Principal’s Report

WELCOME BACK FOR TERM 3

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our 646 students currently enrolled, and their families. I hope the many bleak afternoons over the holiday break afforded some down time to recharge the batteries and prepare for the term ahead. We have another busy term planned, so please take a few minutes each week to scan the newsletter for important upcoming events and times.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT CONFERENCES

The next round of P/T/S Conferences has been scheduled for Monday 28th and Wednesday 30th July. Thank you to the many parents who have already logged on this week to select their preferred time/s. At these conferences, students will have a chance to showcase their work using their portfolios as well as discussing their progress towards their goals. The conferences are also a good opportunity to follow up any queries from the student reports distributed at the end of last term.

To book a time for your child’s P/T/S Conference, go online at www.schoolinterviews.com.au. Follow the step by step process, using the Event Code BCASR. When you have finished making your booking, confirmation will be sent to your nominated email address. Please note that online bookings will close at noon on Monday 28th July.

2015 FETE

Every two years our wonderful community comes together for our School Fete. As well as being an exciting social event for everyone involved, it is also a fantastic fundraiser for the school with past fetes raising approximately $50,000 to support major projects at the school. The new playgrounds installed last year are a wonderful legacy of the hard work of previous Fete committees.

Planning for our 2015 Fete will get underway at our first committee meeting on Wednesday 30th July at 7:00pm in the staffroom. I would like to extend a warm welcome to any parents who would like to be on the planning committee to come along. Previous Fete committees have collated comprehensive information and valuable evaluations to help inform future fetes. Many hands make light work, so I hope many parents may consider this opportunity to be on the committee to support this important event!

Check out the Fete Website http://williamstownnorthschoolfete.yolasite.com
BABBA IS COMING!

I hope parents have the babysitters already booked for Friday 5th September! This is our major social event for 2014 for parents, with the band ‘BABBA” performing at the Williamstown Town Hall. The organising committee have been working hard to ensure the night will be a relaxing and enjoyable event. Tickets for the event can be booked online at www.trybooking.com/82381 so get in early to ensure you don’t miss out!

SRI – SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Late last term, new consent forms were distributed to all families as part of the Education Department’s review of SRI in schools. From now on, Victorian students will only participate in SRI if these forms are returned to schools annually.

All SRI classes have been suspended this week, to allow another week for forms to be returned. Please ensure forms are returned to the office by Thursday 17th July. We are meeting with our SRI coordinators this Friday to plan the classes for the remainder of this year, and we therefore want to ensure that our future provision in this area is congruent with the aspirations of our community.

LITERACY & NUMERACY INFORMATION SESSIONS (PREP—YEAR 2)

Over the next several weeks, we have planned two information sessions for parents in the important areas of literacy and numeracy. These sessions will provide an overview of the teaching approaches used across the school in literacy and numeracy, and will also outline some tips for parents to use at home to further support their child’s development in these core areas. Whilst all parents are warmly invited to attend these sessions, we particularly hope that parents of students in the Junior School (Prep to Year 2) will attend in order to gain some further insights into the school’s approaches in literacy and numeracy.

Please note the following details for these sessions:

Numeracy Information Session – Tuesday 22nd July, 6:30 – 7:30pm in the Butterfly Room

Literacy Information Session – Wednesday 6th August, 6:30 – 7:30pm in the Butterfly Room

NATIONAL COLLECTION OF DATA ON SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

Thank you to the many parents who have returned their surveys as part of the National Collection of Data on School Students with Disability. Please note that completed surveys, or exemption forms for those who don’t wish to be involved, need to be returned to school by Wednesday 23rd July.

CONGRATULATIONS JAMES RITCHIE

On behalf of the school community, I would like to congratulate James Ritchie and his wife Sarah, on the birth of their second son, Thomas, over the school break. Both Sarah and Thomas are now home and both doing really well.

CHESS CLUB

As part of our lunchtime activities program, many children take up the opportunity to use the large outdoor chess set. Whilst this tends to happen on an informal basis between students, we are regularly approached by external providers who come into schools to teach skills and organise tournaments within and between schools. The providers work on a user pays system each term.

If you would like your child to participate in a more formalised chess program at lunchtimes, and would be willing to fund this participation, could you please drop me an email at cahill.jim.a@edumail.vic.gov.au and I will investigate further, if there is sufficient interest.

Enjoy your week

Jim Cahill—Principal
Rosters… Fresh Fruit Friday (FFF)
This is a very social and interactive group who volunteer an hour of their time each Friday morning. Thank you to the many dedicated parents that assist with Fresh Fruit Friday. Fresh Fruit Friday will need parent volunteers throughout the school year. If you are available on Friday, please email Linda Taylor directly to be added to the roster—taylor.linda.l1@edumail.vic.gov.au. The parents on the roster for this Friday 18th July are: Martin Ray, Pamela Fernando, Camilla Thompson, Helen Parker, Larissa Deeth, Mette Nielsen, Rachel Burbridge, Ivana Musura and Andrew Savoia.

