From the Principal

Volunteers' Breakfast - Our school is so lucky to have such a vibrant and active community. Many parents, carers, extended family members and friends contribute to the many programs, committees, activities and events throughout the year. In recognition of these contributions and as a means of extending our gratitude to those who have contributed we would like to invite our volunteers to have breakfast with us in the last Monday of the term, 19th December at 8:15am in the staffroom. To help us cater, please RSVP by Friday 16th on 9481 5577.

Extra-Curricular Sporting Activities - Our students from years 3 to 6 have had the opportunity to participate in a number of extra-curricular activities this term. Last week a large number of students attended the district triathlon at Northcote Aquatic Centre and near by park land. This Friday another group head to orienteering and on Friday 25th we are having the swimming trials for the 2017 swimming carnival. We are incredibly appreciative for the work Rushe puts into organising these events. These are not standard activities for primary schools, but Rushe's commitment and hard work are providing our students with these great experiences. I would like to thank her and all year 3-6 teachers for their support of these extra-curricular sporting activities.

Cyber Safety Talk for Parents 7pm - 8pm Monday 21 November we are pleased to host Detective Tracey Porter who is coming to talk to parents and carers about keeping your children safe using apps and the internet.

Classroom/Library moves - To accommodate the increased enrolment of preps in 2017 we are moving a number of classes on the Brooke St site. The preps will move to the back of the building where the library and two of the current year two classes are. Consequently we need to move the library again so we ask all students return their library books by Wednesday 23 November.

New Portable - Next year we will have an extra class in year six, making four classes at each year level on Clarke St. This means we require a new portable on the Clarke St site. The portable will be sited north of the current year four portable classrooms and will create a year 4 hub. For the portable to be in place to start the 2017 school year, the department will begin the process of preparing the site as early as next week. The immediate worksite will be fenced off from next Tuesday and certain spaces in the playground will be out of use during the process. Parents who will be bring students into the before school care program need to be aware of the changes to access and may be required to enter via Newmarket St or the pedestrian gate alongside the staff car park along the west path, not between the gym and portables. We are excited that DET are providing us with this much needed classroom space and although the timing is less than perfect, it is wonderful that it will be ready for the start of next year.

Transition - As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are running a year 2 to 3 transition information night for parents and carers on Monday 5th December from 6pm – 6.30pm in the WEB.
**Prep Transition/Parents & Friends** - When new preps (and others who have moved to the area) enroll in a school, we are not only transitioning a student but we are inducting and welcoming a family, and what better way to do this than through other families? Last Friday our wonderful Parents and Friends hosted the parent gathering of our 2017 Prep Orientation program. Parent volunteers catered with homemade biscuits and cakes and shared a coffee in a café style gathering. They answered the questions of our new families from a parent’s perspective. Any unanswered questions were dealt with at the end of the session by school staff.

I am incredibly proud to be a member of such a supportive school community and encourage all parents to welcome new families through the many networks we have here at Westgarth. I would like to thank Jessamy, Nerida, Michael and the team for organising and coming along to support the orientation program.

**OH&S** - We are very happy to have received a wonderful result in our Occupational Health and Safety audit this term. It indicates we have a large number of processes and safe work procedures in place to ensure a safe workplace. Congratulations to assistant principal Carolyn Shiels for all of her hard work.

Regards,
Jo Wheeler
Principal

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**Diary Dates 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 21 Nov</td>
<td>Cyber-Safety Parent Education Session 7pm - 8pm WEB building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 1 Dec</td>
<td>Art Show 5pm - 7pm in the WEB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 6 Dec</td>
<td>State Secondary School Orientation Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9 Dec</td>
<td>End of Year Concert 9.30am Whole School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 15 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 19 Dec</td>
<td>Volunteers’ Breakfast - All Welcome 8.15am in the staffroom. Please RSVP by Friday 16th.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 20 Dec</td>
<td>Last Day Term 4 - Students dismissed at 1.30pm (OSHC available)</td>
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**Meetings 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P &amp; F</td>
<td>Wed 16 November 8.30pm Farmhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Fri 18 November 8.30am Jo’s office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Mon 21 November 5.00pm Jo’s office</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSHC</td>
<td>Tues 22 November 1.50pm Carolyn’s office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Tues 22 November 7pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Wed 23 November 8.30am Jo’s office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-development Plan Working Party</td>
<td>Wed 30 November 8.30am Jo’s office</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Council</td>
<td>Wed 30 November 5.45pm Staffroom</td>
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**Meeting Agendas**

