From the Principal

‘Thank-you’ Breakfast for our wonderful Volunteers
Monday 7th December from 8.15 am Brooke St
We would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who make Westgarth such a great school. If you can join us for a breakfast at 8.15 next Monday morning please call in for a coffee and pastry. If you are able to attend please RSVP via the school email westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au for catering purposes or return the slip on the bottom of the invitation sent home yesterday. Children of those attending, can play in the Brooke St playground where staff will be on duty.

P/1/2 School Musical/Performance Night TONIGHT - Tuesday 1st December
We would like to invite the families of our P/1/2 students to a twilight performance at the Brooke St site on Tuesday 1st December. This musical performance will start at 6.30pm and is expected to go for approximately 40 minutes. If you would like to bring a picnic you are welcome to, we will also have sushi and sausages on sale. The Westgarth Kinder will also be running a cake stall fundraiser so make sure you bring some money along.

Transitions
Our new prep students have had two of their three orientation sessions and will meet their class and their 2016 prep teacher this Friday morning in their final session. Next week on Tuesday 8th December, year 6 students attending Northern Region state secondary colleges will have their orientation day at their new school. Year 6 students will need to make their own transport arrangements. We will take this opportunity to transition our own students into their 2016 classes. We have four new class teachers starting next year and a few teachers returning from family leave. They will attend on this day to meet their new class. A detailed list of teachers and their classes will be in the next newsletter.

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. Talk to your child about change and reassure him or her 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.

Resilience Talk for P/1/2 Parents - 3rd December at 7pm
(NB: Incorrect time was listed in a previous newsletter calendar)
This Thursday 3rd December we are hosting a talk about how to assist children to develop resilience. Parents of 2016 preps and our current prep, one and two parents are welcome to attend the talk, which will be held in the WEB on Clarke St at 7pm. Peta Sigley from the Resilience Institute will be running the session. This talk is free of charge and is suitably timed as we head into the transition period. We will run similar types of talks in different areas such as wellbeing, learning difficulties and/or disabilities next year. While this is targeted at building resilience in younger students, if there are any parents from other year levels who wish to attend this talk, please feel free to join us.
3 – 6 Musical DVD
The school engaged Aardvark Media to film this year’s school musical but since filming the two nights we have not been able to contact them. The musical was filmed on both nights but we have heard nothing further about the production. We have heard on the rumour mill that the company is currently not operating and this fits with our experience of them not returning our calls or emails. As disappointing and sad as this is, it is safe to assume that there will be no musical DVD this year. This company have been reliably producing our musical and dance school DVD’s for many years and this lack of professionalism is disappointing to say the least. It is out of the school’s control and I can only apologise to our year 3 – 6 families.

End of year information
Kris Kringle - From experience and parent feedback we have decided there will be no Kris Kringle for students this year. It is a constant source of grief for parents, students, teachers and school leadership. Classes will organise other ways to celebrate the end of the year but it will not include a Kris Kringle. Teachers will inform parents about these details shortly. In keeping with this decision we do not want students organising their own Kris Kringle.

Final Year 6 assembly – This will be held on Monday 14th Dec weather permitting. If it is raining we will re-schedule to the last day of school Thursday 17th at 2pm. The assembly will be held on the Brooke street oval on Monday.

Library – The library is moving back to the Brooke St site to make way for a fourth year five class in the WEB. As such borrowing has finished for the year and we ask families to send back any library books so we can complete the stocktake and box books for the move. As there will only be four year two classes next year we have decided to make Mark’s current classroom the library and the resource room will be a permanent location for Spanish/Science.

Northcote Leader/Fete Coordinator
I hope you had a chance to look at the front cover of the Northcote Leader this week where we thanked Sam Rigopoulos and Ben Harrison from Hocking Stuart Northcote for their generous donation of a Hocking Stuart auction package which sold at the fete auction for $40 000. This generous donation is going to enable us to do much needed playground works on the Clarke St site. So, a HUGE thanks to Sam and Ben and the staff at Hocking Stuart Northcote.

After two very successful fetes, coordinator extraordinaire, Janine O’Connell, is passing the baton on. We would like to acknowledge Janine once again for the wonderful contribution she made to the school in her role as fete coordinator. We are now in the search for a new fete coordinator (or two) to take on this very important role in the school. If you are interested in this role we would love to hear from you. If you are unsure, feel free to rope a friend in as a joint coordinator. The funds we receive from our fete are vital for the running of our school. A note will be coming home next week which will detail where the school monies come from and where they go.

Parent feedback
The education sub-committee are seeking feedback from parents on the reporting process and student leadership at Westgarth PS. A survey will be coming out via Tiqbiz this week. We realise it is coming out prior to the December reports but this is to gauge parent opinion on general reporting practice not limited to the actual written report you receive.