Canteen—NEW HELPERS MOST WELCOME
Julieanne Weir manages our Canteen and is always very appreciative of the time parents or family members can volunteer to help in the Canteen. Julieanne can be contacted via the General Office. New parents or family members are always needed and most welcome. So, if you can spare any of your valuable time, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thursday 17th July—Help Needed
Friday 18th July—Kelly Walker
Wednesday 23rd July—Rachelle Burbridge
Thursday 24th July—Help Needed
Friday 25th July—Majella Snelling

NO SUSHI IN TERM 2 & 3

Uniform Shop News
Primary School Wear (PSW) is now our official Uniform supplier. For all uniform enquiries please contact Kara on her mobile: 0413 008 185, between 9.00am and 5.00pm weekdays (excluding weekends and school holidays). Opening times are: Mondays and Thursdays 8.30am to 9.30am Internet orders can be placed on the website: www.psw.com.au

School Banking
School banking day is Wednesday. Don’t forget to send in your child’s bank book.

Student Safety
Please take the time to regularly remind your child/ren about safety, especially when going to and from school. Here are the important points to mention:

- Do not to talk to strangers and never accept a ride from a stranger, or accept lollies or gifts from a stranger.
- Immediately report any issue or problem you may have when going to or from school, to your mum and dad, or to your teacher, the Principal, Assistant Principal or office staff.
- Always get permission from mum or dad before going to play with a friend after school and always let mum and dad know where you will be and what time you will be home.

We advise that, wherever possible, children should travel to or from school with an adult or with their friends, rather than travel alone.

Early Release
All children collected from school before 3.30pm must be signed out at the Office. Parents will be handed an ‘Early Release Pass’ to hand to the supervising teacher. If a child is signed out at Recess or Lunch time, the Office staff will call the child to the Office and then ensure the Early Release Pass is given to the supervising teacher.

Bikes & Scooters
Many children ride bikes and scooters to school each day. All bikes and scooters must be locked up in either the Bike or Scooter Enclosure to prevent theft. Please ensure your child has a chain and a lock. All children who ride a bike or scooter must wear a helmet which is a requirement by the Government. The school regularly reminds all children about wearing helmets for their safety. All bikes, scooters, skateboards, ribtics and helmets must be labelled, with your child’s name and class. Children are reminded they must walk their bike, scooter, skateboard or ribtic to and from the school gates. No bikes are to be brought through the school buildings and we request, where possible, that Scooters are also not walked through the building.

Working With Children Checks
From early April 2014, cardholders who are required to renew their WWC Check will no longer need to go to Australia Post to lodge a paper form and present their current card. From this time, cardholders will go to the WWC Check website to complete their renewal application online and, if applying for an Employee Check, pay the fee using a credit card. The online renewal process Cardholders will be notified by SMS, letter or email 28 days before their WWC Check is due to expire. It is important for cardholders to keep their contact details up to date so that they receive this important reminder.

After receiving a notification, individuals continuing to do child-related work should go to MyCheck on the WWC Check website and apply to renew their Check. Cardholders will be asked to register with MyCheck if they have not already done so. Once logged in to MyCheck, cardholders will be prompted to confirm or update their personal contact and work details, complete the online form and, if applying for an Employee Check, pay the non-refundable $102.70 fee. More information, an FAQ guide to online renewals will be available in ‘Publications’ under ‘Resources’ on the WWC Check website. Or contact the Customer Support Line on 1300 652 879 8.30am – 5.00pm weekdays except public holidays.

PROVISIONAL PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2015
Williamstown North Primary School
Enrolment Begins

Provisional Prep enrolments for 2015 has commenced. ‘Enrolment Form’ and the ‘Preliminary Information Sheet’ is available from the General Office or a copy can be downloaded from the school website.

If you have any enrolment questions or concerns regarding enrolments please contact the general office on 9397 5722.

Additional School Tours will be conducted on
Friday 18th July at 11.30am.
Please contact the school office on 9397 5722 to register for a tour.

Please Provide the following information when lodging your enrolment
1. Enrolment Form and Preliminary Information Sheet
2. Proof of Age - (Child’s Birth Certificate)
3. Certificate of Immunization (School Entry Form)
4. Three documents for “Proof of Residential Address”. (Drivers Licence, a Rates notice and a third document with your full name & residential address).

