Dear Parents and Guardians,

School Fete
Congratulations to everyone involved in the organization of the school fete and in particular to Maria Romnios and her hard working fete team. It was an outstanding success and not just from the point of view of the money raised. The fete also provides a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to come together and enjoy the fun of the activities and the sense of sharing which is what creates a strong sense of community. As I wandered around on the day I felt privilege to be Principal of this school community where so many parents and staff are willing to work so hard to create such a great experience for everyone who attended. It truly was a celebration of the Wales Street school community. Thank you to all the parents, past and present students and their families for supporting and creating such a memorable event.

Establishment of the New School Council 2013 – 2014
Following the completion of the election process the new School Council members are: Anne Roberts, Scott Hamilton, Natasha Kinsman, Lincoln Kern, Maria Romnios, Phillip Papastamatoulos, Melinda Story, Lucy Thornton (non DEECD members) Jason Sergi and Trevor Robinson, Jenny Deeble, and Christopher Sexton (DEECD members). Last night the newly formed School Council met and elected the following School Council Executive and Committee Convenors for 2013.

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<tr>
<th>School Council Executive</th>
<th>Committees</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Events &amp; Fund Raising Facilities</td>
<td>Maria Romnios</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Finance &amp; Governance</td>
<td>Trevor Robinson</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>School After Care (SAC) Policy &amp; Strategic Planning</td>
<td>Lincoln Kern</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Melinda Story</td>
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<td>Jenny Deeble</td>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- 28/03/13: End of Term 1: 2.30pm Dismissal
- 15/04/13: Term 2 Begins
- 16/04/13: 2014 Prep tours begin
- 25/04/13: ANZAC Day
- 26/04/13: Curriculum Day

Sick Bay Linen Duty: Prep Parents
Each year, we ask Prep parents to volunteer once for Sick Bay Linen duty.
This involves picking up the bag of linen on a Friday afternoon and dropping it back on Monday morning, clean.
Could all Prep families please register your name at the School Office. We are eternally grateful for your assistance. Thank You 😊

PREP LINEN ROSTER
- 28 March: Jane Boyle
- 19 April: Jo Jones
- 24 April: Frances Coppolillo

UNIFORM SHOP
Thursdays: 3.00-3.45pm
Lunch available each Thursday. Order and pay online by 8.30am on day of delivery.

Prep 2014
Contact School Office to book a tour.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for taking up their willingness to give their time and skills to help the school plan and meet the challenges ahead. If you are interested in joining one of these School Council Committees please leave your details at the office so they can be passed onto the Committee Convenors.

**Thank you to retiring School Councilor Ely Tapp**

At last night’s meeting Ely Tapp ‘retired’ from School Council after many years as her current term has expired. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ely for all her commitment, skills and hard work on School Council and her wonderful contribution to the school. I am also very pleased that Ely has decided to continue her involvement on the Policy & Strategic Planning Committee.

**Annual General Meeting and Establishment of New School Council 2012 – 2013**

The School Annual General Meeting was held on last night Wednesday 27th March prior to the School Council Meeting and the 2012 School Annual Report was presented and approved by the meeting. If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the school office.

**End of Term**

Today will see the end of a busy first term and it will conclude with a final term assembly at 2.15 pm at the Flagpole with all students being dismissed at 2.30pm. Parents and guardians please note the earlier dismissal time. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break and I look forward to seeing you all on the resumption of 2nd Term, Monday 15th April.

**Curriculum Day 26th April**

Although this information was published earlier this year 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 dates but bookings will need to be made two weeks in advance of these dates.

**Important Recent Research on Reading**

This week I attended Leadership Forum on *Reading to young children* study conducted through a partnership arrangement between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. The research sets out to explore the connections between parents reading to their young children and their child’s later reading and other cognitive skills and is titled *Reading to Young Children: A Head-Start in Life.*

The Key Findings

- The frequency of reading to children at a young age has a direct causal effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment.
- Reading to children at age 4-5 every day has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills (i.e., language and literacy, numeracy and cognition) later in life.
- Reading to children 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) has the same effect on the child’s reading skills at age 4-5 as being six months older.
- Reading to them 6-7 days per week has the same effect as being almost 12 months older.
- Children read to more frequently at age 4-5 achieve higher scores on the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for both Reading and Numeracy in Year 3 (age 8 to 9).
- These differences in reading and cognitive skills are not related to the child’s family background or home environment but are the direct result of how frequently they have been read to prior to starting school.

