From the Principal

School Contributions and Levies

Information has been distributed to all families in relation to school contributions and levies for 2015. A big thank you to all families who have made payment to date. These contributions enable us to provide the best resources for your children.

Payments can be made at the office by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY or credit card. The Essential Education levies cover all books and classroom materials for all programmes, a membership to Mathletics, Spellodrome and the list goes on. I appreciate the community’s support with the payment of these levies promptly.

Could I encourage parents to finalise fees before the end of term. We are currently reviewing budgets for 2015. For parents who require support please see Maria Nord in the office for a payment plan.

PYP Update

We have begun the school year positively with the ‘Learn to Learn’ program as an induction for all staff and students to start the year with consistent practices and understanding about how we best learn. The learner profile, the attitudes and the rights and responsibilities form a large part of this program.

The teachers and their students have developed an essential agreement together to form the common understandings about what makes an effective class learning environment and are our rights and responsibilities as members of Wales Street PS.

By reviewing and discussing the Learner Profile at the start of the year, the students become more familiar with the attributes and how they are applied in their learning and everyday life.

Maybe you could ask your child about their strongest attribute of the Learner Profile. Do they see themselves as: courageous, an inquirer, knowledgeable, a thinker, a communicator, principled, open minded, caring, balanced or reflective?

Prep Information Evening

On Wednesday evening our Prep Parents attended the Parent Information Night. The night included discussions about how parents could support their children at home through Home Reading, Sight Words, Maths Activities as
Parent Information Evening - PIE Night

Last Wednesday the Parent Information Evening was held. Teachers will use this information to assist them in planning for the needs of your child. My conversations with staff after the event gave me a clear indication that the night was productive and in some cases, has provided a catalyst for further discussions and future directions inside the classroom. Thank you to everybody involved in organising the evening.

FETE 2015 : Saturday 21st March

The fete will soon be here. Our parent coordinating committee are in full swing and are always looking for that extra pair of helping hands. Please keep your eyes peeled for their bulletin!

School Council

UPDATE FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

Last week we had our first School Council meeting and it was great to see the school back in full swing for what I am sure will be an exciting and productive year.

Following are two key items the school is working on:

- Investigating options for an external school holiday programme provider to offer a school holiday care programme at WSPS during the term breaks. Since the City of Darebin decided to cease running their programme at WSPS, there are fewer options available for the children that were utilising this programme during term breaks, and we hope to be able to provide an alternative to these children and families via another provider offering their programme at WSPS

- The school council was also asked to approve a new communications policy. Communication is important to the school community at WSPS and I encourage you to look out for the new policy when it is published.

This year I would like to establish working group to look at possible external grant and funding sources for the school, and I am looking for volunteers to help with this working group. The school is always in need for and looking for additional funding to continue to run programmes. If you have experience or have an interest in assisting with sourcing and applying for grants, please contact me on the email address below.

A reminder too that any member of the school community can attend school council meetings as an observer, and I would encourage you to take up this opportunity if you would like to find out more about what happens within the school council.

If you would like to contact me to discuss any aspect of the school, I can be contacted via email at phillip.papas@gmail.com

Policy Committee

The Policy and Strategic Planning subcommittee has an important role as the reviewer of many policies that affect the curriculum development and administration of the school. A small group of dedicated parents and teachers form this group and do a great job in reviewing expired policies, writing new ones as well as being a consultative group that assists with the implementation of the Primary Year Program and its development at Wales Street Primary School.

However, we have had 3 parents retire from this committee last year and we are looking for new members for 2015. We meet twice a term and you do not need to be a member of school council to be a part of a subcommittee. It is a great opportunity to get involved in the school and be a part of this planning group. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th March at 7pm in the staff room. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please email the school wales.street.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Attention to: Jenny Deeble
Convenor: Policy and Strategic Planning.
Before and After Care Prep Transition

Now that the preps have familiarised themselves with the routines of Before and After Care, commencing from **TUESDAY 10th MARCH** the prep children who attend Before Care are required to make their own way to their class in the morning when they are released from Before Care at 8.45 am

Staff will “buddy” prep children with older children to assist them in the school ground and then accompany them to the “line-up” area when the bell rings at 9.00 am

Prep children attending the “After Care Program” will also commence making their own way to the program each day. The children will walk with other children in their classroom – in groups together.

The Prep teachers have a list of all children who have a permanent booking and will instruct these children to make their way to the After Care program.

Prep children who have a permanent bookings and may need to cancel, swap or require an extra day for Before/After Care need to let their child’s teacher know of changes in bookings, so as their teachers know whether to send them to aftercare or not.

This also applies to families who have “casual bookings”.

Can I ask parents/guardians to remind their children in the morning that they are booked to come to aftercare.

Failure to inform staff when your child will not be attending a session can cause inconvenience and concern when the whereabouts of a child is not immediately known, often resulting in several phone calls, thus taking time away from the program.

Booking and cancellations can be made by leaving a voice message on 9484 3949, in person or email oshc.wales.street.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Active Travel Day (formally Ride2School) - Friday, 13th March

Wales Street will be celebrating Active Travel Day on the 13th March. We encourage students and their families to leave the car at home on that day and get a taste of the benefits, ease and fun involved in choosing to walk and wheel to school.

We support our students to walk or wheel to school because:

- Students feel fresh and alert at the beginning of a school day.
- There are fewer cars around the school which eases ‘drop off congestion’.
- Students are more likely to reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity they need each day.
- Students feel happier, healthier and perform better in the classroom.

Parents can join in the fun by walking or wheeling with the students or helping to hand out stickers to our active travellers on the day.

Interested parents can contact Clare - Prep B teacher.

Check out: [https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/programs/2242/](https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/programs/2242/) for more information about the day and how to enter your child’s Active Travel Day selfie in the photo competition!