From the Principal

LANGUAGES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SURVEY

Dear parents and carers,

For many years now, Wales Street Primary School has fully supported the teaching of languages other than English as an important area of student learning, and a valuable specialist area within our broader school curriculum. As many of you will be aware, a grant received from the Department of Education and Training in 2011 has allowed us to fund a generous languages program – incorporating classes in Greek and Mandarin, as well as Italian – for our students over the past five years. However, in line with the terms of this agreement, this funding will expire at the end of 2015.

Moving to a single-language model in 2016

For some months now (as flagged in my regular newsletter updates to the school community), our Languages Working Party has been working to determine a way forward for language learning at Wales Street. The central recommendation of the working party is that we reduce our languages program in 2016 from a three-language model to a single-language model. We have presented the findings of the working party in more detail in the attached Languages Briefing Paper for your interest.

The paper outlines proposed interim arrangements for this year’s Grade 5 students that will enable them to continue their current language studies into their final year of primary school.

It also briefly touches on some alternative avenues for language learning which the school would be willing to support from 2016, depending on the level of interest within the school community.

Can’t access the survey via the link?

If you can’t access the link or would prefer to see the survey in hard copy, copies of both the survey and the Languages Briefing Paper are available for collection from the Office. Please visit the Office to pick up a registered copy. Note that hard copy survey responses must be returned to the office by close of business on 26 October 2015.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Jenny Deeble, Assistant Principal, via email: wales.street.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au, or by phoning 9484 3949.
Please have your say…

We would like the school community to have a say in how the language program in 2016 will proceed – your input will play an integral role in informing our final decisions. We are attaching a survey link below, giving each family an opportunity to vote for which language they would most like to see being taught at Wales Street next year.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW

The survey also asks for expressions of interest in private languages programs offered on a user-pays basis. It is envisaged that such programs would be provided by private operators, but the School would be happy to facilitate the programs by providing access to School facilities after hours.

The survey closes at midnight on 23 October 2015. It should only take a minute or two to complete (depending on your responses). Please note that the survey is limited to one response per family. All responses will be treated confidentially.

CLASS PLACEMENTS 2016

Parent input regarding specific personal information that may be relevant for student placements are now invited. Specific requests for teachers or friendship groups will not be prioritised ahead of Priority considerations influencing class structure listed below. These are due by 30th Friday October to indicate information that may be taken into account by staff in forming classes.

Please address the email / letter to: Christian Woodcock - Principal

SUBJECT LINE : 2016 Class Placement Request – STUDENT NAME

Below are the guidelines used by staff in forming classes :

Guidelines for Class Placement Process

The school designs its class structure based on the judgement of staff with the aim of creating the best learning environment for each student. Consideration of this process begins in Term 3.

Priority considerations influencing class structure are:-

- the projected number of students in each year level
- the ratio of girls to boys
- projected enrolments during the year based on past trends
- the number of teachers allocated to the school based on total enrolments at the census in term one.
- the needs of the students and
- the constraints of resources and facilities.

The Principal, after consultation with staff, is responsible for the final decision on the class structure in the school. The Principal shall have the final decision on the individual placement of students.

Factors that will be considered in the placement of students include:-

- gender
- social network
- work habits e.g. ability to work independently
• academic performance
• social maturity
• behaviour
• previous class placements
• special needs e.g. twins, family situation
• school psychologist recommendation

Parents are consulted on class placement if deemed necessary by the principal or class teachers.

Where possible class lists will be available by the end of Term 4 the previous year with the proviso that they are subject to change should enrolments or other factors change during the summer break or early in Term One.

PYP VERIFICATION VISIT
Last week, we had the verification visit with two representatives from the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO). They spent two days interviewing the staff, school council representatives, parent representatives and students. The visitors looked at our programs, policies and classrooms, to assess our progress in becoming an accredited IBO- PYP school.

We have been working towards this visit for the past four years and the feedback we have received so far has been positive and constructive in improving our delivery of the program. A big thank you must go to our PYP coordinator Emily Corcoran for her organisation skills in bringing this event together and also Noel Carter for his role as coordinator in the three years prior. The staff should be congratulated for their efforts in developing strong collaborative team work that is improving the planning and delivery of a robust curriculum. We will know the outcome hopefully by the end of the year.

Photos for 2015 WSPS Yearbook
We urgently need photos for the Yearbook. Production is well underway, but many more photos of school activities are required. Please email what you have to Leah.taylor@straightshooter.com.au or leave a disk or USB at the office. Thanks for your support. We want this to be a great memento for the kids!

Christmas Shopping Market
This year’s market will be held on Monday 7 December from 6-9pm. We are looking for great stallholders to be involved. Contact leah.taylor@straightshooter.com.au or call 0403 576 925 for information. The market – now in its 7th year – is a great community event. We hope you can all come along to browse the stalls, have a BBQ dinner and a drink.

From Cath the nurse
Welcome to a lovely sunny week,

Let’s take ourselves back a week and pretend it’s the week beginning the 11th National Nutrition Week! I’ve perused the website and found so much information for the healthy vegetable user that I have cut and pasted the links.

I have to admit- the vegetable fritters are a winner- especially in summer with salad!

