From the Principal

Meet the Principal morning tea
I held my first meet the parent session in the staffroom after assembly yesterday. While only one parent called in we had a great chat over a cup of tea. The idea to run these sessions came from parents enquiring into who to talk to about issues, share ideas or to find out more information. I am holding another ‘Meet the Principal’ morning tea after assembly on Monday 29 August. Please feel free to call in and chat.

Parent Opinion Survey
Every year the Department of Education and Training survey parents to seek feedback about the school their children attend. This information is provided back to the school and forms a part of the data that is used to monitor how it is meeting the need of their students and their families. The Parent Opinion survey is one of a suite of feedback mechanisms that we at Westgarth PS use to help us be the best we can be. Other ways include school based surveys such as the reporting survey, conversations with parents, Parents & Friends feedback, Meet the Principal chats, conversations with staff, feedback from students (interviews, JSC, school captains, general conversations), Student Attitudes to School surveys, Staff opinion surveys etc. The Parent Opinion survey is sent out to 90 families selected at random (as generated by the DET administration software) and is a valuable source of feedback. If your family receives a survey, please complete it and return it to school within the timeframe on the accompanying letter. The data, which is anonymous, is collected by the DET and is available to the school and community later in the year and through the Annual Reporting process. We really value parent opinions and feedback so encourage those with the survey to complete and return it by this Friday 29 July.

Masterplan implementation
As with any building project, much time and effort goes into planning before any work begins. We have been doing just that and are about to embark on a number of small jobs in the yard on our Clarke St site, in preparation for bigger and better works. We are starting some work in the old kinder building so it can be used to store our fete and musical equipment. This means that we will be able to remove the shipping container, the shed near the shipping container and the gated area between the portable buildings. We will then look at the installation of new playground equipment on Clarke St to replace the slowly disappearing playground equipment near the pizza oven, however in a new location. In the area near the pizza oven we will be planting an orchard as part of the kitchen/garden program.
We have had an ongoing concern about pedestrians using the Clarke St site as a thoroughfare so have decided to build a taller fence with self-closing gates to discourage entrance during school times and will endeavour to encourage the use of Newmarket Lane for those traveling through to Clarke St. It is fantastic that we are able to spend the locally raised funds to complete these works.

Scrap metal
As we prepare to start phase one of our Masterplan implementation, we are keen to recycle some metal structures such as some old breezeway awnings, poles, an old shed and a rather large shipping container. Some items will need to be dismantled prior to removal. If anyone has a contact in the scrap metal business, please speak to Jo or Carolyn by calling the office on 9481 5577 by the end of the week.
Darebin Council come to the party
We were so thrilled with the quick response by the Darebin Council to our request to replace damaged footpaths in Brooke St and also into the entrance of the Clarke St site from Newmarket St. So quick, was their response that we didn’t even have time to warn families via a newsletter (lucky we could via Tiqbiz). They have also agreed to look into turning our school crossing into a permanent zebra crossing to provide more safety for our students by removing the need for crossing flags and alerting all vehicles (including bikes travelling north up Newmarket St) that they need to check for pedestrians at any time of the day.

Help to collect Fridge
We are seeking help from someone with a trailer or ute who can pick up a fridge from the city for us. If you have access to a trailer/ute and can spare an hour to pick-up and drop off a fridge for us please contact the office.

New electronic sign in/out at office
We are moving to a paper free sign in/out at the office for visitors, late passes and early pickups via our Tiqbiz app. More information explaining the process is outlined later in the newsletter.

Maths learning for teachers
As you may already be aware, the teachers have been extending their knowledge of teaching mathematics via some ongoing professional development implemented by Assistant Principal Donald Eddington. This training will continue this term and over the period of the year each classroom teacher and the leadership team will have participated in 8 x half day sessions.

Soccer and football finals
It was wonderful to see that our two football teams, AFL and Soccer, were district champions. Last week they represented Westgarth PS at divisional level and while both teams didn’t make it to the next stage of competition we are all so proud of their wonderful efforts and sportsmanship. They are a credit to our PE staff and the whole Westgarth PS community.

