Dear Parents and Guardians,

Curriculum Day 26th April
Although this information was published last term I thought I should remind parents that Friday 26th April is one of the schools designated Curriculum Days for this year. The focus will be on Inquiry Learning with international presenter Kath Murdoch. Staff will also be working the following day on Saturday 27th with a focus on the use of inquiry learning in mathematics. Our 3rd Curriculum day will be on Monday the 4th November (the day before the Melbourne Cup Day) and taken as a day in lieu for the Staff working on the Saturday. The final Curriculum Day for this year will be Friday 20th December. Could people please make a note of these dates. The school SAC program will operate on these days but bookings will need to be made well in advance of these dates.

Commencement of Term 2
I would like to welcome everyone back to the commencement of 2nd term and hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing holiday. We welcome two new staff members: Halley Kepiro 1/2, replacing Helen and Alexandra Darlington-Cramond, who will be working in Dan’s 5/6 class Tuesday – Friday. This term will be a very busy time at Wales Street as there will be a curriculum Day on Friday 29th April, School Photos 6th May, NAPLAN testing 14th – 17th May, Education Week 20th – 26th May, Mother’s/ Special person’s Day Stall, winter interschool sports, Mid Year Reports and Student Led Conferences for all students on the 27th June. Please make a note of these activities and dates.
Prep Enrolments for 2013
This week we commenced the enrolment process for next year and I have started prep school tours for 2013 and these will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays up until the 31st July from 9.30 -10.30 . Contact the School Office if you wish to take up this opportunity for a tour or pass this information on to families who you think will be interested. Please note as the school needs to monitor and manage the enrolment intake, parents who are considering enrolling at Wales Street are asked to have completed the enrolment procedure by that date.

Parents who have an existing child/ren at the school please note after the 31st July enrolment applications will be restricted to only those children where Wales Street is the closest school regardless of whether you currently have a child at the school so please enrol by this date.

2013 Education Week 19th -25th May
This year Education Week is being held on the 19th – 25th May and it is an opportunity for the community to visit the school. The theme this year will be on Inquiry learning through the Primary Years Program (PYP) at Wales Street. There will be an Open Morning on Thursday 23rd to see Wales Street in Action with student tours and that evening a parent information night on the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP) on how Transdisciplinary Teaching works with Inquiry Learning at WSPS. Details later this term.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2010
In 2008, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) commenced in Australian schools. The program continues in 2013 with all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 being assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the assessment program. This year the tests are scheduled for the mornings of Tuesday 14th May, Wednesday 15th May and Thursday 16th May. All schools across Australia complete the tests on the same days. If students are absent on the test days wherever possible, we will organise for individual students to complete a catch-up test at another time during the week. Students who are absent on test days can only sit tests until Friday 17th May.

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by class teachers. Tests will be marked by expert, independent markers. The content of each test is informed by the National Statements of Learning in English and Mathematics, which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Test questions cover aspects of Literacy (Reading, Writing, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and Numeracy. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The Writing task requires students to write a narrative or story.

If your child is involved in the testing program you will receive a NAPLAN report which is issued later in the year to the school. The same report format is used for every student in Australia and we will notify you when the reports are being sent home. Your child’s results are strictly confidential. NOTE: If your child is Grade 5 this year, we recommend that you keep the NAPLAN results safely for future use (Could be needed for transition to Year 7)

The report is only one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process, and does not replace the more extensive and informed judgments made about your child by the teaching staff. NAPLAN results provide an important measure of how all Australian students are performing in Literacy and Numeracy. The performance of your child on each test is shown on national achievement scales. Six bands are reported for each year level. One of these bands will represent the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic Literacy and Numeracy skills needed to participate in that year level. The performance of your child can be compared to that of other students in your state or territory and across Australia. Further information can be found on the NAPLAN website http://www.naplan.edu.au/

Christopher L. Sexton
Principal
SCHOOL AGED CARE
CURRICULUM DAY

(FRIDAY AFTER ANZAC DAY - 26TH APRIL)

Friday 26th April is a Curriculum Day. The School Age Care program will be available for children who need care for this day.

Bookings for Curriculum Day care are essential and can be made on 9480 3896 or email oshc.wales.street.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or in person by Wednesday 24th April.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL AS WE NEED TO HAVE AN INDICATION OF NUMBERS FOR STAFFING PURPOSES AND PLANNING

The cost for the day is $35 per child, less if you receive Child Care Benefits. The program will operate from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm. The children will need to bring a morning tea snack, lunch and a drink bottle.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS

This terms Active After School Coaches are Stev from “Circus skills” and Tom from Evolve MMA who will teach the children some Judo skills.

Stev will be coaching on Tuesday commencing 30th April and Tom will coach on Thursdays commencing 2nd May. These two programs will operate for 7 weeks for Term 2. The sessions will operate from 4.00 to 5.00 for all children who have an After Care booking.

