From the Principal

Meat works demolition
As you will be aware from previous communication regarding the demolition of the Liberty meat works on the property adjoining the Brooke St site, I have been monitoring and proactively investigating whether the demolition has posed any threat to student, staff and community health with regard to asbestos. In the last week of first term air quality testing was undertaken in our playground. This was completed over a period of time and also included swabs of the Brooke St playground equipment. The Education Department’s independent contractor completed the testing. The good news is that the report, which was received over the holidays, concluded that there was: “No Asbestos Detected”.
We will continue to monitor the situation and keep the school community informed.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
On Tuesday 19th April (next week) we will be hosting Parent-Teacher Interviews. On this day students will attend school from 9 – 12.30pm at which time they will be dismissed. Parents need to arrange early collection on this day. We will be operating a curriculum day care program out of OSHC from 12.30pm that day. Please be sure to book into that program if you require childcare. The purpose of these interviews is to give parents information regarding their child’s achievements and their progress. It is important to inform the teacher of any relevant information during this interview that will assist your child’s progress.

School Charges 2016
Thank you to the families who have paid the 2016 School Charges and Voluntary Contributions during Term 1. Families who have yet to contribute, a payment notice will be sent home during the week via your eldest child.

Prep Tours and Enrolments for 2017
Enrolments for 2017 are now being taken. If you have a child starting prep next year please collect an enrolment form from the office. Tours will be happening twice a week this term. Please spread the word to kinder friends and neighbours so that they can call the office to book a tour.

Important information for year 6 parents
Term two is an important time for year 7 transition. We would encourage parents to visit the websites of local secondary schools for tour times and dates and open days. These sites are very informative and will give you all the information you need.
Here are some important dates for Year 6 parents to note:

Week 1 of Term 2 - All Year 6 families will receive an information pack containing all the forms that you’ll need to apply for a local secondary school.
Friday 13th May - Return Year 6 to Year 7 Transitions: Application for Year 7 Placement Form
Please note that all students, whether they are planning to attend a government school or not, need to return this completed form to Carolyn at the office.
Wednesday 10th August -This is the date that you will receive a letter informing you about your child’s placement offer for 2017.
Tuesday 6th December 9-3.30pm - Orientation Day. Year 6 students visit their secondary schools on this day. Please speak to Carolyn if you have any specific queries or concerns.
Annual Report

Each year schools complete an Annual Report in March for the previous year. This is presented to the school community at the AGM, which, for 2015, was held on Wednesday 23 March, 2016 (last week of term one).

I am so proud to share the wonderful achievements of our students and staff. Across all learning measures Westgarth PS students reported performances at or above the middle 60% of Victorian Government Primary Schools. Student performance is consistent with similar schools with the exception of Reading where our NAPLAN results for year five students are higher than similar schools. Learning gain level of students from year 3 to 5 is outstanding with results showing high gains of at least 25%: Reading (48%), Writing (49%), Spelling (27%) and Grammar and Punctuation (29%). Numeracy, with a top gain level of 18%, will be a focus of the 2016 and 2017 Annual Implementation Plan.

In 2015 the teachers unpacked the Victorian Curriculum for English and Mathematics and developed conceptual scope and sequence documents for these two curriculum areas. They analysed the achievement standards and documented these as ‘plain language’ statements. Teacher professional development focused on developing high expectations, building teacher capacity and consistency of practice.

We developed draft documentation around non-negotiables for the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy for implementation in 2016. Much of the work completed was laying foundation for implementation in 2016. The areas for focus for 2016 and beyond include building teacher knowledge, capacity and consistency of practice that will lead to improved student outcomes in mathematics; develop a school-wide evidence-based instructional model for teaching and learning to enhance student learning and engagement; and build student confidence and positive sense of self-worth through embedding the KidsMatter framework as a school wide approach to mental health and wellbeing. With high quality professional educators and a large proportion of high achieving students, paired with supportive programs and practices to ensure all students needs are met as well as an active parent body it is no wonder that the schools results are so high. I would like to congratulate our students, staff and community on such wonderful outcomes.

