

Newsletter

Westgarth Primary School

From the Principal

Welcome back for another fantastic year at Westgarth Primary School. We trust you all had a wonderful Christmas and holiday period and are ready to settle into the new school year.

We welcome our new 102 prep students and their families and to the 14 students and their families who have joined our school at different year levels. In all we have 60 new families joining our school community this year. The new preps have settled in quickly demonstrating how well their families have prepared them for school. We trust you will all have a lovely year and will be welcomed by the fantastic Westgarth Primary Community.

We will be having our Welcome Picnic on Friday 17 February from

6 – 8pm on the front oval on the Clarke St site. This is for all families to come and meet each other.

Our Parents and Friends would love to serve you a sausage or sushi or you can BYO a picnic dinner.

I would also like to welcome our new and returning staff, who have joined our committed team to provide a quality education for your children. New this year are Justyn Koh and Alex Johnston to Year 2, Gaye Wilde and Sarah Taylor to Year 3, Aimee Deacon (to grade share with Dorothy) in Year 4, Megan Robertson in Year 5, Tessa Elvin in Year 6, Alicia Alía Gómez-Cobián Spanish Language Assistant, Dallas Johnston and David Gahan as Integration Aides in Prep. Returning from leave is Kat Hansen (to grade share with Vicky) in Year 1 and Ruth Lynch Year 5.



You may have noticed various changes that happened during the holidays. A new double portable was placed on the Clarke St site to accommodate the year four students. This is due to having four Year 5 and four Year 6 classes which is an increase of one class at each level over the past two years. We are still awaiting an electrical upgrade from the power company so we have a generator onsite to manage power load until this is completed. This new classroom space frees up the centre of the WEB which houses our library again. We started the first phase of the Masterplan which included an upgrade of the old kinder building. This will be the new home of our music program. The Spanish/Science program will move into the current music room which will eventually also have access to the refurbished canteen area as a wet science space. We are in the final stages of planning the works to be carried out in the canteen space. This space will be shared between OSHC and Science. I would like to thank the community again for their contributions to our fundraising efforts over the past few years as these funds are what have enabled this work to happen.

On Brooke St, we had new carpet laid in three classrooms and the foyer. The outside toilets are being refurbished and will be out of bounds for at least the first month of school. We will have two temporary toilets for the girls to compliment the internal ones and the boys will use the internal toilets until the works are complete. This is a temporary inconvenience, however the facilities will be much improved for all students.

In the coming months we will be relocating some of the garden beds in the Kitchen/Garden area to make better use of the playground spaces and make space for new playground equipment. The amount of works completed will depend on available funds. We will be seeking parental support to help move the garden beds in future working bees. We hope to progress the playground work soon. Virginia our resident garden guru from the Kitchen Garden Program (SAKGP) is really excited about giving our students an understanding of how to develop garden beds from scratch.

Continue next page...

Parent Information Night – Wednesday 8 February

Each year we run an information session to inform parents about the classroom organisation for the year, some minor insights into the teaching and learning program and to answer general questions parents may have. This year the sessions will be run as a year level group in the following rooms:

Brooke St (6.30 – 7.10pm)

Preps – Prep Ellie’s classroom (far east classroom at the back of the building) entry via rear corridor

Year 1 – Sharon’s classroom (second door on left near front entrance)

Year 2 – Spanish Science room (on west side of building, behind the computer lab) entry via front door

Clarke St (7.20 – 8pm)

Year 3 – Gaye’s classroom (portable closest to the new kindergarten)

Year 4 – Centre space of WEB

Year 5 – Holly/Jane’s classroom (WEB closest classroom to the art room)

Year 6 – Nettie’s classroom (west side of WEB)

School Council

School Council is the schools governing body made up of parent, teachers and members of the school community. School Councillors are elected for a two-year period. The School Council year runs from March – February and each year approximately half of the Council comes to the end of their term. The next School Council meeting, Wednesday 22 February, will be the final meeting of the current Council.