Darebin Primary School Holiday Program

If you wish to join the mailing list for future Holiday programs please provide your name, address, and number of children via email or telephone.

Ph: 8470 8100
Email: primaryschoolholidayprogram@darebin.vic.gov.au

For further information see the Darebin Holiday program website: www.darebin.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram

Library News…

VICTORIAN PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

The challenge is a means to promote the importance of reading among students in Victoria. It is also designed to encourage families to be more involved with their children’s reading.

All students at Wales Street have been given a Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge consent form, to fill in and return as soon as possible. Usernames and passwords will be handed out this term, once Trevor and I have managed to load your names onto the database!

I hope you have all been creating your list of “Books read in 2013”, so that you can add them to the Challenge database in due course.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Tuesday May 14th from 3pm to 4pm and then daily, 8.30-9.30am and 3-4pm until Monday 18th May

Put this in your diary and come and find great children’s books to buy. The Library receives Book Commission on all sales.
**Woolworths Earn and Learn**

We are excited to be taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. You can help our school by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 8 April and Sunday 9 June 2013. We will redeem these for awesome educational resources for our school.

For every $10 spent at Woolworths you will receive a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point. Stick them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet, available from Woolworths or our School Office. Once it’s completed, just bring it back to school and put it in the box at the Office.

The more we collect, the more we can redeem. There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program, and we’d like to get lots of new gear! Products in the range include resources for mathematics, English, science, art & crafts, through to sports gear, library supplies and more.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program.

**Baker’s Delight, Northcote**

As part of Baker’s Delight, Northcote’s commitment to the local community, they are working with all school families to help raise funds to purchase new equipment, etc for our school.

When you purchase any products from their range, 5% of all purchases will be donated back to the school, simply mention Wales Street Primary School before we complete the transaction.

**Wales Street Fete Raffle**

Congratulations to the following winners:

- First prize: Frank Missio
- Second prize: Anna Kalomallos
- Third prize – Jack Fanta
- Fourth prize – Sarah Williams

Maria Romnios – Fete Committee

**School Nurse Report**

Hello everyone,

Welcome to Term 2! I hope your holidays were fabulous- the weather was truly luscious wasn't it! I’m hearing many stories of outdoor pursuits from everyone who loved those sunny days.

Now we are well and truly into our school year I thought I might pop in an article to assist in our children’s learning and happiness. It’s a good idea to evaluate where we are at with our kids –we may have been doing many things already, or would like to do things differently or introduce a new idea-how ever we work with our children, it’s all ultimately positive isn’t it?

7 positive parental engagement tips to help kids

**7 positive parental engagement tips to help kids**

Posted on March 25, 2013 by Helen Splarn

Family-school and community partnerships are re-defining the boundaries and functions of education. They enlarge parental and community capacity; they create conditions in which children learn more effectively. In these ways they take education beyond the school gates. *
The Family-School and Community Partnership Bureau recently commissioned a report into the effects parental engagement on children’s educational outcomes. It found that parents who actively engaged with both the school and community to enhance their child’s learning experience greatly added to the academic potential of that child.

“The report underlines the strong role parents have in potentially improving the educational attainment of their children, particularly when in partnership with school learning,” said Dr Emerson, chief executive officer for ARACY.

Tips on how to provide effective parental engagement:

Give support: Providing a supportive and stimulating home environment that encourages learning by asking questions and exchanging ideas. Involve the whole family in learning activities, including homework and other curriculum-linked activities and decisions, like measuring ingredients when cooking, writing the shopping list, going to art galleries, plays and museums. Make sure they have a dedicated learning space at home and keep a supply of stationary and colored pens so they can complete homework. Help them to set academic goals each year and know the skills they need to complete tasks in various subjects.

Expect a child to achieve: Having high expectations for children to achieve academically and in other ways encourages them to do their best. Let the child know that you are proud of them for trying their best, not for coming first in something.

Develop a positive parenting style: This includes modeling behavior that shows an interest in learning new things, not being afraid to make mistakes and learn from them and having the discipline to finish difficult tasks before having fun.

Volunteering: Parents that get involved in school life and community activities are setting an example to children that it is good to be part of something and work with other people. It also sends a signal to children that school is important and a great place to be. Parents can volunteer at school functions such as sports day, reading groups and excursions. They can also attend school plays, events and sporting activities.

Continuity helps: Give children a little help often and on an ongoing basis. This help will change during their time at school; for primary aged children it is more about being involved in activities at the school during school time like reading groups, sports days and band practice. As they progress to high school it is more about encouraging them academically, knowing who their friends are and what they are up to and supporting their sporting pursuits. The most important thing is that the level of commitment by parents needs to stay the same.
Keep it real and local: Where possible link school work into current or local events. For example, the recent meteorite that came close to the earth could be a starting point to explore space and planets, at an age appropriate level. Keep an eye out for workshops at the local library or art gallery. Also go to plays put on by local theatrical groups. For younger children you could set up a veggie patch in the back garden and look at the life cycle of a plant and grow healthy food.

