Westgarth Primary School is such a vibrant and busy place and the past month has been testament to that. So many events and extra curricular activities have been enjoyed and it isn’t slowing down any time soon. I would like to acknowledge the work of everyone, who organised, contributed to or enjoyed the following activities over the past few weeks: Science week activities - Robotics and Coding showcase; Skull and Anatomy exhibition; Kitchen Science and Astronomy Night, Book Week, Working Bee, Whopping Great Fete organisation, Reaching for the Stars activities, Athletics Carnival, Parent/Teacher Interviews, Parents and Friend Club events, PJ day, Tabloid Sports day, Fathers’ Day Stall and Wacky Hair and Hat Day. In the next two weeks we have the year 4 camp, Spring Picnic and Teachers vs Students lunchtime game. This doesn’t take into account all the parent/staff committee meetings. Next term is also packed so make sure you keep your eye on our diary dates/calendar so you know what is happening and when.

Curriculum Development

Just like the extra curricular activities the staff have been really busy working on the development of the school’s curriculum. Based on the new Victorian Curriculum, the staff has developed an understanding of the learning areas of mathematics, English, languages and humanities (history, geography, economics and civics and citizenship). By the end of the year we hope to have also completed science, technologies, the arts and the new general capabilities. Westgarth PS is considered by the Department of Education and Training to be advanced in the implementation of the new curriculum which all schools will be required to use from 2017. Assistant Principal, Donald Eddington and myself were invited to present the work of our teachers to approximately 300 principals, assistant principals and regional staff at a recent North Eastern Metropolitan Principal Forum. This is great recognition for the work we have been doing and I was proud to share the work of our hard working teachers.

Our classroom teachers have just completed their 2016 mathematics professional development program consisting of 8 half-day sessions, professional readings and homework. Next year we will continue to roll out a second year of mathematic learning for teachers focused on measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability. The success of this year’s program developed and run by Assistant Principal, Donald Eddington is visible as you move around the school and talk to staff and students. I cannot express how incredibly lucky we are to have such an expert on staff. Donald’s work has transformed the way we plan, teach and assess mathematics. I am impressed by the way in which all teachers have embraced the learning. Having Donald available to answer questions and assist teachers with the development of the teaching program is an extra bonus. He is gathering an international following on his YouTube Channel developed specifically for Westgarth parents to learn the strategies to help their children at home. If you haven’t checked it out yet make sure you do, DEtv at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kLk_0uqDUsvHWYRPSnGHg/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kLk_0uqDUsvHWYRPSnGHg/playlists)
**Fathers’ Day / Special Persons’ Day Stall**
We would like to extend our thanks to Sophie Morrow for her wonderful organisation of, and the other parent volunteers for their work on, the Fathers’ Day / Special Persons’ Day stall on Friday. We hope all dads and special persons had a great day and enjoyed their gifts.

**Homework**
Homework has the incredible ability to divide opinion. Some people love it and others find it unnecessary and burdensome. But what ever your opinion of homework is, the experts and researchers have found that homework at primary school levels has little impact on academic outcomes while homework at secondary school level, particularly at the later years has a much greater impact. I sit somewhere in between. I believe students need to practice reading, as those who read at home regularly seem to have higher reading outcomes and a broader general knowledge. I also believe that students with specific learning difficulties can benefit by targeted learning practice. Our homework policy is due for review and the Education Sub-Committee of School Council will be managing this review. You can view our current homework policy and guidelines by clicking this link to the school website: [Click here](#). If you would like to have a say, either come along to the Education Sub-Committee meeting on Tuesday, 18 October at 7pm in the staffroom on Brooke St or send an email addressed to Education Sub-Committee to westgrath.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au. If you would like to look at some of the research here are two links:

- [www.ascd.org/.../mar07/.../The-Case-For-and-Against-Homework.aspx](#)
- [https://headguruteacher.com/.../homework-what-does-the-hattie-research-actually-say/](#)

**Classes for 2017**
We are planning to have all straight year levels in 2017 (no composite classes). We will have four classes at each level year taking us to 28 classes across the school. We are likely to get another portable on Clarke St to accommodate the extra class and also house the current class in the central area of the WEB.