The Council also has a number of sub-committees – Education, Environment, Finance, Out-of-School-Hours-Care and Policy. Parents and Friends Association and Westgarth Kindergarten also have representatives on Council.

If you would like to join School Council there will be four parent 2 year vacancies and two community vacancies for the new Council. Current members of Council can re-nominate if they would like to continue on the Council. If we have more nominees than vacancies then an election will be called. Alternatively parents are welcome to contribute to the sub-committees. Information about the next meetings can be found in the diary dates in the newsletter and on the school website.

School Council Election Process and Timetable

	EVENT	DATE
a)	Notice of election and call for nominations	Tuesday, 21 February 2017
b)	Closing date for nominations	Monday, Tuesday 28 February 2017
c)	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Thursday, 2 March 2017
d)	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed <u>if election is required</u>	Tuesday, 7 March 2017
e)	Close of ballot	4.00pm Monday, 20 March 2017
f)	Vote count	Monday, 20 March 2017
g)	Declaration of poll	Tuesday 21 March 2017
h)	Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)	Wednesday 29 March 2017
i)	First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Wednesday 29 March 2017

Continue next page...

SunSmart

We would like to remind all students that they are required to wear a sunsmart hat and clothing until the end of April. Caps do not provide adequate sun protection so please make sure your child has a broad - brimmed or legionnaire style hat. It is also recommended that students apply sunscreen to protect their skin. Singlet and tops with narrow straps are not suitable to wear at school. Hats are available for purchase at the office.

School payments

You will have received a paper copy form with school charges yesterday outlining the payments for 2017. We have organised an app for your iPhone or iPad called Qkr which makes paying easier and quicker (hence the name). Details on how to use Qkr are available on the payment form. Other payment methods are available as well, but Qkr is our preferred method.

Working with children check

Parents/carers who wish to volunteer at Westgarth Primary School are required to have a current WWCC. Volunteering with reading in class, going on an excursion or helping out with sporting events or kitchen garden will require a current WWCC. Once you have applied for your new card at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au you will need to bring your receipt to the school office to register.

Ambulance Cover

We strongly recommend that all families take out ambulance cover. Though serious injuries are rare we have a policy of calling for an ambulance when in doubt about a student's health. The average cost for an ambulance is greater than \$1,100.00. The cost is approximately \$500 for a call out without transport. On all occasions we will ring an ambulance first and then attempt to contact a family member, we have found that in many cases it is safer for the parent and the child to be transported in an ambulance. It can be a distressing time for parents when their child is injured and is often not the best time to be worrying about how to get to the hospital or doctor. Families are liable for any ambulance costs.

Spanish Language Assistant - I'm Alicia Alía Gómez-Cobián, the new Spanish Language Assistant. I am from the South of Spain, my family is from Seville and I live in Badajoz. Badajoz is a small city close to Portugal. I used to work there in an English academy with children of every ages. I just arrived to Australia so everything is new for me. I am happy and ready to enjoy the next 11 months travelling around the country, learning about your culture and sharing Spanish customs and experiences with you.



Please say hi to our new staff members



Alex Johnson - Gr 2 Teacher



Justyn Koh - Gr 2 Teacher



Gaye Wilde - Gr 3 Teacher



Sarah Taylor - Gr 3 Teacher



Aimee Deacon - Gr 4 Teacher



Megan Robertson - Gr 2 Teacher



Tessa Elvin - Gr 6 Teacher



Dallas Johnson - Integration Aide

Diary Dates 2017

Wed 8 Feb	Year Level Parent Information Night - Refer Jo's piece for further details
Tues 14 Feb	Kitchen Garden Volunteer Information and Induction Program 9.15am Farmhouse Robotics Club commencing 3.30-5pm
Fri 17 Feb	Welcome Picnic 6-8pm Clarke Street Oval
Sat 18 Feb	Home Produce Team cooking session 2-5pm Farmhouse
Tues 21 Mar	School Photos
Term 1	Years 3-6 Swimming Program
Term 2	Prep - Years 2 Swimming Program
Thurs 14 Dec	Year 6 Graduation

