From the Principal

Liberty Meat Works update
As you will be aware the school has been monitoring the demolition of the Liberty Meat Works adjacent to the Brooke St site. Late last week there was movement on the site and I called Worksafe to notify them that works may have commenced. They attended within the hour. The current status is that the company is currently selling assets from the site so there will be some movement as equipment is sold and removed. Worksafe confirmed that the only asbestos on site is a section of roofing, which we already knew about. Worksafe are currently satisfied that the plans for its removal meet their legislative and safety requirements. I had further discussions with Worksafe on Monday and they informed me that once the permit for removal of the asbestos is lodged they would contact the school so we can make sure the community is informed and we can make sure safety precautions are in place. The Worksafe inspector informed me that the company indicated they would try to do the removal over a school holiday period. I continue to inform Worksafe when the demolishers are on site so they can monitor the demolition. I, too, will continue to keep the community informed.

Principals’ Day
I would like to thank everyone for the lovely acknowledgement on Principals’ Day last Friday. It was very special to receive the acknowledgement from School Council, students, parents and staff but my reward for being principal at Westgarth PS is lived every day. To work with such hardworking, dedicated, talented, spirited and lovely people makes my job a pleasure. I love coming to work each day, spending time with students, their families and staff, sharing knowledge and problem solving together. I look forward to working closely with this wonderful community for many years to come. Thanks

Athletics Sports
HUGE congratulations to Rushe, Amy and Josie, our PE team, for the wonderful athletics sports last Tuesday. It was so wonderful to see so many students putting their all into the event and the way students congratulated each other regardless of their year levels and house team was truly wonderful. The benefits of such events are often greater than the obvious. Thanks to the many parents and carers who helped or came along on the day. We wish our athletics team the best as they represent Westgarth Primary School at the district sports next week.

Working Bee
It was a pleasure spending time in the sunshine with a team of hard working parents and students on Sunday morning at the working bee on Clarke St. I don’t think we could have selected a better day for it. We managed to complete a number of jobs such as fixing the bike racks in the shed, clearing the gutter on the bike shed, dismantling the fencing between the portables and one damaged storage shed and removing all the rubbish. A number of the orange poles around the art/gym/canteen area were sanded and primed. They will be painted over the next few weeks. The woolen crocheted installation has been removed and stored until that painting has been completed. There was also some gardening done near the year four classrooms and some weeding in the kitchen garden. I would particularly like to thank the Environment Committee for organising the working bee and the Parents and Friends club for organising the celebratory BBQ.
Bike Riding at school
With the safety of all in mind, we ask that parents and students dismount and walk their bikes, scooters and skateboards when in the school grounds. We have had some close calls lately and would hate for a serious injury to occur.

Media coverage
Last week you may have seen the article in the Northcote Leader about our after school Robotics program. Congratulations to parents Kerry Mahoney and Dan Tyrrell for their work initiating this program and to teacher Leah Sheppard for her support of this wonderful program. If you missed it you can see it online until tomorrow at http://leader.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx. If you want to know more about the Robotics Program check out their wiki on our website link wpssuperscience.wixsite.com/westgarth

We also had a visit from an Age journalist today who is writing a piece on the Little Learners Love Literacy phonics based program being implemented in our prep classes this year. We are thrilled with the progress our preps are making with their knowledge of sounds, their reading and spelling. The story should be in tomorrow’s edition.

Kitchen Garden HELP required
Our garden component of the Kitchen Garden program requires some volunteers to assist with gardening. You do not need to have a child in the program to assist. You may also have a friend, neighbour or relative who has time to offer. If you are interested and available please contact our garden specialist Virginia Millard via the school office 9481 5577.

Alternate family arrangements
Our reporting process highlighted that we do not have all the contact details for families who are living separately. If both parties wish to receive information such as reports, Individual Learning Plans, School Interviews etc. please call the office to complete an Alternative Details Form.

Regards,
Jo Wheeler
Principal
Diary Dates 2016

Fri 12 Aug Pyjama Day - Dress up
Tues 16 Aug Tabloid Sport Day Prep - Year 2
Mon 29 Aug Meet the Principal morning tea after assembly
Fri 2 Sept Special Person’s / Father’s Day Stall
Wed 7 - Fri 9 Sept Gr 4 Camp
Fri 16 Sept Last day of Term 3 - Students dismissed at 2.30pm
Mon 3 Oct First day of Term 4
Sun 16 Oct WPS Whopping Great Fete. Click here to view fete website.
Mon 31 Oct Curriculum Day - Pupil Free Day
Thurs 1 Dec Art Show
Tues 6 Dec State Secondary School Orientation Day
Thurs 15 Dec Gr 6 Graduation

