What's happening…

School Captains…Friday afternoon I had the privilege of listening to the Year 6 candidates present their final speeches to the Year 5/6 students and staff. The sixteen students demonstrated their confidence to speak about their vision in front of their peers and showcase their leadership capacity. We once again would like to thank Graham from the Australian Electoral Commission who acted as a scrutineer and ensured that the preferential voting system was understood, as well as professionally printing all the candidates’ names on a Westgarth Primary School Ballot Paper.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the school captains for 2015, George D and Jade L supported by Vice Captains, Max C and Mikaila Y. We look forward to working with these leaders during the school year.

The Year 6 teachers will be speaking to the students and encouraging nominations for Sports Captains in the coming weeks. Thank you to the Year 6 Team for organising the process, supporting and encouraging all students to have a go.

Information Sessions…Many parents and carers attended the information sessions last week and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. If you were unable to attend these sessions the information is available on the school website. I would like to thank the staff for the professional manner in which they prepared the information and for their clarity when answering questions which outlined the teaching and learning programs for 2015.

Safe Travel to and from school…Today you will receive a separate email with a link to the Safe Travel Survey which has been put together by the Safe Travel Working Party. Please take the time to complete this survey as this community consultation will support their work and the information already collected during 2014. These results will be invaluable in guiding options for addressing issues of congestion and student safety.

Parents and Friends Welcome Picnic…What a wonderful evening to come together and celebrate being a member of the Westgarth community. The BBQ attracting the hungry, Boreks sold out and the band played on. Many families spread out their picnic rugs and enjoyed the opportunity to meet other families in such a relaxed atmosphere. I would like to acknowledge the Parents & Friends Club who initiated and organised this event including the opportunity to purchase food. It was great to catch up with some ‘old faces’ and meet many ‘new faces’ as well.

Picnic feedback from Prep Rosie students;
‘I thought the icy-poles were really good.’ Lachlan
‘I saw my friend Charlotte.’ Niamh
‘It was good I liked the food that was there.’ Samuel
‘I had lemonade.’ Charlotte
‘I played soccer it was good.’ Gabriel

Parent Teacher Interviews…..Don’t forget to log on to make an interview time, Event code and instructions were sent home last week and are also on the School Website.

Swimming… Tomorrow Westgarth students will complete in the Division Swimming Carnival at the Northcote Aquatic centre. We know that they will swim in a Fair, Safe and Friendly manner which is the Westgarth way and achieve their personal goals.
Diary Dates 2015
Mon 9th Mar
Labour Day Public Holiday
Tues 10th & 11th Mar
Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45pm - 7.30pm
Preps start full time
Parent/Carer Helper Information 9.15am - 1.15pm
Fri 13th Mar
Responsible Pet Ownership Prep - 2
Ride2School Day
Sun 22nd Mar
Working Bee 10am - 12 noon Brooke St
Fri 27th Mar
Last day of Term 1. Students dismissed 2.00pm
Wed 27th - Fri 29th May
Grade 6 Camp 2015
Wed 9th Sept-11th Sept
Grade 4 Camp 2015
Sun 18th Oct
Whopping Great Fete
Meetings
Wed 25th Mar
School Council AGM 7pm followed by 1st meeting of new council.

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

Ride2School Day
On Friday the 13th of March, Westgarth Primary School will participate in the National Ride2School Day.

We want to encourage students and their families to leave their car at home on this day (13th March) and get a taste of the benefits, ease and fun involved in choosing to walk and wheel to school.

Everyone will be encouraged to dress up their bike, scooter, skateboard, helmet etc.

Here are the results of our Hands Up Survey that we did on the day at last years Ride2School day.

<p>| How we got to school on National Ride2School Day last year (Wednesday 19th March 2014) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bike</th>
<th>Scooter/skateboard/etc.</th>
<th>walk</th>
<th>Public transport</th>
<th>Car pool</th>
<th>Own car</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>254</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Students 595</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chocolate Drive 2015 – Easter Fundraiser
Information and order form for this year’s Easter fundraiser will be coming home tomorrow with the students. Order form will also be available on our website.
School Council Report

New Principal update
The Principal position has been advertised. To view the advertisement please go to http://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/careers/pages/advacssch.aspx scroll down and click 'search or apply for a job' and enter the job opening ID '1014207' and click 'search'. Please encourage anyone suitable you know to apply. It is open until 15 March. After this time the Selection Panel will meet for training and will be provided with the applications. Following this the applicants will be shortlisted and interviews conducted. We will keep you updated.

Governance Working Party
School Council has established a new working party to review our governance arrangements to ensure they are best practice. We invite parents and carers who have an interest in, or knowledge of, governance, including corporate governance, to please consider joining the working party. Contact me to let me know your interest or with any questions.

Working Bee
School Council has approved a working bee which will be held on Sunday 22 March, 10am-12noon. This is the first working bee at the school in many years and will be followed by a picnic at Johnson Park. Please get behind this initiative which is a great community building opportunity as well as a chance to contribute to the school in a practical and social way.

We are looking for a volunteer to co-ordinate the working bee and others to help organise it. Please contact Mark Dinning, Environment Subcommittee Convener (dinning.mark@gmail.com) if you are interested in co-ordinating the working bee and/or helping out with arranging and running it.