**Your child’s class placement for 2017**
Now is the time of year to contact the school in writing, addressed to the principal, outlining any important information about class placements for your child for 2017. This needs to be handed in by the end of the first week of term four, as we will begin the process early in the term. Parents are asked only to include information that will impact on their child’s learning. Parents cannot request teachers. We will make sure all students have a friend so please do not request groups of friends for your child. We ask that you trust our professional judgment when placing your child/ren and ask only that you write to remind us of specific concerns. Please do not ask teachers to manage your requests. The only requests that will be considered are those given in writing to the principal. Requests can be emailed to the school on westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or handed to the office no later than Friday, 6 October.

**Liberty Meatworks**
There has been no change to the status on the meatworks site but we continue to monitor any movement on site. We will keep families informed if we have any news. The quickest way to do this is via the Tiqbiz app so if you don’t have Tiqbiz, it might be time to download it, [click here](#).

**School Captain Roles**
Last year the school community was surveyed and the results indicated that the community values the roles of School Captains and Vice Captains. We would like community input in how to develop these roles. If you have any ideas, please email the school at westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Cheers,
Jo Wheeler
Principal
**Diary Dates 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 7 - Fri 9 Sept</td>
<td>Year 4 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 13 Sept</td>
<td>Reach for the Stars - Write 4 Fun Open Mike Night 6pm</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>Year 6 Graduation 7pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meetings 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Council</td>
<td>Wed 14 Sept 7pm Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Tues 18 Oct 7pm Staffroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Agendas**

[Click here to view](#) agenda items

**Westgarth Robotics Club (WRC) Term 3 dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>

**NAPLAN**

In May, students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participated in the annual NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) testing. The results of the 2016 NAPLAN tests were released around three weeks ago and recently sent home to parents. I am pleased to report that our results continue to show an upward trend across most areas – with the results also indicating that our year 5 students have made solid growth compared with themselves when they were in year 3. Also pleasing was the fact that our students have made comparable progress to those at schools which have a similar demographic such as Mentone Girls Grammar School, Loreto Mandeville Hall, Scotch College, Auburn South PS, Wesley College and Trinity Grammar School to name just a few. Staff will complete a literacy and numeracy item analysis of the results (in term 4) to see which areas our students have and have not fared so well in as a means of auditing our curriculum, practice and/or identifying if it was more about students misinterpreting a question.

**Victorian Curriculum update**

The staff at Westgarth are continuing to document their programs in line with the new Victorian Curriculum. The staff are currently in the process of finalising a conceptual scope and sequence for the school’s inquiry-based curriculum. The scope and sequence will ensure:

- coverage of the Victorian Curriculum thereby eliminating any possible ‘gaps’ in curriculum provision
- key understandings accurately reflect the intent of the Victorian Curriculum
- a spiral-based approach to curriculum planning and delivery with key concepts being built sequentially over the seven years of primary schooling.

The school’s inquiry-based curriculum explores the following big concept ideas while addressing the various learning areas and general capabilities of the Victorian Curriculum from Prep – Year 6:

1. Rights and responsibilities
2. Continuity and change
3. Health and wellbeing
4. Design, discovery and innovation
5. Sustainability and environment
6. Identity, diversity and culture
7. Community and resources

The school’s work in documenting and implementing the new Victorian Curriculum has resulted in us being invited to present our work at a recent North-East Metropolitan Area Principal forum and being visited by representatives from other schools to discuss our implementation plans and the resulting work and resources that have been developed.

Donald Eddington, Assistant Principal
eSmart

As part of the process to become an eSmart School, there will be fortnightly tips in the newsletter. The aim is to help educate parents and create conversations around the smart, safe use of technology at home.

