From the Principal

WELCOME BACK

I hope you managed to have a break of some description with your child(ren). With a refreshed staff and student group I’m sure Term 3 will be productive and fun for all. Planning for this term commenced three weeks ago. Staff have continued to work hard in their teams over the last month to map the teaching and learning experiences for the next 10 weeks.

CURRICULUM DAY - MONDAY JULY 13TH 2015

Our curriculum day provided staff with differentiated professional learning. Staff chose from a range of sessions aimed at reinforcing whole school understandings for important aspects of the teaching and learning program. Sessions included looking at assessment in both literacy and numeracy, writing individualised plans for students, inquiry based teaching, use of data to inform explicit maths teaching as well as home and guided reading strategies. These sessions were presented by staff and provided a refresher on whole school understandings and how these are used to assist students.

Staff also attended a session on handwriting run by Robyn Bartram, an Occupational Therapist. The session focussed on the issues that arise with students who struggle with their fine motor issues and visual perceptual skills and what interventions are often used to support students experiencing difficulty. Robyn also pointed out that the world wide debate over the future of handwriting in schools continues with the Finnish government stating that cursive handwriting - "joined-up" writing - would not be compulsorily taught in Finnish schools from 2016, and that it would be replaced by lessons in keyboard typing.

The structure of the day provided a direct link to some of the points I mentioned back in the newsletter during Term 2 in regard to the future directions for Wales Street Primary School. These included:

1. Frequent monitoring of learning and teaching
2. A clear and shared focus.

CURRICULUM – WHAT’S HAPPENING AT WALES STREET IN TERM 3?

- This term staff will be focussing on using a model for peer observation and reflecting on how it can be employed as a positive mechanism for refining and improving classroom practice with the support of a colleague.
- The staff will also be looking at the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model and how this can assist them with explicitly targeting the teaching of specific skills within the classroom.
- A focus on the effective use of student data to drive planning across the school will continue in Term 3. Teachers started attending data analysis sessions in Term 2 and will continue to develop and apply their understandings at weekly planning sessions with their colleagues.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY CHANGES

Due to the wintry conditions that July brings, we will not be having our weekly assemblies outside for the next three weeks. We will be commencing a trial to the assembly process during Term 3. The new format will allow us to hold assemblies in the hall on Wednesday mornings from 9am – 9.20am. It is anticipated that the new trial structure will begin in Week 4 – Wednesday, August 5th. Please stay tuned for further information.

ANNUAL NATIONAL COLLECTION OF DATA

All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability this year.

The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving educational adjustments to support their participation in education on the same basis as students without disability.

All education agencies are now required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.* Data will continue to be de-identified prior to its transfer to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. No student’s identity will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

The collection of this information from states and territories will inform future policy and program planning in relation to students with disability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christian Woodcock on 94843949 or the Victorian Department of Education and Training Data Collection Hotline on (03) 9651 3621. For questions after 7 August 2015, please call the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on 1300 566 046.

* For more information on Schedule 3—Amendments for the collection of data on students who are persons with a disability Australian Education Regulation 2013 see: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014L01723/Html/Text#_Toc404934419

Kind Regards,
Christian Woodcock
Principal
Sexual Health Information Night

Talking the Talk: Sex & Health Education

Wales Street Primary School is providing a free Sexual Health Information Night for parents and carers of primary school age children. Wednesday 29th July, 7:00pm – 8:30pm. RSVP not necessary, however please consider emailing your intention to attend to help with number estimates: Vanessa@talkingthetalksexed.com.au Click here for more details on this information night.

This event is NOT suitable for children to attend.

From Cath the Nurse

There has been a confirmed case of Chickenpox in the 1/2 area.

Symptoms to look out for include:- Low grade fever, runny nose/headache, generally feeling unwell, followed by the appearance of red lesions on the trunk, face and scalp, which eventually spreads to the whole body and then become filled with pus. The lesions burst after several days, dry up and form scabs. It is common for the lesions to become itchy before they burst.