School bell
You may have noticed a change to our school bell this term. Instead of playing music to alert students that it was time for class we have started ringing two bells. The first bell is to get everyone moving to line and the second which rings 2 minutes later, signals the start of the learning time. We have made this change as many students were reporting they were not able to hear the music. We were happy with the trial period so have decided to continue with it. On a Monday morning there is a longer period between bells to give time for the students from Clarke St to get to the assembly on Brooke St.

Liberty Meatworks
To our knowledge there has been no further work on the meatworks site. Please contact Worksafe and the school if you notice work has commenced during non-school times so they can send inspectors to the site.

Regards,
Jo Wheeler
Principal
## Diary Dates 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 27 July</td>
<td>Prep Tara &amp; Stacey Lego Education Centre Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 1 Aug</td>
<td>Prep 100 Days of School - Dress Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 2 Aug</td>
<td>Yr 3 - 6 Athletics Day Collingwood Harriers Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 3 Aug</td>
<td>Curriculum Half Day. Students dismissed at 12:15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 1:30pm - 7:30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 7 Aug</td>
<td>P&amp;F Absolutely Fabulous Movie Night Westgarth Cinema 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 16 Aug</td>
<td>Tabloid Sport Day Prep - Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 29 Aug</td>
<td>Meet the Principal morning tea after assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 7 - Fri 9 Sept</td>
<td>Gr 4 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 16 Sept</td>
<td>Last day of Term 3 - Students dismissed at 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Oct</td>
<td>First day of Term 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 16 Oct</td>
<td>WPS Whopping Great Fete, <a href="#">Click here to view fete website</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 31 Oct</td>
<td>Curriculum Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 1 Dec</td>
<td>Art Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 6 Dec</td>
<td>State Secondary School Orientation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 15 Dec</td>
<td>Gr 6 Graduation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Meetings 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Council</td>
<td>Wednesday 27 July 7pm Staffroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Westgarth Robotics Club (WRC) Term 3 dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 26 July</td>
<td>After school training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 9th August</td>
<td>After school training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 16th August</td>
<td>Science week showcase (from 3.30pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 30th Aug</td>
<td>After school training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 6th Sept</td>
<td>After school training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 13th Sept</td>
<td>After school training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20th Sept</td>
<td>School holiday session in gym</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Introducing tiqbiz at the school office for student late passes and early leaver passes

The school office is pleased to announce that we have a new electronic system for students who require a late or early pass. This electronic device will replace the tear out passes by recording the details electronically. We are expecting the roll out to commence late this week.

An instruction sheet will be located near the iPad together and the office staff will be on hand to assist you through this new process.

What this means for the parent/carer:

1. You are still required to complete a late or early pass prior to collecting your child/ren.
2. A yellow token to be handed to your child/ren teacher when collecting your child or delivering them to their teacher. Tokens will be located near the iPad.
3. We envisage the iPad to be located on the office counter near the existing late/early leaver books.
4. Students are not permitted to complete a late or early leaver pass as a parent/carer is only authorised to do this.
5. If your child/ren are absent from school please continue to use tiqbiz to advise the school of their absence. This is our preferred method of communication.
6. If you have not yet downloaded the tiqbiz app please visit [www.tiqbiz.com](http://www.tiqbiz.com) for instructions. Tiqbiz app will keep you in touch with lastest news from the school, allows you to contact teachers, notify the school when your child is absent and allow you access to Qkr our new payment method.

Please contact Nella at the office if you require further information.
Mathematics Resources for Parents/Carers

YouTube channel
A series of short video clips that explain how to do the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) have been created and uploaded to YouTube. The clips on the channel demonstrate both traditional and alternate approaches for using each of the operations and, importantly, use the same language and approaches used in classrooms at our school. These approaches may be familiar to many parents and carers as they may have learnt these when they went to school. For some parents and carers, these approaches – which emphasise place value – may be new. So we encourage you to watch them so you can better support your child at home when practising to solve problems involving the four operations.

Parents and carers can choose to subscribe to the YouTube channel so that they can be notified if/when new clips are uploaded.

To view the clips go to: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kLk_0uqDUsvHWYRPSnGHg/playlists

Number fact wheels
An ENORMOUS thanks goes out to the parents, friends and staff who contributed to making 6000 number fact (addition/subtraction and multiplication/division) jackets and wheels that will be used to build students’ automaticity for the basic facts. This task involved laminating and cutting the ‘jackets’ and cutting wheels. Classroom teachers are now in the process of assembling the wheels.