**Tip #1**
Parents should know the age restrictions and what the app is about before letting their children download an app. Don’t know what an app is or does? Read up about it here:
- [https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews)

**Bonus Tip – Too good to wait until after the holidays!**
Movies are a great way to be entertained over the holidays. Need some help deciding whether a movie is appropriate? Use imdb.com!

1. [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)
2. Search for a movie: e.g., Minions (2015)
3. Scroll down and look for Parents Guide and click ‘View content advisory’. It is under keywords, taglines but before details and technical specifications.
4. It gives you a rating for levels of sex and nudity, violence and gore, profanity, alcohol/drugs/smoking or frightening/intense scenes.

Stacey Harris and Winter Dunstone eSmart coordinators

---

**Fathers’ Day / Special Persons’ Day Stall Thank You**

Last Friday’s fathers’/special persons’ day stall was a great success and loads of fun for the kids and stall helpers.

I would like to acknowledge the amazing support given by parents who made the stall such a great success. Thank you to the Makers for their wonderful gifts and the Bakers for the delicious treats and thank you to the stall helpers. Without all your input, the fathers’/special persons’ day stall would never happen.

A very special thanks to Veronica Cockayne for her tireless help and support and also to Jutta Wiblihauser for managing the baked goods. And a big thank you to Nicole Guest for all the goodies from Madras Link and to the Northcote Nursery for the tomato plants and to Annette Williams for the yummy Chocolatier chocolates.

Thank you to the business who donated to the raffle; Ricky’s Rubbish Removal, Pope Joan, Tassal Salmon, Campaspe Bend Olive Oil and Myf Browning Intimo.

And last but not least, thank you to Nella, Susan and Janine in the office for all their support and guidance.

Many thanks and kind regards,
Sophy Morrow.
El rincón del Español
The Spanish corner

¡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
¡Hasta pronto!
Marta, Esmi y Pilar J

ESPÁNOL / DRAMA
In Years 5&6 we carried on working on la voz (voice) using emoción. We became fútbol commentators at the 2010 World Cup Final between Holanda y España. We performed our commentary on Iniesta’s winning gol in the Spanish language and in the Spanish way.

ESPÁNOL / ARTE
These past two weeks we’ve been so lucky to have Lorena with us in the Spanish/Art room. Lorena is a student teacher from La Trobe University and she has thought us many things from El Salvador, a country in Central America, and the art of Fernando Dall. Grades 2 enjoyed a session making miniature food with fimo and learned how to ask for food in the shops (“puedo comprar un poco de pan por favor?”). And the grade preps made some crazy Picasso faces while learning the parts for the face (ojos eyes, nariz nose, boca mouth, orejas ears). Don’t they look funny!?

ESPÁNOL / CIENCIA
Year 5 and 6 students have been learning about la electricidad (electricity) y el circuito eléctrico (electric circuit). This week they have been having lots of fun making their own pilas con limones (lemon batteries). Carefully following the steps in Spanish, they made their batteries. Then, they changed the plant material or metals used to either patatas (potatoes), peras (pears), manzanas (apples), zanahorias (carrots), aluminio (aluminium) or hierro (iron) and tried their new pila. They had lots of fun discovering which of those variables make the timbre sound más fuerte (louder).
Sport News