Chickenpox are highly contagious, it is usually communicable 1-2 days before the onset of the rash, and for five days after the appearance of the first crop of lesions. The incubation period is usually 10-21 days after first being exposed to the virus.

Children must be excluded from school until fully recovered or at least one week after the lesions first appears. The Royal Children’s Hospital has excellent fact sheets and information on the subject to assist you in caring for your child. www.rch.org.au

Please contact the school if you require any further information or assistance.

Kindly,
Catherine Fisers
School Nurse

Compass Parent Portal

In 2013 we introduced Compass as our system for making bookings for Student-led conferences and interviews throughout the year.

From Term 3 we are introducing more features of the Compass School Manager program to help parent interaction with the school.

Using the Compass parent portal, you will be able to:
- View up to date class and school attendance information.
- Approve or enter upcoming or past absences for your child.
- Access your child’s semester reports.
- Book in your Parent Information Night appointments and Student-led conference appointments.
- View the latest correspondence from the school through the News feed.

All grade 1-6 parents were sent a letter in February containing their unique password to allow access to Compass. Prep parents received these letters recently. You would have used this password to log onto Compass to book your Student-led conference. This is the same password that will allow you access to the Compass parent portal.
School Fees by Instalments

A reminder for those who elected to pay school fees by direct debit instalments, we will be processing the third instalment payments over the next two weeks.

Prep-2 Swimming Program 2015

If you would like your child to participate in the program, the medical/permission form and deposit of $65 are due by Friday 14th August with the remaining balance of $50 due by Friday 11th of September.

Please note: Swimming bookings will not be accepted after Friday 14th August

LE TOUR DE WALES STREET

The Tour De France has just reached the halfway point. To coincide with this it’s time for the return of the Tour De Wales Street!

There are prizes to be won, podium places to work towards and jerseys to wear; not to mention fame, fitness and fresh air in your lungs! Pick up an entry form from the office from Monday onwards or from your teacher.

Choose which jersey (maximum 2) you’re competing for:

Yellow Jersey (Longest distance from home to school travelled in one trip - metres/kilometres)

White Jersey (Youngest rider - age in years and months)

Wales Street Jersey (Most rides in the stage)

Green Jersey (Creativity eg. wearing TdF merchandise, riding as a whole ‘family team’ etc)

Attach some evidence (photographic / tracking printout / witness statements) of your ride(s) from next Monday through until Wednesday 29th July for stage one (there will be subsequent stages).

In addition there will a celebratory ride on Friday 14th August for all riders to finish on our own Thornbury Champs-Élysées.

Please take care in the winter weather but don’t let this discourage you from riding.

Happy Riding and Vive Le Tour!

Alexandra Darlington (Tour De Wales Street Leader) in conjunction with the ‘Wales Street Family Bike Club’
Woolworths Earn & Learn 2015

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new mathematics resources for our school – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here at the front office or at the Woolworths store in Preston South.

If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

Regards,
Trevor Robinson
Assistant Principal

WSPS Chess News

I hope that you and your children have had a great school holiday!

This is just a reminder that Chess Club in Term 3 commences on Tuesday 21/7/15 at lunchtime.

It will be a big term of Chess. The last three zonal tournaments for 2015 will be held in Term 3. Please don’t leave registration go too late as they are starting to fill up. Here I have attached a Registration form with all the details on it. Please fill in the form and get it back to the office soon so you don’t miss out.

If you want to make sure your children get a spot, please contact me and I will preregister them.

All those who qualify get to compete in the State semi-final in October. The school will be notified and all the students who have qualified will be contacted.

I look forward to seeing you and your children soon for an exciting term of Chess!

Stay warm
Kind regards
Jim Cannon, PhD Dip Ed
WSPS Chess Coach

Kids 4 Whales Charity Concert

On Friday 31st July a group of WSPS kids are putting on a concert to raise money for Sea Shepherd Australia. We invite the wider WSPS community to come and discover local young talent while supporting a great cause and shared passions. Venue: Northcote Uniting Church/Chalice, 251 High Street, Northcote, 6.30pm. Adults -$7, Children-$3, refreshments available. Please come along, the kids would love the support of their friends!