Build a bond with the school: Build a relationship with your child’s teachers, one based on trust and mutual respect. Let your child know that you are interested in what the teacher says and what is going on in the classroom. Engagement strategies are more likely to be successful when teachers know how to communicate effectively with parents. Through this mutual understanding and commitment, a child’s wellbeing will be enhanced, and they will have a much greater chance of living a life that they value, where their full capacities and aspirations are fulfilled.

Parental engagement in learning outcomes at home can lead to higher grades and test scores, lower drop-out rates, higher education rates and a greater likelihood of children going onto higher education and university. It also has the added bonus of helping to improve school attendance, increase social skills, gives a greater sense of personal achievement and helps children focus and engage in school work.

I hope you enjoy your first week back. Take care.

Catherine Fisers
School Nurse.

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Chess Club News

The first session started this Tuesday. A group of very excited students came along and immersed themselves in chess during lunchtimes.

If your child is interested in joining chess club, please fill in a registration form (available at the office). Payment detail is on the registration form.

Here’s a chess puzzle for you to work out.
Can you find the Checkmate in 2 moves?

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UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL
Gifted Students’ Program…. Acceleration Program

In 2013, the following selection procedures will be used to identify students for the 2014 Year 7 intake:
1. Tests administered by EduTest on Sat. May 11th at 9am at The University High School
2. Interviews with shortlisted applicants & their parents/guardians.

Please apply online via the link on our school website. www.unihigh.vic.edu.au by Fri. May 3rd.

Open Day: May 1st 2013. www.unihigh.vic.edu.au
Northcote High School

Term Two Tours

Tours commence on April 15. They run several days a week in Term 2 commencing at 9.15 am. The last tour is May 22. The tour takes about 1 hour. Check our website for exact dates. All welcome, http://www.nhs.vic.edu.au or ring the office to book a place 9488 2300.

Northcote High School, Open Morning - 24 April

Open Morning will be on Wednesday 24 April 2013, from 9.15 -12.00 noon. Information sessions will be run through the morning. A repeat information session runs at 7 pm at night.

ACE High Achiever’s Program Yr 7 Entry 2014

Information regarding this program, and application forms, are now on our website. The changed arrangements of 2012 no longer apply and any interested families are encouraged to apply. See our website for details: http://www.nhs.vic.edu.au, Applications Close: Monday 29 April, 2013. 12.30 pm Test Date: Saturday 4 May, 2013. 9.00 am

CLASSIFIEDS School Council accepts no responsibility for goods / services offered here

After School Chinese Program. Xin Jin Shan Chinese Language and Cultural program. First lesson Tuesday,23 April. Student application forms for Second term are available at the office or contact jeanine.ma@xjs.vic.edu.au for more information.

6 month rental/house sit - 4 bedroom house Thornbury $500 per week ONO. Fully or partially furnished house to rent/house sit. 259 Victoria Road Thornbury (near Darebin Rd) 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, lounge, dining, family room/study, kitchen with all mod cons, air conditioning, ducted heating, pot belly, garden with trampoline. Kids toys/games available. Suit family or couple. Available early July 2013 to early January 2014. If interested or wanting to see photos/visit contact Frank or Judith - 94801015 or frankjoyce@yahoo.com.au

Certified Organic fruit and vegetables to your door. Try a box of hand- picked organic fruit and vegetables. Sourced from the organic wholesale market, produce is seasonal, deliveries are weekly or fortnightly, prices are either $40 or $50. Deliveries are on Thursday nights within the Thornbury/ Northcote area. Call Judith on 0497 076 820, or leave a text message for further information or to order your box of tasty fruit and vegies.

NAB AFL auskick. 12-16 weeks coaching program, Auskick packpack, football & cap plus much more. Find out which centre is closest to you & register now at www.aflauskick.com.au

Soccer clinics. Boys & girls aged 4-12. Venue: Princess Hill PS, Pigdon St., Carlton North. Sessions at 9-10am & 10-11am. Enquiries: Mike Bishop, 0418 303 432, mabish@optusnet.com.au

Pottery After School. Have fun & invent & create with clay. Grizzly gremlins, dazzling dragons, haunted houses, frogs, toads, lizards or even a footballer - you choose what you want to make! All materials & equipment supplied. Girls & boys welcome - beginners to the more advanced 8 -12 yrs. Wed.- 4-5.30pm, 17 April - 5 June (8 weeks). Cost: $82 / $72 (for parent concession) per term. 10% Discount for second child. Contact: Thornbury Women's Neighbourhood House on 9480 0466

Blue Light Disco Perston (Darebin), 26th April. Preston Town Hall, 274 Gower St., Preston. 6.30-9pm (Children need to be picked up by a responsible adult) 8-14yos. Cost: $6. Canteen with food & drinks. Special guest artist‘KG That Artist’. Contact: Jo Parissis: 0418 144 446

Almost new penny skateboard for sale. $60. Call Mandy 0430 543 795