From the Principal ………..

Dear Parents,

It has been an extraordinarily busy start to term 2. Already we have had the Year 5 & 6 Canberra camp, ANZAC Day, Year 2 excursion to Sovereign Hill, Year 5 excursion to ScienceWorks, Year 4 excursion to the Pollywoodside, Foundation excursion to Lego land and Year 2 walkabout to Wattle Park. Meanwhile staff have attended a range of different professional development opportunities; Bastow Leadership courses, Science professional development, Legal conference and been involved in mathematics moderation across the school.

It’s important that the whole school is seen as a learning community. The more you learn about an area the more you realise how much more you need to know! It never ceases to amaze me how quickly students learn something when they have a particular passion. Some students can tell me all the specific information on their AFL football card collections, write elaborate recounts of favourite events, calculate how many days until their birthday or the specific details about how to build structures in Minecraft.

The role of a school and teachers is to try to develop and enhance particular passions in students. Not every student necessarily has a passion for mathematics, reading, spelling, writing, science, history, the arts or languages. But they do have to gain a level of proficiency in all of these areas to have a greater understanding of our world. Particular passions or hobbies can lend themselves to people having a higher level of proficiency in some of these traditional subjects. Just this week I read Year 5 students’ attempts at persuasive writing and they were fabulous! Particular pieces of writing about meditation from Rose 5C and laser force games from Henry 5C were particularly impressive because they had a specific
interest and knowledge in these areas.

The upcoming National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) next week, tests our Year 3 and 5 students in the areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in Numeracy and Literacy skills against national standards for all Australian students. It also provides information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help participating students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives. Results from these tests are usually sent to schools and parents in September or October.

Schools of course have their own assessment schedules and as part of the schedule at Wattle Park Primary we will be assessing students in Years 4 and 5 about their Science knowledge and competencies. The staff has over a number of years focussed on improving students’ skills, knowledge and attitudes to Science. We were fortunate to have been awarded a number of grants to improve teachers’ knowledge and skill level in this area and have worked with Box Hill North, Hawthorn West Primary Schools in collaboration with Deakin University. This partnership is on-going and just this week we have had undergraduate Deakin University students conducting Science activities throughout the school.

Last Friday night I quickly popped in to the gymnasium to watch a team of our Year 2 female students play a basketball match. It was so, so exciting and close! A number of families were there encouraging and supporting their daughters with a positive team spirit. It is interesting to see how different traits and personalities can shine on the sporting field that are not necessarily apparent in the classroom! Students who may appear subdued in the classroom environment can be assertive and determined on court, which is great to see.

Two quick thank you’s before I go.
Meaghan Courtney and Karen Stanaway organised a beautiful and enticing cake stall last Saturday for the Burwood festival. Thank you to them both as well as all the families who baked for the stall. Amounts have not been finalised as I type but certainly over $1,000.00 was made for the school.
Thank you also to Alison Ross and Kelly Bullen for purchasing and conducting the Mother’s Day and Special Person’s Day stall for students to purchase and choose something special for a female role model in their lives who they care for and love. I’m hoping my two sons remember me on Sunday with something other than their dirty washing!
Have a lovely family weekend.

Regards Gayle
Year 2
SOVEREIGN HILL
Performing Arts Incursion

This term in Performing Arts students have been preparing for the Aboriginal Incursion titled ‘Datiwuy Dreaming’ performed by the Yolngu people. The incursion builds on preparatory work done in the classroom utilising the Datiwuy Dreaming resource kit provided by Musica Viva.

The Yolngu people of Elcho Island and North East Arnhem Land have been making music and sharing stories longer than almost anyone else on the planet. They are among the very first masters of the yidaki (didgeridoo) and gave the world musicians including Yothu Yindi and Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunpingo. Now Datiwuy tutors (a clan within the Yolngu) along with NAISDA Dance College Developing Artists will share their people’s story with the community at Wattle Park PS. This outstanding program will develop your child’s awareness of the importance of music, dance and story in the Yolngu culture.

Parents are most welcome to attend the performance on Wednesday 18 May at 9:45 for the Junior School (Foundation – Yr 3) or 11:15 for the Senior School (Yr 4-6) in the Gym.

Zelema Levy
Mothers Day Activities
EAL Students
GOODBYE WPPS!

Hello, our names are William and George Z and we are twins in Year 6. We arrived in Australia in February 2014 with our mother. Our father and twin sisters, Elizabeth and Isabella, arrived in Australia one year later.

We came to WPPS in June 2015 – this was our 4th primary school in Melbourne. We have made some really special friends here and we are very sad to leave today. We are moving house this weekend and we are starting at our new school on Monday. We will be able to walk to school and home again each day instead of driving for 30 minutes.

Thank you to all our teachers, Ms Antonino and Gayle for helping us to learn so much. We will miss you all.
You are invited to
OPEN DAY 2016

Explore our wonderful school and meet the WPS community
9-11am | Saturday 21st May 2016

Foundation Information Night
6-7pm Thursday 19th May 2016

Wattle Park Primary School | 225 Warrigal Road, Burwood
Canteen Volunteer Form
Term 2 2016

Our canteen could not be able to run without the wonderful support of the volunteer Parents, Friends and Grandparents of our school.

We would love to have you volunteer for us, whether you are an experienced hand or an eager learner. All you need to do is fill out the form below and we will schedule you for 2 shifts for 2.5 hours each, for the term. If you would like to help more, then just let us know and we can give you extra shifts.

All shifts will have a canteen coordinator present, who will coordinate and assist in the smooth running of the day.

Please fill out the form below and return to the office by the end of February so that the roster can be organised and distributed.

We are expecting to have the canteen re-open 18th March.

Yes I would like to volunteer for the canteen for term 1 and 2

Name:__________________________________________________________

Phone Number __________________________________
(email address will be on the canteen roster)

Email address __________________________________________________

Child’s Class _______________

Preferred Day Monday Friday

(prelease circle)

Preferred session time 10am till 12.30pm (Monday and Friday)
12pm till 2.30pm (Monday and Friday)
9am till 11.30am (Friday 1 person each week)

Whilst we endeavour to give you your time preference, sometimes that is not always possible.

Any other information _____________________________________________
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Peta De Tricio
Dearch
Architect & Director
Florence Road Pre-School
OPEN DAY

You are invited to join us at Florence Road Pre-School Open Day

Meet the EDUCATORS
See our NEW PLAYGROUND
Learn about BUSH KINDER
Hear about the MUSIC PROGRAM
Talk to PARENTS
See our FACILITIES

Just turned 3 year old
One half day session during fourth term

3 year old Kindergarten
Term 1 - Two half days
Term 2 - One full and one half day

4 year old Kindergarten
Mummys and Robbins
Term 1 and 2 - Two full days and one half day of bush kinder and music across the year.

SATURDAY 28th MAY
10am-12noon

florence.rd.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au 2 Florence Road Surrey Hills
3 year old enrolment: 0404 003 663 4 year old enrolment: 0407 383 332