Enrolment Policy
Please note that in line with the “School Ceiling” endorsed by the South Western Regional Director, only families who reside within the defined school neighbourhood are eligible to seek enrolment. A map defining the school neighbourhood is available on the school website.

CONFIRMATION OF ENROLMENT WILL BE MADE IN WRITING BY THE END OF TERM 3, 2014

The ‘2015 Prep Parent Information Night’ is only for Parents of confirmed Prep enrolments.
Tuesday 25th November 2014, 7.00pm to 8.30pm.
Kay Margetts from Melbourne University will speak on “School Readiness” and “School Expectations”.

Transition Program
Our Kinder to School Transition program for our 2015 Prep children will commence week beginning Monday 13th October, Week 2 of Term 4.

All details outlining transition will be included with the ‘Letter of Enrolment’ sent to families.

For our School Zone go to www.willynth.vic.edu.au / slider tab – Enrolments / WNPS Zone Map

SCHOOL BANKING – MISSING DEPOSIT
To the parents and carers of our School Banking students,
On Wednesday the 4th June a deposit for the amount of $8.00 was received via School Banking. At the time of entering deposit details into the School Banking website we identified that a deposit slip was not fully completed with account name or account number resulting in the funds not being credited to the child’s account.

If your child deposited $8.00 on the 4th June, kindly present your child’s bank book to the office so that the receipt can be verified and account number details obtained which will enable funds to be deposited to your child’s account.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.
Kind regards, Leanne Sutton, School Banking Coordinator, Mobile: 0424 221 752, Leanne@e-counting.com.au
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Parent/Teacher/Student conferences will be held for all Prep to Year 6 classes on Monday 28th and Wednesday 30th July.

The focus of the mid-year conference is for your child/ren to share their work and discuss how they are going with achieving their ‘Learning Goals’. Teachers will discuss the learning and progress of your child and strategies, to either extend their learning, or provide additional support.  You may also wish to seek clarification on any aspects of the mid-year written report at this conference.

To book a time for your child’s P/T/S Conference, go online www.schoolinterviews.com.au.  Follow the step-by-step process, using the Event Code BCASR.  At the end of the ‘booking,’ confirmation is sent to your email address. Online bookings will open on Monday 14th July from 9.00am, and close on Monday 28th July at Noon.

Please remember, that once a time has been booked, the options for parents are reduced, so, be prompt to select your time.  If all conference times are booked, please contact your child’s teacher to make an alternative time.

If your appointment is during the school day, you will also be informed where you can collect your child from and then proceed to their classroom to meet with their teacher.

The P/T/S Conference times are as follows:

**Monday 28th July**

2.30pm to 3.30pm, whole school assembly in the gym

3.00pm to 6.45pm – **All classes (5.00pm to 5.30pm staff break)**

4.00pm to 6.45pm – Specialist Teachers

**Wednesday 30th July**

2.30pm to 3.30pm, internal supervision (details to be announced)

3.00pm to 6.45pm – **All classes (5.00pm to 5.30pm staff break)**

4.00pm to 6.45pm – Specialist Teachers

If you would like to make an appointment with a Specialist teacher, (Melissa Brown - ICT, Sarah Nobbs - PE, Helen Atkins – Japanese, Dean Pearce – Performing Arts and Vicki Symons - Visual Arts) please select a time via the online booking system.

P/T/S conferences are highly effective in enhancing children’s motivation and understanding of their learning. The length of each P/T/S Conference is “up to 15 minutes”.

Prior to the conferences, teachers and children will spend time discussing how to take part in a Parent/Teacher/Student conference.  We believe all parents and children will find the Conferences very informative and rewarding.

The Prep & Year 1 & 2 children will talk about their ‘Goals’ and achievements, as well as articulating their learning.

The Year 3 to 6 children will talk about their ‘Learning Goals’ and what they were aiming to achieve in the first half of the year, and how they progressed towards achieving their goals.

If a parent or teacher requires time for a ‘one-on-one’ discussion, this can be factored in towards the end of the Conference, or an alternative time/date can be arranged.

Jim Cahill                      Wendy Emin  
Principal                      Assistant Principal
Changing Landscapes.
New Horizons.
The Victorian Autism Conference
6 - 8 August – Melbourne

This year’s Victorian Autism Conference (VAC 2014) at Ithala Stadium offers you a unique opportunity to meet like minded people and learn together in a variety of different settings. What you learn at VAC 2014 will expand into your everyday workplace, home or school.