A modified version of the number fact wheels have been added to the school’s website <http://www.wgps.vic.edu.au/page/171/Mathematics> if parents would like to create a set to use at home.

The templates are:
♦ Addition/subtraction wheel template
♦ Multiplication/division wheel template

YouTube clips have also been created to show parents how to make the number fact wheels and can be accessed via the YouTube Channel listed above.

Donald Eddington, Assistant Principal
Paralympian Stuart Tripp Visit

On Tuesday 19 July the very fortunate Year 3-6 students got a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet and listen to the incredible Paralympian Stuart Tripp. Stuart spoke of his amazing journey from having his right leg partially amputated, due to injuries sustained in a car accident to becoming a successful Paralympic hand cyclist.

His words of wisdom inspired us all and he reminded us of the moto to always ‘turn up’.

Written by Oscar W - Yr 6 Brenda.

Caeden Y (6N), Joel A (5K), Stuart Tripp, Zara G (5K) and Anoushka W (6N)

DIARY DATES 2016

Sunday 7 August 9.30am-12pm  Working Bee on Clarke Street
Sunday 7 August from 6pm  Absolutely Fabulous Film Night at Westgarth Cinema
Sunday 14 August  Chook Group Talk. More info coming soon
16, 17, 21 August  Science Week Events
Saturday 27 August, sunset  Astronomy Night
Date to be confirmed  Prep - Grade 2 Disco
Friday 2 September  Father’s / Special Person’s Day Stall
Friday 9 September  FURS stall
Sunday 11 September  Spring Picnic at Darebin Parklands

WORKING BEE: Volunteers needed on Sunday 7 August from 9.30am-12pm. Sausage sizzle reward!

We need enthusiastic hands on deck for some much needed improvements to the Clarke Street site. Our Environment Committee Leader Mark Dinning has identified some tasks that will make the area more functional, attractive and tidier.

Remember, many hands make light work and even an hour of your time will improve the school experience for everyone. Please email Mark Dinning by Wednesday 3 August on dinning.mark@gmail.com with your availability and interests/skills. Tasks range from weeding, painting, and tidying to some more heavy duty fence /bike rack repairs. There will be sausages and drinks to keep you going!

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS

Get your friends together for some serious fun on Sunday 7 August from 6pm at Westgarth Cinema. Return the form or pay easily on Qkr.

SCIENCE WEEK begins 12 August

Watch out for lots of events over Science Week brought to you by our Super Science Club. So far we have the Westgarth Robotics Club and Code Club Student Showcase Tues 16 August, Skull and Anatomy afternoon Wednesday 17 August and hands-on Kitchen Science fun at the Farmhouse Sunday 21 August.
Qkr (Westgarth PS preferred payment method) – New updated look and feel for the Qkr app

The user design experts at MasterCard have come up with a new design and parent experience within the Qkr app that all users will see with the update from Apple’s App Store or the Google Play store on or soon after the 16 of June, 2016. Your username and password will remain the same, as will any credit or debit cards already stored within Qkr, as well as your profile settings and those of your children. What will change significantly is the look and feel of the app, and the screens you will see in the process of using Qkr. Below are some of the current Qkr screens on left (as seen on an iPad today), and how they will appear with the app refresh.

**Home screen**: Our school will appear at the top of the home screen for currently registered users, but note some new terms like “Discover” and “Activity” as Qkr is being used increasingly by non school merchants around the world, so the design has been modified to cater for users in a wide range of industry sectors.

**Receipts** will in future be stored under the “Activity” tab. Your old receipts will still be accessible from this area.

**Product selection screen**: This screen will now be more efficiently used to make scrolling through a large list of products easier.
Sport News

AFL Division Final
22 of our footy players went out to Reservoir last Thursday to play St Joseph the Worker in footy. All students played so well and we were winning up until the 4th quarter. St Joseph took advantage of the wind and played an amazing last quarter to win the match. The Westgarth footy team should be very proud of their efforts on the day as well as an incredible season! Thank you to the parents that turned up to help out and support our team as well as Noelene who braved the bus ride to and from the ground with us.

