



# Wales Street Primary School Newsletter

Date 5/02/2016

Term 2, Number 3

## In This Issue

- Child Wise
- Book Fair
- Respectful Relationships
- Master Planning
- School Nurse

The yard is supervised before school from 8.45am and after school until 3.45pm. **Students must not be dropped off and left alone before 8:45am.**

**Any student in the yard unsupervised before 8.45am will need to go to our school aged care program.**

An important reminder that any change of address or contact phone numbers needs to be updated with the office. This includes work numbers and emergency contacts. It is very important that the school is able to contact families in the event of an accident or illness.

Recess: 10.40am–11.10am  
Lunch eating time: 12.50pm–1.00pm  
Lunchtime: 1.00pm – 1.50pm  
School Finish: 3.30pm

## Events

**Tuesday May 23**  
Child Wise  
Grade 3 & 4 Science Incursion  
District Cross Country  
**Friday May 26**  
Power of One Incursion  
Prep – Grade 6  
**Tuesday May 23**  
Italian Day

## THE 2017 ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL SURVEY

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and are conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school.

The Attitudes to School survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

The Department has updated the survey for 2017 to include important new measures that are known to influence student engagement and performance. Students from Year 4 to 6, at our school will participate in the survey. Your child will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Your child has the right to refuse or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during, or after completion of the survey.

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used by the Department to combine data for research purposes only. Your child's privacy and the confidentiality of your child's survey responses will be protected at all times. No identifiable personal data is included in the survey response file.

The survey results will be used to inform future school planning.

This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday 22 May to Friday 23 June. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's class time.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like more information or visit the Department of Education and Training website:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/management/Pages/performsurveyat.aspx>.

## SCHOOL NURSE

Sue Shaw our new school nurse has had a good first week learning about the school and meeting the staff and students. Please take the opportunity to come in for a quick hello if you get the chance.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT VACANCY

One parent position remains vacant on the School Council. In particular, we are seeking an individual who would be interested in working as the Treasurer for the School Council. This primarily involves liaising between the Finance sub-committee and the council on any financial issues as they arise. Please contact Christian Woodcock (Principal) if you are interested in assisting.



### Contact Us

Ph: (03) 9484 3949

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### FEEDBACK FROM THE INTERIM REPORTS AND PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to parents and carers who provided feedback in regard to our Interim Reports and Parent/ Teacher interviews. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. There were also useful constructive comments provided which will allow us to reflect on the process and look for ways to improve it for the future. Even though the parent teacher forums in term 1, followed by the Interim Reports and then interview were new initiatives, I was pleased to hear that they have been thankfully received by our parents and staff.

### MASTER PLANNING FOR WALES STREET

We have had a number of parents who have volunteered to assist with the Master Planning process being coordinated through Taylor Oppenheim Architects. Our first meeting to begin the consultation process will be held next week.

We are very excited about seeing what ideas come from this process and how these can be translated into a reality for the Wales Street Community.

Christian Woodcock.

Principal

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### EDUCATION WEEK

Next week is **Education Week** and we will have an open morning on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of May from 9.15 until 10.30 am. This is an opportunity for parents, carers or family members to walk around the school and observe the learning program in action.

Teachers will run their normal program throughout the morning but maybe focusing on the theme for Education Week, which is Healthy Minds and Bodies. Please enter via the office and sign in, if you would like to visit classrooms.

### THE POWER OF ONE

We will be having a whole school incursion on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of May called "**The Power of One**". This performance focusses on the issue of bullying and bystander behaviour.

We have had this performance group visit our school in the past and the students really enjoyed the experience. This event ties in well with our school's inclusion in the Respectful Relationships initiative and timely as part of the Education week theme.

This incursion will be funded through our excursion levy.

## **SCHOOL FEES**

School fees were due by 31st March 2017. Statements were sent home with children last week. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, eftpos, Qkr or via Bpay. Please contact the office if you are unsure of your Bpay reference number or if you have any questions.

## **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

We have begun our Respectful Relationships journey by forming a team of teachers to develop and implement the initiative for the next two years. We will also be part of a research study with Melbourne University to assess the impact of the training and resources on the cultural shift in schools. We have organised professional development for all staff after school related to Respectful Relationships and Child wise. These sessions focus on teaching personal safety strategies and response to child abuse and domestic violence.