Meetings 2017

Parents & Friends (P&F)	Wednesday 8 February 8.15pm Farmhouse
Finance	Tues 14 Feb 8.30am in Jo's Office
OSHC	Tues 14 Feb 2pm in Carolyn's Office
School Council	Wednesday 22 February
P & F AGM	Wednesday 15 March



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Department of Education and Training have a 'Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund' to help ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. CSEF will be provided to eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of term one (30 January 2017). A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$125 for primary school students and \$225 for secondary school students.

To apply contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the CSEF website. www.education.vic.gov.au/csef



A reminder to existing families using the Qkr to update your details on the app. Instructions were sent home with the 2017 School Charges and Voluntary Contributions note.



A reminder to existing families using the tiqbiz to change your child/ren's year level on the app. This will enable you to receive relative information for your child/ren. Instructions were sent home during the week. Please remember to add your new year level before removing the old one.



Welcome to all our new and returning families! It's another great year to be part of the WPS community. Watch this space for events and opportunities to get involved.

WELCOME PICNIC

Friday 17 February from 6-8pm on the front oval of the Clarke Street side. This event is for the whole school, but particularly for families just starting at the school in 2017. Sausages and sushi will be on sale. BYO rug, drinks and extra food.

We need some help! Volunteers required between 5.30-8.30pm. Please email westgarthpandf@gmail.com or text Nerida on 0421 350 854. Duties include selling sushi and sausages, turning snags and helping set up/pack down, and generally being warm and friendly!

MEETINGS

The first WPS Parents and Friends meeting will be held this **Wednesday 8 February** at 8.15pm at the Farmhouse (Kitchen Garden building). RSVP to Jessamy at marceljessamy@yahoo.com. We will be planning the Welcome Picnic, Easter Fundraiser, Hot Cross Bun day and preparing for the AGM.

AGM for Parents and Friends

Our AGM will be at the next meeting on Wednesday 15 March. You can nominate yourself or a friend for an office bearing position, become a general member, and join the discussion for activities in 2017.

We are always open to suggestions about how we can meet the needs of our school community or any brilliant fundraising ideas!

Jessamy, Emma, Nerida and Jac - westgarthpandf@gmail.com



Welcome to another year of Jammy fun!

The Westgarth Home Produce Team has gotten off to a flying start this year with lots of summer fruit getting cooked up over the holidays. But now we're all back at school we're looking forward to getting back into our group cook-ups at the Farmhouse, and would love to have you join us.

Our first date for the year is **Saturday 18th February, 2-5pm** (and please pencil in the weekend of 25, 26th March as well, with more details to follow soon). Please bring your own apron and knives, and maybe a couple of snacks to share.

Please RSVP to Anne on 0417 114 088 or wundernelli@bigpond.com, as knowing how many people are coming is a big help in planning what we cook.

Looking forward to seeing you then - and hopefully some new faces.

Jars Wanted for Jammy Goodies

Every year we make over 1,000 jars of preserves for the Westgarth Fete. We are well underway with this year, but we need your jars please! **Please note we have changed the donation location!!** There is a large plastic tub in the hallway opposite the Gym (**Clarke Street site**) where you can drop off clean glass jars and bottles with lids. If you can remove the labels first we would really appreciate it.

Many thanks from the Jammy Team.

PE News

Welcome back everyone. We hope you had a wonderful holiday and spent lots of time outdoors keeping active. We are very excited about the new school year and looking forward to Westgarth students having fun and achieving their best in sport. We love to see students keeping healthy and active both at school and at home. Once again the PE program will be asking, at different stages of the year, for parent helpers to support the many extra curriculum activities that are provided by the school throughout the year. These include cross country, basketball, athletics, triathlon, interschool sport, orienteering, swimming and many different incursions from sporting organisations. Keep reading the newsletter each week for this information. Dates for our 2017 sports events will be confirmed ASAP and will be listed in the newsletter. Please help your child to dress appropriately (sun smart hat, runners, shorts, and t-shirt) on the day they will have their Physical Education class. Your child's classroom teacher will be able to tell you when this is. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions throughout the year in regards to your child and PE.

