From the Principal

PARENT/CARER SURVEY ON ‘SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM’

The School Council is currently reviewing the provision of a school Holiday Program at Wales Street Primary School. We seek input from ALL Parent/Carers of the school, especially those who have used past programs here at Wales Street or at other venues.

Simply go to the link attached and respond online to the questions. Your assistance & input is greatly appreciated.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DJVYKJK

BUILDING FUND – END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

A reminder to all parents and carers that with the end of the financial year fast approaching please take advantage of the tax deduction you are able to claim by contributing to the Wales Street Building Fund.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES AND VARIATION OF ATTENDANCE DAY

This year all teachers, students and parents will be involved in student led conferences which will be held on Wednesday the June 24th between 12pm and 8pm. School council has approved this as a Variation of Attendance day which means the students will be dismissed at 1pm. Lunch time will be from 12-1pm on that day.

Student led conferences reflect the belief that students should be actively involved in their learning and assume responsibility for the learning process. Through student led conferences, students become more motivated, reflective and evaluative. They also become more critical in their approach to learning.
Wales Street has been conducting student led conferences over the past five years. They have shown to be an informative and powerful way of developing parent knowledge as to how their children are progressing in their learning.

During the student led conference, students present their portfolio to demonstrate their academic growth and share their understanding of the learning program. During the conference all parties will be able to ask questions during and after the student’s presentation.

Benefits of Student-Led Conferences:

Student Benefits:

- Become accountable for their learning
- Learn to evaluate their own progress
- Gain greater commitment to school work and learning
- Build self confidence and self-esteem
- Encourage student/parent communication
- Build communication and critical thinking skills
- Allow students to become involved
- Put students in charge of their learning
- Time allowed to share and celebrate in learning environment

Parent benefits:

- Increase the amount of information given to a parent
- Gain an insight into their child’s learning and skills
- An opportunity to help their child set positive goals
- Actively participate in their child’s learning
- Allow more time in their child’s learning environment to see what the child has worked on over a period of time
- First hand opportunity to see their child in charge of the learning process

The School after Care Program (SAC) will operate on this day for parents requiring student supervision from the dismissal time of 1pm. Please book ASAP so SAC staffing arrangements can be organised.

Compass Bookings

Bookings can be made online from Monday 15th of June until 10am Wednesday 24th of June, using Compass School Manager- http://walesstps.vic.jdlf.com.au/Login.aspx or on the school’s website and click on the COMPASS icon.

Making a booking:

1. Log in with your unique username and password (aside from the Prep and new parents, you would have received it already when we sent out the letters in Term 1 for the Parent Information Exchange). Should you have misplaced this letter, please contact the Office immediately on 9484 3949.
2. Click on your child’s Student Led Conference link. Two panes will come up (s. example below). At the top is “My bookings” with available spots in green and at the bottom are the names of “Available Staff”
3. Click on your preferred time on the top pane and select the teacher from the drop down list. Click the Update button when done.
The use of homework is always a contentious conversation within educational and parental circles. There are points made continually both for and against the giving of homework. Research on homework often presents equally divided views.

Below is a snippet from the current Wales Street Primary School Policy. Reviewed in 2013, the policy seeks to meet the diverse needs of our students. As a rule of thumb homework should predominantly allow your child to reinforce skills and concepts learnt in the classroom.

In the early years (Prep to 2) the focus is usually on short, sharp and repetitive activities to move understanding, skills and concepts from short to long term memory. Moving further up through the school it is these skills that are relied upon as your child begins to apply their understanding in more complex tasks. *(The full version of this policy is accessible on our school web page.)*

**Aim**

Homework is designed to:

- Reinforce, rehearse and extend skills learned in the classroom
- Encourage the students to work independently
- Help students to develop organisational and time management skills
- Reinforce the child’s confidence and enjoyment in learning
- Assist students to develop the skills of knowing where and how to find information and solve problems
- Develop appropriate habits and attitudes that are required throughout their education
- Provide parents/caregivers with an opportunity to participate in and feel connected to their child’s education
Guidelines for Implementation

Teachers’ responsibilities include:

- Setting regular relevant homework to help students establish a home study routine
- Providing homework that complements, reinforces and extends classroom learning
- Providing homework that has a clear and easily recognisable purpose
- Taking into account that children learn at different rates and have different needs
- Explaining homework tasks in class time so common issues, concerns and problems can be dealt with
- Ensuring that expectations and criteria for each task are clear to children and parents
- Carefully considering resources needed to complete homework tasks and supporting students to access appropriate resources (e.g., Internet access)
- Assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support.
- Ensuring that parents/caregivers are aware of the school’s homework policy via the school website.
- Communicating to parents the homework expectations for that year level, during the beginning of the year Parent Information Exchange Night.