Soccer Division final
Our soccer team also made it through to the Division final and played against Thomastown Primary last Friday. Thomastown were too good on the day but our team played well with many near misses. The ground was challenging with huge puddles and lots of mud (recipe for a fun game)!
Congratulations on making it through to the final and well done to Kylie for her fantastic coaching and refereeing each week.

Grade 3-6 Westgarth Athletics Carnival
The Grade 3-6s are gearing up for their big Westgarth Athletics Day on Tuesday 2 August at Collingwood Harriers. A note has gone home with all the details about the day and also requesting help from parents. If you can spare a couple of hours (or more) please return the note ASAP. Thanks in advance!

Sport Diary Dates Term 3
- Tuesday 2 Aug Westgarth Athletics Carnival (all day) @ Collingwood Harriers Track (reserve day 5/8)
- Tuesday 9 Aug Grade 6 District Basketball Round Robin (interested students only)
- Friday 19 Aug District Athletics (selected students only) @ Collingwood Harriers (reserve day 22/8)

Thanks, Rushe
Whopping Great Fete Website is LIVE!!
https://westgarthfete.com/

With a huge thank you to Kristie Payne (Ben 4R and Ella 6N) we’re proud to say westgarthfete.com is LIVE!! Kristie and daughter Ella have been our website developers and done a fantastic job capturing the look and feel of the fete.

The website shares what is on at the 2016 Whopping Great Fete. You can check out the food & market stalls, new rides, kids’ activities, auctions and more. My kids immediately jumped on the site and started planning their day.

There will be further details on Wristbands & Ticketing, a growing list of donors and sponsors as the prizes for the Silent Auction start coming in and also a fete map to help the kids plan their day. So follow the Whopping Great Fete on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/WGFete/ and on Instagram @wgfete to keep up to date with website developments.

Calling all Junior Auctioneers
This year we want students to take over the Loud Auction at Fete!

We are looking for Year 6 students to conduct the live and loud auctions on the stage at the Whopping Great Fete.

A note will go home with Year 6’s this week to see who would like to be involved in auctioning some donated items on the stage on fete day. This is a unique opportunity for students to gain public speaking experience, build confidence and demonstrate leadership and resilience. The students will control the flow of the auction, do some quick thinking maths as the bids happen and have a real live experience in front of a crowd.

Silent Auction Call to Action
The Silent Auction is back this year to raise money and hand out terrific prizes!

We’re aiming for prizes that treat, uplift, support and entertain. We know in the past that holiday houses, art, massages and experiences sell well. And this year along with fantastic gifts, we’re after unique local experiences.

Westgarth Primary School is full of parents and carers with amazing skills and talents. This year we want to share some of those skills through the Silent Auction. If you have a skill and a few hours to share it, let us know. You might be surprised just how excited people are getting when they learn they’ll be able to bid on crochet lessons or a chicken consultation from our published urban chicken expert or on getting their knives sharpened.

And if it takes a village to raise a child – it takes a community to pull together a silent auction! What can you do? What can you offer?

If you have a talent or skill you can share or a prize you can source get in touch with us: whoppinggreatauction@gmail.com or call Carolyn on 0410 495 914.
12 WEEKS TO GO (seriously!)
The fete is certainly shaping up to be WHOPPING. We are super excited about sharing some of the amazing skills and talents in our community at this year’s silent auction so please get in contact with Carolyn and let us know what you can share.

Rostering, donations and all round help callouts will commence soon so keep fete in the back of your mind if you see cartons of cool drinks on sale at the supermarket or are doing a clean out of the wardrobe.

Should you have any questions, ideas or expertise to share please don’t hesitate to contact me on 0400 067 758 or whoppinggreatfete@gmail.com. Julia

The Plant Stall needs helpers!

We are about to start planting the tomatoes for the fete. Tomatoes are our biggest sellers and we need some help. There are lots of jobs and most don’t need any experience. Of course if you are keen to learn how to grow vegetables from seeds then this is also your chance.

First we need more pots - particularly those with about 10 cm diameter for the tomatoes but most sizes are useful. Please drop off pots in bags in the staff bike area at the Brooke St staff car park. Access is via the playground through a pedestrian gate near the portables. Adults are only permitted within this area.

We need to wash all the pots for tomatoes and after all the growing and potting we do that gets a bit wearing! If you could wash a few pots we would be very grateful. Just give Penny a call and she will drop some pots of to you.

