What's happening...

School Council 2015...Parents and carers are a valuable part of our school community and we encourage and value your participation in the life of the school. We look forward to working with our community members in the programs offered here at Westgarth. There are many ways that parents and carers can be involved in classrooms, such as participating in the Parent Helpers Program so you can hear students read and encourage sound reading habits, volunteering in the Kitchen Garden, attending excursions, taking a role in the annual Fete or the yearly fundraising events to name just a few. There are many options so please keep a watch in the newsletter for calls for assistance throughout the year.

Some parents may be interested in joining School Council or be part of the sub committees. The School Council is the governing body of the school and is made up of both parents and staff, meeting twice per term. Each year prior to the School Council Annual General Meeting there is a call for nominations. There are 8 parent positions in the parent category, four DET positions, two co-opted parents and Principal [as Executive Officer]. Co-opted members serve a one year term while parents and DET category serve a two year term.

If you would like to find out more about the workings of School Council two information sessions will be held on Thursday 19th February at 9.00am and 7.00pm on the Brooke St campus. All interested parents and carers are welcome to attend. Please call the office on 9481 5577 to confirm your attendance. The School Council Election process and call for nominations timeline will be published in next week’s newsletter.

Please note the call for nominations will open on Monday 23rd February 2015.

All parents are welcome to pick up a nomination form, during normal business hours, from the school office or our website from the 23rd February.

Kitchen Garden...We are very sad to be farewelling our amazing Kitchen Garden specialist Betty Vassiliou. Her last day will be this Friday 13th February 2015. The phrase “From Little Things Big Things Grow”, truly describes the Westgarth journey – our garden sprouting from a dusty corner of the playground in 2007. Many hands were kept busy throughout the Garden development and the Kitchen installation but without Betty’s vision, energy and dedication we would not have the exemplary program we have today.

With Grace Conway as the catalyst, Betty has been the energy and innovator behind the Westgarth Primary School Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program over the last 7 years. With Betty’s skill in the kitchen, her ability to plant, enrich the soil with her composting, nurture the plants and then harvest an array of produce from the garden, her skill in resourcing, inducting and maintaining a long list of volunteers eager to be part of the program are an indication of the passion she has brought to the farmhouse each day.

She has engaged and inspired students every step of the way so they have a life-long love and understanding that food can be grown, harvested and enjoyed together, using the freshest and simplest ingredients. Her challenge to keep the program sustainable not only from an environmental viewpoint but also as a meaningful part of the curriculum at Westgarth has been a successful one.

We thank you Betty, for your vision, your hard work and your dedication to the Kitchen Garden Program over the last 7 years. On behalf of the whole school community, we wish you every success in your exciting new endeavours in 2015 and beyond.

Betty has fully inducted our new Kitchen Garden Specialists. We are delighted to introduce Truda Mason (Mon & Tues) and Mary Egan (Wed, Thurs & Fri) who will job share the role. Both of these new staff members bring a wealth of experience in both horticulture and culinary expertise. Betty, Truda and Mary will be working closely this week to ensure a seamless handover is in place. We would like to welcome them both to W.P.S.

This morning, a number of volunteers completed their Kitchen Garden Induction with all three Kitchen Garden Specialists. Thank you to the volunteers for your involvement in the program this year.

Have a wonderful week, Lynne Mackie, Assistant Principal.

**Diary Dates 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 19th Feb</td>
<td>The workings of School Council Information Session 9am &amp; 7pm Brooke St Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 24th Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Night Gr 2, 4 &amp; 6 6.30pm - 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25th Feb</td>
<td>Parent Information Night Prep &amp; Gr 1, 3 &amp; 5 6.30pm to 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th Feb</td>
<td>Welcome Picnic 6-8pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 10th &amp; 11th Mar</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45pm - 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 27-Fri 29th May</td>
<td>Grade 6 Camp 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 9th Sept-11th Sept</td>
<td>Grade 4 Camp 2015</td>
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**Meetings**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11th Feb</td>
<td>Policy 8.30am Resource Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OSHC 1.50pm WEB A.P’s Office</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fundraising 7.30pm TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16th Feb</td>
<td>Environment 5pm Resource Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18th Feb</td>
<td>Finance 8.30am Resource Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25th Feb</td>
<td>School Council 7pm Resource Room</td>
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</tbody>
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**Term Dates 2015**

- Term 1: 29/01/15 - 27/03/15
- Term 2: 13/04/15 - 26/06/15
- Term 3: 13/07/15 - 18/09/15
- Term 4: 05/10/15 - 18/12/15

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**Working With Children Check (WWCC)**

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. Cheers, Nella Bordin

**Student Contact Details**

A reminder to parents and carers the school requires notification of any changes to student personal information or changes to parent / carer contact details. Please also let us know if your email address changes so you can continue to receive the newsletter.

Please contact the school on 9481 5577 or email Nella on bordin.nella.n@eduamil.vic.gov.au with any changes. Cheers, Nella Bordin

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**Welcome to another year of Jammy fun!!**

With any luck, one of your new year’s resolutions for 2015 was “I really must get along to one of those Jammy Team cook-ups one of these days”. And so here’s your big chance to tick one resolution off your list early on – our cook-up dates for Term 1 are **Sunday 15th Feb** and **Sunday 22nd March**.

For those new Prep parents who may not know, we’re the team who make all the jams and chutneys for the Home Produce stall at the Fete in October, most of it produced during our monthly cook-ups at the Farmhouse on the Clarke St campus. If you’re looking for a fun way to get involved in the school community, we would love you to join us for a bit of chopping and chatting at a cook-up sometime during the year. And of course that invitation goes to everyone.