Westgarth Idol

Westgarth Idol is on Saturday 28th May. Tickets go on sale Thursday 28 April 28 8:30am at school. Don’t miss out. Tickets cost $25 and all profits go to the school. To find out more, visit http://westgarthidol.com/

Parking changes around the school

Creating safe conditions for your children, our students, is something that we are all responsible for.

It was mentioned in the last newsletter that new signage and parking conditions would be happening in the streets around the school. This happened over the holidays so drivers need to be aware of these changes. ‘Kiss and go’ signs have been installed in Newmarket St, Brooke St and Clarke St. These areas allow drivers to stay inside or within three metres of their car for up to two minutes for the quick drop off or pick up of students. Disabled permits allow drivers to stay there for up to five minutes. You will need to make arrangements with your children about where to meet you close to the ‘Kiss and go’ zones.

When parking elsewhere, please do not encourage children to run across the road to meet you at your vehicle. Cross the road to meet them safely. Please do not leave children unattended in your car and avoid having children enter or exit the vehicle on the roadside.

Regards,

Jo Wheeler
Principal
**School Hats - Sun Smart Policy**

A reminder to parents and carers to ensure your child/ren bring a hat to school each day during the sun smart months from September to the end of April. When children do not have a hat they are required to play under shade.

**Woodwind Lessons** - Our Woodwind teacher Tom Hamnett has had to relocate to Adelaide for family reasons. I am currently looking for a new tutor to replace him. There will be no lesson this week. I will let parents know when I have found a suitable replacement who is able to teach on Tuesday afternoons.

John Carr, Music Specialist

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**Camp, Sports and Excursions Fund**

The Department of Education 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. 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](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

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**DIARY DATES**

Thursday 5 May: Mothers / Special Person Day Stall

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all the fabulous volunteers who collated buns and bags for our Hot Cross Bun Day. Our crack team managed it in a record-breaking 50 minutes. Phew! In the process we have raised $542-00.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Watch out for news on another Makers Group session and another Super Science family night with a special guest speaker.
School Council News - AGM and School Council March 23

On 23 March the WPS Annual General Meeting was held. Jo gave a report on the state of the school and Donald provided a summary of the current Annual Implementation Plan indicating key areas of focus for the school in 2016. The meeting closed with appreciation and gifts for departing school counsellors, Rosie Parry (staff representative), Emma Savage (parent/carer representative), and Jessamy Miller (Parents and Friends representative).

Immediately following the AGM the new School Council met for the first time. Nerida Weller was co-opted to School Council as Parents and Friends committee representative. Samone Hoskings was co-opted to School Council as Kindergarten representative.

Election of office bearers followed with the following appointments made:

- President: Ian MacLean
- Vice President: Julie Carpenter
- Treasurer: Julie Carpenter
- Secretary: Carolyn Shiels

The following sub-committees memberships were agreed:

- Finance sub committee: Julie Carpenter (convener) Jo Wheeler, Carolyn Shiels
- Policy sub committee: Virginia Anderson (convener), Andrew Wear, Gary Selwyn, Jo Wheeler, Melanie Davern
- Environment sub committee: Mark Dining (convener) Gary Selwyn, Jo Wheeler, Virginia Anderson
- Education sub committee: Donald Eddington (convener) Ian MacLean, Melanie Davern, Kate Denborough, Andrew Wear, Yolanda Stevenson, Glenn Richards
- OSHC sub-committee: Julie Carpenter (convener) Carolyn Shiels, and OSHC Coordinators.

Please note that all parents and carers are encouraged to join and participate in these sub committees. Participation in School Council sub committees is a great way to get involved with the direction of the school, connect with other parents and carers. If any of these sub committees are of interest to you please contact the office to be put in touch with the relevant convener.

