From the Principal

What’s happening at Wales Street?
In February I outlined the nine essential components that contribute to a high performing school. Using these components I have used the past couple of months to start unpacking with the Wales Street Staff how this will look as we move forward.

1. A clear and shared focus.
2. High standards and expectations for all students.
3. Effective school leadership.
4. High levels of collaboration and communication.
5. Curriculum, instruction and assessments aligned with state (and like school) standards.
6. Frequent monitoring of learning and teaching.
7. A focus on professional development.
8. A supportive learning environment.
9. A high level of family and community involvement

Firstly, the construction of the Strategic Statement with teaching staff, support staff and parents was a major step forward at the commencement of Term 2. The Statement is a useful starting point for me in assisting with the last stages of implementation of the existing Strategic Plan (2013-2016); as it marries the understanding of where all staff are at in the current planning implementation cycle and what is required to complete the cycle effectively during 2015-16.
As the current plan heads towards completion I have also started to use the Strategic Statement for looking at what changes need to occur ahead of writing the new plan (in 2016). Referenced to points 1-9 listed above, some of these will include. In moving forward from this point I have identified six areas that we have all started work on already:

**A clear and shared focus** – in how we plan, teach and evaluate students across the school. My expectation is that we will have whole school processes in all learning areas clearly articulating what is taught, when it is taught, how it is taught and what the required standard will be for Wales Street Primary School.

**High standards and expectations for all students** – a re-focussing on having a common understanding on what this looks like inside and outside the classroom. Agreed whole school benchmarks will be one way in which we will achieve this across Wales Street Primary School.

**Effective school leadership** – living and modelling this at all levels within the school. Growing leaders within the staff and student body. Our first Strategic Statement will assist in guiding what this will look like.

**High levels of collaboration and communication** – operationalising the new communication policy and looking at how collaboration can be further enhanced inside and outside the school.

**Curriculum, instruction and assessments aligned with state (and like school) standards** – developing and embedding a like vs like comparison culture to ensure Wales Street is competitive in all learning domains against similar schools.

**Frequent monitoring of learning and teaching** – working with staff to refine and re-visiting the data collection and analysis cycle within the school to ensure that we are continuing to identify students at risk and provide appropriate intervention for those students whilst extending other students at the various stages along the learning continuum.

As this journey continues I will add more focus points on areas that we are further developing (and haven’t been included) and also add further detail to existing work being done as outlined above.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM SURVEY**

A survey is currently being developed for parents in relation to their needs for a possible re-introduction of a School Holiday Program at Wales Street Primary School.

The survey will be issued to parent soon. Please take the time to complete the survey so the data can be used by the school council to make an informed decision.

**CHESS TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

Last Thursday the Preston Chess tournament was held. There were 102 players from 11 different schools, including Wales Street and the field was strong.

Congratulations to Jules, Harry, Luca, Eden, Chris, Lewis, Gus, Sebastian and Adamo!

Wales Street put in a strong show and came in third. The individual runner up for the tournament was Christopher. Christopher performed very well and scored 6/7 - losing only to the boy who came first.

Other strong performers were Harry and Lewis. The three boys mentioned were all in the top 9 players.

Congratulations to Wales Street on this great performance!

Christian Woodcock  
Principal
GARDEN CLUB - WATCH OUR GARDEN GROW

Here at WSPS we offer many different types of lunch programs one of them being ‘Garden Club’. Children of all ages have been attending ‘Garden Club’ on Tuesdays and Fridays and been very busy learning new skills, having fun and developing self-confidence by spending time in our school garden.

Over the last few weeks the children have been tending plants and beginning to grow their own food. They have been digging in fresh new soil and planting up our winter crop. We have started growing things such as different varieties of lettuce, cabbage, beetroot, spinach, radish, leek and celery, just to name a few.

Over the next few weeks left this term we will be planting peas, broad beans, and potatoes and beginning to construct our own scarecrows.

If any parents have any spare pots (any sort, both plastic and clay pots of all sizes) to donate to our school, they would be greatly appreciated. The pots will assist us in continuing to plant up more plants and making our garden beautiful. We would also anyone like to ask for any spare jeans, old shirts and old gum boots which we could use to make our scarecrows. These items can be dropped off either to Donna (Grade1/2D) or Spiro (Grade 5/6C).
Library News

Kings, Queens and Castles

Your library’s Scholastic Book Fair is just about here!

Enter the Kingdom of Books in the WSPS Library!

Expect your Book Fair Brochure in your child’s bag on Friday

Come and visit our Library dragons and when you make a purchase, enter the competition and win a book voucher for the Book Fair.

Just how many mints does it take to freshen a dragon’s breath?

The Book Fair starts on Tuesday 19th May at 3pm
and runs daily, 8.30-9.30am and 3-4pm, until Monday 25th May at 4pm.

Bring your family to this celebration of reading with hundreds of fun, engaging, affordable books for them to discover.

This is a great chance to browse and buy books suitable for your children. Any purchases that you make, contribute to the calculation of the Library’s Book Commission. Depending on sales, it can be up to 35%.

The Book Fair is open for nearly a week. Some days are more crowded than others. You will always be able to order and pay for a copy of a book on sale, even if we are down to the last copy. Orders are usually delivered a day or two after the Book Fair finishes, unless there is a big run on a specific title and Scholastic have to go interstate to another of their warehouses.

I hope to see you all at the Library Book Fair.

Sallie, WSPS Librarian

Wales Street is going NUDE!

Thanks to the JSC Green Team, lunchboxes at WSPS are going nude!
Starting next Tuesday 19th May, classroom teachers will count the number of ‘nude’ lunchboxes in their room every Tuesday. At the end of Term 2 winners and prizes will be announced at assembly. Nude Food means taking action at home and school by reducing waste that goes to landfill.

With the help of our school chickens and worms we can reduce our landfill waste to zero this year!

From the Nurse

Lots of information this week as Food Allergy week is coming up. It’s on the 17th until the 23rd of May. Organised by Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia there is a mountain of resources available to us all that inform, remind and guide us toward a greater knowledge base. Thank you to their efforts and lots of wonderful information. I’ve put my favourites he although there is so much more on their website:


“Food Allergy Week is an important initiative that aims to increase awareness of food allergy in the community in an effort to promote understanding and help protect those at risk, whilst allowing them to have a good quality of life.

The theme for Food Allergy Week is Be Aware. Show You Care.

Be Aware - Australia has one of the highest incidences of food allergy in the world, which is growing at alarming rates. In fact, one in 10 babies born in Australia today will develop a food allergy. Click here for further information on this topic.