The conference is a great way to network and hear from internationally and nationally renowned speakers. Be inspired, learn new skills, get new ideas, take home practical strategies and improve your knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Key notes from:

- Prof Rita Jordan
- Prof Andrew Whitehouse
- Prof Tony Attwood
- Chris Varney

Also speaking:

- Dr Lori Ennsperger; on girls under the ASD umbrella
- Victorian Deputy Police Commissioner Lucinda Nolan; police initiatives & personal safety
- Dr Christina; Take Handers; looking after parents and carers post diagnosis
- Mark & Lorraine Hogan; healing an ASD marriage
- Daniel Gibbs from special school on university
- Chris Chapparo; sensory processing and ASD
- Karen Stagnitz; play intervention and children with ASD

THE VICTORIAN AUTISM CONFERENCE IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR PEOPLE ON THE SPECTRUM, THEIR FAMILIES, CAREGIVERS, TEACHERS AND EMPLOYERS. IT CAN BE A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE.

CHRIE VANNEY VICTorian AUTISM CONFERENCE 2014

Secure your spot to Victoria’s most practical and passionate Autism conference.

Register via our Website
Register online at: www.vac2014.org.au/sec
If you don’t have access, contact our office on:
T 03 9671 7000 - E vac2014@ausjac.org.au

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Keep saving
to win a family
underwater
adventure holiday.
Plus make friends with the dolphins at Sea World.
The Delamare family found turtle treasures in the Last City of Savages. For your chance to win a share of the wonder, simply make those or more deposits at school during Term 2 and you’ll be automatically entered into the competition.

Major prize:
- Five night accommodation at the SeaWorld Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast.
- Gift card for two adults and two children to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World and Wet'n Wild Gold Coast.
- A Double Pass to Aquatic Adventure and Wide Bay.
- A $3,000 Travel Gift Card to go with you.

Runner up prizes:
- The family will receive a $250 travel voucher to see their favourite team.
- Plus, there will be a separate lucky draw for one school in each electorate.

To find out more, visit
cannbank.com.au/deepseasavers

Dogs in need make better pets. Help support CAN (Community Animal Network). If you have a neglected or lost pet, CAN can help.

For more information, call 9657 3117 today, or visit www.can.org.au

Contact: 3130 Anzac Parade, Maroubra NSW 2035. Phone: (02) 9657 3117. Email: info@can.org.au

Registered charity: ACNC Registration number is 001585046.
Community Notice Board

Western Autistic School Information Sessions
Date: Monday 21st July 10.30am to 1.00pm fortnightly for 6 sessions. Program: depression and anxiety—identifying and managing these additional stressors in your life. Details: A parenting program good for building relationships with children. Venue: Laverton Campus, 1 Burnley Street Laverton (childcare available).

Date: Tuesday 29th July 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Program: Depression and Anxiety—identifying and managing these additional stressors in your life. Details: Depression and anxiety are common in families with a child with Autism. This program looks at strategies to assist. Venue: Niddrie Campus, Cnr Garnet & Teague Streets Niddrie (childcare available).

For more information on these two programs contact Margaret Itsines, Social Worker Western Autistic School 9097 2000.

Want to Play Netball? Willi Tigers Netball Club (WTNC) is calling all interested players (boys and girls) for Summer Season, commencing Term 4, 2014. Come along and meet our Players, Coaches and Committee Members to find out more about the Club!

Club Information Days: Wednesday 23rd and 30th July, Time: 4pm to 7pm, Where: Williamstown High School Gym, Corner Pasco Street & Melbourne Road. Depending on the team, training is an hour on Tuesday afternoons, OR Wednesday afternoons between 4-7pm. Games are on Saturdays, between 12.15pm and 5pm, at the Altona Netball Centre, Queen St, Altona Meadows. Please contact WTNC for further information willi.tigers@gmail.com

Anger management classes—The Laverton Community Centre and Neighbourhood House is running women’s anger management, self-esteem and assertion for women courses, starting August 12th. Courses are also provided in meditation and for those struggling with mental health. The centre is in the Laverton Community Hub 95-105 Railway Avenue. Bookings are essential. Call 8368 0177 or Email reception@lcis.org.au

MSJ 2015 Limited places are available for 2015. Further information can be found at our website www.msj.vic.edu.au or by contacting the College Registrar at registrar@msj.vic.edu.au.

MSJ Open Mornings - 9.30am – 10.30am (Thursday)
31st July, 28th August, 11th September, 13th November

MSJ Open Day 2014
Sunday 12th October, 11.00am – 2.00pm
Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable break. Just a reminder that a student free day will be coming up on Friday 22nd August.

Please look out for an email regarding bookings for the day. We will need a minimum of 15 children to attend for the program to open.

We have 2 new staff at aftercare, Hannah and Renee. Please introduce yourself to them and please make them feel welcome.

Thank you

OSHClub Team
Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?
The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:
- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent’s bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?
In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses.

From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?
Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional $12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?
No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.

The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.