From the Principal

Reports and how to read them
School reports will be coming home on 14th December. I would like to remind parents that the report is just a snapshot of your child’s learning at a particular time. You need to look at them in light of all the feedback you have received over the year, NAPLAN results for years 3 & 5 students, their social capabilities and all the ‘non-testable’ qualities they have. A child’s academic, social and emotional learning is developmental and will peak and plateau from time to time. The report is not the ‘be all and end all’ of your child’s academic journey and I would like to remind everyone that your child is so much more than a written report.

Class placements
The process for students transitioning into a new class of students, with a new teacher and in the case of year 7, a whole new environment, can be unsettling. Next Tuesday, year six students heading to state secondary schools will have their orientation day and we also will take that opportunity for your child/children to meet their 2017 class teacher. It is an important time to model resilience and reassure them that it is normal to feel unsure and anxious in new circumstances. Some kids may brush you off with a “she’ll be right” attitude but don’t be fooled by the bravado. Most will be feeling fairly unsure of themselves. Share some of your own memories of starting in a new class (or secondary school) - but steer clear of any horror first day stories. It can be reassuring for a child to know that you went through a similar experience and survived. Show confidence in their ability to cope. Confidence is catching.

Some reminders from last year’s parent talk on resilience were that to develop resilience people need to experience some adversity or disappointment. We need to support our children through tough times rather than shield them from these occasions.

Some of the other suggestions she made were:

- Help your child learn to help others. This gives them strategies and helps them develop empathy.
- Help your child to build social connections with a broad group of friends, not limit them to exclusive friendships.
- Develop and keep routines to help provide security and predictability, however having a break from routine is also important to reduce worrying.
- Help your child to focus on positive thoughts rather than dwell on negative ones therefore teaching children to be positive self-talkers is very important. To do this you need to model it yourself.
- Keep things in perspective. When your child is experiencing a difficult situation, help them to look beyond the current disappointment and focus on an optimistic future.

If you are concerned about your own child please feel free to speak to Jo or Carolyn at school or seek advice from your family’s medical practitioner.

Art Show
It has been wonderful watching the preparations for the Art Show unfold. The student’s work is simply stunning. We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday between 5 – 7pm. A HUGE thanks to Marta, the staff, Lily Wheeler and the students for their hard work. We are so lucky to have such a creative and talented art teacher in Marta. I would also like to thank in advance the Parents and Friends committee for providing the sausage sizzle and sushi and soft drinks/icy poles for refreshments on the night. We hope to see you on Clarke St this Thursday evening.
End of year concert
It is tradition that we have a school concert at the end-of-year in our non-Musical years. Therefore this will happen again on Friday 9th December at 9.30am on Brooke St. This concert is a performance opportunity for students to share their music experiences with their peers. Parents are also welcome to attend. A choir and band performance will be scheduled for the following Friday as well.

Immunisation and infectious diseases
As you will be aware there have been a number of reported cases of chicken pox and one case of mumps at school in recent times. We are obliged under the Department of Education and Training (DET) policy to notify parents when there is an infectious disease at school. This is so parents can make a decision if they would like to keep their child at home during an outbreak if they are not immunised or if they have a family member with low immunity. Certain requirements apply to exclusion of students/staff who have particular illnesses. Details can be located at https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion. Although most of our students are immunised it is our role is inform the community. I appreciate the regular updates might be distressing for some, we need to let everyone know so they can make an informed decision.

Year 6 Final Assembly
The Year 6 students will be recognised at the last whole school assembly on Monday 19 December. The students will perform a dance presentation from their graduation ceremony. This may be transferred to the gym if raining.

Volunteers’ Thank You Breakfast
Westgarth Primary School couldn’t function as well as we do without the wonderful contributions of our families. Parents/carers, aunts, uncles, grandparents and other volunteers contribute to our school to varying degrees and in various ways (committees, home reading, fete coordination, fete contributions, musical assistance, Kitchen/Garden, Super Science Club, Coding Club, Parents & Friends, Prep Orientation etc). We would like to invite anyone who has contributed as a volunteer at Westgarth PS in 2016 to our Volunteers’ Breakfast on Monday Thursday 15 December from 8.15am in the staffroom (Brooke St) in recognition of our appreciation of the work you do for our wonderful school. If you are able to attend please RSVP via the school email westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au for catering purposes. Children of those attending can play in the Brooke St playground where staff will be on duty.