District Athletics Carnival
Thankfully we got through the remainder of our athletics events on the catch up day, 26 August, without any rain. Our students performed really well with many recording personal bests. Below is a list of the students who either came 1st or 2nd in their event which qualifies them to represent the Northcote district at Division Athletics in the first week of Term 4. Well done to all the students who competed!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shot put</td>
<td>Holly G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discus</td>
<td>Holly G, Jeremy Mc, Ben C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long jump</td>
<td>Maddie P, Oscar W, Darcy W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple jump</td>
<td>Maddie P, Chloe S, Torren A, Nathan Mc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High jump</td>
<td>Zoe C, Jonah A, Matthew L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 metres</td>
<td>Zoe C, Zoe H, Torren A, Darcy W, Matthew L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 metres</td>
<td>Asha D, Emily P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 metres</td>
<td>Koh N, Lewis Mc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurdles</td>
<td>Girls 11 Camille CB, Maddie P, Zoe C &amp; Lizzy V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls 10 Emily P, Zoe H, Matilda T &amp; Zara G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys 12/13 Torren A, Oscar W, Kai H &amp; Roland B/Seb R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys 11 Thom K, Darcy W, Nathan Mc &amp; Lucas R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Triathlon Grades 3-6
The Northcote district hold an annual team triathlon event at the Northcote pool/McDonnell Park each year. This year it is being held on Friday, 11 November. I have asked interested students to find themselves a team of one swimmer (50 metres), one cyclist (BYO bike 2 kms) and one runner (1 km). There is a sign-up sheet on the sports notice board which will be taken down on Friday, 9 September so that I can finalise numbers.

Sport Diary Dates Term 3
Friday 9 September Year 6 girl’s district soccer day
Wednesday 14 September Year 6 students versus teachers basketball game (lunch time)
Thanks, Rushe

REACH FOR THE STARS PRESENTS....
WRITE 4 FUN OPEN MIKE NIGHT

Tuesday, 13 September beginning 6pm

Dear Parents/Friends/Teachers and Westgarth Community,
You are all warmly invited to come along to experience a night of rich poetry. We will be showcasing the poetry these talented students have created in a café style ‘Open Mike Night’. So meet us in ‘The Web’ for some recitations and refreshments. Hope to see you there.
Sharon
News from the Kitchen Garden
Mary – kitchen.westgarth@gmail.com  Virginia garden.westgarth@gmail.com

"Happy hearts and happy faces, happy play in grassy places. That was how, in ancient ages, children grew to kings and sages." Robert Lewis Stevenson

Well the grassy places are somewhat in short supply in the Australian urban environment, but luckily for students of WPS, we have a lovely garden where children can learn some of the ancient lessons of nature. The garden is loving the Spring rain and lengthening days. Garden classes have been focusing on planting more crops, digging holes and planting fruit trees, making garden structures, turning and making compost, weeding, pruning and a little bit of harvesting. I think these photos say it all.

In the Kitchen sessions we have finished off the term with an Asian greens inspired menu which included the following soup and Vietnamese rice paper rolls. This menu also gave us the opportunity to use vegetables like the corn we had preserved from earlier when we had a bumper harvest. My family have regularly enjoyed this light soup followed by rice paper rolls in warm weather when corn is around.

Sweet Corn and Ginger Soup
Serves 6-8

**Ingredients**
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons ginger
- 8 spring onions (plus 2 for garnish)
- 3-4 corn cobs
- 4 litres chicken stock
- 4 tablespoons Shao Hsing rice wine
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3 teaspoons sugar
- pinch of salt
- 8 tablespoons light soy sauce
- 200 g rice or wheat noodles

**Method**
1. Gently heat oil in a large pan.
2. Peel and finely chop the ginger. Add to the oil.
3. Chop spring onions and add to pan. Stir around.
4. Shave the corn off the cob. Add to the onions and ginger.
5. Make up the stock according to the tin with hot water and pour in.
6. Stir in the rice wine.
7. Add pepper, sugar, salt, soy sauce and noodles.
8. Simmer uncovered for a few minutes or until the noodles are cooked.

Serve soup into bowls and top with a few sliced spring onions.

We would like to thank all our hardworking volunteers for their magnificent help and encouragement of the students and the program. We say it often (but we truly mean it) the program could not run without your help. We have many volunteers from outside the school community as well, please if you see them around, thank them for their help too. During planning week, there will be no Kitchen or Garden classes, 12-16 September. This is followed by school holidays and then we will be back again in Term 4.

There are no changes to the timetable for Kitchen Garden, so all grades and days of the week are the same. For your information and forward planning purposes, the first 2 days of term will be Kitchen, followed by Garden.