What was most interesting was the Report Conclusion - *the study shows that there is an important role for parents in the development and educational performance of their children. Parental reading to children increases the child’s reading and other cognitive skills at least up to the age of 10–11. This is an early-life intervention that seems to be beneficial for the rest of their lives.*

*The results indicate a direct causal effect from reading to children at a young age and their future schooling outcomes regardless of parental income, education level or cultural background. Although many studies have shown an association between reading and schooling outcomes, actual causality has been much more difficult to prove.*

I have attached a copy of their research findings on our school Website and I believe that this is study and its findings could have huge implications for strategies to improve student learning outcomes nationally. I will now be seeking ways in which parents, Kindergartens, Early learning Centres, local Government and Schools can development ways of taking up the challenge of acting on this research evidence. Any parents who are interested could they contact me through the school Office.

Christopher L. Sexton
Principal
Library News… VICTORIAN PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

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 in Second term. While you are relaxing during the holidays, students could start to make a list of books they read in Term One. These books can start their list rolling in Term Two.

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.

SCHOOL AGED CARE
Darebin Primary School Holiday Program

The April Holiday Program run from Wales Street Primary School is now booked out. If you wish to join the mailing list for the future programs please provide your name, address, and number of children via email or telephone.

Ph: 8470 8100

Email: primarieschoolholidayprogram@darebin.vic.gov.au

For further information see the Darebin Holiday program website: www.darebin.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram
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. Pop them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and once it's completed, just bring it back to school. 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.

SPORTS REPORT

Congratulations to Hannah Tillermuir, Rhys Seakins and Flynn Read. They all competed in the Regional Tennis Championships on Monday! It was a great effort to get so far in the competition, and a special “Well Done” to Hannah who came third in the doubles tournament! Thanks. Anna.

Fete Thanks

On behalf of the Fete Committee 2013 – MARIA ROMNIOS, LAUREN RIZZACASA, ANNE ROBERTS – We would like to thank and congratulate all of you who helped make the fete 2013 a success!! We would like to thank absolutely everyone for the wonderful donations given from family, friends and the community.

A big acknowledgement and thank you to all the businesses who support & have supported WSPS over the years by providing vouchers, services and money towards our fete. Please support these businesses, let them know your children attend Wales Street.

Thank you to stall coordinators and volunteers. Your stalls were fantastic. A special thank you to all the new coordinators & new stalls – you did a brilliant job as did the wonderful new volunteers… Welcome!! Same time next year!!

A very special thank you goes to some very special people who have run stalls over the years for the last time as their children will be moving on to secondary school. We thank you for your ongoing support & efforts over the years!!

Thank you to all the office staff and teachers who devoted many hours above & beyond the school hours… thank you we appreciate your support and assistance.

To all past and present fete committee members for their support and invaluable advice in establishing and setting precedents that we follow, build up and improve upon to help raise funds that will improve the education experience and environment of children attending Wales Street Primary School.

The tally for the fete will be announced next term when expenses are finalised but I have a strong feeling that we did as well as last year!! Congratulations.

Maria Romnios – Fete Committee
Hello Everyone,

Check out this little fella for Easter!

To get your hands on it, grab it direct from Macula. Go to download, get to paper craft and you’ll find it. There is a selection to choose from- yours is the Easter Bunny. It would be easier to do on A3 paper- I had some clever grade 6 girls try the A4 version and it was a little small. Have fun!

Hope you have happy, healthy and seriously chocolaty holiday.

Take care

Catherine Fisers     School Nurse (R/N)

Chess Club

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Jim Cannon, your regular chess coach is off on a well deserved holiday during terms 2 and 3. He has asked Northern Star Chess to look after the program in his absence. We will do our best to maintain the enthusiasm and excitement at your school!

I have placed some chess forms at the office, as per Jim’s instructions. Please take one to enrol your child(ren) in the chess class. Any new comers welcome! I believe that new members can try two classes obligation free, naturally we will honour this offer. Parents welcome to come along.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. My contact details:

Contact: Pearl Yung
Ph: 0407 072250
Email: pearl@northernstarchess.com
Website: http://www.NorthernStarChess.com

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.


Please Thank our SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Recognition

Please take note of the sponsors and remember to use their services. Mention the Wales Street Fete -- they will appreciate recognition for their contribution.