Jo Wheeler
## Diary Dates 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 1 Dec</td>
<td>Prep - Year 2 Evening Concert/Musical Performance</td>
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<td>Thurs 3 Dec</td>
<td>Years Prep and 1 &amp; New Prep 2016 Information Night 7.00pm - 8.30pm</td>
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<td>Guest Speaker Presenting - Information on Student Resilience</td>
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<td>Fri 4 Dec</td>
<td>Prep 2016 Orientation / Year 2 Orientation to Clarke St</td>
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<td>Second Hand Uniform Pop Up Stall 8.30am near Newmarket Street Crossing</td>
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<td>Mon 7 Dec</td>
<td>Parent Helper ‘Thank-you’ Breakfast 8.15am Brooke Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 8 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6-7 Orientation Day - State Schools only</td>
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<td>Prep to Year 5 Transition Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 10 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11 Dec</td>
<td>Icy Pole Day - $1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th Dec</td>
<td>Final year 6 assembly, weather permitting - 9.00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 16 Dec</td>
<td>Year 4 - 6 Neon Disco Party 6.30pm to 8pm in the gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 17 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of term. Students dismissed at 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 18 Dec</td>
<td>Curriculum Day - Student Free Day</td>
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## Meetings

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<tr>
<td>School Council</td>
<td>Wednesday 2nd December 6.30 pm in Staffroom</td>
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## School Dates for 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Day for Year 1 - 6</td>
<td>Thursday 28 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Day for Prep</td>
<td>Monday 1 February</td>
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## Term Dates for 2006

<table>
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<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>28 January to 24 March (as 25 March is public holiday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>11 April to 24 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>11 July to 16 September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>3 October to 20 December</td>
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## OSHC News - Curriculum Day Friday 18 December 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday December 18th will be a Curriculum Day - Student Free Day.
Please note that all OSHC bookings are cancelled for that day and a program will run only if there is sufficient interest (12 or more student bookings by Friday 11th). A flat rate of $40.00 will apply.
Please register your interest by emailing asc.westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

## Spotted in the playground...

These clever, crafty kids in 4 Kat have finger-knitted their way to a WPS record - their creation stretched all the way around the entire perimeter of the turf!
Can you spot the green string of wool? How far is that...?
Westgarth Super Science Club
Family Science and Technology night

"It was the best experience of my entire life!" ...the feedback from one student on the virtual reality demonstration. Well you can’t beat that! Go Westgarth! Once again we put on an amazing show, and everyone had a great time!

The Robogals brought along some robots for the kids to program/play with, the soccerbot was scoring goals (sometimes) on the LEGO robotics competition demo table, kids got to have a go at coding with Code Club and Sonic Pi. The 3D printers were a hit. Students and teachers got to dress up and play around with the Green Screen technology, kids got to experience a Virtual Reality game designed by a Westgarth Alumni student, we got to see how to turn an i-phone into a hologram projector. We made sounds and saw a visual representation of them at the Soundlab, Grade 3 Ben and Hannah screened the Grades 6 stop motion animation films and the Grades 3 green screen movies, even Jo our super principal put on a display about an exciting new partnership with Scienteworks “Design our future” about a competition the grades 5 will be able to enter! There were even baby chickens (why not) and robot biscuits!

Big thanks to everyone listed below who helped make this night such an amazing experience, special thanks to teacher Ben who spent all day setting up and answering IT questions from sometimes 2-3 people at once! The teachers who helped set up/pack up and supervise on the night- Jo, Carolyn, Don, Sarah, Ben, the Grades 5/6 teachers and Dianne, who kindly put up with the hassles of us using the WEB, the education support staff who sent out countless reminders/newsletter notices, Michael Napoli the photographer, Dan Tyrell, for building a huge LEGO practice table and helping out with the Sonic Pi and everything else! Gede for organising and setting up a fantastic Code Club area, the school captains who helped us with promotions, and the following parents and families who put on an amazing show! Jessamy, Nerida, Michael, Sarah, Nicci, Simon, Chintha and family, David, Craig, Marcus, Mark, Jac, Anita, Les, Luke, Poppy, Ben, and Dave. Apologies to anyone I have missed, there were about 25 families helping out.

Thanks so much to you all! Don’t forget that if your child is in grade 5 or 6 next year they have an opportunity to enter the LEGO League robotics competition next year, registration forms are available at the office and are due back Friday 11 December.

Westgarth Primary School

FOUND - A watch was found at the Science Night. Please come to the office to collect.
Science & Technology night

On the 24th of November the Science Club had their Science and Technology night in the WEB. I was so excited and looking forward to going because of the success of their previous event. When I entered the WEB there was already a buzz of excitement and lots of children and adults crowding around the intriguing displays. There was so much to see and experience.

The Virtual Reality exhibit designed and hosted by a former Westgarth student, Luke …, was very popular, with a very long queue of people eager to have a turn. It was amazing! You felt like you were in another world, as rode a dragon through the ruins of an ancient city. It was a great experience and an addictive feeling. Eliot from Grade 5 said, “(it) was the best experience of my life”.