Aimee Murphy (Monday & Tuesday)

Ben Cunningham (Mondays)

Josie A (Tuesdays)

Rushe Lynch (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

Josie Felton (Fridays)

School Sport Victoria State Trials Nominations

At Westgarth Primary we like to encourage excellence in all areas of the curriculum. If there are any students that are **exceptional** in a sport and wish to be nominated for trialling out for a state team then please note:

Any child wishing to trial must obtain an endorsement from the Sports Coordinator, Rushe Lynch. Only three students per school can be endorsed for each sport. If you wish to enrol your child in a trial, please speak to Rushe and hand in any relevant stats/awards for their chosen sport by **Friday 17 February**. Some of the sport's closing dates are very soon and late nominations cannot be accepted. These trials are not come and try days, they are for students who excel in their sport. Students already playing in a representative side or who have won a competition award, not just team awards will be given preference.

Once endorsed, parents will be responsible for registering their child online, paying the registration fee and for downloading all details relating to trial dates, times, venues and costs.

Parents will be responsible for transporting their child to any trials or events if selected. If your child is successful and selected for a state team, additional costs such as, airfares, accommodation and uniforms are also paid for by the families of students attending.

Please feel free to explore the SSV website at www.ssv.vic.edu

From the home page simply click on Team Vic logo at the top of the page and select the sport you wish to enrol your child in.

5/6 Interschool Sport

The Interschool Sports Program will begin this Friday with our first official game being on Friday 24 February. Each student has selected one of the summer sports (cricket, rounders, bat tennis, softball) as their nominated team.

Each week a team is selected from the Grade 6 squad and these students need to be at school on time on Fridays and in a Westgarth Primary t-shirt or polo top, black shorts/netball skirt/trackpants and sports shoes. All Grade 5s will be members of one of the Summer Sports teams and will be involved in training and playing practise games at school on Friday mornings. This will provide a great base for them to be involved in representing Westgarth and playing other schools when they reach Grade 6. The Summer Sports Program runs during Term 1 and continues in Term 4.

Continue next page...

The competition draw will be included under Sport Diary Dates in the newsletter each fortnight. If it is an away game, the bus will **cost \$10** for the students that are playing. Parents are welcome to come and watch or if you are keen on a particular sport, you can see me if you would like to assist with coaching or umpiring. Please ensure you have a Working With Children Card.

Thanks, Rushe Lynch

Term 1 Sport Diary Dates

Swimming (selected students only)

Tuesday 28 February	District Swimming 9.30am-2pm Northcote Aquatic Centre
Tuesday 7 March	Division Swimming 9:30am-2.30pm Northcote Aquatic Centre
Wednesday 15 March	Regional Swimming 9:30am-2.30pm Northcote Aquatic Centre

Grade 6 Interschool sport

Friday 24 February	Away game against Preston South Primary (no softball or bat tennis, cricket played at Oulton Reserve)
Friday 3 March	Home game against Penders Grove Primary (no softball, cricket played at McDonnell Park)
Friday 10 March	Away game against Wales St Primary (softball & cricket played at McDonnell Park)
Friday 17 March	Home game against Bell Primary (cricket & softball played at Capp Reserve)
Friday 24 March	Away game against St Josephs Primary (no softball, cricket & rounders played at Mayer Park)

Music News

The User Pays after school instrumental program will be commencing soon. We offer guitar, violin and woodwind (sax, clarinet and flute) for students in Grade 4 and above. If there are places left unfilled, Grade 3 students will be offered the opportunity. To ensure a place in this program, please contact the tutors listed below directly. Lesson times and fees are negotiated with the tutors. This is a great opportunity to learn (or continue learning) an instrument and will stand your child in good stead should they wish to participate in high school ensembles. The program can only run if there are sufficient numbers to make it worthwhile for the tutors. John Carr (Music Specialist)

