, in 1950, the Gordon Boys had left the Home. Two portable aluminium prefabricated classrooms had been added and 200 children were expected, but only one child enrolled. The classrooms were not left empty however as children from the Holmsglen Migrant Centre was bussed in each day.

On the 11th of July that year the name of No. 3841 was officially changed to Wattle Park. This name had been suggested in 1943, by the General committee of the Home, who saw then that the school might be opened to the district’s children, and wanted to give the boys of the Home a sense of being part of the community.

1951 also marked the end of Norman Hazlett’s term as Head Teacher. He was succeeded by Leslie R. Skipworth as Head Teacher in 1952.

Children from the district were finally enrolling. Messrs R. McRae, G. Fookes ad D.L. Thomas formed the first committee and on August 21, 1952, the first Mothers’ Club meeting elected Mesdames W. Thompson, W. Pearson and Keating to office.

D.L. Thomas served the school for the next two years as treasurer then continued as chairman of the School Committee, for the next seventeen years. He was instrumental in having major improvements carried out to the school grounds including:
(i) Construction of the Upper Oval.
(ii) Construction of the Banksia Street Oval and cricket pitch.
(iii) Tree Planting Programme.
(iv) Paths and Road Project.
(v) D.L. Thomas Adventure Playground (see History of the Adventure Playground).

John L. Shannon became Head Teacher in 1954. In that year the grounds were asphalted, shelter sheds and retaining walls built, areas graded, trees and shrubs planted, and playground equipment installed.

The grounds were also asphalted. This was a big improvement because, until then, it was almost impossible to reach the school without muddy shoes.

The school still had some financial problems as it received little support from the government, that felt, once the school was established it also had sufficient equipment and amenities.

In 1953, the school held a square dance and charged 4/- entry fee (“four bob” as it was called in those days).

During the fifties the school grew rapidly in size, so that by 1957, numbers had increased to 297. During the latter years of the fifties, extra classrooms and a staffroom were added. In 1958 Edgar T. Charlton became Head Teacher until 1961, when Oswald Green took over.
Welcome to the first edition of the WPPS Fete Newsletter!

Our fete this year will be themed ‘Wattle Park Primary turns 100!’ and will be held on Saturday 29th November from 4-9pm. This is a major fund raiser for the school.

A committee has been formed and will keep our school community updated on all the wonderful things planned and will also seek your help towards many aspects of the day. Over the next few months there will be many opportunities to contribute your time and donations of goods etc. to the fete.

We have some enthusiastic parents already working hard to make sure our fete is one to remember and they need your help. We would like to invite anyone who has a skill, service or business which could potentially be utilised, or if you just want to join the fun, please contact any of the committee listed below. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14 May at 7.30pm - please feel free to come and join us!

Thankyou for your support and stay tuned for further information about this exciting event.

Fete Committee:
Steph Trace (0412 660 086)  Jane Borden (0402 400 271)
Suskia Malafu (0421 657 133)  Suzan Davies (0434 287 082)
Angela Ganas (0409 927 100)  Alison Ross (0414 768 815)
Kellie McDonald (0412 767 211)  Lindsay Oldfield (0411 833 831)
Chris Nielson (0417 506 420)  Rania Horaitis
A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the cake stall that was held last Saturday at the Bunwood Village Festival. We had a large number of donations and a fantastic variety of items which made the stall look wonderful. The day was a great success with the cake stall and raffle raising $1,800 for the school.

If you were unable to bake and did not use the packaging that was sent home could you please pop it into the plastic tub at the office so it can be used another time.

Thanks again for your huge support!

Kerryn and Sue
THE FOODRINKERY

Cafe open 7 days
22 BARKER STREET, BURWOOD

PROUDLY SUPPORTING
WAUNITA PRIMARY SCHOOL