Easter chocolate fundraiser
We are selling Chocolatier Easter eggs again this year in place of the Cadbury chocolate drive. Order forms are being sent home this week so order up to help raise funds for the school or think about making a donation instead, if you don’t want to buy chocolate.

Travel survey
The Safe Travel Working Party is conducting a travel survey to gather information about how to remove barriers to sustainable travel to school. Please take the time to do the survey to assist the Working Party in its objective of encouraging active travel to and from school.

Ully Merkel, President (ullmerkel@hotmail.com)
Northcote District Swimming Competition Grade 3-6
Well done to all the Westgarth swimmers who competed last Tuesday at our District Swimming Carnival. Our students tried their best, showed great sportsmanship and had a lot of fun. Aside from how well they swam, I was incredibly proud of their exemplary behaviour at the pool. I had many positive comments from parents and teachers from other schools about how well behaved our students were. Thank you to Kylie, Dianne and all the parents that helped us walk to the pool and back. Below is a list of all the students who competed last week. The students in bold have progressed through to the Division event which is on tomorrow – I’ll give an update next week. Well done everyone!

| Jonah A | Liam D |
| Nathan M | Zac I |
| Kala B | Jasmine L |
| Catherine M | Beau S |
| Isabelle M | Torren A |
| Caeden Y | Thomas T |
| Sophie H | India W |
| Imogen A | Kyra J |
| Camille I | Dominic H |
| Ben S | Max B |
| Grace Y | Jade L |
| Mikaila Y | Charlotte S |

Thanks, Go Pies! Rushe Lynch

Sport Diary Dates

Grade 6 Interschool sport
Friday 6th March Away game Bell Primary (No bat tennis. Cricket/softball played at Capp Reserve)
Friday 20th March (changed from 13th March) Away game Preston South Primary (No softball or bat tennis. Cricket played at Oulton Reserve)

2015 Grade 3-6 Sports dates
All the events below have now been confirmed. Please pop the dates into your diaries!
Tuesday 3rd March Division Swimming 9:30am-2:30pm Northcote Aquatic (selected students only)
Wednesday 11th March Regional Swimming 9:30am-2:30pm Northcote Aquatic (selected students only)
Monday 16th March T20 Cricket (interested Grade 6 students only)
Tuesday 26th May District Cross Country (selected students only)
Wednesday 10th June Division Cross Country (selected students only)
Wednesday 17th June Region Cross Country (selected students only)
Friday 21st August Westgarth Athletics Day (all Grade 3-6 students) – Reserve day is 28th August
Monday 14th September District Athletics (selected students only)
Tuesday 6th October Division Athletics (selected students only)
Wednesday 14th October Region Athletics (selected students only)
Friday 6th November Orienteering Championships
Friday 13th November Triathlon Day
What’s happening in After School Care?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Menu</th>
<th>Indoor</th>
<th>Outdoor</th>
<th>Raining (gym)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3.30pm Mixed Sandwiches</td>
<td>5.00pm Yogurt w/ Fruit</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3.30pm Pita and Veggies</td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>Frog Origami (Kat)</td>
<td>(TBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>5.00pm Rice Paper Rolls - Claire</td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3.30pm Bruschetta</td>
<td>5.00pm Cookies w/Jacinta</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3.30pm Mixed Sandwiches</td>
<td>5.00pm Fruit Salad</td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reminder:** Please notify OSHC either by phone 9482 3323 or email asc.westgarth.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au if your child is absent or has been collected from sickbay during the day and will not be attending the program.

Thornbury High School Information Evening
Thursday March 12th 2015 – 7.00pm
238 Collins Street, Thornbury 3071
Hear from School Captains, students, staff and School Principal Peter Egeberg.
Tour the school & attend some classes.
To register phone 9480 4066 [extension 7]

Community Advertisements

Auskick is ‘where champions begin’.
Are you a future Brownlow Medalist? (or a Buddy Franklin)
Come join us at our fantastic facility at Victoria Park along with our Level-1 accredited coaching team.
Clifton Hill Auskick, Victoria Park, Lulie Street, Abbotsford. Saturday mornings at 9.00am to 10.30am (Preps to 10.00am). Season starts; 18 April 2015. $81 for 13 Clinics and a backpack full of footy goodies. Register & pay online now www.aflauskick.com.au
http://www.foxsportspulse.com/assoc_page.cgi?c=1-4171-0-0-0

Bright Sparks Creative Workshops
Holiday Program - April 2015
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 and share their creations and experiences with one another. Sessions are run by an Art Therapist and are beneficial for all children from Prep to Grade 3.
10.30am - 2.30pm April 7, 8 & 9
$160 / $140 for a 3 day course or $60 per session
Jika Jika Community Centre - Corner of Union and Plant Streets, Northcote
Bookings essential by Friday, April 3.
Contact Naomi on 0421 914 220 or email: naomi@brightsparks.id.au

GIRL GUIDES AUSTRALIA VICTORIA
Visit our website at: https://sites.google.com/site/darebingtones/home for times and locations, or
call Karen on 0417 130 950 for more information.

Be part of something special!
Being a Guide is a great adventure that develops leadership and decision making skills, improves confidence, offers exciting activities and most of all – is loads of fun!
The Darebin District Girl Guides has units for every age group - Brownies, Guides and Rangers (ages 5 to 17) and meets regularly in Thornbury and Reservoir.
Come along for a free trial...

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