Guitar - Jonathan Dexter at strikeachord@tpg.com.au

Violin - Elyane De Fontenay at elyanedefontenay@gmail.com

Woodwind - Lauren Mullarvey at lauren_mullarvey@hotmail.com

Enrolments are now open for Guitar Lessons for 2017 - Lessons take place after school in the Music room on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 3:30 and 6:30. Places fill quickly so I recommend booking as soon as possible for your best chance of getting your preferred lesson slot. Lessons are half an hour in duration and can be private lessons or in groups of two. Initially this program is open to students in Years 4, 5 and 6 but if places are available, it will be opened up to year 3 students 2 weeks after this newsletter comes out. Lesson fees are in line with the current rate recommended by the Victorian Music Teachers Association, which are \$37 per half hour for individual lessons and \$24.50 for group lessons (this is the total amount that the teacher would receive for the group lesson). Guitar hire is available for \$20 a term and guitar stands are available for \$25. If you are interested in booking a lesson or if you have any questions, contact me (Jonathan Dexter) on 0420 927 498 or strikeachord@tpg.com.au.



Get the answers to the questions you're asking about Facebook

Facebook is a social networking site where users set up a profile with photos and information about themselves. Users share (post) photos, links, videos and comments with 'friends' of their choice and 'like' and comment on other people's posts. Users can limit who sees their profile. 13 is the minimum user age required by Facebook.

If your child is over 13 you should still consider the following before agreeing to unsupervised Facebook access:

Is your child able to withstand taunts from others?

If you think your child will become very upset (more than other kids) if they have a negative experience online, your child may need you to guide them through the use of Facebook. Look through their profiles and public feeds together, talk about how some people behave differently online and teach them how to filter abusive comments, block and report people.

Does your child understand what is safe to put online?

If they might put their name, address, school, sports club or information that allows people to identify and locate them (even after you have talked through the dangers) they may need your help with using Facebook. Talk about the risks of 'checking in', posting sexy pictures, meeting online friends in person, making offensive comments, and what is and isn't acceptable.

Does your child know how to report abuse and offensive or pornographic content?

If not you need to visit Facebook's Safety Centre with them to ensure they know how to block and report people. Visit <https://facebook.com/safety>

Are you worried your child will be left out if they aren't on Facebook but also worried they aren't ready?

As a compromise you may choose to let them have a Facebook account if they follow strict rules – including only using Facebook when you supervise them or you control their login. In return, and to keep them engaged with you, you can promise not to embarrass them by commenting publicly on their profile or posts. Teens tell us this is humiliating and it is their private world.

Are you going to supervise or 'friend' your child on Facebook?

If this is the case, be prepared to learn more than you might like about their friends. Try to withhold comment unless you are worried about safety. It is better to talk to your child in person if you have concerns than post comments publicly. If you publicly embarrass them, you will break your child's trust and they may simply communicate with friends on a different program – or open a separate profile without your knowledge.

How do I talk to my child about my concerns?

Be honest with them. Express your love and concern about what might happen online. Ask if they have experienced bullying or sexual advances. Banning seldom works and children will find other ways to get online and may stop talking to you about issues to avoid getting in trouble. Keep the communication open. If they won't talk to you about things, recruit a trusted family friend or family member to keep the communication going.

When should I be worried about my child?

If your child's behaviour changes at home and/or school you should talk to them. Examples of changed behaviour could include disinterest in things they used to like, seeming very unhappy and/or their sleep and eating is being impacted. Seek professional advice if necessary from a school counsellor, your GP or a psychologist. If your child has particular vulnerabilities, be vigilant about their contacts offline and online. Help them join groups out of school where they can find friends and support. Talk to the school and make sure they are supported.

Kids Helpline provides free online and phone counselling for children and young people. Visit www.kidshelpline.com.au or call 1800 55 1800.