- Click here to view agenda items

**Westgarth Robotics Club**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun Nov 20</td>
<td>FFL Competition 9am Swinburne University Hawthorn Campus</td>
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**School Start Dates for 2017**

- Gr 1 - 6 to commence Tuesday 31 January 2017
- Preps to commence Thursday 2 February 2017

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Westgarth Primary School
Extra-curricular: Reaching for the stars survey feedback

This year we launched ‘Reaching for the stars’ - our after school extension and enrichment program for students in years 4 - 6. The program provided opportunities for year 4 – 6 students to further develop their knowledge, skills and/or areas of passion in the areas of coding, sewing, poetry writing and problem solving. Sixty-seven students participated in the after-school sessions which took place on Tuesdays in terms two and three.

Thank you to the 39 parents/carers and 22 students who responded to the survey. Overall, the feedback was very positive and complementary of staff and the school with regard to levels of engagement and enjoyment. Ten parents/carers requested a follow up telephone call about the program which was often to reinforce how much their child enjoyed the program.

The main points for areas for improvement included:

- Communication: Emphasise that the program is on a ‘first come, first served’ basis and have more regular updates on the status of sessions (e.g., Tournament of Minds)
- Having increased access to computers (for coding) and sewing machines
- Having increased choice of programs and choice of days
- The length of the program (one term, two terms or three terms).

We will consider the feedback provided when making decisions about the 2017 program but would like to remind parents/carers that the program is run voluntarily by teachers after school, and so there are constraints re staff availability as well as the availability of resources.

Donald Eddington, Assistant Principal

OSHC News

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

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

No offers of places in the 2017 program will be made until the end of Week 10 when all outstanding debts have been settled.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card slip or eftpos during Week 10 being 5th – 9th December.

Kind regards, Mike Pickard
Parent Education Session: Cyber-safety

RSVP Form

Parent/carer’s Name/(s): ______________________________  &  ________________________________

I / We will be attending the Parent Education Session on Cyber-safety.

(please circle)

Tracey Porter’s Parent Education Session is not appropriate for children. Please leave your children at home, or there will be child-minding available, if needed. RSVP is essential for child-minding for staffing purposes.

I / We require childcare for ______ child/children, while I / we attend the Parent Education Session.

(please circle)  (write number)  (please circle)

Child 1’s name: ____________________________ Grade: ____________

Child 2’s name: ____________________________ Grade: ____________

Child 3’s name: ____________________________ Grade: ____________
PE NEWS - Triathlon

We had 200 competitors at the Northcote district triathlon event on Friday 11 November. The triathlon was a team event with one student swimming 50 metres, one running 1 km and another cycling 1km. The event was held at the Northcote pool and McDonnell Park (behind the pool). We had perfect weather for a dip in the pool and it wasn’t too hot for the runners and cyclists. It was a fantastic day with all our students having so much fun. It was wonderful to see students smiling as they were competing!

Thank you to all the teachers and parents who supervised and readied students for their events. A special thank you to our parent volunteers who marshalled on the course – Shona, Deb, Leonie & Natalie.

Sport Diary Dates Term 4
Friday 18 November – Orienteering Championships at Hanging Rock (grade 3-6 signed up students only)
Friday 25 November – Westgarth Swimming Trials at Northcote Pool (grade 3-5 signed-up students only)

Thanks, Rushe
ART SHOW
Thursday 1 December 2016
5pm to 7pm in the WEB

The Art Room is abuzz with final preparations for the Westgarth Art Show, Thursday, 1 December 5pm to 7pm. Throughout the year students have been learning about Spanish and South American art and have made amazing artworks inspired by these cultures. The art show will take you on a journey across the globe through the lenses of our amazingly talented artists.