With all the key roles filled we moved on to business. This included:

- Results from the evaluation survey completed by the last school council and preparation for a discussion at the next meeting about being a high performing School Council in 2016.
- Planning for a Parents and Friends discussion about fundraising and the balance between raising money and building community to inform the next update of the Fundraising Policy.
- Approval to engage architects for the design of stage one of the school Master Plan. These works include the possible relocation of the music room, relocation of the gym store room, opening up of the gym area, redevelopment of the canteen space for community space and a potential wet/ dry area.
- An update from Jo regarding the demolition of the meat works behind the Brooke Street campus and school community concerns regarding asbestos. Jo was able to advise that:
  - There is asbestos roofing on one building in the meat works complex
  - The appropriate specialists have been engaged to safely remove it, and the appropriate permits have been obtained for this work
  - It will be done in about two months time
  - As a precaution there will be testing for asbestos in the school grounds following the removal of the asbestos. Testing already completed indicates no asbestos in the school grounds.

After a detailed discussion with Jo, School Council expressed full confidence that Jo has undertaken all steps necessary to gain assurance of a safe environment for the school community, and that the assurances she has received fully satisfy our concerns.

My thanks to all who’ve signed on or signed on again to support the school by participating on School Council. I look forward to another productive year.

Ian MacLean, President
Kitchen Garden News - Autumn Apples Galore
Kitchen.westgarth@gmail.com    Garden.westgarth@gmail.com
During Kitchen we were fortunate to have 3 varieties of apples from the orchard of Virginia’s parents for tasting, observing and sketching. Two of them were non commercial varieties. This gave us the opportunity to discuss issues around why they can’t be found in the green grocers or supermarket but could be discovered in Farmer’s Market.

Donations
The following items gratefully received:
Cane baskets of any size
Lace curtains
Garden Hose
Lemons

Thank you, Mary and Virginia

Grade 3AP Highlights Term 1 Week 8
Maths: The Big 3 for adding which is... doubles and near doubles and make 10 and then and count from the largest number 1, 2 and 3 only.
Inquiry: Being a Good (valuable) citizen.
Reading: Reading Teams
Game time: Basically we didn’t have much game time but we did have some game time but we did a conundrum!
Writing: We continued our Jumanji story and learned how to buddy-check properly.

By Costa in Grade 3AP
Hola!

This term we have very exciting projects coming up in Spanish through Art, but we need your help to make them a reality! If you have any of these spare items please bring them to the art classroom, we will be so grateful!!!!!! Please leave them on the table outside the art room.

Thank you!!!

¡¡¡Muchas gracias!!!

Tiles of all kinds for the grade 6s’ project on mosaics (we are after different colour and sizes, wall tiles are preferable for their thickness but floor tiles will do just as well).

Newspapers to keep our tables clean...

Big and interesting shells for sketching

Old plastic animals / interesting objects for sketching

Old marbles for painting

To see our past projects visit http://wgpspanish.wix.com/westgarthspanish

EL VERBO DE LA SEMANA
The verb of the week

IR A LA ESCUELA
Go to the school

Westgarth Primary School 6
Westgarth Idol Update
The idol hotline nearly broke the grid in its opening week. With twelve acts now confirmed, all eyes are now on 28th May for the best parent social night of the year. For more info and a veritable visual feast of content, visit westgarthidol.com or follow us on Facebook.

There will be a monster ticket sale on Thursday, April 28 at 8:30am. More details will be in the next newsletter, but make sure you get one as last year they went in an hour. Tickets will be $25 each.

Thanks, Jonny.

Come and create some delicious autumn flavours for Westgarth’s Whopping Great Fete
9.30am, Sunday 8th May - Westgarth Farmhouse

At this cook-up we will be making scrumptious preserves with fresh beetroot, pear and ginger. Best of all a sample jar will be yours to take home and enjoy!

RSPV: by email to Anne (annemartinelli@bigpond.com).
BYO: Please bring with you an apron and a sharp knife.
Can kids come too?: Children are welcome to come and help or just have a play, but please remember to bring any games or equipment with you as we do not have access to OSHC resources.
Ride2School Day 4 March 2016 - Record Breaking effort!

We broke our school record once again!

What a magnificent day we had for our annual Ride2School Day celebration. So many decorated bikes, helmets and shoes - it was a cacophony of colour and creativity! We had parades on both sides of the school and even the teachers got in on the parades too.