News from the Kitchen Garden

Mary – kitchen.westgarth@gmail.com Virginia garden.westgarth@gmail.com

Even our garden was happy to see everyone back at school last week. We can't always get nature to do what we want, but this photo says it all.



Volunteers Needed

Students in Grades 4-6 will have received notes advising which day and time Kitchen Garden sessions are held each week. This year we are continuing to develop our use of the community action platform "Geddup". Parents will first need to register with this platform and then click on the sessions they would like to help out with. Previous volunteers will already be in Geddup, you will shortly receive a message from us asking you to update your details, when you do this you will be taken through to add your child's grade and then be able to sign up for sessions. If you experience any problems at all, just email Mary or I at the email addresses above and we'll work through any problems or questions. Using this platform will endeavour to reduce the number of hours we spend on admin and increase our time with students, volunteers and developing the program. Thank you for your patience as we work through any teething problems.

Water Fairies

Thank you to the families who volunteered their time over the holidays and watered our garden beds and fruit trees. Veronica Cockayne, Shirley Diamond, Penny Smith, Mike Jorgensen, Julia Jamieson, Jane Erwin, Claire McCormack, Ana Gargano, Noeleen Tuck and Amy Brodtman. Their hard work has been rewarded as the garden is looking lush and lovely. Anyone who has a chance, should check out the apple trees that are absolutely loaded with fruit, all due to regular watering over the summer.

Hope to see you in the Farm House soon.

Mary & Virginia.

The Westgarth Robotics Club is starting back Tuesday 14 February 3.30pm-5pm.

We are moving to our new home in the WEB, so it will be last years members only for now until we sort everything out. We will also be training up some new parent helpers in the next few weeks at the after school sessions so please let us know if you would like to help out and we can let you know the details.

We will be taking new members when we are part of the Reach for the stars program which starts in term 2, and we will be sending home registration forms soon. It will be for the grades 5/6's. I will be posting updates on the Super science club's website and FB page as well as the newsletter and email Kerry if you want to volunteer @ wpssuperscience@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/861214847260006/>

<http://wpssuperscience.wixsite.com/westgarth>



Looking forward to another exciting year! The Westgarth Robotics club team.

Asthma Management

An asthma action plan allows you and your doctor to create an individual plan for you to manage your asthma. An action plan advises you about what you must do to stay healthy and what to do when your asthma is unstable and you need help.

There is no 'standard' asthma action plan, as everyone's asthma is different. Your plan needs to be written to deal with your individual triggers, signs and symptoms, and medications.

Your action plan might be based on symptoms, peak flow readings or both.

An asthma action plan outlines:

- How to care for your day-to-day asthma (it lists your regular medications and how many times each day you should take them)
- Key things that tell you when your asthma is getting worse or an 'attack' is developing, and the steps you should take to manage it
- Symptoms that are serious enough to need urgent medical help (with emergency information on what to do if you have an asthma 'attack').

Have your action plan reviewed every six months or after a severe asthma attack.

It is just as important for parents to obtain a clear, succinct, written summary of their child's asthma management (an Asthma Action Plan). This will provide a source of reference to reinforce the advice given by the doctor.

This Asthma Action Plan is also an important tool for anyone caring for your child. It provides up-to-date, detailed information (including your child's emergency first aid plan) to help manage your child's asthma. A copy of the asthma action plan is to be sent to your child's school, kindergarten, childcare centre or to anyone caring for your child.

When the child is old enough to understand, make sure that you explain asthma to them and encourage them to be aware of their symptoms and how to treat them.

Asthma First Aid

An asthma attack can take anything from a few minutes to a few days to develop. It can be a very frightening experience and people having an asthma attack may need help straight away.

This resource satisfies the guidelines and standards approved by the National Asthma Council and Asthma Australia. The materials contained in this publication are distributed for information purposes only. Suitable medical and professional advice should be obtained before acting on any information contained herein.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING-ANAPYLAXIS

Potential allergic reactions to nuts, nut products, seeds & other food products

As you may be aware for some children even a minor exposure to nuts or foods containing nut products or seeds can set off a severe allergy which may cause loss of breathing.