As always, cook-ups happen in the Farmhouse on Clarke St, **9.30am to 12.30pm**. Please bring your own apron and favourite knives. **Please RSVP** to Anne on 0417 114 088 or wundernelli@bigpond.com to help us plan how much stuff to buy and cook. And don’t forget to keep those cleaned jars coming – donations can be left in the trolley at reception.

And finally, if you can’t make it on these dates but would like to stay in touch and hear about other dates as they come up, please email Anne at wundernelli@bigpond.com and/or Like us on Facebook “Jammy Ladies of Westgarth”. Hope to see you on the 15th Feb or 22nd March – new jammy members always welcome!! Anne (0417 114 088) and Trudy (0434 376 411) on behalf of....The Jammy Ladies and Chutney Chaps
Sport News

Extra-curricular Swimming Trials for Northcote District Swimming Competition Grade 3-6
Come along to the school swimming trials at Northcote Pool this Wednesday 11th February from 4 – 5pm or Thursday 12th February from 4 to 5pm. All strong swimmers are encouraged to try out for individual 50m freestyle, backstroke, butterfly and/or breaststroke. There will also be a 50m freestyle team relay and 50m team medley relay.
This is open to all grade 3-6 social or club swimmers. There is generally only one entrant per school, per event, that swimmer may be you!
Students attending time trials must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian while at the pool.

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:
For all 12 Years and Under sports other than Australian Football, Basketball, Football (Soccer) and Netball all nominations will be registered online via the SSV website (https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/TeamVic). Parents will be responsible for registering their child and for downloading all details relating to trial dates, times, venues and costs. Nominations need to be kept to a minimum of three students per school.
Nominations for 12 Years and Under Australian Football, Basketball, Football (Soccer) and Netball teams must use the form available on the SSV website. This form needs to be signed by the school. If there are more than 3 students nominated for a particular sport then I will select from those students that can progress to trials based on their achievements in that sport to date. There is a limit of 3 students per school that can be nominated. Parents will be responsible for transporting their child to any trials or events if selected.
Please feel free to explore the SSV website at www.ssv.vic.edu. Closing dates for nominations vary for each sport so if you have any questions please ask me.

Thanks,
Go Pies!
Rushe Lynch

Sport Diary Dates

Grade 6 Interschool sport
Friday 13th February   Home game - Penders Grove (No softball.  Cricket at McDonnell Park)
Friday 27th February  Away game - Thornbury Primary (Cricket at Oulton Reserve)
Friday 6th March      Away game - Bell Primary (No bat tennis.  Cricket/softball at Capp Reserve)
Friday 13th March     Away game - Preston South Primary (No softball or bat tennis. Cricket Oulton Reserve)

Swimming (selected students only)
Tuesday 24th February  District Swimming 9.30am-1pm Northcote Aquatic Centre
Tuesday 3rd March     Division Swimming 9:30am-2:30pm Northcote Aquatic Centre
Wednesday 11th March Regional Swimming 9:30am-2:30pm Northcote Aquatic Centre
Parents & Friends Welcome Picnic
Friday 27 February 6.00pm - 8.00pm

We are kicking off the Westgarth social calendar with one of our favourite events – the annual Welcome Picnic!

The Picnic is a fun and relaxed Friday night out for the family. It’s a great opportunity for you to meet other Westgarth PS parents and your child’s friends, and share a drink and a chat. The children love a chance to catch up after school hours and scoff our sausages!

Come along and join us on the tiger turf at the front of the Clarke St campus from 6.00pm until 8.00pm.

What to bring:
- A picnic dinner
- Drinks – including refillable drink bottles for water
- Picnic rug / chairs
- Something to take your rubbish home in
- Coins if you want to purchase food

The following will be available in front of the canteen until sold out:
- Sausages in bread $2
- Cheese and Spinach Burek $2
- Icy Poles $1

Volunteers wanted! If you can help with setting up the BBQs, serving food, and packing up afterwards we’d love to hear from you!

This is a sustainable event, so we encourage you to walk, ride or scoot along. Please ensure any bikes and scooters are left secured in the bike shed at the rear of Clarke St, or outside the school fence line for safety. We don’t want any picnicking fingers or toes to be run over!

Please contact Jessamy Miller with all offers of assistance great and small on 0411 825 315 or marceljessamy@yahoo.com.

### Community Advertisements

#### Kitchen Garden — Gift for Betty from Volunteers

What a shame our Kitchen Garden program is losing the inimitable Betty. Westgarth PS’s loss! For those KG volunteers who would like to contribute to a farewell gift for Betty to thank her for the passion and hard work she brought to the job, please contact Catherine (4Tom) on 0437 687 107 or at catherine@ccwriter.com.au.

#### LIFE DRAWING GROUP

- Are you interested in attending (non-tutored) life drawing classes in the Northcote area? I’m wanting to set up a weekly or fortnightly 2 hour drawing group. No instruction, just an opportunity to draw from live models at an as yet unspecified location. I’m thinking small and intimate, with just enough people to cover the cost of the model and venue hire. Or perhaps we could share hosting? If you, like me, need to make a space for creativity in your life, call Catherine (4 Tom) on 0437 687 107.

#### LOOKING FOR SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION

Mum and daughter (grade 5, Clifton Hill) are at the ‘tail end’ of house renovations and are looking for short-term accommodation options. We would be willing to do house sitting or short-term rentals, available from 11/2/2015 for 9 weeks + or part thereof. We would love to take care of your house while you are away, or if you know of anyone going away or with short-term rental options please feel free to pass on our details. Able to provide references. Contact us on 0457 394 356.

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