“Social Club Books” Library Book Fair starts Monday, October 28th
Come along and browse at the “Social Club Books” Library Book Fair. It will be open next Monday to Friday, October 28th until Friday November 1st, 8.30-9.30am and 3-4pm each day, in the Library. This is a perfect opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for all ages and non-screen based activities for the January holidays. The Wales Street library hosts this book fair to raise funds that will help to supplement the library book purchasing budget in 2014.

Brochures are being sent home this week with the eldest child. There is also an opportunity to purchase online at www.scb.com.au, using the promocode: 533122, if you are unable to make it to the fair in person.

Thank you in anticipation!
Sallie

People needed to join the 2014 Fete Committee
The fete is an enjoyable and memorable event which brings together the school community, family, friends and the wider community. It generates a substantial amount of funds which are needed to help supplement government funding.

All money raised by the fete in the last 3 years has been used to finance new play equipment and landscape playground areas. The school oval is the next major project that will need funding.

Please join the fete committee and help organise one of the school’s major fundraising events.

We require talented people to come and share their skills, energy, and ideas. There are a range of positions to fill such as Risk OH & S, Marketing, Infrastructure, Stall co-ordinator liaison, Amusement & ride co-ordinator. Please contact the school by email at wales.street.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au. For any questions please call Maria Romnios, Event co-ordinator on 0407 999 270

Christmas Night Shopping Market Monday 2 December 2013, 6pm – 10pm
Please note that the market will now start at an earlier time of 6pm, which aligns with the instrumental concert that is planned for the same night.

The stalls for the Christmas Shopping Market are filling fast and space is limited, so if you are interested in being involved please call Leah Taylor this week on 0403 576 925 or email leah.taylor@straightshooter.com.au for more information.

Be sure to mark this date and time in your calendar and spread the word to your family and friends to come along.
The Process of Class Formations for 2014
In the process for developing classes the staff endeavours to ensure that there is an even match of gender, social skills and a range of student academic abilities. Last year we also added the philosophy that students should have more of an opportunity to mix socially and develop friendships with other students as we found that this had not been occurring. This change has proved to be a very beneficial experience for students and therefore parent requests for specific friendship groups will now not be considered as part of the class formation process. However parent input regarding specific personal information is still an important aspect of the process. Parents are now invited to write submit this information by Friday 1st November to indicate information that should be taken into account by staff in forming classes.

Please address the letter to:
2014 Student Information
Christopher Sexton - Principal
Wales Street Primary School

From the Principal

2013-14 School Budget
Recently I met with the school accountant to review the school Budget provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) for 2014. When we compared the amounts provided for 2014 with this year’s Budget we have found that the $ Budget allocated to the school for student resources, operation costs, staffing and maintenance has effectively been cut as whatever increases that were increased for inflation have been offset by deductions. For example this year the school received $24,322 for students to provide support for students where English was not their first language and now for 2014 have received nothing as it is projected that we will have less than 36 students Technically the State Government has not decreased the $ figure funding to schools, however, as it has only increased by 1.7% per student and effectively funding has gone backwards for Wales Street.

I had very high hopes that the Gonski or Better schools money would start to be provided to schools next year but at the moment both State and Federal Governments are providing little if any information about when and how much. Given recent Federal announcements by the Treasurer unfortunately I am now anticipating an announcement of a delay to 2015.

Enrolment Intentions for 2014
Apart from Year 6 students, could parents/guardians who currently have children attending Wales Street and are planning to transfer at the end of this year please notify the school office by Friday 1st November. It is vital that we have accurate information as it greatly influences planning of class numbers and staffing for next year.

Yours faithfully
Christopher L. Sexton
Principal

National Children's Week 2013 Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th of October
Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. It is also a time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities. It is an annual event celebrated in Australia since 1996, when it was decided to adopt a permanent theme: "A Caring World Shares" as a reflection of Children's Week aims. For more information please click on the link http://walesstps.vic.edu.au/articles/188