The parents of children who may have a severe reaction would like you to help us make the school environment as safe as possible by exercising caution when packing school snacks and lunches. Whilst students with severe allergies can learn to manage and control what they eat there is no real way of protecting themselves from nut traces that may be present in the environment such as on clothing, furniture, drink taps and of course on other people's hands.

- Please avoid preparing school lunches with products that contain nuts, nut spreads, sesame products or chocolate that may contain nuts (e.g. Peanut Butter, Nutella and Tahini)
- If sending party food to school please avoid using recipes that require nut products (e.g. almond meal)
- As part of our Policy we do not encourage students to share food. All students will be encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.
- Please avoid packing any whole nuts as part of lunches for children under eight as they may get caught in small children's airways presenting as a choking hazard

School Council News

School council met for the last time in the year on Wednesday November 30. We started with Vietnamese food and drinks to celebrate the end of the school council year, and then welcomed Jessamy Millar to thank her for her outstanding contribution to the parents and friends club as she prepares to step down.

In spite of it being the last meeting for the year we had a packed agenda so it was a busy meeting. The main item of business was to review and approve the Annual Implementation Plan for 2017. In 2017, the school begins the third year of its four-year School Strategic Plan. The 2017 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) endorsed by School Council includes:

- Continuing to implement the new Victorian Curriculum. While all schools are required to begin implementing the new curriculum next year, Westgarth Primary School has been an early adopter and began the implementation process this year and so the school is well placed for 2017.
- Continuing to implement the KidsMatter framework (a mental health and student well-being initiative) as well as focus on implementing the Department's new Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program. This is a requirement of all government schools.
- Continuing to commit to building the capacity of all staff through the development, implementation and access to high quality professional development. In addition to its commitment to extensive, ongoing professional learning in the area of mathematics, teaching staff will also engage in action research related to the Curiosity and Powerful Learning initiative.
- Implementing coaching models. The school's middle levels leaders – each teaching team has a curriculum leader and an administration leader – will undertake coaching training as part of a commitment to distributed leadership. Also, Ben Cunningham (Leading teacher) will be coaching teachers in the area of digital technologies implementation – which includes coding/programming.

The second key item of business was the review and approval of a master plan for the school grounds. Together with the master plan for the facilities, this plan gives us a comprehensive way forward toward ensuring great learning and play spaces for the kids of Westgarth Primary School into the future. You'll hear more about the Grounds Master plan as some initiatives kick off in the new year. Meanwhile the Masterplan Funding working party continues to progress advocacy with all local elected representatives to fund these plans.

In addition to the AIP and the grounds masterplan, school council also reviewed and approved the following policies which are now on the school website:

- Equal Opportunity
- eSmart and Cyber Safety
- Extension and enrichment
- Languages
- Staff consultation and engagement

And that's not all. We also reviewed and approved the 2017 fundraising calendar. Then we closed the meeting, took a deep breath, and some of us headed to Bar Kelvin for a few drinks.

As the year closes I'd like to extend my thanks to everyone on school council this year, all those on school council subcommittees, parents and friends club contributors, those who made our huge events the fete and idol fly, the wonderful school staff and the school leadership team. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year break. See you in 2017

Ian MacLean
President

Community Advertisements

Golden Gear Robotics STEAM Laboratory Adventures in technology!

Kids learn to code through building and programming Lego Mindstorms and Lego Edison robots. Learn about circuits through fun & creative electronic craft activities in our mobile makerspace! Term 1 school holiday program April 2nd - 7th @ Jika Jika community Centre Northcote <http://www.goldengearrobotics.com.au/>

Full Boarding Homestay Families Are Sought for International Students Studying at Northcote High School

Northcote High School seeks quality homestays from our local community, to help care for our young international students studying in year 10, 11 +12. They are mainly from Asian countries, such as China, Vietnam, Korea, Thailand and Cambodian and some International Students are from European countries such as Italy and Germany.