The curriculum that we have in place- the Resilience Project will compliment this initiative. We will be doing a gender audit of the school resources and curriculum over time as we learn more about this important work. This initiative will be funded over two years and will be an ongoing focus for our school.

There is a free information night for parents next Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 6pm conducted by **Child Wise**, which focus on talking to children about personal safety. The session will be held in the Clyde building and bookings can be made at the office.

As parents and carers, you can be highly effective instructors in personal safety for children. This is a great opportunity to learn how to be best support your child and to build a safer community.

Jenny Deeble

Assistant Principal

## **CHILD WISE**

We are currently working with **Child Wise**, one of Australia's leading child abuse prevention organisations, to implement a personal safety program alongside programs already in place, which has been designed to provide children with the skills to know what to do in situations where they may be at risk of harm. Unfortunately, there are times when we cannot be there to provide protection for our children. Therefore, we believe it is very important, as a school community, that we do everything we can to provide our children with skills in self-protection.

## **WHAT IS PERSONAL SAFETY?**

Personal Safety is the building up of children's resilience and confidence in order for them to problem solve and identify strategies to prevent them from harm and abuse. Personal Safety strategies teach children how to identify and avoid risky situations. The program empowers and educates children to identify and speak up about situations such as:

- . abuse
- . grooming
- . bullying
- . risk-taking behaviours.

## **WHY A PERSONAL SAFETY PROGRAM?**

We want children to be safe, able to identify what is right and wrong and what to do if they have concerns.

We want children to take notice of their feelings. This will enable them to respond safely to worrying feelings, people who make them feel uncomfortable and concerning behaviour.

We want them to develop good observation and problem-solving skills to stay safe in emergencies.

We want them to be strong and confident in the knowledge that they have the right to be safe at all times.

We want them to have the resources and networks to call on if they have concerns or are in danger.

To be successful we need your help and support. The Personal Safety Program involves a holistic approach to keeping children safe. Personal safety education is at its most effective when there is a three way approach to educating teachers and other professionals, parents/carers and children.

To ensure that parents and carers are fully informed and know how to help children to stay safe, we will hold an information session, which you are encouraged to attend. The session will introduce you to the program and ways you can reinforce protective messages at home. If you are unable to attend, there are other ways for you to access information:

- Visit the Child Wise website at [www.childwise.org.au](http://www.childwise.org.au), and click on: 'Programs' and 'Parents/Carers'
- Speak to your Child's teacher
- Download a Child Wise (Parent's guide talking to children about safety) information booklet from the website

Whether you attend or not we urge you to take the time to read the Child Wise "Parents Guide to Talking to Children about Safety" and discuss these themes with your child.

It is important that you participate as much as possible, so that you can reinforce the messages children are receiving and help your child use his or her new skills with confidence. The parent's information session will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 6:00pm in the 3/4 building.

We have a limit of the number of participants so can you please inform the office if you are attending.

***(please note no children are permitted to this session)***

### **FOUNDATION (PREP) 2018 ENROLMENT**

Do you have a Foundation child starting WSPS in 2018?

Please call the office on 9484 3949 to complete an expression of interest.

Enrolment forms are available from the office. Please complete and return to the school office by 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017.



### **ITALIAN DAY**

On **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June**, Wales Street Primary School will be celebrating **Italian Day**.

Teachers and students are encouraged to join in the fun and dress in an Italian costume / outfit or simply the colours of the Italian Flag.

During Italian Day, all students will be participating in a variety of cultural activities to promote an **appreciation** of the Italian language and culture. Students will also be entertained with an Italian Comedy Show. This wonderful day will also highlight the PYP attitudes and develop **international mindedness** at Wales Street Primary School.

Students are asked to bring **finger food** to share for a multicultural lunch in classrooms. Please be aware of allergens (nuts, eggs, dairy, gluten, soy) that may be in the food you provide. Ingredient lists are particularly helpful but students with allergies are required to bring their own food on this day.



Kind Regards,  
Specialist Team