Meetings 2016

Policy Fri 12 Aug 8.30am Jo’s office
Environment Mon 22 Aug 5pm Jo’s office
Education Tues 23 Aug 7pm staffroom
Finance Wed 24 Aug 8.30am Jo’s office
OSHC Wed 24 Aug 1.50pm Carolyn’s Office
Business Case Working Party (BCWP) Wed 31 Aug 8.30am Jo’s office
P & F Wed 31 Aug 8.30pm Farmhouse
School Council Wed 14 Sept 7pm Staffroom

Meeting Agendas Click here to view agenda items

Westgarth Robotics Club (WRC) Term 3 dates
Tues 9th August After school training
Tues 16th August Science week showcase (from 3.30pm)
Tues 30th Aug After school training
Tues 6th Sept After school training
Tues 13th Sept After school training
Tuesday 20th Sept School holiday session in gym

Year 6 – Year 7 Transition Placement 2017

Please note that all transition placements for Year 7, 2017 are being posted this afternoon. In line with the State-wide Placement Timeline and Procedures, parents are informed by primary schools in writing on Wednesday 10 August. Please feel free to contact me on 9481 5577 if you have any queries.

Carolyn Shiels Assistant Principal

Pyjama Day This Friday 12 August

Pyjama Day is on this Friday! Wear pyjamas, onesie's or any other PJ related items to school and please bring a gold coin donation. All donations are for the State School Relief Fund which helps poor families pay for their child's school fees for various resources and school activities.

Children are still required to wear appropriate footwear on this day.

Oscar. H
Junior School Council
Prep - 2 Tabloid Sports Event

On the 16th of August the Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students will be running like caterpillars, balancing eggs on spoons, jumping in sacks and tossing bean bags. Last term we had a lot of fun practising some of these skills and we are going to showcase them next week in a multi-age event that will be supported by the Grade 6 Sport Captains. There will be stickers awarded to students for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place at each event, although the main focus will be on sportsmanship and 'having a go'. If you have the opportunity to speak to any of the 'competitors' about good sportsmanship and that we can't always be 'the winner' it would be greatly appreciated. (If you haven't run with an egg and spoon recently, we can assure you, there is as much luck as skill involved!)

We will try and take pictures for the newsletter so you can see for yourself what we got up to on the day!
Aimee PE.

OSHC Rebooking Week - New system

To enable the WPS OSHC program to transition smoothly to a new software system and to manage student enrolments into the future, we are introducing a re-booking week in the second last week of each school term.

During this re-booking week parents will need to confirm their required days for the following term and settle their account. A designated table will be set up all week so parents can do this during drop-off and pick up times.

All accounts which do not have a zero balance after this time will have their permanent bookings placed on hold and casual bookings will be not accepted until such time as the account is settled in full. If your family is having difficulty with making the payment, please contact Carolyn Shiels at the school office on 9481 5577.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card slip or eftpos during week 9 being 5th – 9th September.

Gr 4 Rosie trying out the latest thing to hit the winter WPS playground - human hand-warmers!
Left Ruby D and right Sarah C.

The kids have Gr 3 Andy a giant blow up replica of Melbourne Demon's AFL star Jesse Hogan, as a birthday present on Saturday.
Look at him fly over the pack!
¡Bienvenidos! Here you will find all about the different activities children are doing in Spanish at Westgarth. To see more of their projects check the Spanish website [http://wgpspanish.wix.com/westgarthspanish](http://wgpspanish.wix.com/westgarthspanish)

¡Hasta pronto!
Marta, Esmi y Pilar J

**ESPAÑOL / DRAMA**
This term students in Years 5&6 are introduced to Performing Arts. They engaged in a game of El Cambiador / La Cambiadora (The Changer): students change three things in their appearance while the rest of the class guess which ones they are. In this way the explored the concepts of observación (observation) y personaje / carácter (character).

**ESPAÑOL / ARTE**
Students in grades 3 and 4 have been researching los árboles (the trees) and las plantas (the plants) of la Selva de la Amazonia (the Amazon jungle). As they paint the background for their individual pieces they have been adding bits and pieces to our collaborative piece, replicating the species they found during their research. In the meantime, grades 5 and 6 are on the home stretch to finish their stunning Mola art pieces and getting ready to start two new exciting projects. Grade 6 students have started to sort through the piles of tiles for mosaic we were given by the community (thank you!!!) and so far we have lots of azul (blue) and verde (green) but we are in high need of amarillo (yellow) and rojo (red) so if you have any spare wall tiles please bring them in!! *Gracias!* :)

**ESPAÑOL / CIENCIA**
Year 3 students are learning more about the living things and their characteristics. They made clay animals and while doing so, they not only learnt new animal's names but also how to describe their animal body parts using words such as patas (feet), pelo (fur), plumas (feathers) or escamas (scales). They are also working on animal classification and they grouped their animals according to their characteristics.
Call(s) to Action!