Hosting International Students can bring a rich cross cultural experience and opportunity for our families. Many local families are already on board with the Northcote High School Homestay Program and over the years have enjoyed and benefited from the diverse cultural and language exchange experience, especially when they have school age children at home. The reverse experience for our International Students is very much a part of their overseas study journey.

If you have a spare room and are willing to take care of a young international student please contact the International Student Office 9488 2334 or email wang.lixia.l@edumail.vic.gov.au for more information. Full boarding homestay fees for 2017 are \$320 per week (tax free), which covers a fully furnished room, 3 healthy meals daily, laundry, household bills (including internet). Students are responsible for their own transport.

Jocelyn Hill, Assistant Principal Northcote High School




superspeak ENROL NOW!

Weekly public speaking & drama program for children aged 6 - 15

- ✓ Communication Skills
- ✓ Confidence
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Loads of FUN
- ✓ A Venue Near You!




CALL 9572 5249 | Info@SuperSpeak.com.au
www.SuperSpeak.com.au



IMPROVE YOUR GAME

Tennis Coaching Alphington P.B./ Alphington Park TC




SealPony Football is a developmental & participation program that introduces boys and girls aged between 5-10 to the game of football (soccer). It focuses on teaching the basic/intermediate skills.

* Fun games & activities * Great giveaways
For more information, call Joe (0415-388-028) or visit www.sealpony.com.au

Time: Every Sunday Morning
Starting Date: 12th of March 2017
Finishing Date: 28th of May 2017
Registration Date: Saturday 10 - 11 am
4th of March 2017
Address: James Street Reserve
Heidelberg Heights 3081

Looking to rent a Northcote house

We are a Westgarth family (daughter in prep) looking to rent a Northcote house for up to a year (from March / April) while we renovate!

If you are looking to rent, please call Chris on 0425 707 170.



8 week rental in Northcote

2 bedroom home for rent on Clarke Street from mid Feb to mid April. \$550. Call Jo 0409 266 250.



Fitzroy Junior Football Club wants you!

Registrations are now open for previously registered players, and will open up for new players of all ages and skill levels to join in for the 2017 season on February 14. Join the 500+ players and their families from your community and be a part of real grass roots footy.

Fitzroy Junior Football Club prides itself on its culture of fairness and sportsmanship above on field success, with the safety and well-being of the players being paramount.

Under 9's and Under 10 girls play modified rules including smaller ground size, playing zones and modified tackling, so it's a great entry point to 'Real Footy'! Our volunteer parent coaches are guided by the core values of Teamwork, Respect & Adventure. Let our club welcome you and your family into the mighty Fitzroy lion pride.

KEY DATES
Thursday Feb 9 - Carlton FC player visit - ALL WELCOME 4.30pm-6.30pm - BBQ from 6pm - Victoria Park Collingwood
Tuesday Feb 14 - Registration for new players opens
Sunday March 5 - Club Welcome Day - 9am-11am Brunswick Street Oval - merchandise available
Sunday March 26 - Practice match day
Sunday April 23 - 2017 Season commences

Registration enquiries: registration@fitzroyjuniors.com.au or visit new our website for further information at www.fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au

DON'T MISS OUT - REGISTER NOW

2017 Term 1, Junior Hoop Stars
A great introduction to basketball

Where: Ivanhoe East Primary School
Cost: \$5.00 per child per session
When: Friday afternoon 4:30-5:30pm



Come & have some fun, at IEPS SPACE Centre
Loan size 5 balls are available, just bring a drink bottle
Visit www.facebook.com/ivanhoeknightsbasketball for dates,
Runs from 10th of Feb to 14th of Apr.

- Clinics run by Ivanhoe Knights coaches
- Structured for Grade 1 & 2 school kids that are new to basketball
- Parents must stay during the session

IVANHOE KNIGHTS
Basketball Club

www.ivanhoeknights.org

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