Kitchen – Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 October
Garden – Wednesday 5 – Tuesday 11 October
Kitchen – Wednesday 12 – Tuesday 18 October, and so on.

We look forward to seeing you in Term 4
Mary and Virginia.
Fete ACTION at a glance
The action of fete is heating up, here’s what you need to know at a glance….

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stall/Activity</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cool drink donations</td>
<td>Drop off at the office. Grab a carton of soft drink, juice or water next time you’re at the supermarket. Very popular store that needs lots of drinks for fete goers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media &amp; Book donations</td>
<td>Media - Drop off at the office (clean out your DVDs, CDs, games &amp; Vinyl). Books - drop off in the hallway between the gym &amp; canteen on Clarke St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys, Trash &amp; Treasure</td>
<td>Box up your donations and have them ready for drop off on Friday or Saturday before fete (14/15 Oct). Details closer to the date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>If you’ve got an act, Phil wants to hear from you 0425 787 698 or <a href="mailto:pmmcgow@hotmail.com">pmmcgow@hotmail.com</a>. Hurry the stage is filling fast!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant potting session</td>
<td>This Saturday 10 Sept @ 2pm! Contact Penny (Lachlan 3BP) for the details <a href="mailto:penny.smith@sydney.edu.au">penny.smith@sydney.edu.au</a> or 0418 384 696.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ride Sponsors needed</td>
<td>Do you know a local business who could sponsor one of our rides or inflatables? How about asking them? Contact Julia for details <a href="mailto:whoppinggreatfete@gmail.com">whoppinggreatfete@gmail.com</a> or 0400 067 758.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fete Posters</td>
<td>Time to start spreading the word about our Whopping Great Fete. Large corflute posters to go on your house &amp; A3 posters for kinders, cafes and local businesses will be available from the office this week. Stop by and grab some.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks needed this</td>
<td>Cook-up of croquetas this Friday 9 Sept @ 7pm to make the base then cut &amp; roll on Saturday 10 Sept @ 10am. Farmhouse. Great way to learn some Spanish cooking, contact Diana (Xiomara 2M) 0408 748 631 or <a href="mailto:dianakkerman@gmail.com">dianakkerman@gmail.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Start Spreading the News
We’ve taken delivery of the gorgeous corflute posters for homes and A3 posters for kinders, cafés and local businesses. Huge thanks again to Matt Clare (Scarlett 3BP) of monodesign.com.au for the wonderful new look and Jellis Craig Northcote for producing these fantastic posters.

If you would like a poster on your house or could put up a couple in your kinder, favourite café or business please grab one from the office. Who will get to the Red Door first?

There’s also something special coming for the students to spread the fete word about with friends and family. All will be revealed next week!

The star burst might say 6 weeks to go but it’s less than 4 school weeks til Whopping Great Fete weekend. So if you have a Silent Auction item, goods to donate or can lend a helping hand in any way then now is the time to step up! Please contact me whoppinggreatfete@gmail.com or 0400 067 758 and let us know what you can do. Julia
The Plant Stall Potting Day – This Saturday 2 pm!

Come along this Saturday 10\textsuperscript{th} of September to 38 Andrew St, Northcote at 2 pm (Thanks Meaghan). We are potting up plants donated by Scotsburn nursery. Jobs include writing plant labels, washing pots, filling pots with soil, potting up plants. No experience required! Kids are welcome. Let me know if you can come.

Text or email Penny Smith (Lachlan 3BP): 0418384696, penny.smith@sydney.edu.au

Friday 9 September FURS stall, Clarke street, 3-4pm
Sunday 11 September Spring Picnic at Darebin Parklands
Wednesday 14 September Prep-Grade 2 Disco, School Gym, 6.15-7.30pm

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED AND SOLD ITEMS AT THE FATHERS’ / SPECIAL PERSONS’ DAY STALL. A heartfelt thanks to Sophy Morrow for making it all possible with such flair and organisation! It was a great success!