10 weeks to go and we are heading to crunch time for the Whopping Great Fete. Calls for donations are starting. The donations we receive are a massive part of what makes the Whopping Great Fete successful.

Cold drinks - The cold drinks stall is hugely popular at the fete and its success totally reliant on donations. So if you are in the supermarket and see a sale on cartons of soft drinks, juice or water throw a carton in the trolley and drop it into the Brooke St office.

Plants – the plant team work the whole year round. Their effort and commitment brings about the stunning range of plants we have for sale on fete day. There are so many small things you can do to help them out. Donate pots (drop off spot is the Brooke St staff car park), how about washing some pots? Such a small job but a huge difference to the team who do hundreds of them. Babysit some tomato plants? All they need is a sunny spot and the occasional water. Or join the next planting & potting working bee. Great opportunity to get your hands dirty! It’s the little things that can really help out a stall for fete day. Let Penny Smith (Lachlan 3BP) know how you can help penny.smith@sydney.edu.au

Media stall – old DVDs, CDs & Video games cluttering up the joint? Shift them out to the Media stall. The Media stall debuted at last year’s fete and was very popular. Time to make it bigger and better this year with the addition of vinyl. If you, grandparents or friends have any that need to be loved somewhere else drop them off at the Brooke St office and Eric will put them to good use.

Silent Auction – It’s action August for the silent auction crew so if you’re thinking of donating or asking a business for support channel your inner Olympic athlete and Just Do It! And huge kudos to the early gold medallists who have already stepped up with an exciting range of holiday houses and experiences for mind, body and soul – and for the kids, dogs and gardens! We also have an official letter on school letterhead seeking sponsorship so if you’re after a copy just email whoppinggreatauuction@gmail.com or contact Carolyn on 0410 495 914.

Finally, I attended a Jammy Goodies cook session on Saturday and want to say a huge thank you to Kellee Frith, Anne Martinelli and the team. Kellee led Saturday’s cook-up and it was a big one producing some amazing marmalade for the fete. My son Alex (Prep T) loved cutting up the oranges, searching for pips in the cumquats and measuring out the sugar. It’s such a child friendly afternoon. There’s another session coming up on 27th August so come join the team.

As always 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
Sunday 14 August, 2-5pm  
Makers Group
16, 17, 21 August  
Science Week Events
Saturday 27 August, sunset  
Astronomy Night
Friday 2 September  
Father’s / Special Person’s Day Stall
Friday 9 September  
FURS stall
Sunday 11 September  
Spring Picnic at Darebin Parklands
Wednesday 14 September  
Prep-Grade 2 Disco, School Gym,
6.15-7.30pm

WORKING BEE - Thank you again to all the parents (and helpful children) who volunteered and made some much needed improvements to Clarke Street.

MAKERS GROUP  Sunday 14 August 2-5pm, Farmhouse - Come along and make some things for the Father’s Day stall or just come with your latest crafty creation. Children welcome too.

SCIENCE WEEK begins 12 August
Watch out for lots of events over Science Week brought to you by our Super Science Club.
Westgarth Robotics & Code Club Showcase  
Tues 16 August
Bone, Skull and Anatomy afternoon  
Wed 17 August
Kitchen Science Demonstration at the Farmhouse  
Sun 21 August
Limited places available for the Kitchen Science Demonstration, so please RSVP via the Tiqbiz notification or inform the office.

Westgarth Robotics and Code Club Student Showcase
Tuesday 16th August 3.40pm-5 pm in the Science and Computer rooms, Brooke St. We are celebrating science week at Westgarth! This years theme is Drones Droids and Robots and we are inviting students, parents and teachers to come and meet our robot team members and their robots and see what the code club has been up to! RSVP on our FB event page, or just turn up! While you're at it join our Super Science FB group, we are up to over 70 members now and have a look at our website for our robotics blog and some new pics of our microscope afternoon!
https://www.facebook.com/events/311812579162335/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/861214847260006/
http://wpssuperscience.wixsite.com/westgarth

Astronomy night at Westgarth Saturday 27 August
Join us in and around the Farmhouse at sunset for a magical evening of stargazing, cake and Milo! There will be a spectacular conjunction of Venus and Jupiter visible just after sunset, as well as some indoor displays and outdoor cinema. We have 3 telescopes, but more are always welcome so if you have one bring it along. Please let Emma from Parents and Friends know if you are able to bring a cake/ biscuits to share or leave a comment on our event page https://www.facebook.com/events/248336595549791/ 
Bring small torches and we will be giving out red cellophane to put over them. Please leave balls at home or make sure games are played well away from the expensive and fragile telescopes!
Please note this is an out of hours event, so supervision of children is the responsibility of the parent/carer

PREP - GRADE TWO DISCO, please note change of date to WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 6.15-7.30pm
Our younger school members can celebrate the end of term at their very own disco. Run by “Bop till you Drop” and Parents and Friends, the disco is a safe, fair and funky way to have some fun together. Watch out for the note coming home soon. As this is a parent run event, we require parents/carers to supervise their children.
Parents and Friends - westgarthpandf@gmail.com Jessamy, Emma, Nerida and Jac
Special Person’s / Father’s day stall – Friday 2 September.