Students’ responsibilities include:

- Taking home and returning set work
- Negotiating access to appropriate resources with classroom teacher
- Discussing homework tasks with parents or caregivers
- Asking for support or assistance when needed
- Managing their time appropriately to ensure completion of homework within set time frame

Parents'/Caregivers’ responsibilities include:

- Providing support and encouragement
- Acknowledging the child’s efforts and providing positive feedback
- Providing assistance but not completing the task
- Providing an appropriate work space
- Directing the child to available resources or encouraging the child to seek help if resources are unavailable
- Helping the child to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities
Hello everyone,

Our lovely Department of Education has a timely bit of information for us all to remember with the onset of winter. I mentioned immunizations against flu last week but the reminder to wash hands etc. and to teach our children to do it properly is always a handy one (do you like the pun!)

Within this newsletter excerpt (below) there is a link on the Better Health website as well as the School Exclusion Table. I use this table often. There is lots of information on there for you when you are wondering about your child’s illness. For example, if your child has suffered diarrhoea there needs to be 24 hours since the last loose bowel motion before the child can return to school. If a child has conjunctivitis they need to be excluded from school until the discharge has ceased. There is also an “exclusion of contacts” section that would apply for unimmunised persons for example. It’s a useful info site......

Winter Health – Beating the Bugs

In Australia, our influenza 'flu' season typically runs from May to October, usually peaking in August. It is just not possible to stop all bugs from spreading at school; however, a lot of illnesses can be prevented and controlled simply by practicing good hygiene.

Handy hygiene tips for you and your family

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Throw used tissues in plastic-lined rubbish bins
- Wash your hands with soap and water, preferably warm water if available
- Reduce the spread of germs by avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth

Further information on influenza is available at the Better Health Channel, see: Better Health Channel Flu Influenza

What can you do to prevent the spread of infectious diseases?

The three main ways of preventing the spread of infection are:

1. Remind your child of effective hygiene methods.
2. Keep your child home when they are unwell. Your doctor will let you know if your child has an 'excludable' condition. You will need to advise the school as soon as possible and keep your child home for the length of time that your doctor advises.
3. Ensure your child’s immunisations are up to date.

Do you know when you should keep your child home from school?

The Department of Health and Human Services outline the minimum period of exclusion from school for various infectious diseases. To find out more about the minimum period of exclusion for infectious diseases, see: School Exclusion Table.

I hope you have enjoyed this shorter week post the lovely long weekend.

Take care, until next time.

Catherine Fisers
School Nurse (R/N)
(Keep this part for your reference)

2015 FINAL Chess Tournaments – Term 3

Dear Chess parents, here are the details of the final tournaments for 2015!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event #4: Preston</th>
<th>Event #5: Rosanna</th>
<th>Event #6: Viewbank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date: 30th July 2015</td>
<td>Date: 20th August 2015</td>
<td>Date: 10th September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time: 9:30 to 2:30pm</td>
<td>Time: 9:30 to 2:30pm</td>
<td>Time: 9:30 to 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: Preston Primary School, 240 Tyler St, Preston</td>
<td>Venue: Rosanna Primary School, Grandview Gve, Rosanna</td>
<td>Venue: Viewbank Primary School, 2 Nevin Pde, Viewbank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost: $20.00</td>
<td>Cost: $20.00</td>
<td>Cost: $20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deadline for registration and payment: 16/7/15

✓ You will need to transport your child to and from each event.
✓ It would be greatly appreciated if you could attend and represent the school.

😊 Please indicate below if you can be a representative (tick the “Rep” box below)

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Registration form

Please return this part to the school office with your payment in a clearly-labelled envelope. Please pay the correct amount (cash only). Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost / Child</th>
<th>Attending?</th>
<th>Number of children</th>
<th>Rep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event#4: Preston 30/7/15</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event#5: Rosanna 20/8/15</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event#6: Viewbank 10/9/15</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child 1. ___________________________ M/F Yearlevel: P 1 2 3 4 5 6
Child 2. ___________________________ M/F Yearlevel: P 1 2 3 4 5 6

I give permission for my child(ren) to attend the above Chess tournament(s) and, in case of a medical emergency, to receive any emergency treatment deemed necessary at the time.

Parents Name ___________________________ Signature ___________________________ Date / / 15

Payment enclosed (please circle): $20.00 / $40.00 / $60.00 other $______ please specify amount being paid

☐ Yes, I can represent the school on the day (please tick “Rep” box(es) above)

😊 Thank you for helping out! 😊