FREE, RECYCLED UNIFORM STALL this Friday 9 September
Come along to Clarke Street between 3-4pm and pick up some clean, recycled uniform items for next term. If you have any items to donate before then, please take to the office. You can also bring along clean items to donate at the stall.

SPRING PICNIC this Sunday 11 September from 11.30am at Darebin Parklands
Come and celebrate spring with other WPS families at Darebin Parklands from 11am onwards this Sunday. Bring a picnic and a ball or two and enjoy some relaxed fun in one of our beautiful local parks. We aim to be stationed near the quarry section, near the Separation Street entrance.

PREP- GRADE TWO DISCO, WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 6.15-7.30pm
Get ready for some pyjama dancing at school! Run by “Bop till you Drop” and Parents and Friends, the disco is a safe, fair and funky way to have some fun together. As this is a parent run event, we require parents/carers to supervise their children. We also need parents to assist with ticket sales, cup washing and supervising some exits.

Please email westgarthpandf@gmail.com or volunteer on the night.

Parents and Friends 2016
westgarthpandf@gmail.com
Jessamy, Emma, Nerida and Jac
Westgarth Astronomy night

We had a terrific evening for our Astronomy night on Saturday. About 40 families came to witness the close conjunction of Venus and Jupiter, and to see the sights of the night sky. At first cloud looked like it would interfere with getting a good view, but it cleared away in the nick of time and we had terrific viewing from then on. This event won’t appear in our skies again until 2065, so it was pretty exciting to see it so clearly, even with the naked eye. Some of us that stuck around also got to see Saturn and a binary star!

A huge thank you to Michael Silverson, Michael Horacek and the McFarland family who provided telescopes for the evening as well as beautiful models and a real meteorite, and to Ben Cunningham who helped set/pack up and set up the iPads with Solar Walk which was a particular hit! You can find it here for those who would like to try it at home https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/solar-walk-solar-system-planets/id347546771?mt=8. Thanks also to Mark Dinning for his pop-up outdoor cinema. We really appreciate the support of the school, parents and families for this event.

Thanks are extended to everyone who baked for the evening. We had some truly tremendous planet themed cakes, and lots of other tasty treats for the crowd to enjoy alongside their hot drinks, especially the (purely medicinal) hot toddy provided by John Marty.

Thanks also to the band of volunteers who served cake and hot drinks throughout the evening, set up, packed up, handled the entry fees, guarded displays and generally managed the crowds around the expensive and fragile equipment. To see more terrific photographs of the evening taken by Jessamy, visit our webpage http://wpssuperscience.wixsite.com/westgarth

Stay tuned for our next Super Science Club event. Hope to see you there! Kerry and Emma
Code Camp
Looking for an educationally stimulating experience for your children these school holidays? Heard about Code Camp? Children attending Code Camp will learn to code through various online and offline activities while focussing on collaboration, computational thinking and problem solving. To find out more about Code Camp, visit the website: [http://www.codecamp.com.au](http://www.codecamp.com.au) or telephone the organisers on 1300 CODECAMP (1300 26 33 22). To register for Code Camp or find out about pricing and locations, follow the links at: [https://my.codecamp.com.au/index.html#/camp/list](https://my.codecamp.com.au/index.html#/camp/list)

**September Holiday Program**
We have a spectacular line up of activities featuring a hilarious theatre production, excursion to the Melbourne Zoo and a surprise appearance by an AFL star!
For program schedule and online bookings please go to [www.leapkids.com.au](http://www.leapkids.com.au)
For all enquiries please contact Leapkids on 1300 366 235

Mayors Park Tennis, Clifton Hill School Holiday Program
Enrolments for our fun and exciting School Holiday Program are now open for the following dates: Clinic 1 Mon 19 - Thurs 22 September 2016
Clinic 2 Mon 26 - Thurs 29 September 2016
9.00am - 12.00pm, $140.00 per week (or $45.00 per day) Racquets, Morning Tea and drinks supplied.
TERM FOUR – after school program commences Monday 3 October – group, semi-private & private term classes available.
For further information, please call or text Jeff Baldassarre on 0418 359 791.
[www.mayorsparktennis.net](http://www.mayorsparktennis.net)