The business of helping others
The year 5 and 6 students established small businesses that produced a good or service that was sold or provided to students and teachers at the school on Tuesday, 29 November. The students will now invest the profits from their small businesses in student-nominated microcredit projects. Microcredit projects loan money to extremely poor people living in developing countries. The loan will assist a fledgling entrepreneur to start a small business, earn an income and, in many cases, escape poverty. Over time, the entrepreneurs will repay their loans to the students at Westgarth Primary School so they can reinvest the money they have raised into other microcredit projects. A list of microcredit projects can be found on the Kiva – Loans that change lives website (http://www.kiva.org). Microcredit is a financial innovation by Muhammad Yunus who founded the Grameen Bank (Village Bank) in Bangladesh. In 2006, Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their work.

Continue next page...
Over the last few weeks, the students brainstormed suggestions for their small business ideas. They conducted some basic market research to determine whether or not there was a need/desire for their proposed good or service. They also sought to find out the optimal amount of money they could charge for their good or service. The students developed simple business plans, established timelines for tasks and produced promotional material for display around the school. Not only do such tasks exemplify the way Victorian Curriculum domains such as economics, mathematics and design and technologies can be authentically interwoven, they also demonstrate ways in which schools are embracing the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians by creating active and informed citizens; specifically citizens that:

– act with moral and ethical integrity
– work for the common good, in particular sustaining and improving ... social environments
– are responsible global and local citizens.

Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians December 2008, page 9

Our senior school project is providing an authentic purpose for real-life learning as students transfer school-based knowledge and skills beyond the confines of the classroom. The teachers have sought to engage our students in tasks that have real community value and this has enabled our students to rightly see themselves as important members of the global community who have been empowered to take action to effect positive change and play a key role in improving the lives of others.

Regards,
Jo Wheeler
Principal
Cyber safety – Student and parent education sessions

Detective Tracey Porter spoke to all of our year 5 and 6 students on Monday, 21 November and then later to over 120 Westgarth parents and carers. I described it as possibly one of the most important information sessions for parents/carers – and based on the feedback I have received I know many of those who attended the evening session agree.

Tracey discussed many things with our students including age restrictions for smart phone apps, cyber bullying, and increased their awareness and understanding of the dangers of social media and ways to protect themselves.

At the parent/carer information session, Tracey drew upon her extensive investigative experience with regard to cyber-crime (sexting, stalking, grooming, online bullying). She shared her up-to-date knowledge of apps, social media and the ever evolving online world – and importantly how to talk to children / keep the lines of communication with your children and about how to safeguard them online.

The websites listed below provided parents and carers about the sorts of things parents and carers need to know about online games, apps and social media sites that students use:

- [https://www.commonsensemedia.org](https://www.commonsensemedia.org)

Donald Eddington, Assistant Principal
ART SHOW

Thursday 1 December 2016
5pm to 7pm in the WEB

ART SHOW BBQ AND SUSHI on Thursday 1 December
While you are checking out the fabulous art this Thursday, Parents and Friends will be running a sausage sizzle and sushi stall. Dinner sorted!
Sausage in bread: $2.50
Sausage in bread with onions: $3.00
Sushi handrolls: $2.50
Soft Drinks: $1.00
Icy Poles: $1.00
Items will be served until sold out. This is an alcohol-free event.

Free and Recycled Uniform stall on Friday 2 December
Thank you for your donations of pre-loved uniforms. The stall will be held from 9am on Brooke street, and from 3pm on Clarke Street near the art room.
School Council met on October 26.

Ian Rogers was co-opted and welcomed onto School Council replacing Virginia Anderson who resigned at the previous meeting for the remainder of her term. Virginia made a great contribution to School Council including chairing the Policy subcommittee.

An appendix was added to the School Strategic Plan to address the earlier recommendation from the Languages Working Party that the Spanish program be a key improvement strategy under the Strategic Plan. The appendix will ensure that the program is evaluated over the implementation period.