May your week be a vegetably healthy one! Next time- asthma and the latest on how many children have been to first aid this term and the last.

To read further on this topic please click here.

Take care, Catherine Fisers – School Nurse (R/N)
SCHOOL AGE CARE (SAC)-ANNUAL RE-ENROLMENT FOR 2016

We have reached that time of the year again where families need to re-enrol for 2016. Parents must follow the enrolment procedure in order to ensure their child is registered and doesn’t out on a place, for next year: Under license conditions set out by the Children’s Act and Regulations every child must have a separate “Enrolment Form” with information that is up to date.

Re-Enrolment for 2016 will be conducted during Term 4 commencing Monday 26th October, so that we can commence processing data and planning for next year.

Families who currently use the program and require care for next year must re-enrol by coming into the program and checking and updating their current enrolment form and their details.

Having checked current enrolment details with Cangie or Vanessa - parents/guardians will be required to sign a form stating that all their details are correct and up-to-date.

Only families, who have checked and paid the levy of $15 (cash only) per family, will be registered to use the program in 2016. A dated receipt will be attached to the enrolment form acknowledging payment of the levy.

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY RE-ENROLMENTS WITHOUT THE $15 levy fee

No “I owe you” Can be accepted - have the money with you when Re-enrolling

Chasing the levy fee is time consuming

Any changes to the current Enrolment Form must be recorded on a “Change of Details Form” which is available from the service. It is crucial that the service have the correct information, particularly contact numbers, in case of an emergency involving their child/ren special medical and/or dietary needs, and custody/guardianship arrangements.

Our records are kept separately from the School’s records, so it is important to advise us of any change of address or phone numbers etc.

PREPS 2016

Existing families who have younger children commencing “Prep in 2016” and have returned an enrolment form/s will still be required to come in and check the older sibling’s enrolment form which is currently on file.

BOOKINGS FOR 2016

Families will then need to re-book days for next year by completing a “Booking Form”, this will ensure families do not miss out on a place. A new “Booking Slip” must be filled out for the following year, even if the days required are the same as this year.

If families don’t not know which days will be required for the following year, then a booking slip will need to be returned immediately when school commences in February 2016 to secure a place.

All places will be offered in line with Priority of Access and order of date received.

Families who have never used the program before and require care for next year can collect an Enrolment Form and booking slip from the main office or from the Aftercare program.

If families do not re-enrol for 2016, then the program will assume that you will not require care for next year.
As the Internet becomes more readily available to our children, the issue of safety and security becomes an increasing priority. Whether accessing the Internet on their computer, tablet or smartphone, our kids need to be protected from the dangers that unrestricted online access can bring.

Jo Parissis, the Darebin Police Youth Officer worked with our 5/6 students earlier this term to discuss and educate the students on issues around cybersafety.

Jo has also offered to hold a Parent Cybersafety Information Evening for our parent community. It will be held on Monday 23rd November at 6:30 pm in the 3/4 building.

All parents are welcome. We hope to see you there.

Grade 6 Graduation

Grade 6 Graduation will take place at the Sovereign on December 16th at 6.00 pm

Parents Please Note

That the next curriculum Day for the year will be on December 18th

There is no curriculum day for November 2nd the Monday before cup day.

Raleigh St Child Care Centre is turning 30

We're inviting all past and present families, friends and staff to

Join us for a back-to-the-80s family disco!

When: Saturday 21 November, 4-7pm

Where: Wales St Primary School Hall, Thornbury

There'll be sizzling woodfired pizza, birthday cake and a bar for the grown-ups.

Tickets: $30 per family of four;

or $10 per adult; $7.50 per child

Drinks at bar prices.

WSPS CHESS CLUB 2015 TERM 4

2015 Chess Lesson Dates
TUESDAY LUNCHTIMES

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Think! Concentrate! Gain Confidence! Have FUN!

Coach: Jim Cannon, PhD (UMelb), Dip Ed (UMelb) Jimphd2000@gmail.com

New to Chess? Try two classes OBLIGATION FREE*. Parents welcome to sit in.

*Trial classes must be paid for if your child continues after the second trial lesson

I would like my child(ren) 1. ___________________________ in Year P 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. ___________________________ in Year P 1 2 3 4 5 6

I would like my child(ren) 1. ___________________________ in Year P 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. ___________________________ in Year P 1 2 3 4 5 6

To participate in WSPS Chess Club in 2015
NEW STUDENTS ONLY Commencement Date (first lesson) / /

Term 4 fees ($50 / child) due: FRIDAY 16/10/15

There is no need to fill in a registration form if you have already done so 😊

Lodge form + payment together (unless using EFT). Please leave cash/chq at school office

Payment Options
EFT (JF Cannon, 037-138 66-4211) with name, school and date in description e.g. “J BROWN WSPS T4”

Payment method used (please circle) 1. EFT (preferred) 2. Cash, 3. Chq (to “J.F. Cannon”)

Signature of parent/guardian ___________________________ Date / /

Name of parents/guardians 1. ___________________________ 2. ___________________________

Phone: Home ___________________________ mob ___________________________

Email ___________________________

WSPS

☐ Please tick

Term

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