Bright Sparks Holiday Program September 2016
Bright Sparks is a creative arts program designed to help children learn about themselves and develop a sense of inner strength, promoting confidence, resilience and general wellbeing.
Sessions are run by an Art Therapist and are beneficial for all children from Prep to Grade 3.
10.30am - 2.30pm on September 27, 28 & 29, $160 / $140 for a 3 day course or $60 per session.
Jika Jika Community Centre, Northcote. Bookings essential.
Contact Naomi on 0421 914 220 or email: naomi@brightsparks.id.au

The Westgarth Primary School Council does not endorse any of its sponsors or advertisers, but we do acknowledge their support.
Helping children to choose wisely

Nine year-old Zak was in a bit of a panic. “Grandma, Grandma, you have to write a note!” “Why, Zak?” his Grandma wanted to know. “Because I didn’t do my homework and I don’t want my teacher to get mad at me.”

Zak’s Grandma remembered asking him that afternoon if he had any homework. At the time he was watching his favourite TV show. He told her, “Not much. I’ll do it in a minute.”

After that Amos had called and invited Zak over. Amos had a new video game and Zak couldn’t wait to play it. He had forgotten all about his homework.

Now it was bedtime and Zak suddenly remembered that his homework wasn’t done. If only Zak would learn to think through his decisions more carefully!

It’s frustrating for parents and carers when children don’t think ahead and they are left to sort out problems at the last minute. Adults might be able to come up with a solution for the immediate crisis, but what about getting children to think things through in the first place?

Effective decision-making is a skill that children can learn

To be able to make good decisions children must learn to:

- recognise when there is a choice for them to make
- understand that they are responsible for making the decision
- take others’ needs into account
- think of different possible choices or solutions and decide which is best.

Children learn skills for effective decision-making when they are taught the steps and given opportunities to practise using them to solve problems. Teaching Zak these steps and reminding him to use them could have helped him make a better decision.

Being able to plan ahead and choose wisely are very important skills that help children succeed at home, at school and in life. Parents and carers can help by teaching children how to think through decisions and giving them opportunities to practise their skills.
Learning the steps

Steps for decision-making

1. What do you have to decide about?
2. What choices do you have?
3. Weigh up the pros and cons of each option and choose the best one
4. Put your choice into action and then check how it works out

Example

- Deciding what to do after school
- Going to a friend's house
- Watching TV
- Doing homework

Helping children take responsibility

Children often focus on immediate wants and don't consider long-term consequences. They need adult guidance to develop their decision-making skills. Parents and carers can prompt good decision-making by identifying appropriate choices for children to make and using questions to help them think through the steps.

To learn to use decision-making skills, children need to be shown how to use the steps and be given opportunities to practise them. Practice and experience are necessary for building skills.

It is important to remember that children's thinking skills develop gradually and so does their capacity for planning ahead and weighing up options in order to make decisions. Children do not learn to make good decisions overnight. They need to start with simple things.

How parents and carers can help

- Give children a choice between two options. This helps to make decisions manageable.
- Limit the number of choices to ones that are realistic for children to make (depending on their age and ability).
- Encourage children to give reasons for their choices. This teaches them to think through their decisions.
- Ask, "Is that a good idea?" or "Do you think that will work?" instead of saying, "This is what you should do," ask "What about this?" Asking encourages children to develop their own judgment.
- Listen with interest to children's explanations. Learning to explain their thinking helps children think better.
- Give children a role in family decisions, for example, when planning activities or deciding on household jobs. This helps children learn how to make decisions that take others into account.

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

Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

 beyondblue
APS Australian Psychological Society
Principals Australia Institute

Copyright: © Commonwealth of Australia 2012-13. This work is copyright. You may use this work in accordance with the terms of licence available at www.kidsmatter.edu.au