Special Person’s/Father’s Day Stall is to take place on Friday 2 September, between 9:00am to 1:00pm. It’s an opportunity for the children to think about others and to choose something for their special person in their life. A note will be sent home closer to the date.

Here are some details for the event:
RAFFLE – one book per family, raffle tickets will go out to families on Monday 22 August. Tickets are 50c each.

WRAPPING HELP PLEASE Tuesday 30 August - please come and help package after drop off or reading between 9.00 am – 11ish in the school canteen and 'bling up' the items for the students to buy. If you can’t make these dates, but would like to help, please contact Sophy.

STALL AND BAKING HELP - One hourly blocks of helpers are needed on the day from 8.15 am to 1.00pm. Please let us know if you can help.

Baking also is needed - Items that ideally last until Sunday please and NO NUTS. Bags will be at Office. Please label all the ingredients. NO NUTS.

Thank you for your assistance in making a great day for the kids and their special people.
Sophy Morrow: sophymorrow@optusnet.com.au or 0434 525 662.
Friendship skills: Suggestions for families

Parents and carers are children’s first and most important teachers when it comes to relationships

The ways you relate to your children and the guidance you provide helps develop children’s social skills. You can help children develop and maintain friendships by modelling effective social skills, providing opportunities for children to practise interacting with others, and offering support when they go through difficulties. Taking the role of a coach helps children learn the skills they need for themselves.
Children who have a wide range of interests are more likely to have something in common with others and so find it easier to make friends and get along.

The following suggestions may be helpful

**Make time to play too**
Parents and carers can improve their children’s social skills by playing with them regularly. Letting children choose and lead the play allows you to be playful with them and encourages them to practise skills for cooperation and negotiation. Making time for play helps strengthen your relationship with them as well as their skills. Avoid criticising and make it fun!

**Allow your child to try all sorts of different activities**
Children who have a wide range of interests are more likely to have something in common with others and so find it easier to make friends and get along.

**Invite children for play dates**
Having friends over to visit helps children to establish friendships and practise their social skills. It also provides an opportunity for you to provide on-the-spot coaching for children as they develop their friendship skills. Providing positive guidance and helping to structure activities (without taking over!) can be very important when establishing new friendships.

**Child says…**
- “There’s this girl in my class who is really mean to everyone in class, and so we are all mean right back to her.”
- “Maybe she thinks we don’t like her, and so she’s being mean to us?”
- “Well, I like her when she’s not being mean.”
- “Maybe I could invite her over to play after school?”

**Parent/carer asks…**
- “Why do you think she is being so mean?”
- “That could be one reason. Do you like her?”
- “So how could you show her that you do like her, and that there’s no need for her to be mean?”
  - *Affirms: “That sounds like a great idea to me.”*

**Talk with children about what is happening for them with their friends**
Find a relaxed time, like the drive home from school or after dinner, to talk about what is happening in your children’s friendship group. By doing this, you let them know that you are interested in their wellbeing, and this can also be an opportunity to share some of your experiences and to help them solve any problems they might have.

**Encourage positive, relevant strategies**
Parents and carers can talk about, and encourage, friendly and cooperative strategies that can help their child to develop friendships. For example, encouraging children to negotiate or compromise when trying to solve conflicts with peers is a strategy that is more positively received than aggression or verbal threats.

**Take a problem-solving approach**
Parents and carers don’t need to have the answers to all of their children’s problems. You can support your children to think through a problem for themselves by talking with them and asking some useful questions. For example:

- “Why do you think she is being so mean?”
- “That could be one reason. Do you like her?”
- “So how could you show her that you do like her, and that there’s no need for her to be mean?”
  - *Affirms: “That sounds like a great idea to me.”*
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Girls & Boys Under 8 – Under 20

Register online at:

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New players welcome

Players must register and pay by 14th August to ensure a place in a Summer team

Enquiries: Megan Rouse 0417 106 490

manager@collingwoodbasketball.com.au

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Season 16-17

Milo cricket, T20 blast and U10-U18 teams
Multiple girls teams, professional coaching

Enjoy your cricket AND get better at it!

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Or call Georgia on 0409229930.

Join before Sep 3rd to ensure a place.

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This is Soxy and he needs a new (temporary – 12 months) home!

He’s 3 years old, independent, fluffy, housetrained, desexed, vaccinated, blind in one eye and somewhat adorable. Can anyone help?

Call Christine on 0403776168 (Deny 3L & Mahala 5S)

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