The drawing competition was a ripping success. The quality of the drawings were exceptional. With over 100 entries, we have put as many drawings in the newsletter as possible!

Thank you to the students, staff and particularly the parents for helping to make this event so successful.

Here is the breakdown of the ways the kids travelled to school on the day (compared to past years).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bike</th>
<th>Scooter/ skateboard etc.</th>
<th>walk</th>
<th>Public transport</th>
<th>Car pool</th>
<th>Own car</th>
<th>Total active transport</th>
<th>School population</th>
<th>% active travel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
OSHC News
Welcome back everyone. We are so pleased to see you all and are enjoying hearing about all the exciting things you did on the break. We are glad to see so much energy and know that we can look ahead to some wonderful activities this term at Westgarth PS OSHC.

We welcome Joy to the team this term and know that she will bring her own special magic to our program. Our activities and menu are being rejuvenated and we trust that you will enjoy them as much as we are planning them with YOU in mind. Let us know if you have any special requests/talents so that we can be sure to include them when we put the activities etc. together.

Our wonderful planting done last curriculum day is coming to fruition and the plants/herbs are looking vibrant and healthy.

Please make sure you book in for the Early Dismissal on Parent-Teacher interview day, Tuesday 19 April as bookings are filling up fast.

A reminder that hats are still required when playing outdoors till the end of April.
We hope to see you in OSHC soon and bookings can be made by calling 9482 3323. The OSHC Team.

What’s happening in **Before School Care** This Week?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Inside</strong></th>
<th><strong>Indoor</strong></th>
<th><strong>Outdoor/Gym</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Menu - Fruit served daily</strong></td>
<td><strong>Welcome Back Stories</strong></td>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7.30am - 8.30am</td>
<td>Toast, muffins, cereal, fruit, yogurt, juice, water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7.30am - 8.30am</td>
<td>Toast, muffins, cereal, fruit, yogurt, juice, water</td>
<td>Welcome Banner Sack Races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7.30am - 8.30am</td>
<td>Toast, muffins, cereal, fruit, yogurt, juice, water</td>
<td>Chess Club Autumn Leaf Pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7.30am - 8.30am</td>
<td>Toast, muffins, cereal, fruit, yogurt, juice, water</td>
<td>Cartoon Capers Fitness Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7.30am - 8.30am</td>
<td>Toast, muffins, cereal, fruit, yogurt, juice, water</td>
<td>Free Play Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What’s happening in **After School Care** This Week?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Inside</strong></th>
<th><strong>Indoor</strong></th>
<th><strong>Outdoor/Gym</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Menu - Fruit served daily</strong></td>
<td><strong>Weave an autumn loom</strong></td>
<td>Shave Cream Drawing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>Hawaiian pizza</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>Salada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>Hot dogs in bread</td>
<td>Comic Book Characters Make your own paint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>Fruit salad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>Raisin toast</td>
<td>Rope People Icy pole stick dragonflies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>Muffins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>Fresh sandwiches</td>
<td>Bath Bombs ANZAC Day Wreath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>Quelch sticks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>Chicken Noodles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>Mountain bread and dip</td>
<td>Free Play Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reminder: Please 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.
Bike Skills Course for Parents
Want to feel more comfortable riding with your kids? This hands-on course is for parents of kindergarten or primary school students. It will cover who rides in front, crossing roads and driveways, road and footpath rules, transitioning from footpath to riding on the road and more. Sunday 17 April, 1.00 to 3.30pm at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Preston
You can book and find more info at www.darebintransport.eventbrite.com.au Please note this course is for parents only.

We’re an ex-WPS family who are looking for a house close to Westgarth station to rent over the Melbourne Cup weekend, Oct 28 - Nov 1, for some interstate guests. There will be 6 - 8 of them, but they really only need a bed at night, as they’ll be spending the days with us. If you’d be interested in renting your house, please give me a ring 0422 868 680. Many thanks, Judy.

The Fitzroy Junior Football Club is recruiting players for Under 10 boys teams.
For registration enquires: registration@fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au or check out our website for further information at www.fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au

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