School Council endorsed two new/updated policies; The Occupational Health and Safety Policy, and the Child Safe Policy. All current policies are available for review on the school website.

School Council endorsed small price increases in the Outside School Hours Care program (details to be communicated separately). Our program costs remain at the bottom of a comparison of local schools.

The Federal Member for Batman David Feeney MP will visit the school on December 7. Jo and I will meet him and will take the opportunity to inform him of our master plan for improvement of school facilities.

A decision was taken to move the review of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program from Education subcommittee to a newly established Working Party to be led by Assistant Principal Donald Eddington. All programs at the School are evaluated periodically, including the much loved Kitchen Garden program. The program is now in its 10th year and so is due for a review.

The scope of the review will include:
- The program rationale
- The curriculum
- The financials, and
- Parent feedback.

The working party will include a mix of staff and parents and carers. If you are interested in participating in this Working Party, please contact Donald.

Have you been loving these School Council articles in the newsletter? Would you like to get more involved in the strategic leadership of the school? Elections to fill half the parent/carer places on our school council will take place in first term next year. School Council terms are two years in duration. It’s not an overly onerous time commitment and it is a very stimulating opportunity to work closely with our amazing school staff to keep the school moving forward. Something to think about over the summer break.

Ian MacLean – President
OSHC NEWS

Rebooking Week Monday 5 - 9 December
To enable the WPS OSHC program to transition smoothly to a new software system and to manage student enrolments into the future, we will shortly be holding a re-booking week.
From Monday 5 December to Friday 9 December parents will be given the opportunity to settle their account to date in person. A designated table will be set up all week so parents can do this during drop-off and pick up times.
All accounts which do not have a zero balance after this time will be unable to make permanent bookings for 2017 and casual bookings will be not accepted until such time as the account is settled in full.
Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card slip or eftpos during this time.

2017 Enrolments and bookings
Parents can register and enrol using the My Family Lounge Parent Portal which is accessible via our school website or by clicking on:
Note that bookings cannot be confirmed until after Friday 9 December when your 2016 account has been paid in full.

Cessation absences
Under law, you cannot claim assistance for absences if your child has not started care or has stopped care. For this reason, it is important that your 2016 permanent booking end date accurately reflects the last day of attendance. Please notify us if you intend to take your child out of care prior to our default end date of 20th December. Further information is available on Child Care Fact Sheet 9 available from https://docs.education.gov.au/node/3206.

The OSHC Team.

Lost Property
There are a number of reading glasses and watches in lost property at the office. If any items belong to you please come to the office to collect.
Westgarth Robotics Club at the First LEGO League competition!

Last weekend the Westgarth Wombats and Westgarth Warriors competed with about 30 other teams at Westgarth’s very first time at the First LEGO League competition at Swinburne University. It was very exciting and the teams put a great effort, working well under pressure and as a team.

Thanks to everyone involved for making this such a great first year of the robotics club. The school administration has been wonderful in supporting the Robotics Program. Special thanks to Jo, Nella, Janine and Susan for their endless work supporting our requests for help. Everything from logistical support to emergency batteries were supplied with smile and encouragement. It was especially challenging given it was one of the first extra-curricular activities programmed by the school and there was a lot to learn. As a school, we are very privileged to have staff that are very good at making special things happen!

Thanks to Dan, Leah, Pilar and Chintha for being excellent coaches, Jo and Ben for getting us all the gear we needed, to our parent volunteers Craig and Michael for helping out in the after school sessions, to Brigitte for bravely letting us use her house for training on the weekends, to the Robogals who helped get us going, to Nerida and Hitomi for selling biscuits and lemonade at our after school showcase, to Jessamy and Emilia for their fab talks on our animal allies, to Mohammed for helping us with our many technical difficulties, to the students who worked hard all year and were a great source of inspiration for us all. Thanks to the parents as well for spending all day at Swinburne the day of the competition and for the many parent duties involved in this sort of endeavour.

We are looking forward to next year when we will be part of the “Reach for the Stars” program, and will be entering Robocup as well as First LEGO league. Register your child’s interest for next year now by emailing Kerry on wpssuperscience@gmail.com and I will be in touch in the new year.

It will be being held after school on Tuesdays. We are still working out the selection process, but if we could get an indication of numbers that would be great.