There were…

- 3D printers producing lots of different items and objects, while the crowd watched with amazement.
- Opportunities to use coding to craft your own symphony. This was surprisingly easy to learn and great fun!
- Younger children having a great time dressing up and performing in front of a green screen and laughing as the watched the final result.
- Hologram exhibits that blew your mind! Using your own iDevice to create a number of objects that seemingly floated in front of you.
- Dave and his Laser light sound display gathered a crowd, especially when Dave had the microphone.
- Kids enjoyed quizzing the computer during a duel of wits in an attempt to identify if they were interacting with a human or artificial intelligence (AI)

Robogals had a fantastic interactive display. They brought along a variety of Lego robots programed to move and turn in many different ways and let the children play and fiddle with their creations. And finally the coding club projects, stop motion movies and green screen videos, made by the children at WPS were on display and enjoyed by all.

Well done to all the people who helped create this wonderful event, those that helped run and organize the exhibits on the night, those that came to this event and of course Kerry Mahoney who made it all happen. Great work guys!

Jade L
School Captain
NEWS FROM KITCHEN GARDEN

During our busy garden program this term, we have studied minibeasts in Kitchen Garden, investigated how water behaves in different soils, and made art for the shed wall. The year 5’s have honed their hammering skills and are producing amazing artworks.

We are planting our summer crops this week so there will be fresh produce for Term 1 next year. If anyone is available to help with the watering over the summer holidays, we would love to hear from you. Could they please contact Truda or Mary by email (westgarthkg@yahoo.com), call the Farmhouse on 9482 3323 or call in to the program.

A huge ‘Thank You’ to everyone who has helped with the KG program this year, especially our regular garden volunteers, Ana and Liz.

A recipe from this week

Red Lentil Dahl with Silver Beet
Serves up to 8

Ingredients
1 large onion 1 teaspoon turmeric
3 cloves garlic 1 cup canned tomatoes
1 cm stem of ginger 5 stems chives
2 tablespoons oil 3 large silver beet leaves
2 cups red lentils salt and pepper
2 teaspoon ground coriander 3 cups water approx
1 teaspoon cumin parsley or coriander for garnish

Method
1. Peel and finely chop the onion, garlic and ginger.
2. Heat the olive oil in the fry pan and cook the onion, garlic and ginger.
3. Add the coriander, cumin and turmeric. Stir until golden brown.
4. Add the lentils, tomatoes and water and cook for 5 minutes.
5. Finely chop the silver beet and add to the dahl to cook gently for up to 10 minutes.
6. Cut the chives with scissors into 1/2 cm lengths and add to the dhal.
7. Add salt and pepper to taste.
WESTGARTH
CAROLS
2015

JOHNSON PARK
MONDAY 14 DECEMBER
7:00 PM

Community Carol Singing – All Welcome
Live Brass Ensemble
Carol sheets provided
Bring family, friends and picnic blankets
Friend us at the Westgarth Carols Facebook Page

Years 4 -6
Neon Disco Party
Wednesday 16 December 2015

Neon Disco Party information went home yesterday, please complete the RSVP by Wednesday 9th December and return it to the School Office.
Six month rental wanted!
Westgarth family looking for a local house to rent while we renovate ours. Are you going away? Planning a sabbatical or looking for an excuse for that trip to the South of France? Two adults, two children and a cat need somewhere to stay from Feb 2016 for approximately six months. Chris: 0404 358 678.

Community Advertisements

**Bright Sparks Creative Workshops Holiday Program - January 2016**

Bright Sparks is a creative arts program designed to help children learn about themselves and develop a sense of inner strength, promoting confidence, resilience and general wellbeing. Children create artwork that is meaningful to them through a variety of creative media such as; painting, drawing, clay and recycled art materials.

Sessions are run by an Art Therapist and are beneficial for all children from Prep to Grade 3. Individual Art Therapy sessions are also available.

10:30am - 2:30pm January 19, 20 & 21
$160 / $140 (concession) for a 3 day course or $60 per session.

Jika Jika Community Centre, Northcote.

Bookings essential by Friday, January 15.

Contact Naomi on 0421 914 220 or email: naomi@brightsparks.id.au

Naomi Williams (M. A., Arts Therapy) is a Creative Arts Therapist with 10 years experience facilitating creative workshops, individual art therapy sessions and resilience programs for children.

Span Community House is running a Sensitive Santa program for children on the autism spectrum. Children and their families are given the opportunity to meet with Santa in a quiet, sensory friendly space. The program will run from 10th to 13th December. Booking are essential and spaces will fill fast. Please call Sarah or Colleen at Span Community House on 94801364. programs@spanhouses.org www.spanhouse.org/index.php/what-s-on/-sensitive-santa-special-day