Do you have a nice sunny window sill? If you can host a few trays of tomato seedlings and keep them watered until they are big enough to pot up that would be great. If you want to plant the seeds yourself we can provide seed and soil.

Or if you garden has a spare bit of sunny space we could do with some plant sitters. Just water them every now and then and they should be fine.

Finally we will have a couple of working bees to plant seeds and repot tomatoes and other plants. We would love some new helpers. We are happy to show you what to do if you are not sure. Dates will be in the newsletter soon or send me your email and I can keep you up to date. If you’ve got a green thumb and would like to grow something yourself that would also be great. We can even provide potting mix if you need it.

Call or email Penny Smith (Lachlan 3BP) if you can help: 0418 384 696, penny.smith@sydney.edu.au

It’s cold freezing outside so why not spend some time in the warmth of the Jammy kitchen? Join us for a chop, a chat and delicious food 2-5pm, Saturday 6th August - Westgarth Farmhouse

We’ll be making moreish cumquat marmalade and tasting some of our other treats. But, best of all a sample jar will be yours to take home and enjoy!

RSVP: email Kellee (kellee.frith@ozemail.com.au). BYO: Please bring with you an apron & a sharp knife. Can kids come too?: Children are welcome to come and help or just have a play, but please remember to bring any games or equipment with you as we do not have access to OSHC resources.
Helping children learn positive friendship skills

Importance of children's friendships
At any age, having friends provides support and promotes mental health and wellbeing. Children's friendships are also very important for their social and emotional development. Through friendships children learn how to relate with others. They develop social skills as they teach each other how to be good friends.

Most children want to have friends. Children who have friends are more likely to be self-confident and perform better academically at school than those without friends. When children have difficulty in making friends or in keeping them, it often leads to feeling lonely and unhappy with themselves. Feeling rejected by others may lead to significant distress. Learning positive friendship skills can help children socially so they feel happier and more confident.

How friendships develop and change
Friendships require give and take. By sharing toys, time, games, experiences and feelings, children learn that they can have their social needs met and can meet the needs of others. Since friendships develop through this kind of mutual exchange, close friendships are usually based on well-matched needs.

Children's friendship needs and skills change as they grow. Similarly, children's ideas about friendship change as they develop. This is reflected in the different kinds of activities that children like to spend time doing with their friends at different ages. The table below indicates the ways children tend to describe close friends and the kinds of skills that support positive friendships as they develop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate age</th>
<th>A friend is someone who...</th>
<th>Friendship skills include...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 1 yr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2 yrs</td>
<td>• plays with you</td>
<td>• looking, smiling, touching, imitating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• has good toys</td>
<td>• identifying friend by name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• can do fun things</td>
<td>• playing well in a twosome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–5 yrs</td>
<td>• does something that pleases you</td>
<td>• approaching others to join in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• you know better than other people</td>
<td>• taking others' feelings into account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–7 yrs</td>
<td>• helps and looks after you</td>
<td>• seeing others' viewpoint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• you help</td>
<td>• talking and listening to each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–10 yrs</td>
<td>• plays fair – follows the rules</td>
<td>• forming groups with similar interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• talks and shares interests</td>
<td>• sharing confidences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–12 yrs</td>
<td>• trusts you and is trustworthy</td>
<td>• negotiating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–18 yrs</td>
<td>• understands you and who you understand</td>
<td>• respecting one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• you can talk to about feelings or problems</td>
<td>• talking about personal and social issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• supporting one another</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Friends influence each other’s behaviour. Over time they may take on similar mannerisms, language and preferences.

Friendship patterns in the primary school years

Children choose friends who have similar interests and enjoy similar activities. During primary school close friendships are most often with a child of the same sex. This is related to children’s preferences in play.

Boys tend to prefer active kinds of play in groups, whereas girls typically prefer gentler games in pairs or threes and use talk more than action. Such preferences may be especially strong around the ages of eight and nine when many children become more aware of social expectations regarding girls’ and boys’ behaviour.

These expectations can create difficulties for boys who are interested in gentler kinds of play and for girls who prefer the kind of active play that is usually associated with boys.