We are also looking for parent helpers for next year, and will be running an induction session for interested parents and teachers one evening in the new year.

Thanks from Kerry on behalf of the Westgarth Robotics Club.
This week’s eSmart tip comes from the successful parent information night on cyber-safety, held last Monday 21 November. Thanks to all those who attended – we hope it was an informative night!

**Important eSmart tip from Detective Tracey Porter:**

**Turn off location services on your smart phone’s camera!**

**Why?** Geotagging is where your photos are tagged with location data. If you clicked a picture in NYC, the photo’s meta data (called EXIF) will have this location information embedded to it. It’s useful when pictures are sorted according to location. However, when uploaded to Facebook or other social media sites, the meta data is still stored with your photos that you upload.

Also note that this disabling only works within the stock camera app. Other apps that access camera (like Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Camera+, Whatsapp) will still be able to tag location data to your photos. This is because these apps might have the permission to use your camera and your location data (and the apps can do both.)

If you want to be Snowden and keep privacy a top priority, you might want to disable location services completely (which will, of course, affect your Maps and GPS experience.). You can always change the setting for next use. Enabling/disabling the location services privacy settings does not affect the functioning of GPS of Apple Maps or Google Maps.

And, photos that were taken before turning off this feature will still have the location data.

**Step 1. Go to Settings app → Tap on Privacy.** Tap on Settings Then Privacy on iPhone

**Step 2. Select Location Services.** Tap on Location Services on iPhone

**Step 3. Tap on Camera.** Tap on Camera in Location Service on iPhone

**Step 4. Tap on never.** Disable Geotagging for Photos on iPhone-iPad

**Source:** https://www.igeeksblog.com/disable-geotagging-for-photos-on-iphone-ipad/
News from the Kitchen Garden
Mary – kitchen.westgarth@gmail.com Virginia garden.westgarth@gmail.com

The kitchen and garden are a hive of activity at the moment, although you could be forgiven for thinking that you had stumbled into the southern hemisphere Santa’s workshop. In addition to all the usual gardening work and cooking, students have been adding the finishing touches to homemade gifts. We have deliberately chosen craft activities that don’t require special equipment, and where possible can be made from found and reusable items. This speaks to the strong focus the program has on sustainability.

With growth of the school comes change, and this will affect our garden. Mary and Virginia are in discussions regarding some redefining of the borders of the current garden. This has created opportunity to rework some aspects of the garden that will improve its functionality and appearance. We are looking forward to some exciting developments and will keep you in the loop with any changes. Just like your gardens at home, sometimes you want to make changes, or you get a new trampoline or cubby house and something has to be reworked.

So what might you have seen if you were in the garden recently? Grade 3’s hosted their grade 1 buddies in a minibeast safari, the grade 3’s have also been learning about tools (names of, use of and safety tips), some have been planting seeds at various depths and predicting which will break the surface of the soil first. Grade 4 have been conducting scientific investigations of the compost and soil, what really lies beneath? Once you have looked at compost under the microscope – life is never the same again. Classes constructed a pie chart of what they found in the compost. One group of grade 4’s have been creating bird hides and learning how to identify birds – some birds are of great benefit to gardeners, and some are less welcome. Grade 5 have woven garden art into the boundary fences, made wicking pots from milk cartons – and all grades have weeded, watered, planted, propagated, swept, turned compost, fed worms and raked. Seems like a gardener’s work is never done ....

Students have delighted in harvesting broad beans, and thanks to some succession planting, we have been harvesting for over 6 weeks. They are a great plant – fragrant flowers, bountiful harvest, and provide great organic matter for the compost via their pods and chopped up stems. You may not know this, but after harvest, you can cut off the stalks and the plant will send up fresh shoots giving you a second flush of pods, just leave about 5cm of the old stalk behind.

Best wishes,
Mary and Virginia.

Here is our recent harvest table display. See if you can spot the plant press, tin can lanterns, paper compost bins, zucchini, worm food, artichokes, sweet peas....

Here is a wonderful volunteer Liz, explaining to the grade 3’s and their grade 1 buddies, why bees are such hard workers and so vital for our garden.
Learning to value others

Some girls in Grace's year four class were taking turns at skipping. Grace watched them closely and decided she would like to have a turn too. She asked to join in but Sally said, "It's too hard for you."