All students have chosen the piece they were most proud of to share with the whole community. We are very proud of the artwork the students have created this year and we hope you can come celebrate their journey on Thursday 1 December.

At the Art Show there will also be some food available for purchase. Admission is via a gold coin donation as a means of helping cover some of the costs of the show.

Art Show - Calling on Parent Helpers!
I am looking for parent helpers to assist in putting up displays the morning of Thursday, 1 December.
If you would like to help, please call the school on 9481 5577 to leave your details. Thanks, Marta

Diary Dates
Wednesday 16 November Meeting at 8.30pm in the Farmhouse
Friday 2 December FURS stalls. 9am on Brooke Street, and 3pm on Clarke street

Parent and Friends Meeting
Come join us at the Farmhouse this Wednesday at 8.30pm for a 2017 planning session and last drinks! All welcome.

Free Uniform Recycling Stalls on Friday 2 December
Donations wanted! Last chance to clear the cupboards of unwanted uniforms and let them find a new home. Please bring to the office. Summer uniforms particularly needed.

We will have two opportunities for new and current parents to find spare uniform items. At 9am we will be set up near the office on Brooke Street. From 3pm we will be on Clarke Street, near the art room.

Volunteers wanted
We are looking for volunteers to help on the BBQ/Sushi Stall at the Art Show on Thursday 1 December. Please email westgarthpandf@gmail.com if you can help for an hour between 5-7pm.

Jessamy, Emma, Jac, Nerida

Westgarth Primary School 6
News from the Kitchen Garden
Mary – kitchen.westgarth@gmail.com  Virginia garden.westgarth@gmail.com

New Volunteer Registration App.
How to volunteer (spread the word we always need more volunteers):
We are pleased to announce we have a new app called Geddup, we hope this new system will make volunteering easier for you, and you can select classes and days that suit your schedule.
The process to sign up will take less than a minute.

1. Click on this link, or type gddp.me/wps-sakg into your web browser.
2. Enter your email address and mobile number
3. Enter your name and a password
4. As Westgarth SAKG is a private community Mary or Virginia will need to approve your subscription.
   Once approved you will be sent a welcome message to finalise your account.
5. On the Welcome message, click the setup membership and you will be taken through a 3 step set up wizard. Please note the last step will ask you to choose a class. This is important.
Thank you very much.

Kitchen News
With so many broad beans and an abundance of celery being harvested, it has been the perfect time for an easy risotto. Every risotto created this week has been delicious so no need to get worried sticking to traditional methods. Broad beans are great fun for children to pod and are very versatile. Make the most of them while they are in the green grocers and plant some next year. They are so easy to grow. You can use them in salads, stir fries, pasta dishes and last year we did a broad bean and feta dip.

Celery and Broad Bean Risotto Serves 6
Ingredients  (Adult to handle boiling water)
1 litre of stock (4 cups), 1 -2 leeks, 1 onion, 2 cloves garlic, 2 celery stalks, 25 grams butter, 1 cup arborio rice, 50 ml olive oil, 1 cup broad beans plus 1 cup any other vegetables in season - carrots, corn, silver beet.
1/2 cup parmesan cheese, 3 stalks of parsley for garnish.

Method
Make up the stock according to the directions if using powder. Pour the oil into the fry pan and heat. Slice the leaks finely and add to the pan to fry. Finely chop the onion, garlic and celery. Add them to the leeks and continue to fry. Add the rice and stir to coat it with the oil. An adult should pour enough hot stock to cover the rice.
Stir carefully. The rice should absorb the stock and start to swell. Continue to add the stock as each amount disappears. Keep stirring. Pod your broad beans or finely chop your garden vegetables. (start with those that need to cook longest).
Add the vegetables along with more stock if necessary. After 3 minutes stir in the chopped butter, salt and pepper. Cover the pan and let it cook until it is ready. Stir in cheese or sprinkle over the top with the parsley.