Friends cooperate and communicate more with each other than with other children. They also have conflicts more often, but usually manage to settle them without upsetting the friendship. Friends influence each other’s behaviour. Over time they may take on similar mannerisms, language and preferences. Although friendships usually have positive effects, friends who have behavioural problems may encourage problem behaviour in one another.

As children’s interests and developmental needs change, their friendship patterns may also change. By the middle of primary school it is common for children to form small friendship groups based around similar interests. These groups often establish their own rules about who can join them. Setting rules and learning to negotiate them is important for helping children to develop their understanding of social relationships. However, when children lack cooperative relationship skills it can lead to friendship groups being dominated by some children and excluding others.
Social skills that promote friendship

Children who are good at making and keeping friends use positive social skills. Parents, carers and school staff help children learn positive social skills by guiding them as young children, being positive examples for children to follow, and providing opportunities for play where children can practise their skills. Key social skills that help with friendships include cooperation, communication, empathy, emotional control and responsibility.

All children go through friendship conflicts. Even usually popular children experience rejection sometimes. When this happens children’s confidence may be affected. They may blame themselves or others. Beliefs about the reasons for the friendship conflicts they experience affect the ways that children react.

Some kinds of thinking are more helpful than others for managing the conflicts children have with friends. The following example shows different possible reactions to being refused when a child has asked to join in a game with others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive social skills are shown in these behaviours</th>
<th>Poor social skills are shown in these behaviours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting conversations</td>
<td>Physical aggression (kicking, hitting, etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking turns</td>
<td>Arguing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressing feelings</td>
<td>Interrupting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asking questions</td>
<td>Name-calling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complimenting others</td>
<td>Bossing others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepting others</td>
<td>Whining, complaining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusing to join others’ negative behaviours</td>
<td>Showing off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being a poor loser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Getting into others’ space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Talking too much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breaking rules of play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being too rough in play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taking others’ possessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All children go through friendship conflicts. Even usually popular children experience rejection sometimes.
It is very beneficial for children when a parent, carer or school staff member helps them solve friendship conflicts by encouraging resilient, cooperative attitudes. Rather than simply blaming the other children the adult may say something like, "What else can you do? Are there other children who might be interested in playing a game?"

**Key points for supporting children’s friendship skills**

Parents, carers and school staff have important roles to play in helping children develop friendships. They set examples for children to follow through the ways they manage relationships. They can also act as coaches for children, teaching them helpful social skills and talking through friendship issues to help with solving problems. As they learn how to manage social situations, having opportunities to talk about friendships with parents, carers and school staff helps children feel supported and develops their communication skills.

**Provide children with opportunities to play with peers**

Children gain experience and learn important social skills from playing with friends. For children who are still learning how to get along, it can be helpful to plan what to do before having a friend over for a play date. This could involve deciding whether to share all of their toys or only some, or encouraging them to think about what games the other child would like to play when they arrive.

**Teach positive social skills**

Observe your child to work out the negative social behaviours your child uses too often and the positive social behaviours they could use more.

Little things like smiles, looking at the person, knowing names and using a confident, friendly voice can make a big difference when making friends. Being able to better control negative emotions and paying attention to the needs and wants of others are also very important.

Teach one behaviour or social skill at a time and make sure the child is able to do it before introducing another skill. Show your child what to do. You may act out the situation and even demonstrate what to say. Take turns ‘acting’ until your child can demonstrate what to do.

Don’t be too serious. Make it a fun experience.

**Be a coach**

Coaching is critical for helping children use new skills in real-life situations. Coaching involves prompting, reminding and encouraging (but not nagging!) children to use the skills they have learned. Coach your child to practise positive social skills in everyday situations with family members and friends. Support children’s learning by giving positive feedback and praise.

**Help children solve friendship conflicts**

Talking problems through with a supportive adult helps children to think about what happens, how they feel about it and what to do next. Thinking things through like this helps to build more mature social skills.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au)
Attention WPS Bird Lovers!
There is an interesting bird survey coming up in August, that is aiming to find out what birds visit our backyards. It requires you to observe what birds you see in your yards over the month of August. It could be a fun family activity for any budding naturalists out there - I’m doing it too! It’s free and the survey is explained on this website.

Kids- If you decide to sign up, come and have a chat with me on yard duty on Tuesdays - I’d love to talk birds with you!
Gr 3 Andy