Grace had an intellectual disability. This meant she sometimes took longer to learn things. She was also not as well coordinated in sports as the other girls.

"Come on. Let me have a turn," said Grace. "Anyone can have a turn," said Deepa. "Have your turn after me."

So Grace tried to skip over the rope, but it got caught at her feet. "Try again," a few of the girls said. "You have to jump just as it hits the ground." Grace tried again. They gave her extra tries because she was learning. On the last try she managed two skips in a row. "You did it," said Deepa. Grace was really proud. "I did it!" she said. "And you helped me."

Learning to see another person's point of view

Learning to see another person's point of view is important for getting along with others and building positive friendships. Understanding others helps children know what to do in social situations and is the basis for developing caring and responsibility.

It's not always easy for children to see the point of view of someone who is different from them. Being different could mean having a disability, coming from a different country, being a different age or gender, or having different values and interests. Children who are seen as different may be left out of activities. They may face discrimination because others think they are not as good, as talented, or as important as they are. Discrimination can have very negative effects on children's self-esteem and mental health and wellbeing.

Skills for empathy

Taking others' needs into account involves values of caring, compassion and acceptance of others. It also involves emotional skills for empathy. Learning to empathise with another person means learning to 'walk in their shoes.' It means being able to recognise and value their feelings and needs, even though they may be different from your own.

Skills for empathy develop over time and include:
- recognising your own feelings
- recognising others' feelings
- listening to others' opinions
- thinking what it would feel like if you saw the situation their way
- thinking how you can respond in a caring way
- doing something to help.

Some children find it easy to tune into feelings. Others need more guidance to learn empathic skills. Adults have an important role in supporting children to learn kindness and empathy.

A little kindness can sometimes go a long way. Learning to skip has made Grace's day. Watching and supporting her has helped everyone else feel good too.
How parents and carers can help

Research has found that the examples shown by caring adults have a big influence on children’s empathy. Parents and carers (as well as school staff) can also foster empathy by promoting values of caring and compassion and coaching children to be kind and thoughtful towards others.

- Model empathy by tuning into children’s feelings (e.g. “Ouch! That must have hurt,” or “You must be feeling disappointed that your friend can’t come over”).
- Help children think about how feelings affect other people (e.g. “How do you think your friend might be feeling?”).
- Help children develop skills for understanding other people’s points of view by discussing the effects of discrimination and the importance of respectful and caring attitudes towards everybody.
- Talk about situations that involve empathy (e.g. “What I liked about the story was how kind the hero was,” or “That was a mean thing to do. Don’t you think she should have helped her friend?”).
- Notice when children are kind and let them know you value their behaviour (e.g. “That was a very thoughtful thing to do. I really appreciate it!”).

How to support children to accept and include others

- Teach children that there is nothing wrong with being different and that each of us is different to somebody else.
- Teach children that everyone has a right to be respected.
- Help children develop skills for positive friendships and cooperative play.
- Parents and carers of children with special needs can talk to the staff at their children’s school about how to support their strengths and about encouraging other children to include them.

Valuing others means seeing difference as something positive. It means trying to understand how others think and feel, and knowing that this helps you as well as them.

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

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Four laying chickens free to a good home
We are moving at the end of the year and unfortunately can’t take our lovely chickens with us. If you think you might be interested in taking them please contact Tom 0448 980 255 or Juliette 0415 296 626.

Golden Gear Robotics - STEAM Laboratory
Robotics & electronic craft holiday program @ Jika Jika Mon 16th-19th Jan. There are still spaces left in the 7-10 year old program and the 1 day LEGO Mindstorms, the 9-12 year old 2-3 day courses are nearly sold out so be quick as I would love to see some Westgarth faces! Bookings @ http://www.goldengearrobotics.com.au/
Like us on facebook https://www.facebook.com/goldengearrobotics/

Northcote High School uniform for sale; second hand, in good condition:
unisex jacket (SX), jumper (14), sport tshirt (14) sports shorts (36) and 3 x summer dresses (14).
Please contact, Jacqui on 0481 453 657.

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