GARDEN NEWS
Lots of activity in the garden, harvesting the last of winter/spring crops and lots of watering. We are still in need of volunteers for our classes especially 4 Rosie, 5 Scott, 4 Tom, 5 Winter and 5 Kylie. If you have a Working With Children Check you can come along and have some fun with us in the garden. The students and volunteers are very busy preparing the garden for the summer and we are about to start our massed plantings for the big summer season.
Are you interested in helping with watering the garden over summer? If so, please let me know via email, and I’ll be in contact to finalise details. Full instructions and demonstrations will be given to anyone wanting to help.

Continue next page...
Students from 4T preparing the bumper carrot harvest for the kitchen. Lachlan, Deanna, Eva, Charles and Holly.

- Students harvested the carrots
- They removed the green tops, this should be done straight after harvesting otherwise the freshness of the carrot is reduced
- Green tops were placed into the compost
- Students then gave carrots a rough wash before weighing them and placing them in the fridge.

Students from 5 Scott, taking on the menacing coddling moth. Samuel, Laird, Macy and Lily.

The lifecycle of the coddling moth has the juvenile grub migrate up and down the trunk of the tree. This pest is notoriously difficult to control and being a non-toxic garden we use measures to cause zero or minimal harm to all life. Students created traps from recycled cardboard and tied these around the trunks. The grubs will pupate in the trap, the trap can be removed and destroyed. Hence reducing the population. The moth attacks all Pomme fruit – apples, pears, quinces.

First LEGO League Competition this Sunday 20 November - all welcome

All Westgarth families and communities are invited to the First Lego League competition this Sunday 20 November at 9am (opening ceremony) to 4pm (closing ceremony)

The teams have been working hard all year and we are excited about Westgarth participating in their ‘Robotics Club - First LEGO League competition’. Please feel free to attend to watch as it will be a fun and exciting day for students who may want to get involved next year. The competition is being held at Swinburne in the Advanced Technologies Centre (ATC) Building on Burwood Road in Hawthorn.

For more information on First LEGO League see https://firstaustralia.org/programs/first-lego-league/

The Westgarth Robotics Club Team
http://wpssuperscience.wixsite.com/westgarth/robotics-program
Gracias, Bravísimo, excelente, delicioso.....
The IberoAmerican stall team just collapsed the day after the Fete so we couldn't send our gratitude on the previous Newsletter, but here we go...

At just our second year at the Fete and with an even reduced number of Spanish speakers mothers on the group (Claudia went back to Mexico..) I think we managed to put together a decent stall. My absolute credits to all our incredible helpers who voluntarily jumped to sign in to support us. Some of them more than 5 weeks before the Fete at the croquettes session at the Farmhouse : Emily, Gabby, Margarita, Angela, Julia (despite your already busyness), Justin and kids Sophie, Alex, Amelie and Xiomara who had a ball cracking eggs and rolling up balls!

Special thanks to my husband Justin who bravely volunteered to help me stirring up kilos of beans to prepare the refried beans for the nachos.

My special gratitude to Ana who despite being very busy with her studies also jumped in on the evening to help me to prepare litres of Gazpacho and taught me hints on the seasoning the soup! Not to mention your help all day on the Fete day. Special thanks also to David Kerr for sourcing incredible ingredients as organic tomatoes and avocados for our freshly made on the day Guacamole. Also for his guidance and professional support for a smoothly run stall. The addition of your helpers students was grandioso!

Thank you to Mission Foods Australia who donated at once corn chips and salsa for the nachos. To the very generous Lina and Juan from Antojos for their beyond expectations donations of delicious freshly arepas prepared by them and bringing in their equipment and time during the whole Fete Day despite having just weeks old baby Simon! Wow! This really made Sabores to run in a very low cost ingredients base!

To all the wonderful helpers during the day Emily again!, Mark Langdon (you were a great guacamole mixer helper!), Michelle H, Ai-Ling, Gabby, Julie, Cath, Polly, Pilar (Gracias!), Michelle P, Sophie, Bryce, Justin, Rob, Leonie, Allison, and every single one of you shone greatly on the day. Thank you Jessamy and Emma for your amazing logistic support, Tim with the extra efficient needed change, Julia for solving all the ?? at odd hours, and Nella and Janine at the office for coordination for after hours farmhouse use. One last and big thanks go to our friend Rob (Magic Rob) who voluntarily flew from Sydney expressly to attend the Fete doing magic walk around whilst still managed to help Sabores stall too. Increíble muchas gracias a todos!

Diana
Decision-making: Suggestions for families

Learning to make good decisions helps children become more independent and responsible

A good decision is one that, on balance, is most likely to lead to a positive outcome for everyone concerned. Learning to consider the situation carefully and weigh up the options before coming to a decision helps children make better decisions. It also helps them to understand and take into account others' views when making decisions that affect them.
How you can help

Allow children to practise making choices
Giving children opportunities to make choices helps to build their sense of responsibility as well as their decision-making skills. It is important that the choice really is theirs, so provide options that you will be happy with no matter which they choose. Showing interest in their choice helps to reinforce that you see their decisions as important.

Talk about everyday decisions
Involve children in your own decision-making. For example, you might say, “I’m trying to decide whether to take up a sport to get fit or go to a dance class. Which do you think I should do?” Talk through the advantages and disadvantages of each suggestion so your child can learn how to thoughtfully evaluate different options.

Support children to use decision-making steps
As children develop their skills for thinking through decisions, teach them the steps of decision-making and show them how to use them effectively. Decision-making steps: 1) Identify the decision to be made, 2) Think of options, 3) Evaluate the options and choose the best one, and 4) Put your choice into action and check how it works.

Ask questions that promote thoughtful decisions
“What do you like about that?” “What makes this the best option?” “How would this work?” “Can you think of any reasons why…?” Asking questions that prompt children to think through their reasons for choosing a particular option helps them learn how to evaluate options and think through consequences.

Encourage children to set achievable goals
Setting their own goals to work towards encourages children to plan and think ahead. It helps them understand the link between making decisions and taking action. Appropriate goals for children to choose include developing a new skill (e.g., learning to play chess, learning to swim), improving performance in school work or in an area of particular interest (e.g., learning to play a particular piece of music, mastering a difficult skill in sport), or earning pocket money to save for something special. It is important that the goals set are achievable and motivating for the child. In addition, the steps needed to reach goals need to be definite, clear and small enough for the child to manage. Providing praise and acknowledgment for small steps of progress supports children to meet their goals.

When children make poor decisions...
- Check your expectations. Are the decisions you want them to make appropriate for their age and ability? Do children understand what they need to think about to make an effective decision? Are the options clear? If not, then you may be expecting too much and need to make the task simpler or take charge of the decision yourself.
- Everyone makes mistakes sometimes. Allowing children to experience the consequences of their decisions can provide useful lessons in responsibility. It is easier for children to accept difficult or disappointing consequences when they feel supported and cared for as they learn to correct their mistakes.
- Talk through good and poor decisions. Children learn best when they are calmly helped to think through the outcomes of their decisions and supported in making a better choice next time. Helping them to accept responsibility for mistakes and plan how to improve the situation teaches skills for more effective decision making.
Do you need to update your First Aid skills?
You are invited to attend Provide First Aid (HLTAID003) as a single day course at Westgarth Kindergarten (Clarke Street campus) on Monday 19th December. Cost is $125, training provided by The Benchmarque Group. Please contact Samone for further information on 0401 055 049.

New Robotics/coding & electronic craft Jan school holiday program at Jika Jika! Golden gear Robotics- STEAM Laboratory. Creative and fun robotics and electronic craft activities. Build and program a LEGO robot, make some artwork or wearable that lights up.
Places are limited to 12 so book now to secure your place through our website http://www.goldengearrobotics.com.au/ and like our FB page for updates https://www.facebook.com/goldengearrobotics/

3 bedroom house on Wakanui St available for rent from mid January to end of March 2017. Pet friendly, 3 bed, 1 bathroom plus extra toilet, air con, gas heating. $650 a week. Close to all nations, the plaza, the pool, 10 minute to Westgarth Primary, 10 min walk to Dennis or Northcote Station. Call Jacinta on 0425 704404